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"The Voice of Craig County"

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

\$1.00

Board of Supervisors November meeting brings optimism

Pam Dudding

Contributing writer

Many topics were discussed, and decisions were reached at the Novem-

ber Board of Supervisors meeting. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) monthly briefing from Ray Varney included the Meadow Creek bridge project, explaining the bid came in "a couple hundred thousand dollars" under their estimate. The project will move forward, taking approximately nine months to complete, starting in Feb-

Reports also indicated the continuation of mowing and shoulder work on 311 and North Potts Mountain Road, gravel road upkeep and adding stone and dust control. The Paint Bank Bridge project is expected to be completed in November.

Darryl Humphreys, Craig County's Emergency Services Director, said that he is having a retention and recruiting issue.

We have lost two employees in the last three weeks to other locations. One went to a hospital facility and

the other to another agency, and we almost lost a third full-time employee," he explained. "EMS is experiencing a manpower shortage throughout this region and the nation. We have been trying to hire people."

He explained that they have used flyers and posted openings on Western Virginia and state EMS websites trying to hire part-time people, with only two takers so far. However, no one has applied for the much-needed full-time positions as other places are

See Supervisors, page 6



The November Craig County Board of Supervisors meeting broached many topics. Seated left to right are Rusty Zimmerman (Vice-Chair Craig City District), Kathi Toelke (Simmonsville), Lindsey Dunne (Craig Creek), Carl Bailey (Potts Mountain), Jesse Spence (Chair New Castle) and Dan Collins (County Administrator).

Annual Christmas Parade brings joy, cheers and Santa



As always, Santa brought the joy and smiles out of both children and adults. CCPS music teacher Alyssa Schulke brought her two little ones to get a picture with Santa. She and her husband even got to pop in a picture. Santa and Mrs. Claus handed them a bag of donated candy.

See Parade, page 3

Santa's Mailbox is at Family Dollar again this year

Pam Dudding

Contributing writer

As Christmas draws closer, kids are starting to get even more excited and have already began writing letters to Santa

For the third year,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Since 2018, Santa has been placing his personal mailbox at Family Dollar.

Santa will be placing his personal mailbox at Family Dollar for kids in Craig to make sure

he gets them. Local children have already been asking store manager Caitlin Reynolds when the mailbox will arrive. So, she had to call Santa to remind him!

Kids can write their letter to Santa with all their requests. They can also add their special notes to him, to Mrs. Santa, all the elves, the reindeer and Rudolph too if they

letters must reach the mailbox by Friday, December 17, at 7 p.m.

However, it doesn't end there!

Santa will then be

writing a letter back to each child and will have them delivered to Family Dollar by Monday, December 21.

He can't write back any later, as he needs enough time to get everything together for the great night of Christmas Eve.

Family Dollar holiday hours are from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m.

There is no age limit as there are many kids young at heart, whether they are 18 or 98!

Blank letters to write on will be at the mailbox or kids can draw up their own and drop

Santa can't wait to hear from all his good little girls and boys. So, drop your letter into his mailbox today!



Food Country has teamed up with the local Department of Social Services and has an Angel Tree set up in the front foyer of the grocery store for kids. Will you join in on the special Christmas spirit and buy gifts for a needed child in Craig? All gifts need to be returned to Food Country by Monday, December 20.

Angel Tree for kids at Food Country is an opportunity for the community

Pam Dudding Contributing writer

Kids around the world get so excited this time of year. During the holiday season, eyes get brighter, smiles get bigger and some even start cleaning their rooms without being told, in hopes that Santa will bring them

their Christmas wish list. To assist Santa this year with his generosity, Food Country has teamed up with the local Department of Social Services and have an Angel Tree set up in the front foyer of the grocery store.

They have 40 angels this

year.
"This is our third year in having the Angel Tree," Assistant Manager, Jennifer Cole, shared. "It just gives a feeling that you have helped someone who may not have had anything."

Names of children with their "wishes" are placed on it, along with their sizes for clothes.

Anyone can go and pick out a name off the tree and "shop for Santa" for kids in Craig County. Once you pick an angel, simply see a cashier, and give them your name and phone number and the angel letter or num-

"We also have a box for those who would like to donate a toy or piece of clothing, without taking an angel

off the tree," Cole added. All packages are due back to Food Country by Friday, December 20. You may gift wrap them, put them in gift bags or just bring them in and they will get wrapped.

Also, for those who do not have a job, Food Country currently has store job openings. The produce department and stocker positions pay \$9.50 an hour, and the deli department position pays slightly more.

Interested individuals can contact Food Country at 540-864-6221 to obtain an application Once it is returned, they will call and schedule an appointment.

"It's pure joy when you see the angel tree empty," Cole shared. "We are happy to help serve our community and our kids."



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OMMUNITY CALENDAR

MONDAY THROUGH **SATURDAY**

The Craig County Public Library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 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 Castle New Christian Church, located at 282 Salem Ave, is pastored by Sheldon Cosma is having services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., with communion at each, and is on Facebook Live at 9 a.m.

•St. John's 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@

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

FIRST THURSDAY

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

Courthouse.

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.

Be sure to 'Like' the New Castle Record on Facebook.

Waiteville Community Center receives massive grant



Waiteville Community Center was happy to receive a check for \$12,000 to establish an Emergency Center for citizens living in Waiteville and Potts Valley. Pictured from left to right, Melvin Rock, Vice President; Gary Kessinger, President; Janet McDaniel, Secretary; Kevin Mann, Monroe County Commissioner; David Furrow, Treasurer; and Renee Eppling and Ruth Wrzosek (Board members).

Pam Dudding

Contributing writer

Small communities depend on one another to make it through many tough times. At times, the need is at an all-time high.

The Waiteville community works diligently providing ror another. The Waiteville Community Center is a facility where all the community events are held, and more and more are being scheduled as the COVID pandemic decreases.

Good news came at the Board of Directors Meeting on November

9 when Kevin Mann, Monroe County Commissioner, presented Waiteville Community Center Inc. a check for \$12,000 for establishing an Emergency Center for citizens living in Waiteville and Potts Valley.

"The former Waitthe only building within 30-miles that is large enough to house and feed community residents during severe storms power outages," Treasurer David Furrow shared. "Currently, when power to the community is severed, the Waiteville Community Center also does not have electricity." County."

In addition, during a lack of heat to prevent outages. freezing pipes and water

possible through assis- propane tank. tance from Commissionadded. "We appreciate

The Board of Direcwinter months (De- tors plan to use the grant cember through early as partial funding for a March), water pipes generator that will afford must be drained due to electricity during power

tional funding of approx-"The \$12,000 granted imately \$15,000 will be eville School Building is to Waiteville Commu- needed to fully fund and nity Center was made install the generator and

> er Mann, Roy Cooper, reaching the Waiteville WV Delegate for Dis- Community Center Inc. trict 28, and Roger Han- goal of providing emershaw, Speaker of the WV gency services for Wait-House of Delegates," he eville citizens are needed.

> communities in Monroe to this project, contact David Furrow at 304-772-3060, waiteville@ frontier.com or via mail at 3869 Waiteville Rd, Waiteville WV 24984.

•The Hunter's Dinner held on November 21 was successful as \$550 was raised from the sale of meals and donations with special thanks going out to the community

members who donated homemade cookies and brownies, bought and sold raffle tickets, helped with serving food, and prepared the community center for the event and a big thanks to Taste of Eggcellence for making

the BBQ and sides for

the meal

 Raffle tickets sales for the CZ 612 Field shotgun netted \$1,786. Tim Dunbar of New Castle was the lucky winner. All proceeds will go toward the maintenance fund as they continue upgrades of the Waiteville Community Center

•A supporter donated ten new basement windows (\$800 value) for the building and then another supporter, Pete Wimmer, volunteered his time, tools, and materials to install the new windows as Bruce Blaylock and David Furrow assisted. The total project time was 32-hours between the trio and total cost to the WCC was

•More good news is that the overhead lighting in the main room, kitchen, and men's bathroom needed new LED bulbs and ballasts which were installed by Leroy Schrock, another supporter, who completed the project with assisfrom David Furrow. Total project time was 16 hours between the duo and total cost to the WCC was \$430 (68 bulbs, one new light

switch, wire, and half a

day's labor). Leroy do-

nated the other half-day

of labor to the project. "With the new bulbs, the lights come on properly now and provide better quality lighting," WCC said. "The four bulbs and two ballasts in each light fixture (17 total) had to be removed and the fixture rewired to accommodate the new lights. The new windows really look good too! Thanks to all that were

<u>CROSSWORD</u> 19 26 38 40 59 61 60 29. Basics 30. Refuse of grapes **CLUES ACROSS** CLUES DOWN denotes disgust 34. "Batman" villain Polish city Quarrels

- Very eager 10. Identifies a specific
- person or thing 14. Tennis great Naomi 15. One concerned by professional advancement 17. PGA Championship
- reward 19. A fashionable hotel 20. Norse mythology afterlife location 21. Stood up
- 22. Car mechanics group 23. Weather forecasters use 53. Have surgery it (abbr.)
- 24. Broken branch 26. Astronomy unit 58. Lot's father

29. East Asian nursemaid

31. "Airplane!" actor

32. Exclamation that

- Downfalls
- 37. Philippine province 38. Once-vital TV part 39. Valley 40. Tax
- 41. Classic Scorcese film 43. Subway dwellers
- 45. Book part
- 46. Taxi 47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river 50. Founder of Babism
- 57. Withdrawal from a larger entity

59. Greek war god

60. 2,000 lbs.

61. Lemur

- 2. Right away
- 3. Comedian Carvey 4. Egyptian unit of weight A Brit's mother
- Tropical tree 7. One who speaks Gaelic 8. NHL legend Bobby 9. Vacation spots
- 10. Military personnel 11. Shakira's don't lie 12. Wimbledon champ Teletypewriter 16. Mistakes
- 18. Whale ship captain 22. Thus 23. From end to end 24. Kids love him

25. One and only

28. Taxis

27. Fencing swords

- 31. Go quickly
- 33. French ballet dynasty 35. Most open 36. Popular soap ingredient
- 37. US time zone (abbr.) 39. Items of food 42. Backbones
- 43. Infrequent 44. Blood type 46. "Let It Snow!" songwriter 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Pike 49. Egyptian sun god 50. A cardinal is one
- 51. From a distance 52. Bolivian river 53. N. American student organization (abbr.) 54. River (Spanish)

55. Chinese life force

56. Chinese surname

They noted that addi-

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More updates include:

Life is short. Don't make it shorter. Choose life. Make sure your kids get their HPV vaccine and protect them against cancer. @vaccinatevirginia



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on Facebook.



Ravan Day

Richfield Living appoints Ravan Day as Marketing and Leasing Counselor for Independent Living

Richfield Living, a local leader in senior living and rehabilitation, recently announced the selection of Ravan Day as Marketing and Leasing Counselor for Independent Living. Day comes to the com-

pany with six years of experience in property and leasing management. Ravan attended Virginia Western Com-SUBMITTED PHOTO munity College with a concentration in Management studies. She officially joined the team in May 2021.

Lisa Clause, Senior Director of Marketing and Philanthropy, stated, "Ravan has a lot of critical experience and background that matches with the job responsibilities. On top of that, she is organized and dedicated to building relationships with prospects and residents. Her

abilities add another layer to

In addition to being a wife and mother of three children, Day also volunteers at Feeding America and the Annual Color Me Cameron Run Scholarship Fundraiser. A member of St. Philip Lutheran Church, Day supports the Elijah Backpack Drive too.

"I am overjoyed to be a

part of the Richfield Living community and Marketing Team," said Day. "As a Leas-ing and Marketing Counselor, it is important to present all that the Richfield campus has to offer. Helping guide our future residents to find their new home in independent living is an honor and a privilege."

Submitted by Lisa Clause

Roanoke Valley Children's Choir empowers young people to believe in their talents

Shawn Nowlin

shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org

In 1987, Kimberly Ruse Davidson launched the Roanoke Valley Children's Choir. Before the organization grew into one of the most highly respected

vidson had to start from scratch.

Thirty-five years ago, she spoke at nearly every local elementary school she could to gather up as many singers as possible. Reminiscing about those

early days, she said, "We started with 23 young singers between the ages of eight and ten."

Today, the choir includes 130 children from 65 different schools throughout the Roanoke Valley and surrounding and a Concert Choir.

communities. The choris- director, Davidson is reters, who are between the sponsible for planning all ages of 7 and 18, are cho- the programs, including sen through an audition auditions, concerts, special process and are divided performances and collabointo three Training Choirs rations, choir festival planning, audition for honor As the program's ar- performances, select reptistic and administrative ertoire, budget and calendar reservations, to name

Most people, said Davidson, don't understand what a pre-pro-Community fessional Youth Choir is. She continued, "This is the training ground for excellence in singing, teaching children the basics and then the details of diction, posture, sight-singing, tone quality, breath support and artistic expression. Because of our expertise in singing, the RVCC is able to offer our singers opportunities to sing locally with the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra and Opera Roanoke."

Over the years, choral singing has brought numerous honor performance opportunities for the choir, including four solo performances at Carnegie Hall, four featured choir performances at the American Choral Directors Association Regional and National Conventions as well as solo and festival performances in England, Hawaii, Canada and many cities in the United States. This year, a new choir "The Little Singers," taught by Kristi Davidson, has been added for children between the ages of four and

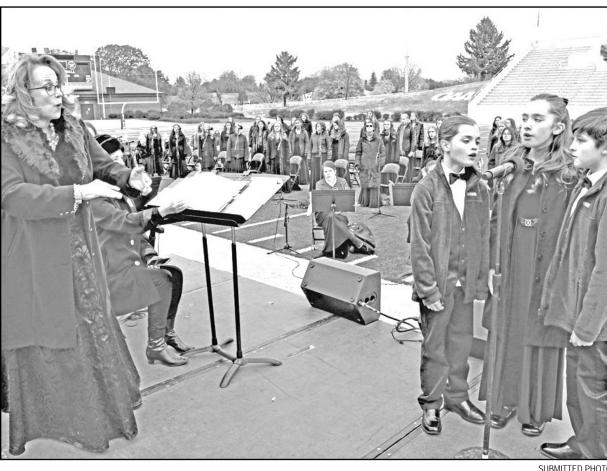
On December 4, the RVCC will be offering a class for second through fifth graders who are interested in joining the organization. "Singing in a pandemic has been extra challenging and although we have worked extremely hard to offer the highest quality of excellence in singing combined with safety, our choir numbers have dropped nearly in half. We are on the upswing and are excited to rebuild the choir as quickly

as we can," Davidson said. Approximately singers took center stage on November 21 as the Roanoke Valley Children's Choir performed a concert at the Salem Football Stadium by singing holiday favorites and nutcracker themed songs.

"Our choristers sang beautifully and remembered all the details we've been working on. Congratulations to the amazing team of dancers from Southwest Virginia Ballet, led by the kind, talented and motivational Mr. Pedro Szalay. They danced so beautifully," Davidson said. "The Roanoke Chamber Brass is a pure delight to make music with. "What an exciting and beautiful day to have months of planning and practicing come together!"

Davidson says she has worked with an innumerable amount of talented musicians and artists over the years en route to making countless memories she'll remember for the rest of her life. When people discuss the Roanoke Valley Children's Choir, she hopes what comes to mind is their integrity, professionalism and work ethic.

For more information about the RVCC, visit childrenschoir.com.



month.

Parade from page 1



Leading the 2021 New Castle Parade was the Craig Valley VFW Post 4491 who started things off with a tremendous feeling of pride for country and appreciation for those who continue to fight for our freedom.



Many vehicles joined the parade, making it a spectacular and interesting light display for all to enjoy.

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Books that feel like a warm hug - Part Two

Library Corner Empowering individuals to

build a stronger community

Braiding Sweetgrass 2013 by Robin Wall Kim-

If you're after some consolation, but don't fancy fiction, botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer's bestselling examination of the outdoor world and our interaction with it may do the trick. Kimmerer draws on a life lived as an indigenous scientist to share the kind of facts about too often overlooked natural occurrences – such as moss, or fungi – in a beautifully soothing way, that will make you think afresh about your footprints in the world and how you

The Flip Side by James Bailey (2020)

If you like your comfort comedic, then The Flip Side offers both. The concept of Bailey's novel is simple: in the wake of a break-up, his protagonist Josh decides that life must be dictated by one thing alone - a coin toss. What happens if you leave everything to chance? In this case, a journey around the world and a chaotic chance at a happy-everafter. The book version of a Richard Curtis film.

The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 3/4 by Sue Townsend (1982)

If you're familiar with Townsend's utterly brilliant creation, consider this a prompt to reread her books. If not, you're in for a treat: Adrian Mole may have become a household name for an

Inbetweeners-prototype, but his diaries offer an unexpectedly poignant and funny - insight into human condition. For those who consume the first one in one giddy afternoon, good news: Townsend wrote seven more, charting the journey through Mole's life and adulthood.

Call Me Red by Hannah Jackson (2021)

If you've ever found that in complicated times, you yearn to be outdoors, working with your hands and breathing fresh air, this might be the book for you. Call Me Red is the inspirational uplifting, memoir of Hannah Jackson, known online as The Red Shepherdess, where she shares stories and photos from her Cumbrian sheep farm. Jackson's book tells the story of her farm, from her youthful decision to raise sheep to the values she's learned along the way. The story of hard work and determination paid off will be sure to raise your spirits. Anxious People

Fredrik Backman (2020)

You may know Backman from A Man Called Ove, a heartwarming story about the grumpiest man in the world that sat on the New York Times bestseller lists for most of a year. Now, he's back, with Anxious People, in which Backman twists the hostage narrative on its head in a sleepy Swedish town. This may not sound like consoling material, but it's a sign of Backman's skill in depicting the human condition that it is: Matt Haig called it "a brilliant and comforting

All Adults Here (2021) by Emma Straub Few authors manage to

suck the reader into the heart of a fictional familylike Emma Straub, who makes skipping through generations of love stories and fallouts look easy. All Adults Here comes from a resolution made by 68-year-old Astrick Strick, a widow who vows to make amends for the way she raised her children. But now that they've flown the nest, will they be as keen? Straub's a brilliant writer for capturing the sense of a place - her previous novel, Modern Lovers, brought Brooklyn brilliantly to life. All Adults Here is set in Upstate New York, so be prepared for some wholesome new territory.

(2019)

The perfect book for those who have found themselves a little out of love with reading lately: not only is Jojo Moyes's tale of horseback librarians (a real thing, in Depression-era America) a brilliant adventure, but an ode to the power of books themselves. Also in this bestselling novel: unforgettable female friendships, love lost (and won) and some beautifully journeys through the Kentucky wilderness. Bliss.

Library News:

Thank you for signing up for Kroger Community Rewards with CCPL as your charity. Every little bit helps!

Recycling to join, send an email to craiglibrary@swva.net.

Salem Area Ecumenical Ministries receives donation from local Moose Lodge -Funds to support Mrs. Dorsey's Clothes Closet-

Members of the Salem Moose Family Center 2573 re- the Salem and Roanoke cently awarded Salem Area Ecumenical Ministries a donation of \$ 1,514 to support Mrs. Dorsey's Clothes Closet. In addition, members of the Moose donated clothing, including winter clothes and jackets to assist at-risk families within

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communities. The Salem Moose

Family Center is located at 1409 East Main Street. The Loyal Order of the Moose and Women of the Moose are community service-based organizations. Although Salem Lodge 2573 is a fairly young lodge, members are proud of the amount of service to the community that is provided.

For over three decades,

Mrs. Dorsey's Clothes Closet has provided new and used clothing with tens of thousands of guests served since the beginning. During the past four months, Mrs. Dorsey's Clothes Closet has served 1,562 guests for a total of 3,701 family members with 165 new guests registering during the period.

Mrs. Dorsey's Clothes Closet is currently open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:00

a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Closet is located at 825 S Colorado Street in Salem and relies on the community to provide support with donated clothes and accessories, small household appliances, books, personal hygiene items and school supplies. Winter clothing and jackets are desperately needed during the next four months. In addition, financial support is always appreciated. Donations can be made online at

www.saemva.org or mailed to: SAEM, P.O. Box 737, Salem, VA 24153

As well, Mrs. Dorsey's Clothes Closet is in need of volunteers to provide assistance to guests or to sort donations and assist with stocking the clothes racks. Volunteers typically contribute one or two days per month. To assist, contact 540-389-4889.

> Submitted by Garry Lautenschlager



Left to right, Todd Collins, Moose Lodge member; Cindy Neathawk, Chair, SAEM; Garry Lautenschlager, Secretary, SAEM; Jennifer Kidder and her daughter, Sydni, Powerhouse Gaming; and Butch Bryant, President, Salem Moose

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Foundation endows scholarship with \$25k donation

For over a decade, the Bobby Scruggs Charitable Foundation has been changing the lives of college students by providing money for scholarships through a yearly donation. This year, the foundation took a big step further. With a \$25,000 donation to the Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation, the donors have endowed the scholarship - ensuring it will provide students with access to education in

To commemorate the occasion, Scruggs' wife, Dr. Jackie Scruggs Taylor, presented a check to the Patrick & Henry Community College on behalf of the Bobby Scruggs Charitable Foundation. The donation will ensure the Bobby Scruggs Memorial Scholarship is one that students can apply for year after year. This scholarship will cover \$1,000 of tuition expenses for one student in P&HCC's Racing Col-

This endowment will enable the Foundation to continue the work that it has already started. Over the last 15 years, the Bobby Scruggs Charitable Foundation has awarded more than 120 scholarships to Martinsville City, Henry County, and Patrick County students through annual donations.

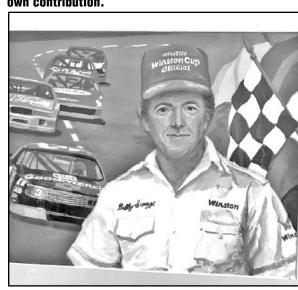
We are thrilled to have the Bobby Scruggs Memorial Scholarship endowed with this donation," says Tiffani Underwood, the Executive Director of P&HCC's Foundation. "This endowment will ensure so many students will have access to education - something they may not be able to have without the support of people who believe in the power of education. We are extremely grateful to the Scruggs family and are excited to see all the success that students will have thanks to the scholarship that will make college attainable.3

Bobby Scruggs was a NASCAR enthusiast. For nearly 40 years, he worked as an official on the track. Even though Scruggs lost his battle with cancer in 2005, his legacy remains strong. Now, in his memory, the Bobby Scruggs Memorial Scholarship will help the next generation of NASCAR officials, pit crewmen, technicians, and NASCAR enthusiasts graduate from P&HCC's Racing College.

> Submitted by Amanda Broome, P&HČC Public Relations



Scruggs' wife, Dr. Jackie Scruggs Taylor, accepting a check from former NASCAR driver Richard Childress who supported the scholarship endowment with his own contribution.



A painting made to commemorate Bobby Scruggs' many years of service in the NASCAR industry.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Dr. Jackie Scruggs presenting the check. From left to right, Dr. Scruggs Taylor, Denver Smith and Talmage Thomas (Motorsports Faculty) and Tiffani Underwood (P&HCC Foundation Director).

Roanoke College men's lacrosse team raises funds to support Ronald McDonald House



Coach Bill Pilat and members of the men's lacrosse team present a check to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest Virginia. Front row, left to right, Coach Bill Pilat, Austin Gambino, Stephanie Carroll, Ronald McDonald House. Back row, left to right, Matthew Albertson, Matthew Jahres, Bryson Miller, Ronald McDonald, Conrad Good, Ethan Caldwell and Elliott Adams.

Roanoke Collacrosse lege men's recently visited team the Ronald McDonald House to present \$1,500 the team raised to assist the home away from home for families with children being treated in area hospitals. The team also conducted a food drive and delivered food products paper to the house.

"This was a collaborative effort from our alumni and our student athletes," Men's Lacrosse Coach Bill Pilat '85 said.

The donations to Ronald McDonald House Charities Southwest Virginia came from a September men's laalumni weekend designed to bring alumni back to campus to meet the current studentathletes. The alumni and current players wanted to support a local charity and selected the Ronald McDonald House.

The Ronald Mc-House Donald provides a comfortable and supportive home away from home for the families of sick and injured children who must come to the Roanoke area for medical treatment, and the Ronald McDonald Family Room at the Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, a respite area for parents to rest and regroup, steps away from their child's bedside.

Austin Gambino '22 organized the food drive, along with Griffin Buck '22. The entire team donated to the food drive and helped spread the word to others about the effort.

"I talked with one of our alumni, Rocco Guglielmo '85, and told him how our team wants to get involved locally," Gambino said. "He mentioned the Ronald McDonald House here in Roanoke. As a team, we decided to support them with a food drive, as Thanksgiving is coming up. We are happy we could do what we did to help. They do so much for everyone else in the community, and we want

to help them out." "The Ronald McDonald House is extremely excited with the support being given with annual this tournament," said Stephanie Carroll, director of special events/ community development at Ronald McDonald House Charities Southwest Virginia. "Now more than ever, it is such a blessing. Having the families be able to stay with their child makes a huge difference in the recovery. Families need the comfort of home to relieve as much stress as possible. The men's lacrosse team is making a wonderful difference in making that

Submitted by RC Marketing Department

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Major changes adopted by OMB will help boost access to \$560 billion in contracting opportunities for small businesses

Recently, U.S. Small Busi-Administration (SBA) Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman released the following statement applauding major reforms being made by the Biden-Harris Administration to level the playing field for all contracting entrepreneurs through a more equitable federal procurement system and buying strategy:
"President Biden issued a

powerful challenge in Tulsa earlier this year to harness the buying power of the U.S. government - the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world to invest in equity and open doors of opportunity to America's 32.5 million small businesses and innovative startups, including many more underrepresented entrepreneurs and small businesses in underserved

communities," said Administrator Guzman. "This historic release of federal contracting data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and geography, and our corresponding reforms to federal strategic sourcing strategies known 'category management,' will help guarantee greater transparency and accountability in federal contracting and put more small businesses in a position to start doing business with the United States government." Among the key policy modi-

fications recommended and advocated for by the SBA are changes to the government's approach to encourage and score 24 federal agencies to bundle contracts. Over the last five years, this system, called Category Management, has favored major corporations and made far too many contracts out of reach for small businesses, which has a far-reaching impact on the U.S. economy. These changes will help increase contracting opportunities for over 30,000 underserved small businesses and give America's 32.5 million small businesses a seat at the table by making the SBA a voting member of the Category Management Leadership Council, the interagency governing body that oversees contract bun-

In addition to changes to category management, the Administration is unveiling fiscal year (FY) 2020 disaggregated contracting data - analyzed by the SBA – which tracks the federal government's contracting with small and minority-owned firms and breaks that information down across several racial and ethnic categories - a move Administrator Guzman has consistently pushed for to create transparency and accountability in contracting. Under the previous Administration, more than percent of small businesses - half of which were from historically disadvantaged socioeconomic groups - had been nearly left out of the federal contracting space, losing billions of dollars in opportunities every year.

"As a first step to creating meaningful change, the SBA and its Office of Government Contracting and Business Development have worked closely with the White House, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Department of Defense to lead the effort across all of government to reform category management, the federal government's buying strategy for managing the purchase of goods and services," added Bibi Hidalgo, Associate Administrator for SBA's Office of Government Contracting and Business Development. "These reforms, which take place immediately, will ensure agencies are not docked for contracting with a socioeconomic business and will begin to reverse the decline of our small business industrial contracting base. We know that small businesses are agile and innovative, and we must continue to widen the door of opportunity so that all federal agencies can take full advantage of the talents and ideas in every corner of the contracting community."

- Submitted by Martin Short, Lead Economic Development Specialist & Public Information

sumers in getting connected to

phone and internet services. The

program provides a discount on phone service for qualifying

low-income consumers to en-

sure that all Americans have the

opportunities and security that

phone service brings, including

being able to connect to jobs,

family and emergency services.

Emergency Broadband Benefit

Program provides a temporary

discount of up to \$50 per month

toward broadband service for

eligible households during the

COVID-19 pandemic.

•In addition, the FCC's

SCC encourages Virginians to check mobile devices ahead of 3G cellular network phaseouts

As early as January 1, mobile carriers may begin shutting down their 3G networks, making many older cell phones unable to receive calls and texts including calls to 911 - or use data services. As such, the State Corporation Commission (SCC) encourages Virginians to begin preparing for 3G retire-

Mobile carriers are dropping 3G to make room for more advanced network services, including 5G. In addition to 3G mobile phones and certain older 4G mobile phones that do not support Voice over LTE (VoLTE or HD Voice), this update will affect other products using 3G network services, including cer-

tain medical devices, tablets, smart watches, vehicle SOS services, and home security sys-•AT&T announced that it

will finish shutting down its 3G network by February 2022. Verizon announced that will

finish shutting down its 3G net-

work by December 31, 2022. •T-Mobile announced that it will finish shutting down Sprint's 3G CDMA network by March 31, 2022, and Sprint's 4G LTE network by June 30, 2022. It also announced it will shut down T-Mobile's 3G UMTS

network by July 1, 2022, but has

not yet announced a shutdown

Keep in mind that – even if

your carrier is not listed above you may still be affected. Many carriers, such as Cricket, Boost, Straight Talk and several Lifeline mobile service providers utilize AT&T's, Verizon's and T-Mobile's networks. Some carrier websites provide

lists of devices that will no longer be supported after 3G networks are shut down. You may need to upgrade to a newer device to ensure that you can stay connected, and carriers may be offering discounted or free upgrades to help consumers who need to upgrade their phones. If unsure about the status of your device, contact your mobile provider or consult your

formation about their 3G retirement plan. If you purchased your phone independent of a mobile provider, you should be able to check whether your device is 4G LTE enabled (with VoLTE or HD Voice) by checking your phone's settings or user manual, or by searching your phone's model number on the internet, to determine whether you need to purchase a new device or install a software update. In addition, although they do

not cover the cost of new devices, other FCC programs may be able to assist eligible consumers with the cost of phone or inter-•The FCC's Lifeline program

may be able to assist eligible con-

- Submitted Ford Carson, Communications Specialist

date for its 2G network.

Supervisors

Humphreys asked for the Board's approval, which would help with retention, to offer overtime pay and change to a 53-hour workweek so that anyone who works 60 hours gets paid time and a half for anything past 53, meeting the fair labor standards act for

offering significant sign-on bo-

Firefighters and EMS.

"We are forcing our full-time people to backfill our calendar to cover the county in EMS and we have full-time people paying them straight time," he shared. "The things I am hearing is that they have to come in on their off days and unscheduled days to provide coverage for the county. I think it would be a benefit to us to try to retain these people, being a big incentive to go to the 53-hour workweek and able to pay time and half for any backfill."

Humphreys also noted that money exists in the budget to accommodate the request.

"I am working two jobs right now, working in the office and I'm back on the truck trying to help out so people aren't getting

drafted every day to come in and fill the calendar," he said. "We are going to start losing more people and I can't afford to lose anybody."

Collins suggested to the Board to readjust the money to help Darrell retain the good employees and help to recruit more full-time people and get back up to full

Humphreys disclosed too that other larger localities and agencies are offering the EMS people "big money" to work for them.

The Board inquired of Humphreys if there had been any interest shown in the vacated positions.

"No interest from anyone, even ones I spoke with," Humphreys shared. "They tell me, 'join the

Rusty asked about the billable rates and Darryl said the call system changed to a new version and lost some data. They were having trouble at first, but last year they were up 77 percent.

Humphreys then explained that rates were adjusted a couple of years ago to compete with other localities. For an advanced life support, paying life support transport is \$850.00 and mileage pay and BLS transport is \$650 which is set by Medicare/Medicaid.

provider's website for more in-

"I need to revisit to see if they have made any adjustments, but I see there will be adjustments made in the first part of 2022," he added. "We don't want to leave money on the table and capitalize on all we can. I got good people and don't want to lose them."

The Board proceeded with Darryl's requests. There was discussion over the

taxes paid to the county by the Bed and Breakfasts. Additionally, Rusty Zimmer-

man proposed the possibility of opening a cattle processing facility in Craig County, explaining that many local farmers must take their cattle to Bedford to process. Jason Matyas, the upcoming

new Board member, addressed his colleagues concerning the idea of a possible cattle processing facility.

"I'm a homesteader and a farmer. Our primary business is an online ecommerce business selling garden seed, but we also raise animals for sale on a very small scale. The primary industry in Craig County is agriculture, particularly animals and I am very encouraged to hear this news and basically would like to touch base and get up to speed on what is going on there."

He noted data points on this topic as the Board had mentioned the disruptions in the food industry with the pandemic last year.

"A lot of people don't realize unless they are paying attention that they haven't really improved all that much in most areas. There are significant problems in the supply chain, both nationally and regionally, particularly in the area of food, and if you look at food prices, they just keep going up," he said. "Inflation is high, but food inflation is generally higher. The consumer price index, which is the number the government reports, actually excludes food and fuel from its calculation. But those are the ones that matter the most."

Matyas noted that one of his biggest goals he has in taking this new position is to look for ways that Craig can try to build the local economy, particularly in the terms of agriculture and one of

the primary ways, he said, is in the processing of animals.

"The average American spends approximately \$7,500 a year in food. So, if you multiply that in terms of residents, you are talking millions of dollars in food expenditures for Craig residents every year. If we can start to re-localize some of that economy from our local consumers buying from our local producers, that could make a big difference for our local farmers to have an outlet for their sales," he added. "So, I would like to encourage the Board to be looking at this earnestly. It is the primary way to grow our economy as much as tourism and some of the other things that are happening. We can connect producers and consumers locally, to keep all those dollars

with you on these matters." Matyas also added a special thank you to Kathi Toelke for her service on the Board, "to our county and your district. You've done a fantastic job and I've got big shoes to fill. Thank you for not only being a good neighbor, but an excellent public servant too."

locally. I look forward to working

BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

CHESTNUT GROVE CHURCH Duane Wente, Minister, Rt. 42, New Castle, 540-864-5692. Sunday: Wor-

ship 10:00 a.m. CORNERSTONE CHURCH Pastor Don Brown, Corner of Salem and Wagner, New Castle, 580-3228. Sunday Worship 10:30am (Children meet separately, Nursery provided).

Bible Study - Wednesday 6p Teens - Wednesday 6p. Ministries: Men,

Ladies, Young Adult, and Seniors. Times vary, call for details CRAIG HEALING SPRINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) Pastor - Kenneth W. Davis, Jr., 6 Grannys Branch Road (Johns Creek), New Castle, Phone: 864-6102. Sunday School at 10 am. Sunday Worship

at 11 am every Sunday. Fellowship meal after Sunday Worship on second Sundays. Everyone is welcome! CRAIG VALLEY BAPTIST 171 Salem Avenue, New Castle, 864-5667; Sunday School 10:00 a.m.,

Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m., Wednesday: Prayer Service and Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Youth Group 6:30-8:00PM, Bible Buddies at 6:30-8:00PM. Transportation provided - call the church. Hearing devices also available. www.craigvalleybaptist.com

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

CROSSROADS CHURCH

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

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

GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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

HEBRON UNITED METHODIST

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

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

LEVEL GREEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

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

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

NEW CASTLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

NEW CANTERBURY PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP

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

PAXTON CHAPEL

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

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

Wednesday 7PM, Youth and other programs, Bible Studies.

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

CRAIG COUNTY COMMUNITY CHURCH -

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have a 'home' church, please join us at ours with Pastor Gary Burch. Check us out on facebook or contact us at: craigcountycommunitychurch@gmail.com ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH Located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical

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Legals - City of

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2021, at 7:00 p.m., in the

Council Chambers of City

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21 South Bruffey Street,

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have an opportunity to be

heard relative to the said

COMMISSION OF THE

James E. Taliaferro, II

Executive Secretary

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Legals - Botetourt County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 18547 **BOTETOURT**

ROAD, EAGLE **ROCK, VA 24085.** In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated July 5, 2007, in the original principal amount of \$128.600.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office. Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 070004336. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090 on January 10, 2022, at 1:30 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL OF THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF **BOTETOURT, STATE OF** VIRGINIA AND MORE PARTICULARLY **DESCRIBED AS** FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: **BEGINNING AT AN OLD** IRON PIPE ON THE WESTERLY SIDE OF U.S. HIGHWAY ROUTE 220; THENCE LEAVING SAID HIGHWAY N. 61° 43` W. 279.10 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE N. 28° 47` 46" E. 247.0 FEET TO AN 18 INCH TALL PIPE; THENCE N. 54° 33` W. 274.96 FEET TO AN OLD PIPE; THENCE N. 41° 24` 54" E

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ROUTE 220; THENCE

Legals - Botetourt County

26° 50` W. 524.36 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; AND BEING A 4.613 ACRES TRACT AS IS SHOWN ON THE SURVEY FOR GRAT C. AND ELLA FAYE SHELTON, BY T.P PARKER AND SON, **ENGINEERS AND** SURVEYORS, LTD. DATED OCTOBER 11. 1985, A COPY OF WHICH IS RECORDED IN DEED **BOOK 309, AT PAGE 355** TOGETHER WITH THAT EASEMENT OF RIGHT OF-WAY FROM U.S. HIGHWAY ROUTE 220 TO THE HOUSE LOCATED ON THE HEREIN **DESCRIBED REAL** PROPERTY WHICH HAS BEEN RESERVED OVER THAT PAVED DRIVE LOCATED ON THE ADJOINING 1.50 ACRES TRACT OF NOW OR FORMERLY P. Y. DUDLEY. EXCEPTING AND RESERVING THEREFROM: PARCEL NO. 032. BEING AS **SHOWN ON SHEETS 24** AND 25 OF THE PLANS FOR ROUTE 220, STATE HIGHWAY PROJECT 6220-011-111, RW-202, AND **BEGINNING ON BOTH** SIDES OF THE ROUTE 220 SBL CONSTRUCTION BASELINE, FROM THE LANDS NOW ON FORMERLY BELONGING TO DOROTHY S. ST. CLAIR, WENDY S. FAIRBURN, MELANIE S. SPANGLER, AND SHARON M. PUGH AT APPROXIMATE STATION 2271+13, AND ENDING ON BOTH SIDES OF SAID BASELINE, THE LANDS NOW OR FORMERLY **BEGINNING TO DANNY** HAYDEN DUDLEY, AT APPROXIMATE STATION 2272+72, AND **CONTAINING 1.627** ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LAND. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust. whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the

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For more information

Trustees, LLC, 6003

Rockville, MD 20852,

www.bwwsales.com.

VA-348075-1.

301-961-6555, website:

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MEADOR

City Of Salem Circuit Court 2 East Calhoun Street, Salem, VA 24153 DANA LYNN FRANCISCO

PAUL CLINTON MEADOR The object of this suit is to: FOR ENTRY OF DIVORCE It is ORDERED that PAUL CLINTON appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before JANUARY 20, 2022.

November 19, 2021 Stacy L. Owen

Legals -Montgomery County

Trustee's Sale 812 Village Way North, Blacksburg,

VA 24060 (Parcel ID: 120106)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated August 21, 2015, in the original principal amount of \$170,000.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Montgomery, Virginia on August 21, 2015, as Instrument Number 150006097, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on January 4, 2022 at 11:00 AM, in front of the building housing the County of Montgomery Circuit Court, 55 East Main Street, Suite 1, Christiansburg, VA 24073, the property designated as Lot Number 84. as shown and described on a plat of survey entitled, "Plat Showing Subdivision of Lots 84-86, Village at Tom's Creek, Phase IIB, Town of Blacksburg, Prices Fork Magisterial District, Montgomery County, Virginia," dated March 8, 2005, which plat is of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Plat Book 25, Page 91, Slide 1186. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$17,000.00 or 10% of the sale price. whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested

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will be retained at the sale

price. If held by the trustee,

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and applied to the sale

more than \$9,900.00 of

Montgomery County bidders. Settlement is to be

Legals -

made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review upon request before the sale, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector. Tromberg, Morris & Poulin, PLLC on behalf of Southeast Equity Trustees, LLC, Substitute Trustee(s), 413 Stuart Circle, Suite 314, Richmond, VA 23220, File No. 19-001735,

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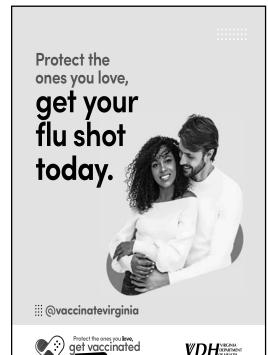
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Boys basketball opens Friday at Alleghany



varsity players from the 2019-20 season.



Matthew Lucas was a standout on the jayvee team in 2019-20.

The Craig County boys are scheduled to take the basketball court for a varsity game for the first time since February of 2020 this Friday when they play the Mountaineers at Alleghany High School.

Craig's season was cancelled due to COVID last winter. Some schools opted to play an abbreviated schedule but the Rockets decided not to compete in the uncertain environment of the pandemic.

"It feels like we have a whole new team due to the fact we didn't have a season last year," said Craig coach Ryan Frazier. "We'll have some experience with seven of our current nine players being seniors, and five of these seniors have experience in the basketball program with me on either the varsity or the JV level."

Seniors Dylan Crawford and Layton Huffman (Sr) are the only true returning varsity players from the 2019-20 season.

'These two guys are great teammates and know what I expect," said Frazier. "They give their all and play with passion. Dylan will play big minutes and be a great allaround contributor with his hustle and athleticism. Layton's impact will be equally as important but in a different way.

The Rockets won their first scrimmage, 73-57, against Roanoke Valley Christian after only a week of practice.

"We have had interruptions since and have not been able to get in a rhythm with practices to get where we need to be,"

See **Basketball**, page 10

Girls open the season with two losses

The Craig County girls opened the basketball season with two losses last week, both in New Castle. The Rockets dropped their opener to North Cross, 49-28, then fell to a talented Glenvar team, 70-24.

We were without our best player and shooter, Sara Jones, against Glenvar and we did not look like we wanted to play," said coach Brock Jones. "We practiced on Tuesday and did light duty drills as most of the girls were adjusting to basketball after the first game. Most were sore and tired from the game Monday, as Monday was the first time we could actually scrimmage. We are down to a 12 man roster now, losing one for personal reasons."

Jones has had a hard time getting the whole team together due to a variety of reasons.

'We haven't had a full practice with all 12 since the start of the season on November 8th," he said. "We haven't been able to go five-on-five in practice and five of the 10 JV players are also 8th graders on the middle school team, and almost every other day the middle school team has a game, making it difficult for the JV to practice with the varsity when half their team is gone."

Rebounding hurt the Rockets in the loss to

Glenvar, as Craig was outrebounded 43-19 overall. Glenvar had 30 offensive boards, and that was a killer. The Rockets also had 33 turnovers to just seven for the Highlanders.

We did not box out well at all, and again turnovers killed us," said Jones. "Glenvar was much more athletic than us and played great defense. They shot the ball well. They only had six players show up but they looked really good shooting."

The Highlanders won the state volleyball championship just a week and a half prior to their basketball game with Craig, and Jones feels that was to their advantage.

"I didn't keep up with volleyball much or the

roster, but I saw Glenvar won state in volleyball, he said. "I told the girls before our game, I'm sure some of these girls played volleyball that won state, so they are quick side to side and can jump, so we must protect the ball. And they did

just that, defensive pressure and rebounding."
Hannah Caldwell led Craig in scoring with eight points and also grabbed eight rebounds. Annabelle Gregory had five points and Maggie Mays and Lexxy Brookman had four each.

The Rockets were scheduled to play at James River on Monday but that game was called off due to health concerns. Craig is now off until Tuesday, December 14, when they travel to Bath County for the Pioneer District opener. The Rockets are home to East Mont on December 17, then won't play again until December 29 at home with Auburn.

"It will be a nice break and a chance to have some practices," said Jones.





Hannah Caldwell(#2) grabs a rebound for the Rockets.



Maggie Mays(left) handles the ball as Lexxy Brookman(#11) posts up.



Hannah Ratliff protects the ball from a Glenvar defender.

Basketball

said Frazier. "We have have plenty of distrac- focused and make the tunities. Hopefully, as talked that this year will tions and we need to be most out of our oppor-

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the season progresses we will be able to have 10 for practice, which will really help us get more out of

The Rockets have a few new players on the varsity that Ryan is high on.

We have a few that I feel can make an impact," he said. "This will be the first real taste of varsity for these guys but I know they are looking forward to testing themselves."

Sophomore Matthew Lucas, who was a standout on the JV team, will be on the varsity this sea-

"He is learning but has all the attributes to be a great player and experience against older guys will help in his development," said Frazier. "He will have a big part to play."

Matthew led Craig in scoring in the scrimmage against Roanoke Valley Christian with 22 points. Junior Zach Peters is another Frazier feels will be ing scorer in the scrima good varsity player.

"He's a point guard with great vision and basketball IQ, and I am looking forward to working with him and improving his game," said Ryan.

New seniors to varsity include 6'6" Nathan Fisher and guard Lucas Taylor. Fisher had a "double-double" in the scrimmage.

"Nathan can have a really big impact for us," said Frazier. "He can really dominate on the boards and in the paint when locked in.

"Lucas has always been a great defender and will find himself on the oppositions'best guard each game, which is a challenge he welcomes. He has really improved last year and half. He's hit the weight room and will be a real asset for us."

Senior Mason Huffman will also be getting his first varsity experience. He was the second lead-

mage, nailing five threes on his way to 20 points.

"Mason is a great shooter, and has worked on other parts of his game,' said Frazier. "When he takes good shots and is open, he is going to shoot it at a high percentage."

Two seniors out for the first time in several years are Logan Reynolds and Alex McDowell.

"Both have worked hard trying to take in all the new information and work hard to push the other guys," said Frazier. "They have great attitudes and I am thrilled they came out to be part of the team this year.'

Ryan isn't making any predictions for wins and losses, he's just hoping his offensive game in the the team continues to improve after the long layoff.

"My goal and our goal for the season is to compete," he said. "We have the talent this year to play with anyone, and compete with anyone on our schedule. It will be up to us to see where we finish, but there is no reason we cannot compete for the top of the district this year.

"Narrows and Parry McCluer have done it consistently over the years, and that's where we need to be. I have full confidence in the team this year as we have more guys that can really contribute than I have ever had since I started coaching here. It will be a challenge for us to be locked in, but I am excited for the season and looking forward to competing with these top teams to test ourselves and keep getting better throughout the year, so come tourney time we can make some noise."

The Rockets first home game is scheduled for Tuesday, December 14, when they open their Pioneer District schedule against Bath County.



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