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School Board preparing for next year



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The School Board is already preparing for 2021 – 2022 school year. All members were present and send the students happy summer wishes. Pictured from left to right are Chairman Susan Crenshaw, Samuel Foster, Superintendent Jeanette Warwick, Board member Trace Bellasai, Co-chair Gina Smith, Board member George Foster, McCleary and Middle School Principal Gerri VanDyke, the newest addition is Jessica Belcher who is taking Diana Bayne's place (as she is retiring to enjoy her grandchildren), high school principal Melissa Whiting, School Board and Board member Faye Powers.

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

With the kids finishing school, teachers doing their final grading and maintenance getting ready for summertime mowing, the Craig County School Board started preparing for next school year.

At the June School Board meeting, Superintendent Jeanette Warwick shared that no changes had been made to the students and faculty handbooks, for approval.

The Board approved several grants, which are funds for many programs at CCPS.

Superintendent Warwick shared, "These are our applications for our federal funds that are due to the Department of Education by July 1."

Title I - A Federal Application which supports McCleary, being CCPS only Title I School in the division - \$214, 827. 90.

See School Board, page 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Winner Sam Dillon not only took the Crusher Heat, but also first place in the Small Car Finale.

Small Car Derby brings big hit smashes

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

when rammed by 13, then another lost his.

There are many a driver who look forward to seeing the billboard at the Craig County Fairgrounds announce whenever the next Demolition Derby is going to be.

The June Summer Derby proved without a shadow of a doubt that Craig County enjoys their derbies. Recently, an event was packed with people who arrived two hours early to have picnics and play with their children.

When emcee Sammy Huffman announced for the first heat to line up, the engines started revving in the back lot.

Crusher heat drivers were: 50X - Wayne Dovel, 88 - Matt Huffman (Hurricane), and 18 Sam Dillon and no one let up. On one hit Huffman drove under Dillon's car, taking out the rear, making it look like Dillon was out, but with half a car, he kept going. Dovel came in for a drive hit on Huffman, but Dillon made the last hits count and "Old man" Dillon received the Crusher Award.

After the heat was called, Huffman jumped out of his car and ran over to Dillon and reached inside the car. "Whoo-hoo," he said as he extended a fish pump, congratulating Dillon. Such sportsmanship was shown by all participants.

The first Small Car Heat entering the ring were: 95 - Jack Boyd, 88 - Matt Huffman (Hurricane), 88X - Chris Boyd, 93 - Zachary Cantrell (team Dingleberry), Lucky 13 - Samantha Weaver, 11 - Brandon Malcolm (VT Ag Life) and 1X - Alger. Apologies for the names because some were mixed up on the sheets.

"As soon as the judges tell me, I will count them down," Huffman shouted.

Engines revved loudly, and drivers were "on ready" which seemed to boost the adrenalin in the spectators.

Then the crowd joined in as he counted, "5-4-3-2-1-go-go-go!"

There was no hesitation with any driver. Hits were hard as 93 lost his bumper

when rammed by 13, then another lost his.

Huffman announced, "Ten seconds and two bumpers gone." The horn blew to start again but within a few seconds, it sounded once more for the third bumper.

Huffman announced with a friendly smile, "Hey fellas, you're gonna have to do a little better welding job."

These small car drivers take their derby contests seriously. Hits were obviously hard as not only bumpers, but many other metal pieces were being knocked off or crushed in.

Weaver and Malcolm were two of the top three winners of the heat. (Apologies for not getting the third name.)

Going out of the ring, 13's back wheels were almost in the back seat and Malcolm had no rear end left on his car either.

Small Car Heat #2 drivers came into the ring ready to go. They were 50X - Wayne Dovel, Lucky 13 - Greg Alger, 88 - Matt Huffman, 27 - Kenny Collins, 38 - Charlie Foutz and 44 - Chad Ryan.

No one can say that the small car derbies aren't fun as they take their heats very seriously in hitting over and over again.

While 38 came in for a hit on 13, 50X rammed 38 a little tighter to 13. No 13 then gave 27 a little hug against the wall. More hits stopped several cars until the horn blew for the top three standing who were: Dovel, Moser and Ryan.

Small Car Heat #3 brought in 67X - Brandon Haymore, 77 - Punky Greenway, 67 - Grant Oliver "Baby Grant", 7 - Josie Greenway, 18 - Sam Dillon and 23 - Daniel Givens (Widowmaker).

Again, hits were strong as cars were pushed up on their sides a bit, into the walls and into one another.

No. 18 gave 67X a nice push to the wall but pushed back.

They all seemed to congregate in the mud hole with 23 driving backward, ramming "Old Man" Dillon.

See Derby, page 3

Power Wheels drivers enjoy derby fun



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

As hits were made in the middle of the ring, Autumn Mabe and her co-pilot snuck up from behind, making a hit on Grave Digger.

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

Craig County, the derby has included a Power Wheels event for toddlers sponsored by Angie Guthrie-Ponton, Guthrie Insurance Agency. She and her husband enjoy encouraging kids to have fun, even in the mud of a derby ring.

Earlier this month, several toddlers came out to the derby, including, 21 - Trevor Fisher (Trou-

See Kids derby, page 5



As each driver left the ring, Donnie Wayne Fisher handed them a trophy sponsored by Guthrie Insurance Agency, Angie Guthrie-Ponton. Gleeful smiles were on display throughout the event.

Community invited to experience the Lemon Hotel



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Guests can enjoy their meals at shaded picnic tables next to Potts Creek.

The hotel at State Rte. 661 is adjacent to the Depot Lodge which the owners have operated for over 20 years. Nestled in the southern Allegheny Mountains, the hotel has four unique and inviting suites as well as two bedrooms. Each accommodation

is exquisitely decorated with curated antiques and collectibles and has a different theme to reflect various fruits grown on the property. All guest reservations include a complimentary breakfast in the dining room.

Guests will have the opportunity

to take in the scenic view of the valley in the rocking chairs on the front porch, relax in the evenings around the fire pit, and enjoy the Adirondack chairs on the patio along the bank of Potts Creek.

-Submitted by Madi Haun



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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.

EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

EVERY FRIDAY

Craig County Genealogy Library open every Friday 1 to 4 p.m. 152 Main Street. 540-864-7023

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.

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

•Craig County School Board meets at 5:30 p.m. in the High School Media Center.

•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.

Roanoke College appoints Vice President of Community, Diversity and Inclusion

Roanoke College has appointed Teresa Ramey as the College's new vice president of community, diversity and inclusion.

In the newly created position, Ramey will lead and build on the College's efforts to create an educational environment that is socially aware and culturally inclusive, that celebrates diversity, that strives for equity and that is free from discrimination.

Ramey will join the College on Aug. 2 as a member of Cabinet, reporting to President Michael C. Maxey.

Ramey comes to Roanoke College with vast experience in higher education. She most recently served as vice president for regional and community programs at Francis Marion University

in Florence, South Carolina, where she led diversity and inclusion efforts through programming, presentations, training and leadership development. Ramey served as vice president for student affairs and dean of students at Francis Marion prior to her appointment as the university's vice president for regional and community programs. In the Florence community, Ramey has served on several boards, including the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce and the Diversity Initiatives Network Advisory Board.

Ramey also has served as interim dean of students and associate dean of students at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. Prior to that, she was assistant dean of students at Texas

Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, as well as coordinator of judicial affairs. She also has held positions at Aiken Technical College, Case Western Reserve University and the Georgia Institute of Technology.

At Roanoke, Ramey will lead college-wide efforts to create a community where all students, faculty and staff are respected and valued, and have a sense of belonging. Building on the momentum and accomplishments of recent years, Ramey will work to accelerate and refine the College's efforts for and commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.

"We are excited for Teresa to bring her expertise in building strong communities to our community at Roanoke College," Maxey

said. "Throughout the candidate selection process, Teresa notably connected with faculty, staff and students, and we know she will collaborate and connect in powerful ways at Roanoke College."

"We are grateful to the Board of Trustees for recognizing the importance of the role and supporting the hire," Maxey said.

Ramey holds a Bachelor of Arts in speech communications from Western Kentucky University and a Master of Science in instructional development from Jacksonville State University. She is close to completing her dissertation toward the Doctor of Education in higher education administration from Northeastern University.

"I know how special the Roanoke College community is, and I can't wait to work with the students, faculty, staff and others along the way to further the College's success and involve everyone in mean-

ingful community inclusion work," Ramey said. "I am honored to serve the College under President Maxey's leadership."

-Submitted by Public Relations Department



Teresa Ramey

SUBMITTED PHOTO

School Board

from page 1

•Title II – Supports professional development activities in the division as well as assisting teachers with tuition costs associated with renewal of their licenses - \$26,535.33

•Title IIIa – Program designed to support English language - \$229.12

•Title IVa – Provides the capability to transfer those funds into either IA or Title IIA. In order to support literacy at McCleary, it was decided to transfer these

funds. Many students, due to COVID-19, are not on grade level. These funds at McCleary will help to assist students with reading - \$13,750.90

•National Forest Reserve Funding of \$96,810.66 - These are not funds that are budgeted, as they are not guaranteed each year. The monies received are based on the National Forest of Craig County, taxes paid. During previous budget discussion, a new bus was included (\$85, 013). It was also reported

that an additional mower is needed in Maintenance and Grounds (approximate cost of \$8,578.)

Some items that are being considered for purchase are: a battery-powered walk-behind burnisher for \$8,995., orbital scrubber and floor machine for \$9,343., a self-contained carpet extractor for \$2,979.10, cafeteria tables for \$43,953., Chromebook carts for \$40,573.56 and replacement Chromebook for \$25,000.

Warwick asked and received ap-

proval from the Board for Robinson, Farmer, and Cox Associates to complete their annual audit.

"I want to publicly thank this Board for support you have been as the Administrative Team during this past year," Warwick shared. "You have made very difficult decisions in a year that is unprecedented. I never could have imagined a year as this. Also, I wish to publicly thank our staff as well as we are one of the few school divisions that have pretty much been in person

since August, and I think there is something to be said for that."

"And, next year we are looking for a normal start," Chairman Susan Crenshaw quickly added as Board members agreed with smiles and positive affirmation.

Next month's meeting will be held on July 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Citizens are encouraged to attend the meeting and support the kids and staff of Craig County by becoming involved in the meetings.

Experts discuss challenges and strategies for feeding growing population

Sustainably producing food and other agricultural products for a grow-

ing global population is the greatest challenge facing the world's farmers

today. In preparation for the United Nations Food

Systems Summit, the Global Agricultural Productivity Initiative at Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences presented a June 15 webinar describing a vision for strengthening food and agricultural systems to meet the challenge with productivity growth.

Agricultural productivity increases as farmers use innovative technologies and practices to grow more crops, livestock and aquaculture products while using the same amount—or less—land, fertilizer, feed, labor, machinery and livestock.

Productivity must increase by an average of 1.73 percent annually to sustainably meet con-

sumer needs in 2050, and the "world is not keeping pace with this target," reported the GAP Initiative. The productivity disparity is most apparent among the world's low-income, small-scale farmers. Unless this trend is reversed, experts said the earth's soil, water resources and forests could be degraded significantly by 2050, creating increased greenhouse gas emissions and higher food prices.

Panelists representing nonprofit and private sectors in Africa, India, Latin America and the United States discussed policies, agricultural practices, investments and partnerships that support and accelerate productivity growth.

Virginia farmers are generally on the right track, with some room for improvement, said Dr. Megan Seibel, director of Virginia Tech's Virginia Agriculture Leaders Obtaining Results program.

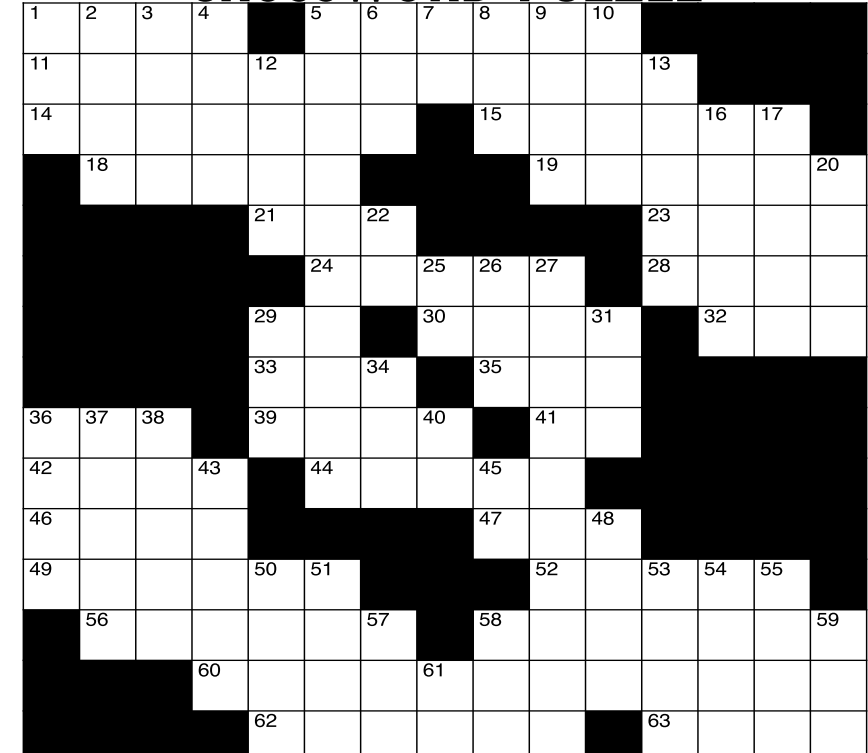
"Farmers have a great desire to be responsible in establishing best management practices," said Seibel, who owns Mountain View Farm and Vineyard and serves as president of Roanoke County Farm Bureau. "Because of the expense of labor and cost of the inputs, that's where we have some opportunity for innovative improvements around precision technology and things that allow us to better target applications of nutrients and pesticides."

The global challenges are daunting, said Ann Steensland, who leads the GAP Initiative at Virginia Tech. But productivity growth goals can be achieved through the strategies presented by the panelists, "and will ensure the sustainability of our food and agricultural systems for decades to come."

For more information and resources, visit globalagriculturalproductivity.org.

-Submitted by Nicole Zema VFBB communications, at 804-370-6298.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Absence of difficulty
 - Preserve a dead body
 - Gratitude
 - The act of coming together again
 - More cushy
 - Visionaries
 - Fish-eating bird
 - Indicates near
 - NY Mets legend Tommie
 - Icelandic poems
 - Pop
 - Hammer is one
 - Senses of self-esteem
 - Trigraph
 - Not around
 - Electronic data processing
 - Driver's licenses and
 - passports
 - Snake-like fishes
 - Military flyers
 - Raincoats
 - Type of community
 - Feature of worm's anatomy
 - In the center
 - Laid back
 - Jewelled headdress
 - In slow tempo
 - Falls
 - Saying things again
 - Periods in history
 - Hyphen
 - CLUES DOWN**
 - Body part
 - Mimics
 - Expel or eject
 - Sea eagle
 - Subdivision of cenosespecies
 - Dialect of Chinese
 - Mr. T's character on "The A-Team"
 - Consumed
 - Chinese dynasty
 - NFL great Randy
 - Ireland
 - Palm trees
 - Fungal disease
 - Willis and Jerry are two
 - Affirmative!
 - Potato state
 - "The First State"
 - A way to develop
 - Associations
 - Woman (French)
 - Sunscreen rating
 - Brew
 - Mosque prayer leader
 - Indigo bush
 - Burn with a hot liquid
 - Jr.'s father
 - Scad genus
 - Morning
 - Length of a straight line (abbr.)
 - Double curve
 - Small thin bunch
 - Worn by exposure to the weather
 - Mars crater
 - Humanities
 - Of the ears
 - "To the ___ degree"
 - Residue
 - It keeps you cool

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Derby

from page 1



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

While "Ole Man Dillon" 18 was cranking out the last of his car, #7 Greenway gave a good hit, then backed up and aimed for another.

lon (as Huffman announced) while 67 gave a hit too.

No. 18 took some hard hits and his radiator started spewing and his right-left front tire came off.

Top three winners were: Oliver, Greenway and Givens.

Small car finale drivers were ready to ram until the end as these drove into the ring: 07 - Oliver, 44 - Ryan, 11 - Malcolm, 88 -

Moser, 13 - Weaver, 13 - Greg Alger, 23 - Givens, 7 - Greenway and 18 - Dillon.

Huffman led the spectators in the last countdown, the horn blew and it was on.

Going head-to-head were 7 and 18 while 23 rammed 13 in the rear. Then 7 decided to split up 88 and 18 on the wall.

No. 13 Alger and 23 went head-to-head taking turns push-



As Lucky 13 and 7 battled for the prize, 23 backed in for a hard hit on 13.

ing one another, while 18 pushed the rear of 13-Weaver into its back seat. No. 67 rammed into 18 and 13 Alger pushed 23 a little closer into the wall child 88 took advantage, coming in from behind for a good hit.

No. 23 came back out as he joined 7 in making 88 into their sandwich.

A multitude of hits brought spectators to their feet as radi-



The Crusher Heat brought plenty of hard damaging hits as Wayne Dovel, Matt Huffman and Sam Dillon hit hard.

tors spewed, wheels fell off and cars were crunched up to non-recognition.

Final Small Car Derby winners were: first place - Sam Dillon, second place Greg Alger and third place Chad Ryan.

When Dillon first drove into the first heat, Huffman announced, "remember boys, he's old."

However, Dillon showed the

young boys how it was done. With his 18-car crunched, and tire off the rim, he revved his engine and was the first-place winner of the Small Car Finale, as well as winner of the "Crusher" heat.

The drivers are looking forward to another derby in August, some having to find another car, "but looking forward to the hunt."

Local firefighters, police officers square off in charity softball game



PHOTO BY SHAWN NOWLIN

Police officer Chris Birch at bat with Troy Mann ready to catch the ball and Angel Ramos serving as the umpire.

Shawn Nowlin
shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org

On June 18, the "Bravest" took on the "Finest" at the Salem Memorial Ballpark as part of the Annual Guns N Hoses Charity Softball Game. More than bragging rights between Roanoke Valley police officers and firefighters, the primary purpose of the yearly contest is to raise money for local charities. With support and effort from sponsors, the Salem Red Sox and their staff members, last week's event was the biggest to date.

"This year we decided to partner with the Ronald McDonald House of Southwest Virginia. We were looking to support a local charity in the Roanoke Valley. Both teams are very supportive of charities that help babies and kids," Tony Rickman said. "This year we raised the largest amount of money, roughly \$5,750."

As President of Guns N Hoses Softball Game, Rickman oversees the finances of the event along with being one of the main coordinators. "I attend meetings with the facility where we have the event. I also help with the advertising and



The American Flag was flown outside of the Salem Memorial Haley Toyota Field.

working with and obtaining sponsors," he said.

The charity game began at 7 p.m. and lasted for nearly three hours. The cost was \$5.00 per person with children five and under admitted for free. The National Anthem was a prerecorded copy the Salem Red Sox had.

Attendee Ann James says the opportunity to support the Guns N Hoses charity game is something that she never passes up. "I am friends with many of the police officers and firefighters who participate. It doesn't get much better than competing against

your colleagues in front of family and friends for a good cause," she said.

This year, the Guns were coached by Robbie Newman and the Hoses were coached by Rickman. While the game was competitive with both teams providing numerous highlights, when it was all said and done, the Hoses prevailed 16 to 13. The hundreds who attended were able to take part in family-friendly fun with fire trucks and police cars, a 50/50 raffle and various activities between innings.

"Even though it is a lot of work and effort to put



Firefighters C.J. Arrington and Andrew Goodpasture rooting on their teammates.

this event on, it is a great feeling when we receive many compliments about the event, such as the size of the crowd, the competitiveness of the game and the fun the players have," Rickman said. "It is rewarding when you have the Chief of your respected Department and Chiefs from other localities compliment you on the success of the event. The biggest joy of all is when you see

the excitement and happiness in the faces of the charity and the kids and families that the money raised goes to help. It is hard to put that feeling into words."

Without support from the community, Rickman says there is no way this event would have made it to its 17th year. Already, Rickman, and countless others, are looking forward to next year's event.

2020 crash statistics published by Governor's Executive Highway Safety Team

- Overall crash fatalities increased in Virginia last year; speed-related fatalities reached 10-year high -

The Governor's Executive Leadership Team on Highway Safety has announced the Virginia crash statistics for 2020. The final numbers are now available for analysis in the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles' state-of-the-art automated Traffic Records Electronic Data System (TREDS), the Commonwealth's central repository for crash data and related information.

In 2020, there was a significant decline in traffic volume because of the pandemic. However, while serious injuries declined by five percent last year, the number of overall crash fatalities in the Commonwealth increased by two percent, with 847 fatalities reported, compared to 827 in 2019. Speed-related fatalities increased to the highest number in at least 10 years with 406 fatalities reported, a 16 percent jump over 2019 fatalities. The number of people who weren't wearing their seat belt killed as a result of crashes also increased in 2020, with 343 fatalities reported compared to 304 in 2019.

Led by the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security,

the Governor's Executive Leadership Team is composed of representatives from the Virginia Departments of Motor Vehicles, Health, Education, Transportation and State Police. They are charged with reducing serious injuries and fatalities on Virginia's roadways and driving change in the Commonwealth's highway safety culture.

"Although the number of vehicle crashes decreased during the pandemic, we saw more fatalities related to speed, alcohol, and failure to wear a seat belt. These decisions have heart-breaking consequences that affect families and

communities across Virginia," said Secretary of Transportation Shannon Valentine. "Our transportation agencies are committed to working diligently to reverse these trends, so everyone arrives home safely."

"Our state troopers and other first responders encounter the devastating effects of speed on our roadways every day," said Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran. "These incidents and others like it could have been prevented by drivers and passengers making the right choice to follow the speed limit and buckling up. These aren't simply statistics -

they are people's lives."

-Submitted by
Jessica Cowardin,
Communications Specialist

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OPINION

Gotta Love Dogs

Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community

The good news: Pet adoptions from shelters have risen over 50 percent since 2020.

“A loyal companion is hard to find, hard to lose and impossible to forget.”

Below are several book titles that are helpful when dealing with the loss of a pet:

•Remember Rafferty by Joy Johnson

•When Your Pet Dies: A Guide to Mourning, Remembering & Healing by Alan D. Wolfelt, PhD

•Grieving the Death of a Pet by Betty J. Carmack

•The Berenstain Bears Lose a Friend by Jan Berenstain and Mike Berenstain

•The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein

•Goodbye Friend by Gary Kowalski

•Cold Noses at the Pearly Gate by Gary Kurtz

•The Rainbow Bridge: Pet Loss is Heaven's

Gain by Niki Behrikis Shanahan

•Kindred Spirits by Allen M. Schoen

•Making Rounds with Oscar: The Extraordinary Gift of an Ordinary Cat by David Dosa, M.D.

Recently, my wife and I went through one of the more excruciating experiences of our lives – the euthanasia of our beloved dog, Murphy.

I remember making eye contact with Murphy moments before she took her last breath – she flashed me a look that was an endearing blend of confusion and the reassurance that everyone was ok because we were both by her side.

When people who have never had a dog see their dog-owning friends mourn the loss of a pet, they probably think it's all a bit of an overreaction; after all, it's “just a dog.”

However, those who have loved a dog know the truth: Your own pet is never “just a dog.”

Many times, I've had friends guiltily confide to me that they grieved more over the loss of a dog than over the loss

of friends or relatives. Research has confirmed that for most people, the loss of a dog is, in almost every way, comparable to the loss of a human loved one.

Unfortunately, there's little in our cultural playbook – no grief rituals, no obituary in the local newspaper, no religious service – to help us get through the loss of a pet, which can make us feel more than a bit embarrassed to show too much public grief over our dead dogs.

Perhaps if people realized just how strong and intense the bond is between people and their dogs, such grief would become more widely accepted. This would greatly help dog owners to integrate the death into their lives and help them move forward.

What is it about dogs, exactly, that make humans bond so closely with them?

For starters, dogs have had to adapt to living with humans over the past 10,000 years. And they've done it very well: They're the only animal to have evolved specifically to be our companions and friends. Anthropologist Brian Hare has developed the “Domestication Hypothesis” to explain how dogs morphed from their grey wolf ancestors into the socially skilled animals that we now interact with in very much the same way as we interact with other people.

Perhaps one reason our relationships with dogs can be even more satisfying than our human relationships is that dogs provide us with such unconditional, uncritical positive feedback. (As the old saying goes, “May I become the kind of person that my dog thinks I already am.”)

This is no accident. They have been selectively bred through gen-



The Craig County Public Library is at 303 Main Street.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

erations to pay attention to people, and MRI scans show that dog brains respond to praise from their owners just as strongly as they do to food (and for some dogs, praise is an even more effective incentive than food). Dogs recognize people and can learn to interpret human emotional states from facial expression alone. Scientific studies also indicate that dogs can understand human intentions, try to help their owners and even avoid people who don't cooperate with their owners or treat them well.

Not surprisingly, humans respond positively to such unrequited affection, assistance and loyalty. Just looking at dogs can make people smile. Dog owners score higher on measures of well-being and they are happier, on average, than people who own cats or no pets at all.

Our strong attachment to dogs was subtly revealed in a recent study of “misnaming.” Mismatching happens when you call someone by the wrong name, like when parents mistakenly call one of their kids by a sibling's name. It turns

out that the name of the family dog also gets confused with human family members, indicating that the dog's name is being pulled from the same cognitive pool that contains other members of the family. (Curiously, the same thing rarely happens with cat names.)

It's no wonder dog owners miss them so much when they're gone.

Psychologist Julie Axelrod has pointed out that the loss of a dog is so painful because owners aren't just losing the pet. It could mean the loss of a source of unconditional love, a primary companion who provides security and comfort, and maybe even a protégé that's been mentored like a child.

The loss of a dog can also seriously disrupt an owner's daily routine more profoundly than the loss of most friends and relatives. For owners, their daily schedules – even their vacation plans – can revolve around the needs of their pets. Changes in lifestyle and routine are some of the primary sources of stress.

According to a recent survey, many bereaved pet

owners will even mistakenly interpret ambiguous sights and sounds as the movements, pants and whimpers of the deceased pet. This is most likely to happen shortly after the death of the pet, especially among owners who had very high levels of attachment to their pets.

While the death of a dog is horrible, dog owners have become so accustomed to the reassuring and nonjudgmental presence of their canine companions that, more often than not, they'll eventually get a new one.

So yes, I miss my dog. But I'm sure that I'll be putting myself through this ordeal again in the years to come.

Frank T. McAndrew, The Conversation, Mar 19, 2017

Library News:

Become a Friend of the Library to enter a drawing for a \$100 gift card by the end of June.

If CCPL does not have a book you want, you can request it through an interlibrary loan.

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THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

USPS 378-080 1633 W. Main St.
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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.

Email letters to the editor to shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org

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Kids derby from page 1



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While Grave Diggers were busy making hits, Autumn decided to make a couple of trips out in the mud hole, enjoying the entire event.



While Grave Diggers was busy making hits, Autumn decided to make a couple of trips out in the mud hole, enjoying the entire event.



Charlie was amazed when he made a hit on MCTV car. When he hit it, the cardboard rear crunched up, but when he back off of it, it sprung back out. He then went in for another hit. Aubri and Grave Digger then battled front to front.

OBITUARY

Hottel, Mary Ann DuBose

On June 26, 2021, Mary Ann DuBose Hottel departed the confines of her earthly body to soar to heaven and reside among the angels and Jesus Christ. Family members already departed include her mother and father, Gertrude and Charles DuBose; sister, Carol DuBose; and nephew, David DuBose. Also deceased is her special mother-in-law, Ruth Ritter Hottel.



Left to cherish her memories and celebrate her life are her husband, James Oliver Hottel; son, James Holt Hottel and wife Robin Wright Hottel; daughter, Leah Hottel Buckley and husband Shannon Anderson Buckley; daughter Gail Hottel Lee and husband David Tyler Lee; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; brother, John Lawrence DuBose and his wife Judy DuBose; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mary grew up in Jacksonville, Florida. As a young adult, she worked for Prudential Life Insurance, transferred to New York City and then transferred back to Florida. She met Jim Hottel in Florida where he was stationed in the Navy. They married on February 4, 1956, and enjoyed 65 years together. After getting married they moved to Falls Church, Virginia, and started their family.

In 1968, choosing to live in the country, they moved their family to Craig County. Mary was involved in her children's lives and school activities. She stayed home with her children when they were young. She was an excellent wife, compassionate mother, seamstress extraordinaire, family financier, great gardener, and an excellent cook. She often said cooking for others was an expression of her love for them. Mary loved and cared for all the family pets that included cats, kittens, dogs, a lamb and her beloved dog Missy.

In 1973, she returned to work part-

time in New Castle. She first worked for Mr. Surface (former lawyer in New Castle) and then began working at the Craig County Department of Social Services. She developed many close friendships while working there, including her close friends, Bev Ewers and Betsy Huffman. In her retirement, Mary enjoyed spending time with her husband and their family. She and Jim traveled all over the United States and spread their patriotism wherever they went. After two of her great-grandchildren were diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis, Mary became involved with fundraising for this organization. Mary enjoyed her hobbies of sewing, cooking, gardening, and canning. Mary was a member of the Catawba Community Club.

It was a privilege of a lifetime having Mary in our lives. She was a blessing, an inspirational, and an excellent role model. The world is a better place due to the love and grace of Mary Ann DuBose Hottel. The family would like to express gratitude to the care and compassion that Mrs. Paula Martin and Mrs. Penny Frye provided. Also, a special acknowledgment to the entire Carilion Hospice team. Mary died peacefully in her sleep on June 26 surrounded by her loving family.

A service honoring Mary's life will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 30, at Paitsel Funeral Home., New Castle, VA. The family will receive friends from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. before the service.

In lieu of flowers, please make a contribution to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, 4600 Park Road Suite 100 Charlotte, NC 28209.

Arrangements by Paitsel Funeral Home. www.paitselfh.com

blemaker), 09 – Charlie Owen, 35 – Aubri Trivette, MCTV Makenzie Meadows and MCTV 2 – Addison James, Charley Brown, Willow Brown, Layla Brown, 01 – Gravedigger Clabe Jr., 16 – Destroyer – Lily Richardson and 50 – Autumn Mabes. A few others joined in at the last minute which is why we don't have their names.

Clabe, in his green Grave Digger, got stuck in the mud but not for long as he kept rocking back and forth, obviously being taught on what to do as he quickly got out, ready to ram again.

Autumn, in her blue 50, kept going around in the mud enjoying herself as she and her co-pilot were laughing away, enjoying the ride. Occasionally, she would join in on a hit only to pull out and take another fun lap in the mud hole.

Clabe hit Autumn in the side. Aubri was doing the backup, hitting as she went.

When this occurred, the parents were close by to help unhook them. Many participants got hooked up, bunched up or were unable to get loose.

The toddlers knew what they were there to do, run into each other, and give some good hits.

Some would hit, grin and then look around to see who they could hit next, not seeming to want to hit the same vehicle

twice. (Unlike the big car derby drivers.)

Emcee Sammy Huffman, while broadcasting the event, gave the kids encouragement. He later announced that one seemed to have "lost its transmission."

Charlie pushed the black Grave Digger backward, but he came back and started pushing him backward.

Aubri then rammed MCTV, and Charlie crunched the cardboard rear of MCTV. It must've been fun watching the cardboard crunch up, as he backed up and did it again.

Big hits were made as Sammy announced that was a "neck stretcher".

Autumn received instructions to do more derby instead of riding. She decided to join in, with a big ram into the rear of the black Grave Digger, seeming to surprise him. Then she turned around and rammed the green Grave Digger, grinning all the while.

Lily hit, looked at the driver and backed out to check out the next person.

Blue Gravedigger and black car enjoyed a head-to-head until Autumn came around and hit them both.

The Gravediggers decide to have their own head-to-head battle, each laughing.

The MCTV cars did their fair share of hit-

ting, but the other drivers seemed to get a kick out of watching the rear of their cars made of cardboard crunch up and then come back out when they hit it.

The horn blew and each drove out of the ring, receiving their trophies from Guthrie Insurance Agency.

There were only smiles as the little power wheel derby drivers held their trophies tight, wearing a smile that could melt anyone's heart.

Appreciation was given to Angie Guthrie for sponsoring the event, the parents and friends for fixing the kid's vehicles to participate, the parents and friends for helping with the derby and to the spectators for giving the little drivers all the support.

And Power Wheels derby will continue, on August 14 at the next Craig County Fairgrounds Demolition Derby. All kids are welcome to join in on the fun.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The following position is open with TAP:

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□ Demonstrate ability to

Help Wanted - General

communicate both orally and in writing with staff, parents, and the community
□ Demonstrates ability to develop trusting professional relationships with families.
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□ 2 years' experience in a social services agency.
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Must be able to adjust

Help Wanted - General

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Legals - City of Salem

PUBLIC HEARING
The City of Salem School Board will hold a public hearing for comment on The Public Input on Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan and American Rescue Plan (ARP) ESSER Plan on Tuesday, July 13, 2021. The hearing will begin at 5:30 PM at the School Administrative Office, 510 South College Avenue, Salem. Any citizen of Salem who wishes to address the Board should contact Kathy A. Jordan, Clerk of the Board, at 389-0130 by Monday, July 7, in order to be placed on the agenda. Individuals who plan to address the Board are requested to bring copies 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 and address all stated concerns to the chair,
- A time limit of three minutes per speaker is allotted,
- Provide 8 copies 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.

Notice is hereby given to

all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on July 14, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Hold public hearing to consider the request of the Salem Historical Society, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 1936 West Main Street (Tax Map # 138-2-7) from CBD Community Business District with proffered conditions to CBD Community Business District without conditions.
2. Hold public hearing to consider the request of Property Catalyst Group, Inc., applicant, and Layman Candy Company, Inc., property owner, for rezoning the property located at 1637 East Main Street (Tax Map #77-3-13) from LM Light Manufacturing with proffered conditions, to HBD Highway Business District without conditions.
3. Hold public hearing to consider the request of Property Catalyst Group, Inc., applicant, and Layman Candy Company, Inc., property owner, for rezoning the property located at 23 Dalewood Avenue (Tax Map #77-3-12) from HBD Highway Business District without conditions.
4. Hold public hearing to consider the request of Property Catalyst Group, Inc., applicant and Layman Candy Company, Inc. and George W. Givens Jr. & Susan K. Givens, property owners, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow personal storage on the properties located at 1637 & 1641-1647 East Main Street, and 11, 15, & 23 Dalewood Avenue (Tax Map #s 77-3-13, 77-3-16, 77-3-15, 77-3-14, and 77-3-12).

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Legals - City of Salem

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- In unusual cases or cases of emergency, the Board, by consensus, may allow an individual or organization to speak if not on the agenda.

Notice is hereby given to

all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on July 14, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Hold public hearing to consider the request of the Salem Historical Society, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 1936 West Main Street (Tax Map # 138-2-7) from CBD Community Business District with proffered conditions to CBD Community Business District without conditions.
2. Hold public hearing to consider the request of Property Catalyst Group, Inc., applicant, and Layman Candy Company, Inc., property owner, for rezoning the property located at 1637 East Main Street (Tax Map #77-3-13) from LM Light Manufacturing with proffered conditions, to HBD Highway Business District without conditions.
3. Hold public hearing to consider the request of Property Catalyst Group, Inc., applicant, and Layman Candy Company, Inc., property owner, for rezoning the property located at 23 Dalewood Avenue (Tax Map #77-3-12) from HBD Highway Business District without conditions.
4. Hold public hearing to consider the request of Property Catalyst Group, Inc., applicant and Layman Candy Company, Inc. and George W. Givens Jr. & Susan K. Givens, property owners, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow personal storage on the properties located at 1637 & 1641-1647 East Main Street, and 11, 15, & 23 Dalewood Avenue (Tax Map #s 77-3-13, 77-3-16, 77-3-15, 77-3-14, and 77-3-12).

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Legals - City of Salem

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of the City Planner, Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia.

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY

James E. Taliaferro, II
Executive Secretary

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Rockets put two on All-Pioneer District softball team



Sara Jones is a first team All-Pioneer District selection.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Chasity Wolfe is a second team All-Pioneer District selection.

The All-Pioneer District softball team has been announced and Craig County has two girls on the team.

Sara Jones, who had an outstanding year pitching for the Rockets, has been named to the all-district first team. Chasity Wolfe was named to the second team. Both were named as pitchers, although Wolfe played mostly in the outfield.

"They didn't have a lot of pitchers," said Craig coach Elaina Wolfe-Carper. "One of the Parry McCluer pitchers

was the Player of the Year so she wasn't considered with the pitchers. Sara was one of the best pitchers in the district and Chasity had a good season."

Elaina said Craig's lack of hitting kept more girls from being named to the team.

"They look at batting and fielding and we didn't have a lot of good averages," she said. "Hopefully that will change next season with a year of varsity experience. We had a very young team."

Craig County girls are playing in the RAYSA softball tournament

Craig County has a team entered in the 12-and-Under Roanoke Area Youth Softball Association (RAYSA) tournament this week. The tournament is being played at the James I. Moyer Complex in Salem.

The Craig girls were set to open Monday night against Franklin County. If they won Monday they advanced to the second round on Tuesday against South County. If Craig lost to Franklin the girls were off on Tuesday and will play tonight, Wednesday, at 6 pm against the loser of a Tuesday game between Franklin and South County. The tournament is double elimination and runs through Thursday.

There are also tournaments for 10-and-Under and 16-and-Under girls

but Craig did not enter. The 10U tournament includes North Roanoke, Salem and both South County Red and Blue. The 16U tournament has teams from North Roanoke, Williamson Road, Franklin County and two from South County, Red and Blue.

All championship games are scheduled for Thursday night.

The Dixie League boys AAA and Ozone Tournaments were both held over the weekend at Green Hill Park. Craig was short on numbers and decided not to enter. Glenvar, Salem and North Roanoke had AAA teams involved, for nine and 10 year old boys, while Glenvar, North Roanoke and Mount Pleasant fielded teams in the O-Zone tournament, for 11 and 12 year olds.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Craig County's Marcus Donitan bats at a recent O-Zone baseball game.

Masked Column Head is Retired

I'm taking the mask off. I'm fully vaccinated and it's time.

Ever since the coronavirus struck back in March of 2020 I've been counting the days since all sports shut down as we knew them. You remember. It was the second week of March last year and Rudy Gobert of the Utah Jazz tested positive for COVID 19. Shortly thereafter the NCAA basketball tournament was cancelled and the NBA and Major League Baseball spring training was put on hold. NASCAR followed, and before you could say "Doctor Anthony Fauci" there was nothing going on in the sports world.

At that point everyone and the Lone Ranger was expected to wear a mask. My wife

bought some cool material and broke out our old sewing machine and started making masks for our extended family members. I had my picture taken in a Philadelphia Phillies "powder blue" mask and I've been using that for my column head for well over a year.

Well, this week will be 476 days AG, or "After Gobert," and we're not totally back to normal, but we're close. The Major League Baseball stadiums and Haley-Toyota Field here in Salem are back to 100 percent capacity again, and the big leagues are playing all 162 games. The NFL and college football are on pace to have normal seasons with normal fans, if painting your face maroon and orange is a normal thing.



Brian Hoffman

Sports Editor

You can eat inside without a mask, you can go to the movies again and I just passed the two week mark where I didn't wear a mask in the grocery store, and thought nothing of it.

I'm not saying we're totally normal. The little stickers on the floor at the drugstore are still telling me to stay six feet back, but at least no one gives you a dirty look if you don't. And if I get a peanut stuck in my throat and cough people still back away. But that's

nothing compared to last year at this time.

I've been busy here at the paper. For over a year I had little sports news to cover, writing features and columns and whatever photos I could find. Since the high school sports returned in January I've not only been busy, but swamped. As you know they stuck the fall high school sports, football, volleyball, golf and cross country, between the winter and spring sports. And Roanoke College did the same. You know, in a two week span in March every single sports team at Roanoke College played some kind of game or scrimmage.

And I love it. I'd much rather be busy than sitting at home on the porch reading

magazines and watching the birds. It took 476 days but I'm actually feeling normal enough to take the mask off the column head.

But let me warn you, don't get too comfortable. I'm hearing about this Delta strain and how it's worse and spreads faster, and you're at serious risk if you don't get vaccinated. I don't want to go back to sitting on the porch and watching the birds again, so please consider getting the shot if you haven't done so. If you believe the experts, and I do, it's the best chance we have to keep things "normal" again.

And then if someone asks, "who was that masked man?," it probably WAS the Lone Ranger.

VHSL Associate Executive Director Tom Dolan will retire

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA — The Virginia High School League (VHSL) is announcing Associate Executive Director Tom Dolan will retire at the end of the 2021-22 academic calendar.

Dolan joined the VHSL staff as an assistant director in 2007 before assuming the assistant director of compliance in 2013, overseeing compliance and interpretations of VHSL rules and regulations, eligibility cases and appeals, and state responsibilities for basketball and tennis. He became Associate Executive Director in 2017.

"As I look forward to completing my 43rd year in education, including teaching, coaching, and administra-

tion, it is simply the right time to step aside following the 2021-22 school year," said Dolan. "It's been a great honor to dedicate my life in service to the VHSL, athletes, school administrators, and coaches."

"Tom has been a trusted and invaluable member of our VHSL staff," said VHSL Executive Director, Dr. John W. "Billy" Haun. "Tom has shown an unwavering commitment to our member schools, athletic administrators, and students participating in athletics and activities in Virginia in the pursuit of excellence on and off the fields of competition. Tom's selfless service over a 43-year career will impart a legacy in

the VHSL that will impact future generations far into the future."

Dolan came to the VHSL following 29 years as an athletic administrator, coach, and teacher at Jamestown High School (1997-2007); Lafayette High School (1992-97); and at New Kent High School (1978-92).

Dolan, a 2020 Virginia High School Hall of Fame inductee, has committed over 40 years to serving youth and sports in Virginia as a coach and administrator. As an administrator, he has been highly active in the VIAAA. Dolan is a past president of the organization and has sat on its Executive Board since 1999. In addition, he has

served on numerous District, Region, and State committees throughout his career. Dolan's distinguished career goes beyond the state level to the NFHS (National Federation of State High School Associations). He has served on several committees and currently chairs the Baseball Rules Committee.

Before his time as an administrator, Dolan served as a girls basketball, baseball, and golf coach at New Kent, Lafayette, and Jamestown high schools. During his coaching tenure at the three schools, his teams won nine District Championships, three Regional Championships, and one State Championship in Golf at Jamestown.