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# THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

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## McCleary "decks their halls" with tremendous pride



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Santa recently visited Mrs. Taylor's class. When he did, he peered out the window and made a list of everyone in there.

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

The hallway classroom boards display imaginations at an all-time high.

Mrs. Sarver's Pre-K's Little Helpers had their picture in a reindeer with a red nose on each and Rudolph's picture in the middle.

Ms. McPherson decorated her board with a "Groovy Christmas" theme.

Mrs. Carper, who teaches kindergarten through second grade, had "Oh deer" on her

See **McCleary**, page 7



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The "reason for the season" came as a baby child, born in a manger to a virgin. What miracles happened then, and still happen today, when one asks the Lord Jesus Christ to live in their heart and life, making them a "new creation" in Him.

## Fire Department celebrates a year of rebirth

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

When you walk into a room filled with volunteers, there is an aroma of sweetness that cannot be described. Smiles, laughter, hugs and big chuckles fills the atmosphere with life.

On December 4, a banquet was held for the Upper Craig Creek Volunteer Fire Department.

Over 50 people attended, including the volunteers and their families. Only a year ago, they began in a small meeting of about eight people in the old firehouse that needed much attention. Today, they celebrate a "rebirth" of their station on Route 621.

Said Chief Shawn Matheney, "As you see now, we have a room full of people. I can't thank each and every one of you enough for wanting to be a part of putting Upper Craig Creek Volunteer Fire Department in operation and back on the map. Without all of y'all, nothing we did this year would have been possible."

He added that they are now, "moving forward."

The station members continued to grow and this year have hosted a spaghetti dinner, a hot dog dinner,

made and sold delicious apple butter, hosted their first car show, done a door-to-door event, and had their biggest fundraiser which was the sales of the raffle tickets at the Fall Festival.

"And, again, without these fundraisers that everyone put so much hard work into, we would not have been able to sit here and enjoy the meal we just enjoyed," Matheney said.

"I can't tell you how much I appreciate ev-

eryone's hard work," he added. "I told Jake it is so nice to be able to show up here, sit down and have this meal. To break bread together, and to look back and reflect on what this year has brought us. We have worked so hard together and accomplished so many things. Some of y'all out here didn't get to see the building and the shape it was in when we started. (Many chuckled.) It was a nightmare. And to have the station looking

the way we have it looking now and to have the nice stuff in it that we have is amazing!"

Matheney said that in the upcoming year, his hopes are that they continue to build and grow with the same enthusiasm.

He noted that with all the restoration work, the cleaning they have done to the fire department, obtaining fire trucks and getting them serviced, that

See **Rebirth**, page 3



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Speaking to a room full of people after only starting the year with eight, Chief Shawn Matheney said, "I can't thank each and every one of you enough for wanting to be a part of putting Upper Craig Creek Volunteer Fire Department in operation and back on the map. Without all y'all, nothing we did this year would have been possible."

## McCleary kids "love Craig County"

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

It is one thing to hear adults talk about their love for the county of Craig and why they prefer it over other counties. To hear children explain why they love the little county, however, is something special.

Jay Polen, a member of the CCRTA, recently shared, "As you, our Record readers, read the various words, thoughts, visualizations, praises, family interests, etc., you can see Craig come alive, to them now and all of us before 2021. This concept of how these youngsters see and love Craig shows us how much influence our par-

enting, family involvement and our teachers have in their growing up and loving Craig. They pick their feelings, thoughts and beliefs and carry on our family and community, which is great!"

The Retired Teachers Association of Craig asked the fifth graders in McCleary Elementary to write about "Why I love Craig County." Their comments were both eye-opening and heartwarming.

"There are a lot of things I like about Craig County, but this is a list of five things I like the most. I like... playing at the park in town because it has tetherball, the restaurants in town because you can't

usually find them anywhere else, that there aren't a lot of people in town, so it feels pretty ice and chill, the school has nice people so it's pretty nice too and finally, I like Mike's Ice House because there has never been a snow cone place in town." - Marren All

"I love Subway because the food is good. I like IGA because it has my favorite candy. I like where I live because it's not that noisy. I love the library because it's quiet. Craig County is beautiful! The people in Craig are nice sometimes. The food is good. The Court House is nice and so are the cops! I enjoy going to the Fall Festival because

I get my face painted. McCleary Elementary has wonderful students and teachers. I like my class. There are a lot of things I love about Craig County!" - Mia Crawford.

"I like the big playground because there is lots to do. I also like the nice teachers, too. The cafeteria is nice because you get to eat in there. I like Art class because I love doing art projects. Mrs. Roark's classroom is very pretty. Craig County is great! I like to play basketball at the basketball court at the playground. Also, I love to eat at Bibos pizza place because that is my favorite pizza place to eat at. I like the Dollar Store because

that is my favorite place to shop at. I like to go to my mom's house because she lives in the neighborhood and the gas station because of slushies they have there. I also like the school building." - Cayleigh Stiltner

"Why you should love Craig County is because the mountains are so beautiful! I like the way the sun shines on the rivers, lakes, and ponds. Everyone at the school is so kind. I am in 5th grade, and I love the small town. We, in Craig County, are kind. In Craig County we eat at restaurants like Pine Top, Subway and Bibos." - Ryleigh Tyree

"The people like Mrs. Linn and my friend Skylin, they are awesome. Yo! My teacher, Mrs. Roark is awesome guys. My class is cool too. Mrs. Roark's class-

room is awesome, yeah guys!" - Maria Foster

"One thing I like about Craig County is Subway's delicious subs. Another thing is our school. We do fun stuff every day. The Emporium is cool and has awesome soda. Plus, Craig County has kind people. IGA is the best place to get food, drinks and cleaning supplies." - Connor Donithan

"I love Subway, their subs and I love the statue that is nearby; it is so cool. The people are really nice. I am a person that lives in the woods, and I go swimming a lot. The area is nice and pretty. The water, the mountains and the trees are beautiful. I love the Family Dollar store. I really wish it had popits. I

See **McCleary Kids**, page 3



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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY**

The Craig County Public Library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. 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](http://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. 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@tds.net](mailto:stjohnnewcastle@tds.net).

**SECOND MONDAY**

•Paint Bank Ladies Auxiliary meeting, 7 p.m. at the Paint Bank Fire

Department. Call 897-5346 for more information.

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

**THIRD MONDAY**

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

**SECOND TUESDAY**

•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.

**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.

[www.newcastlerecord.com](http://www.newcastlerecord.com)

## Virginia Planning District Commissions awarded millions for broadband expansion

Twelve Planning District Commissions and Regional Councils (PDCs/RCs) in Virginia have been awarded \$570 million through the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) for broadband expansion projects in Virginia. These awards, which comprise just under 80 percent of the \$722 million in total funding that was announced, will help fund 14 regional projects across the state in partnership with internet service providers. The projects also plan to leverage more than \$770 million in additional resources.

The grant awards are part of \$722 million in state general funds and federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars that are supporting 35 projects covering 70 Virginia localities to connect more than 278,000 households, businesses and anchor institutions to high-speed internet. The announcement of these awards by Governor Ralph Northam at the Goochland Fire and Rescue Station 6 was made

to a gathering of local and state officials, first responders, locality staff and business partners. Virginia U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, along with Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger, also participated in the event.

"As they do with so many efforts, Planning District Commissions across the state really stepped forward to partner with internet service providers to craft vital projects to expand broadband," said VAPDC President Kim Callis. "The end result of these efforts will be critical access to high-speed internet by many more Virginians."

Administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), VATI provides targeted financial assistance to extend broadband service to areas that are unserved by an internet service provider. During the VATI FY22 application round this Fall, PDCs were the lead applicants on 14 out of 57 grants (nearly 25 percent of all applications), asking for

\$640 million of the total of \$943 million in requests and proposing nearly 230,000 passings.

Planning District Commissions were enabled by state legislation in 1968 and most were established the following year. There are 21 PDCs/RCs in Virginia made up of elected officials and citizens appointed by local governments. The purpose of Planning District Commissions is to encourage and facilitate regional solutions to problems of area-wide significance. This is done by promoting the efficient development of the physical, social and economic policies of all districts by assisting local governments to plan for the future. The PDCs of Virginia joined together to create the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions in 1987 to share best practices and further regionalism across the Commonwealth.

*Submitted by David C. Blount, Executive Director*

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED CHANGE IN CIGARETTE TAX RATE**

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 15.2-1427, the Craig County Board of Supervisors (the "Board") will hold a public hearing at 6 p.m., or as soon thereafter as persons may be heard, on January 6th in the Circuit Courtroom, Craig County Courthouse, 303 Main Street, New Castle, Virginia.

The purpose of the public hearing will be to receive public comment on the proposed reduction of the cigarette tax effective January 1, 2022 of forty cents (\$0.40) per pack of cigarettes to thirty cents (\$0.30) per pack on cigarettes sold in the county. Any person interested in the proposed tax reduction may appear at the hearing and present their views.

A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the office of the County Administrator of Craig County, 108 Court Street, New Castle, VA 24127, and is available for review during normal business hours. If you should need auxiliary aids, please contact the office of the County Administrator at least five days in advance of the public hearing.

## CHRIST-mas from page 1

son" with their beautiful manger scenes.

The Lord Jesus Christ shares in His Word in 1 Peter 5:7, that He understands hard times, and He encourages everyone to "cast your cares upon Him," for he can carry them and most importantly, "He cares for you."

The CHRIST-mas season brings a lot of joy to many. Still, there are the lonely and hurt that need an extra touch, so be attentive to those around you for that need. You may be the only Jesus they get to meet.

The Bible says in Phi-

lippians 4:6-7, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with Thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Jesus Christ was born for purpose. He lived for purpose, died for purpose, and will come back again for his final purpose.

But for this season, and always, He extends His arms and His Word to all who will ask and seek Him.

For on CHRIST-mas

day (not really 25th, though it is the day selected), we celebrate the birth of a child. But more than that, a Savior, one who chose to come to earth, leave heaven and join us, a fallen world of people who need "saving."

This CHRIST-mas, seek Him. Talk to Him and tell Him your cares. Then listen. He still speaks. He loves.

And may you have a joyous CHRIST-mas holiday, regardless of your circumstances. May He add to your laughter, celebrations, and holiday cheer.

Merry CHRIST-mas and Shalom to everyone!



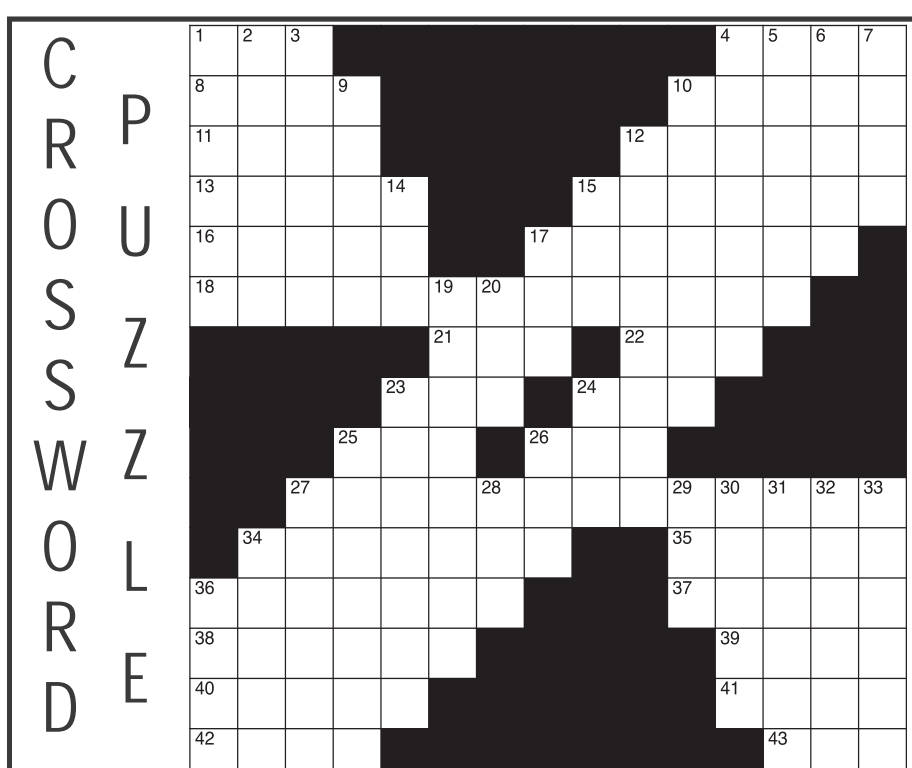
## BOOST UP FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Carilion Clinic wishes you a happy and healthy holiday and reminds you to schedule your COVID-19 booster shot so you can celebrate safely this season.

Visit [vaccines.gov](http://vaccines.gov) to find a vaccine appointment near you.



[CarilionClinic.org](http://CarilionClinic.org)



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Baseball stat
- 4. Blaze
- 8. Sea eagles
- 10. Tails in Italian
- 11. Monocot genus
- 12. Mother or father
- 13. The Jungian inner self
- 15. Covered with gold
- 16. Residual oil
- 17. Signs up for school
- 18. Furniture for daily meals
- 21. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
- 22. Lower limb
- 23. Guy (slang)
- 24. Get free of
- 25. Snake-like fish
- 26. Adult female bird
- 27. Formal window coverings
- 34. Break into small pieces
- 35. "1836 siege" of U.S.
- 36. Made violet-red
- 37. Food chopper
- 38. Removes writing
- 39. Ethiopian monetary unit
- 40. Wine bottle containers
- 41. English prelate
- 42. Small storage

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. A brief comment
- 2. Sultanate of NW Borneo
- 3. Importune
- 4. Forelimb
- 5. Models of ethical behavior
- 6. Harangues
- 7. This (Spanish)
- 9. Springfield Area Mobile Intensive Care
- 10. Sang at Christmas door to door
- 12. Partly or nearly blind
- 14. Posterior pituitary gland hormone
- 15. American Nurses Association (abbr.)
- 17. The 7th Greek letter
- 19. Strives to equal
- 20. Toff
- 23. Coleoptera insects
- 24. The color of blood
- 25. Slipped by
- 26. Of she
- 27. A short musical passage
- 28. CNN's founder Turner
- 29. Radioactivity unit
- 30. Exculpation defense
- 31. Walking back and forth
- 32. Come forth from
- 33. Oxalis
- 34. A soft twilled fabric of silk
- 36. The two large chest muscles



# Rebirth from page 1

they were able to answer 20 calls and in addition, have pursued assisting rescue in trying to answer every first aid call since June.

"You know that is a passion of mine as well as the fire department side," Matheny said with emotion.

Their goal is to strive for the first responder status.

"To my knowledge, we have had 13 first-aid calls and only had two of them that a fire department member has not been there to help out the rescue squad," he said. "Again, that is just another feather in our hat to show the caliber of members we have right now that want to help in every way possible."

Matheny continued, "It's not about stepping back to say

look what we have done but being there when somebody needs us, putting our hands in place in somebody's time of need. I know every one of y'all in this room feels the same way. I am blessed to be in the company of so many caring people."

In the 20 calls answered, seven were car wrecks, one car fire, six brush fires, four structures and three additional, an injured biker and two downed power lines.

Matheny noted proudly, "Out of our 20 members on the roster in just a year time, and one support staff, we averaged 11 people on every call. That is saying a lot, including new coverage areas."

Matheny chose not to give gag gifts, which he is "known" for,

however, his crew chose differently. He was presented with a T-shirt that read, "I never dreamed I'd be a sexy SOCCER DAD but here I am killin' it!" Laughter and hand claps were deafening.

"For those who don't know, I have never liked soccer, and now, lo and behold, I have three soccer players in my household," he said with a slight grin. "But I will be at every game, no matter how much I despise soccer."

Two 2021 awards were presented at the banquet.

The first was to the person that answered the most calls, John Yeisley.

"It was a very close race. We had every member on the roster that answered at least two of the 20 calls. There was more than half

that answered over 50 percent of the calls and 10 members that answered almost 90 percent of the calls," Matheny said.

The second award was for "Fireman of the Year" which was voted on by the squad membership. Initially, it was a three-way tie, but final decision concluded the award went to Allen "Toad" Nicholson, who answered 16 out of 20 calls.

"Get a job!" someone hollered in jest as others joined in friendship laughter.

Jake Waller spoke on behalf of the Board of Directors. "I'd like to thank everyone for being here today and like Shawn said, 'I am just totally amazed how everybody has come together and pulled our department back together from

what happened to it."

As the evening came to an end, member Jonathan Slusher spoke for his squad. "Thank you, Chief, for everything you have done. Being a leader can be just as simple as pointing a finger around, but you get in there and lead the way you want your entire team to go, and I appreciate that and the department appreciates that. From the bottom of our hearts, we appreciate you."

"We have had some amazing times and I wouldn't want to spend it with anyone else, even with the long-hours," Matheny said. "I've preached over and over, that this is our family. our fire house family. We can call on them whenever we need, and I am proud of you."



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Fireman of the Year Award went to Allen "Toad" Nicholson, who answered 16 out of 20 calls.



The award for the individual who answered the most calls went to John Yeisley.



Santa visited kids on Route 311 also. Bo was especially excited, but Abby wasn't sure about the big man in the red suit.



The Upper Craig Creek Volunteer Fire Department gave Santa a ride on Saturday, December 18, as they visited several kids along Route 311, Walton Mountain Road, Hickory Brook Lane and Route 621.



Kids were elated that Santa came to their house on a fire truck, with horns blaring and a megaphone announcing his arrival. The Slusher family greeted him as he drove up Hickory Brook.

# McCleary Kids from page 1

also love the town festival. It is really cool. I love that people try to help people and that people are generous." – Maggie Underwood

"There are several reasons I love Craig County one is Subway and how you can make a sub whatever way you want. Also, I love Friday night football because we get to watch them play football and buy candy, drinks and food. Also, I like Pine Top because you can get these burgers that have one third pound patty. The reason I love Mike's Ice House is how you can get toppings, flavors and diet flavors for less money. Family Dollars is nice because my mom can get coupons and two for one deals so I can get Legos." – Easton Wright

"I like to live here in Craig County and go to school here because I like to see my friends and I like to go to Subway because there is nice food and people. I love the view!" – Lane Smith

"Because the teachers are really nice to the students. Mrs. Roark is my fifth-grade teacher and she is really nice because she talks to her students when they are stressed and she never yells or tries to embarrass me or her students. I also like to do school fundraisers when they have them at school. My favorite part about school is seeing Mrs. Roark every day!" –

Georgia Cyrus

"It is safe, and I also love it because I know a lot of people. My nannas, paw and aunt and uncle and cousins live here. My friends live in Craig too. A lot of nice people live here." – Addison Francisco

Others shared their sentiments in a poem:

"Roses are red, violets are blue, I love Craig County, how about you? It has a mystery about its history and a school that is really cool, I love Craig County!" – Kinsley O'Dell

"I am Craig County and Craig is me, each blade of grass, each honey tree." – Destiny Hubbard

"Roses are red, and violets are blue, Subway is best for subs and so is Jimmy Johns so I can have one Yahoo!" – Jonathan Frazier

"Roses are red, violets are blue, I like Craig County, how about you? Craig County is a place where you can play and have fun. If you like Craig County, just enjoy your life, I love all of you in the world!" – Abigale Belcher

"Roses are red, violets are blue, I love Craig County, what about you?" – Maddie Day

"Mountains and trees, they're so pretty, and sitting on the porch with a gentle breeze, family and friends are very close by, I love Craig County and that's why." – Raelynn Stamper

"There are mountains,

there are trees, there are lakes, there are streams, there are national parks with pretty wildlife, there

is an amazing school, and that's why Craig County is cool!" – Bryson Smith

Polen concluded, "We

look forward to the fall words from our next of 2022-2023 and our class."

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# OPINION

## Letter to the Community

### Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community

Dear Library Supporters,

As a lifelong supporter of public libraries in several communities, I am honored to serve as President of the Craig County Library Board of Trustees for 2021. I look forward to serving our little library and supporting the staff as they hurdle through

the unknown of tomorrow. This year has yet again been an incredibly challenging one for all of Craig County. Our library staff have overcome several obstacles and they continue to provide crucial resources to the families, students, job seekers, Veterans, those with disabilities, and older adults who depend upon their services. Craig County Library continues to provide library materials and services through a wide array of resources while maintaining the health and safety of all.

In 2021, we were able to expand our community outreach, including support of adult learning and GED learning coordination, connection of young learners to tutoring opportunities, Take and Make home packets for families, Wi-Fi Hotspots, and Swap Days that offer free household items and books to our community members. These outreach opportunities have proven to be successful in meeting our goals and supporting our mission. We would also like to formally introduce a plastic recycling project in conjunction with TREC. If you would like to learn more or be a part of this project, please let us know.

The Friends of Library provides key funding to the library as it serves on the front lines, continuing to encourage use of their resources that bridge educational, digital, economic, and cultural divides. Now more than ever, we depend upon the support of those who can donate and help us keep library resources widely available for the many who urgently need them. The flow of donated books helps us keep renewed supply in our Book Barns for the many readers in our community. Thank you to all who have signed up with the Kroger Community Rewards and Amazon Smile programs. The library continues to receive a percentage of every purchase you make.

Thanks to donations of all sizes, the Library Capital Campaign acquired the land directly behind the current library. Although this land was initially for further expansion of a Resource Center, we have been studiously discussing and researching how we can still use this land for additional resource space. The Board is currently in the planning stages to develop a Craig

County Public Library Volunteer Garden. Be sure to look for further communication on this exciting project in 2022. As well, be sure to mark your calendars for upcoming Swap Day: June: Plants, July: Household Items and November: Holiday Décor.

We look forward to commemorating this momentous year with you and celebrating Craig Counties incredible library, library staff and avid library patrons.

Happy reading,  
*Joanna L. Ryan,*  
*President*  
*Craig County Public Library Board of Trustees*

## Winter Gardening

### Erica Jones

Extension  
 Master Gardener  
 Guest Contributor

Even though we are now freed from the mow-the-lawn and pull-the-weeds scramble, winter brings some fun things to do outside.

The activity that springs first to mind is pruning.

Yes, winter is a fabulous time to do with (most of) the leaves off. I see so many people doing it in a fashion I think is wrong, I don't want to wade into that swamp. If you want to learn it, beg a hands-on lesson from a knowledgeable gardener whose yard you like. The online video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rl7pHemVye8>, is pretty good. In a quick internet tour of pruning

seminars, I saw mountains of bad pruning on display.

So, onto mulching. Mulching in the late fall/winter has a lot of benefits. You mulch for three main reasons: 1. Reduce weeds 2. Keep water in the soil 3. Keep the soil in place. Then there are the esthetic reasons for improving the looks of your yard with a nice, uniform-colored mulch. If you have kept up with the yard work enough this year to be worrying about looks at this point, give yourself a big mug of hot chocolate.

Winter mulches do help keep next spring's weeds down. Annual weeds have been throwing seeds around in your yard all year. If you put a good layer of mulch over those seeds, they will have a much harder time germinating. For perennial weeds, mulch will at least slow them down, but not necessarily smother them. Well mulched weeds are easier to pull in the spring though, I think (never read a study on this though).

Keeping soil moisture

in: Yes, plants in the winter need water, albeit a lot less when they are having to support foliage. Newly planted trees and shrubs should be mulched to reduce your winter watering chores if it gets dry. The place where you purchased trees and shrubs should have told you to keep them watered for 12 months after planting; which runs you into winter. Newly installed spring bulbs love a mulch too – again keeps the water in the soil and reduces weed competition. And there are some perennials which do well planted (and mulched) in the fall.

If you have never considered what bare soil will do all winter, think again. Remember learning about the dust bowl in school of the 1930's? Well, bare, un-mulched soil will leave town in a high wind, but also leaves courtesy of runoff - when we get the heavy downpours like we have in the last couple of years. Mulch softens the impact of raindrops on the ground and adds, in effect, rainwater storage which will slowly seep into the ground. Not only

do you get more water, its less pounding and compacting of the soil.

Winter mulch material should be something that is not going to blow around. Leaves make fabulous mulch, but they might need to be chopped up with the lawnmower to help them stay put. In theory, mulches will tax the nitrogen content of the soil underneath as the soil microbes that decompose that mulch will require some nitrogen. Fall/winter mulches are good in that nitrogen usage of plants during fall/winter is about zero. One of my favorite good-looking mulches is pine needles. These guys don't form a surface 'crust' as easily as tree bark mulch does, and you could argue the lighter color blends into your landscape better.

Two other lighter-colored mulches are straw and old hay. Straw can be a little wiggly until it gets good and wet. Old hay varies in color quite a bit depending on how decomposed it is. If you put down a moderately thick layer (four inches), this should be enough to

discourage most of the weed seeds which you will always find in hay. Six inches is even better.

One final benefit of mulches is that they keep soil temperatures and moisture content from fluctuating as much as it does in bare ground. The common advice for planting marginally winter hardy trees, shrubs and perennials for your growing area, is to mulch well in the fall. Sometimes a good winter mulch will allow you to grow a plant about 1/2 of a zone colder than where it is traditionally hardy.

Two mulches I do not recommend are landscape fabric and rock mulches. Landscape fabric is tough on your soil, keeping all organic matter out of your soil, and tends to repel rainfall. Organic matter helps the soil retain moisture, helps retain nutrients, and makes it easier for roots to travel through the soil. Rock mulches, to be successful, either require a layer of landscape fabric under them, or need to be put down very thickly (like four inches or more). That's a lot of rock.

**THE NEW CASTLE RECORD**

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[www.ourvalley.org](http://www.ourvalley.org)

Michael Showell, *Publisher*  
 Shawn Nowlin, *Editor* [shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org](mailto:shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org)  
 Brian Hoffman, *Sports Editor* [bhoffman@ourvalley.org](mailto:bhoffman@ourvalley.org)  
 Lynn Hurst, *General Manager* [lhurst@ourvalley.org](mailto:lhurst@ourvalley.org)  
 Randy Thompson *Advertising Consultant* [advertise@ourvalley.org](mailto:advertise@ourvalley.org)

**Give us your view: [newcastle@ourvalley.org](mailto:newcastle@ourvalley.org)**  
**To subscribe: 540-389-9355**

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The New Castle Record encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone 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  
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# Craig Valley holds Christmas Luncheon at Old Brick Hotel



PHOTO BY DIANE GIVENS

Craig Valley recently held their Christmas Luncheon at the Old Brick Hotel where Joseph-Paul Fisher was named 2021 DAR Good Citizen. He was chosen by the faculty and staff of Craig County High School for his characteristics of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. Shown above is Joseph-Paul with chapter Regent Margaret Hines and Jackie Taylor, Good Citizens Chairman. The meeting also included a Patriot Memorial Service where candles were lit to honor ten Revolutionary War patriots of Craig Valley Chapter members.

# Lighthouse Baptist hosts live nativity



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The live nativity scene at Lighthouse Baptist Church brings the real meaning of Christmas to the holidays. As community toured the grounds, the CHRIST-mas story of the birth of Jesus Christ was told in different ways from parents to their children.

# Roanoke College graduate makes late-night debut on Jimmy Fallon's Tonight Show

**Shawn Nowlin**  
shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org

Appearing as a guest on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon is a massive accomplishment for anyone, regardless of their notoriety or occupation. Seen by millions of people nationwide every week, host Jimmy Fallon took over the NBC aired late-night talk show in 2014.

Eighteen years ago, Brooks Allison was a typical Salem teenager who enjoyed hanging with friends and participating in athletic endeavors. After earning his high school diploma, Brooks continued his education at Roanoke College.

Brooks' father Scott Allison, now in his 30th year at the helm of the Roanoke College Athletic Department, is one of the longest-

tenured and most respected administrators in NCAA Division III. Under Scott's supervision, Maroon teams have won over 100 Old Dominion Athletic Conference titles and made 131 NCAA Championship appearances.

Growing up, Brooks played multiple sports. As he aged, Scott said, he fell in love with music. At a young age, Scott continued, he was in a band with his buddies, and spent hours at a time creating his own digital music.

After earning an undergraduate degree from Roanoke College, Brooks looked for opportunities in the music and entertainment business. Today, he is a Brooklyn-based actor, improviser, musician and writer.

In addition to making themes for podcasts like For-

ever Dogs Book of Ye and Dead Meet, Brooks also releases original music under the name Boy Brooks, and is one half of the music duo Black & Blonde, both of which can be found on Spotify and iTunes.

On November 22, Brooks took center stage on the Tonight Show by participating in a segment titled "Battle of Instant Songwriters." His opponent was Marcia Belsky, a fellow Brooklyn resident. Currently the bass player for the band Slothrust, Brooks was on tour when he got the call to be on the show.

When Fallon asked him on national television, "What is the song title we gave you this evening and what instrument will you be playing?" Brooks responded, "Stuck in the Elevator with Ed Sheeran and I'll be play-

ing the guitar."

Fallon then replied, "It's very possible that it probably did happen, you know? Elevators are kind of an old technology, but I'm sure even Ed Sheeran uses an elevator."

Wearing some black slacks, a solid white button-up and a Tar Heel blue sweater, the audience chose Brooks over Belsky which earned him \$1,000 and a Tonight Show notebook.

Known for its friendly late-night format, some of the greatest musicians of all time have graced Jimmy Fallon's Tonight Show stage, including Rihanna, The Roots, Kelly Clarkson, Katy Perry, SZA, J. Cole, Drake, Lenny Kravitz and Lady Gaga, just to name a few.

Across social media, Brooks Allison has about



COMMERCIAL FREE USE GOOGLE PHOTO

Jimmy Fallon explaining the "Battle of the Instant Songwriters" segment to contestants Marcia Belsky and Brooks Allison.

6,650 Instagram followers and 1,230 Twitter followers. He is known as the co-creator of the web series Walking with Jordy and Brooks. The New York Post wrote about Brooks' Andrew Cuomo parody "Dining" Video, and Stephen Colbert even featured one of Brooks' videos on his Twitter page.

Those who know Brooks best say they couldn't be prouder of everything that he has accomplished. Brooks' dad and stepmom, Bobbie and Scott, currently reside in Salem and his younger sister,

Claire, a hair designer and make-up artist in Baltimore, is a 2013 Roanoke College graduate.

"We are 100 percent supportive of both of our kids and encourage them to chase their dreams. Specifically for Brooks, we bought him both his first and second guitars and attend his shows whenever we can," Scott said. "One of my fondest memories is joining him 'on stage,' if you will, to play Stone Temple Pilots' 'Push' at a fraternity property. His bandmates and I killed it."

# OBITUARY

## Lockhart, Cheryl Lowery

Cheryl Lowery Lockhart, 80, of Covington, died Monday, December 13, at Lewis-Gale Alleghany Hospital in Low Moor.

Mrs. Lockhart was born on June 28, 1941, in New Castle, a daughter of the late Jesse James and Gertrude Reynolds Lowery. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Stuart Samuel Lowery and James Jay Lowery.

Cheryl was a member of Highland Chapel Christian Church and served as church pianist. She was a teacher for over 30 years in the Alleghany County Public School system. In retirement, Mrs. Lockhart volunteered at Lewis-Gale Alleghany Hospital. Over the years, she sang and played piano at countless weddings and funerals.

She was a lifelong fan of Elvis Presley and enjoyed watching Nasar Races.

Survivors include her husband of 56 years, James "Blue" Lockhart; two daughters, Jackie Oppelt and Whitney (Greg) Stinson; a granddaughter, Rachel (Caleb) McGarry; three step-granddaughters, Christina Stinson, Kathleen (Clay) Comer, and Courtney Stinson; three sisters, Linda (Joe) London, Karen (George) Barnhart, and Susie (Ron) Kaffen; and three sisters-in-law, Phyllis Burr, Lola Angell, and Jackie McCoy.

A funeral service was held on Thursday, December 16, at 12:00 p.m. in the Chapel of Arritt Funeral Home with the Rev. J.B. Broughman officiating.

The family received their friends on

Wednesday evening from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Arritt Funeral Home.

The interment was made in Huffman Memorial Park at 3:00 p.m.

The funeral arrangements are being handled by Arritt Funeral Home.

The family suggests memorial donations in Mrs. Lockhart's name be made to Highland Chapel Christian Church at 6808 Potts Creek Rd. Covington, VA 24426, or the Volunteer Program at Lewis Gale Alleghany Regional Hospital at Attn: Mark Hepler at 1 ARH Ln. Low Moor, VA 24457, or the American Cancer Society at P.O. Box 22478 Oklahoma City, OK 73123

The online guest registration is available at arrittfuneralhome.com.

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<p><b>BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 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.</p> <p><b>CHESTNUT GROVE CHURCH</b> Duane Went, Minister, Rt. 42, New Castle, 540-864-5692. Sunday: Worship 10:00 a.m.</p> <p><b>CORNERSTONE CHURCH</b> 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.</p> <p><b>CRAIG HEALING SPRINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> (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!</p> <p><b>CRAIG VALLEY BAPTIST</b> 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</p> <p><b>CRAIG VALLEY GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP</b> 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.</p> <p><b>CROSSROADS CHURCH</b> 21892 Craigs Creek Road, New Castle. Pastor Gary Burch. 864-7520. Sunday School- 10-10:45AM, Sunday Worship - 11AM-Noon.</p> <p><b>FIRST BAPTIST</b> Pastor Kevin Altizer, Corner of Main Street &amp; 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.</p>	<p><b>GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b> 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) &amp; 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</p> <p><b>GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 159 Old Railroad Ave, New Castle, 540-864-PRAY, Sunday School 9:30AM, Sunday Worship Service 10:00AM, Wednesday Night Services 7:00PM.</p> <p><b>HEBRON UNITED METHODIST</b> Pastor Rodney Longmire, Rt. 606, 1981 Caldwell Mt. Rd., New Castle, 540- 400-3419. Worship 11:15AM.</p> <p><b>LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST</b> Rev. Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, &amp; 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.</p> <p><b>LEVEL GREEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> 3388 Cumberland Gap Rd. Newport, Duane Went, 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.</p> <p><b>LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST</b> Pastor Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle, 540-525-7662. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, &amp; 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.</p> <p><b>MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN</b> 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 a.m.</p> <p><b>NEW CASTLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> "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.</p>	<p><b>NEW CANTERBURY PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP</b> 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.</p> <p><b>PAXTON CHAPEL</b> 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.</p> <p><b>THE CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> 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.</p> <p><b>NEW CASTLE UNITED METHODIST</b> 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.</p> <p><b>ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 99 2nd Street, New Castle. Rev. Stephen McNally. 540-473-3691. Mass is on Sunday at 11:15 AM.</p> <p><b>CRAIG COUNTY COMMUNITY CHURCH - 'WELCOME HOME!'</b> Sunday service 9-10:15am at the VFW building in New Castle. Casual dress if you desire and contemporary praise and worship. If you don't have a 'home' church, please join us at ours with Pastor Gary Burch. Check us out on facebook or contact us at: craigcountycommunity-church@gmail.com.</p> <p><b>ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH</b> Located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sitofc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).</p>
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# "All I want for Christmas" LETTERS TO SANTA

## McCleary Elementary Kindergarten and First-Grade Students

### Mrs. Wente's Class

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. I helped my mom feed the animals. Do you feed the reindeer? I would love a unicorn present. Merry Christmas.  
- Love, Pearl

Dear Santa,  
I have been a good girl. Why does Rudolph's nose light up? I want a real live reindeer. I want a kitten. I want Nintendo. I want a tablet. Merry Christmas.  
- Love, Delaney

Dear Santa,  
I've been a very good girl this year. How have the reindeer been doing? I please want minibands for Christmas a bunch. Merry Christmas Santa, reindeer, and elves.  
- Love, Joanna

Dear Santa,  
I have been a very good girl this year. I helped Mommy with cleaning and watching her brother. How do you feed your reindeer? I want an O.M.G. dollhouse for Christmas this year. Merry Christmas, Santa Claus.  
- Love always, Aleigha

Dear Santa,  
I've been good at school a lot. Some places I have, some I have not. I'm a good girl because I help with my baby brother. Santa, what do you do all

day? Do you work at the North Pole? I really want a talking bird for Christmas and a Grinch stuffie. I hope you have a good Christmas! Please say "hi" to Rudolph for me. Also, please bring us snow and sleds to play with!  
- Love, Addyson

Dear Santa,  
I have been good this year. I share toys with my friends. Do the reindeer play in the snow? I would like a Gabby dollhouse please. Merry Christmas!  
- Love, Harper

Dear Santa,  
I have been a really good boy this year. This year for Christmas I would like a drone, a remote control truck, and a giant stuffed animal. I also want some toys, treats, and a new bed for my dog, R.J.  
- Love, Brantley

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. I help mom cook. Why do reindeer like candy canes? I would like a run free horse. Merry Christmas.  
- Love, Ember

Dear Santa,  
I'm 5 years old, I'm almost 6. I want a power wheels for Christmas. I have been good. My brothers have not. Be safe driving the sleigh, give Rudolph two extra carrots so he doesn't crash. Merry Christmas!  
- Love, Ivy June

Dear Santa Clause,  
I have been good. I

have candy canes on the tree for you. I like to play with my sisters and help work. What are you doing at the North Pole? I would like a race car that locks and has windows. I will take anything you want to give me. I want it to be a secret.  
- Merry Christmas, Josh

P.S. My sisters would like a popit. Can I leave you an apple?  
Dear Santa,

I have been good this year. I have been good at school. Can you tell my elf to play more pranks? I want a stuffed shark and whale. Merry Christmas.  
- Love, Cooper

Dear Santa,  
Why can't I go to the North Pole? I would like a Ninja course for Christmas. I've been good this year. How does Santa have magic powers? How do the reindeer fly?  
- Love, Paul

Dear Santa,  
I have been a very good girl this year. Something good I have done this year is help clean up the table in Mrs. Jones' room. How is your day going, Santa? What I would like for

Christmas is a big unicorn. Merry Christmas, Santa!  
- Love, Maia

Dear Santa,  
I have been good this year. I am a big helper. How do the reindeer carry all the toys? For Christmas, I would like red glitter. Wishing you a Merry Christmas.  
- Love, Emerson

Dear Santa,  
I want a Barbie Dreamhouse and Barbies. I also want slime and play-doh. I want Bluey toys. I will have milk and cookies for you and carrots for the reindeer! Or cookies if they want them too!  
- Love you and Merry Christmas, Rheagan

### Mrs. Hart's Class

Dear Santa,  
I have tried very hard to be a good girl this year, and so have my brothers Mason, Jacob, and Michael. We hope we made the NICE list. For Christmas this year I would like an LOL Doll House, an LOL puzzle, an LOL surprise doll, and me, Mason, and Jacob would like a new trampoline with a

basketball hoop. Please bring my brothers everything they ask for too. Thank you so much Santa!  
- Love, Nicole

fast bike, and a Nintendo Switch. Well, thank you Santa and Merry Christmas.  
- Love, Landon

Dear Santa,  
I want a picture of a reindeer. I have been good. I love you. I want a Rex Rampage Nerf Gun.  
- Love, Reid

Dear Santa,  
I love you so much. You are awesome! Can we please stop wearing masks now? I really wish for a Pixie Mini Junior Flyer. I wish I could have real magic with my hands. I can't wait until Christmas comes! Your reindeer are so cute! P.S. Can I have some fart putty slime and a boy baby doll too?  
- Love, Lila Jo

Dear Santa,  
You're the best! How are all of the elves and reindeers? Are they ready for Christmas? I have been very good at school and daycare this year. This year for Christmas I would like an electric scooter, a really

Dear Santa,  
What I want for Christmas is an LOL doll. Also, what I want is an LOL big sister ball. Santa, I love my elf. I would like to change his name. I love you Santa.  
- From, Raylee

Dear Santa,  
How old is my elf Dell? Would you give me American Girl doll stuff? I took care of John the dog so I can help keep the Christmas star full like you said to.  
- Love, Adalynn

Dear Santa,  
I would like a computer, a happy nappers, a Jack the Skellington blanket or pillows, a Jack the Skellington poster, a scooter, and a bike. Santa, how cold is it there?  
- Love, Nolan

See Santa Letters, page 7



*The stockings are hung,  
The tree's glowing bright,  
It's going to be a  
wonderful night!*

Merry Christmas everyone, and thanks for your continued loyal patronage with us. We look forward to serving you in the new year.



*Merry Christmas*  
From  
Pat Charlton,  
Jimmy & Sheila DeHart  
Susan Stroup  
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*Best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.*

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# Santa Letters

from page 6



Dear Santa,  
I would like a set of Frozen 2 barbies and a castle for them. I have been really good.

- Love, Lilly

Dear Santa,  
Thanks for all my presents that I have received in past Christmases. I love you Santa! I will leave out cookies and milk. I would like cars, trucks, and books for Christmas. Please help other children have a great Christmas too.

- Love, Michael

### Mrs. Persinger's Class

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I would

like a mini brand set. I also want to ask what the North Pole is like? I really like your elves and the snow. I can't wait for Christmas!

- Love, Harper

Dear Santa,  
I would like a robot dog. An LOL doll. A LOL Doll holder. An easy bake oven with food to make in it. A pink remote control spider. And I also want my family to always be happy and safe. I love you Santa lots and lots! And Santa please don't make us wear masks anymore. I don't like it.

- Love, Isabella

Dear Santa,  
I have been good this year. I would like a lot of fidgets and crafts this year. Please bring my cousins a lot of toys too. I'm hoping for snow on Christmas so I can play in it. Will leave you cookies and Hot chocolate under the tree.

- Love, Laykyn

Dear Santa,  
I have been really good this year. Can you please bring me:

- G.I. Joe Origins Snake Eyes
- Special Mission Mask
- Mega Construx Pokeball Collection
- Mega Construx Medium Pokeball Collection

Nintendo Switch Fortnite Game

Remote Control Drone  
If you can bring my mom something nice please. P.S. What do the elves do when they aren't making toys?

Thank you, Chase

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Ryan treasure chest and everyone will be surprised. Santa I love you and I am really hoping for that Ryan toy. Enjoy all the milk and cookies.

- Love, Axel

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I would like a make-up set, pjs,

slippers and a pig stuffed animal. How many elves live with you?

- Love, Desiree

Dear Santa,  
I hope Me, Nicole, Jacob, and Michael made the Nice list this year. We've tried hard to be good and help out around the house when we can. For Christmas this year I would like a Pokemon puzzle, Pokemon ball lego, Charmaner and Bubasauras stuffed animal. My brother Jacob and I would like a Nintendo Switch, and Me, Nicole, and Jacob would like a new trampoline since ours broke. Please bring my siblings toys too. Thanks Santa!

- Love, Mason

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I would like

-A new spiderman blanket

-A toy flatbed hauler/tow truck

-A spiderman stuffed animal

How does your sleigh fly with your reindeer?

- Love, Malakai

Dear Santa,  
I would like to have Play-doh, stuffed animals, books, a monster truck hot wheels, and a remote control Grave Digger for Christmas this year. I love you Santa. I can't wait until you come.

- Love, Clabe

Dear Santa,  
Do you want us to leave out carrots for your Reindeer? I would like mini

brands please. I want two pugs. 1 for me and one for mom. I hope that you like your cookies this year.

Merry Christmas

- Love, Lillian

Dear Santa,  
I have been good this year. I would like you to bring me Squishmallow games Dolls Play-doh sets  
How much snow is at the north pole?

Love, Kendal

Dear Santa,  
I hope you are well! I am trying to get better at Math. I became a big sister this year. Do you have siblings? I hope you can bring me a Raya and Sisu figurine. Also maybe a JJ doll for my sister.

- Love, Ryleigh

Dear Santa Clause,  
I hope you and Mrs. Santa are doing good and the reindeer. I hope I get something shinny and make up in a bag. I have been very good this year. I hope you had a nice Thanksgiving.

Merry Christmas Santa

- Love, Charleigh

Dear Santa,  
I want a Barbie and a Barbie bath. I want clothes and shoes and a tyedye popit. Will you help the homeless animals please?

- Love, Zoey



# McCleary

from page 1

board with her students' hand-made creative deer heads, with their hand-prints as the antlers.

Ms. Flinchum explained on her board, "Oh Deer, let's spread some cheer!"

Mrs. Persinger had Santa and his eight reindeer above a Christmas tree that each child decorated with their names on them.

Mrs. Taylor's and Mrs. Mary's board was a beautiful sight, with Santa peeking through the classroom door window and Santa's list of every kid in the class on it. "Taylors Workshop" was covered with snow atop and snowmen made by each child decorated the tree. In the window of Santa's shop were toys designed and cut out individually by Ms. Mary and Santa's mailbox was ready for the letters from all the

little girls and boys.

Mrs. Thomas had the "Let is Snow" theme with snowmen waving.

Mrs. Roark's fifth-grade class had written the story of "There was an old lady who swallowed a bell" on their board.

It read as follows:

There was an old lady who swallowed a bell. I don't know why she swallowed a bell, but she didn't feel well.

There was an old lady who swallowed a string. She swallowed the string and started to sing. She swallowed the string to tie to the bell. I don't know why she swallowed the bell, but she didn't feel well.

There was an old lady who swallowed some hooks. She swallowed some hooks that she found in a book. She swallowed

the hooks to hang on the string. She swallowed the string to tie to the bell. I don't know why she swallowed the bell, but she didn't feel well.

There was an old lady who swallowed ornaments in a box. She swallowed the ornaments in a box and said they tasted like rocks. She swallowed the ornaments to place on the hooks. She swallowed the hooks to hang on the string. She swallowed the string to tie to the bell. I don't know why she swallowed the bell, but she didn't feel well.

There was an old lady who swallowed a tree. When she swallowed the tree, it was a sight to see. She swallowed the tree to be covered in ornaments. She swallowed the ornaments to place on the hooks. She swallowed the hooks to hang on the

string. She swallowed the string to tie to the bell. I don't know why she swallowed the bell, but she didn't feel well.

There was an old lady who swallowed some lights. She swallowed some lights that were very bright. She swallowed some lights to light up the tree. She swallowed the tree to be covered in ornaments. She swallowed the ornaments to place on the hooks. She swallowed the hooks to hang on the string. She swallowed the string to tie to the bell. I don't know why she swallowed the bell, but she didn't feel well.

There was an old lady who swallowed a star. Well, she tried to swallow the star, but she didn't get too far. I told you when she swallowed the bell that she didn't feel well. When she swallowed more and more, she

coughed it out onto the floor! It was the coolest Christmas tree anyone had ever seen!

...The End.

Mrs. MacDonald's kids had their picture on an elf and colored them beautifully. Each wrote what they would do if they were an elf. Their answers ranged from having pink and black hair to letting the reindeer go free, even traveling around the world. One added that it would be fun to make cardigans to help Santa and go with him around the world. Then after they were done, they would take the reindeer back where they belong, and when the night was over, say "Have a good Christmas!"

There was so much joy shared at the school as the decorations lifted so many spirits.

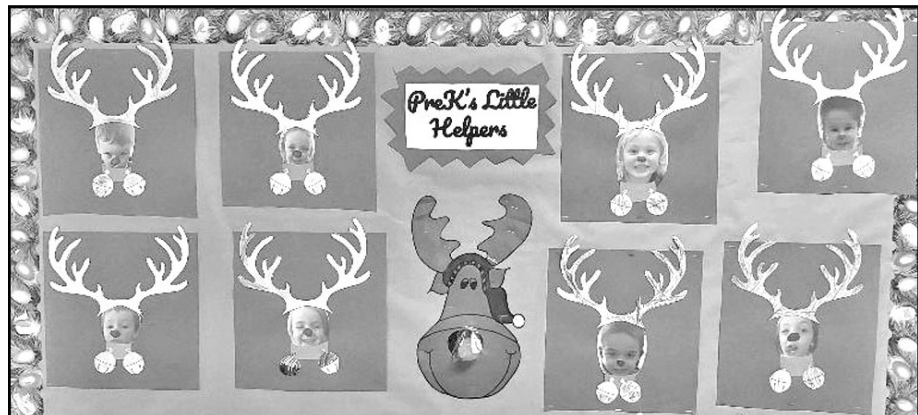


SUBMITTED PHOTOS

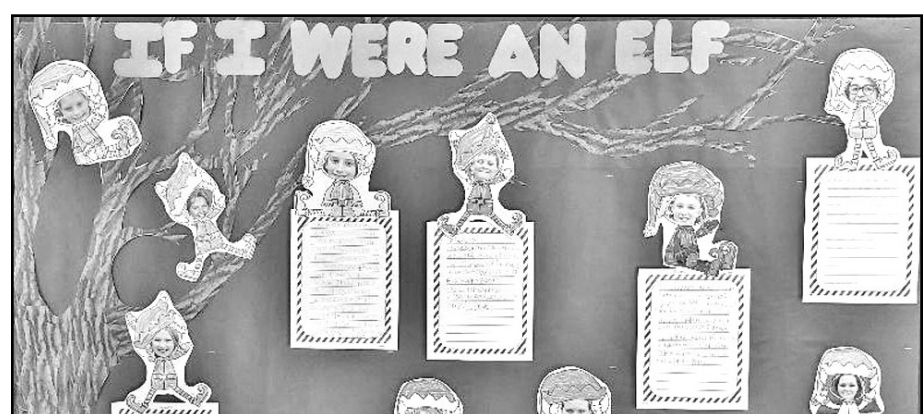
Upon entering McCleary Elementary, it's abundantly clear that they are serious about "decking their halls." The windows were painted with gingerbread houses that had candy cane lanes.



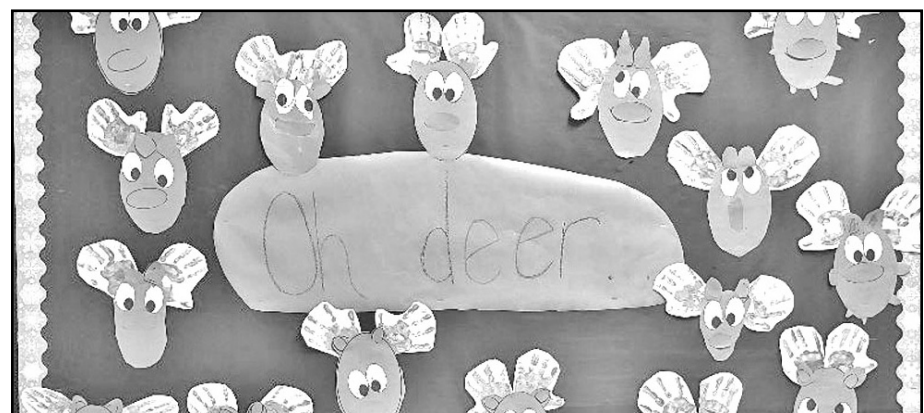
Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Mary brought Santa's workshop to life with myriads of hand designed and cut out toys lined up on shelves for Santa's big night, with the window decked in snow.



Mrs. Sarver's class became adorable reindeer for the season by being on Rudolph's sleigh team.



Mrs. MacDonald's class added their stories of what they would do, "If I was an elf".



Mrs. Carper's Kindergarten Class made their reindeer antlers with individual handprints and eyeballs directed in interesting directions.



Ms. McPherson's class decided to have a "Groovy Christmas."



# Marketplace



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

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### Legals - City of Salem

**Notice is hereby given to** all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, January 10, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room of the Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, 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:

Hold public hearing to consider the request of Sia Asset Management, LLC, applicant, and Helm Building Enterprises, LTD, property owner, for a Use Not Provided For Permit to allow crypto mining at 1401 Southside Drive, Tax Map # 165-4-2.1.

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of 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.

### Legals - City of Salem

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY H. Robert Light Clerk of Council

### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104  
**Case No. CL21000359-00**  
City Of Salem Circuit Court 2 East Calhoun Street, Salem, VA 24153  
DANA LYNN FRANCISCO MEADOR v. 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

### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 15.2-3107 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, that on January 11, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. in the Christiansburg Town Hall, 3rd Floor Council Chambers, 100 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, the Town Council of Christiansburg, Virginia ("the Town") shall hold a public hearing on the Town's intent to approve a proposed Boundary Line Adjustment Agreement between the Town of Christiansburg and County of Montgomery and will thereafter consider for passage a resolution approving the Agreement. The Agreement is authorized by Section 15.2-3106 et seq. of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, and provides that the boundary line between the Town of Christiansburg and the unincorporated area of the County of Montgomery will be adjusted as follows:

Moving 68.866 acres from the unincorporated area of the County of Montgomery into the incorporated Town of Christiansburg. The proposed boundary adjustment area is commonly known as Falling Branch Corporate Park Phase II, Parcel 2, Tax Map Number 94-A-8 (formerly the Cox property) and is located on the southern boundary of the Town of Christiansburg, west of the intersection of Technology Drive SE and Parkway Drive SE, shown more particularly on the plat entitled "Plat Showing Boundary Line Adjustment Between The Town of Christiansburg and County of Montgomery for Portion of Falling Branch Corporate Park Tax Parcel 94-A-8"; dated June 7, 2019. As part of the Boundary Line Adjustment Agreement, the Town has agreed to provide the County Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) to assist the County in the cost of extending Town water and sewer to the first developed pad on the 68.866 acres. Once a contract is signed by the County for this project, the Town agrees to provide the County the money within sixty (60) days of receiving a written request for the funding from the County Administrator.

A true copy of the proposed Boundary Line Adjustment Agreement is on file and may be viewed in the office of the Clerk of Town Council, Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. A copy of the Agreement will also be available at the public hearing. The public is invited to attend the public hearing and comment on the Agreement.



To place your ad, call 389-9355

### Legals - Town of Vinton

### ABC NOTICE

Dahal Brothers LLC, trading as Be Quick Market 2, 210 W Virginia Ave, Vinton, Roanoke County, Virginia 24179-3318.

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

Dilli Dahal

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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

Please be advised that the Vinton Town Council will hold a public hearing at its meeting on Tuesday, January 4, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia, concerning the proposed amendment to the Town of Vinton's FY 2021-2022 budget to appropriate funding for eligible expenditures on multi-year grants, paving, capital projects, and other expenditures in the amount of \$2,750,167.73.

Any additional information on this public meeting is available in the Town Manager's Office, located in the Vinton Municipal Building, (540) 983-0607. Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate at this public meeting should contact the Town Manager's office at (540) 983-0607.

Susan N. Johnson  
Town Clerk

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# SPORTS

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## Rocket girls pick up first win against Bath County

The Craig County girls cracked the win column last week when the Rockets took a 47-33 victory at Bath County. It was the first win for Brock Jones as Rockets' varsity head coach.

The Rockets got off to a slow start. Craig trailed 16-13 at the half before lighting up the scoreboard for 31 points after intermission.

"I believe some of that had to do with just practices for two weeks and not seeing other opponents in that time frame," said Jones. "We didn't adjust well at the start of the game. We were sluggish."

Jones had a heart-to-heart with the girls at intermission, and that seemed to help. Craig came out smoking in the third period, winning that quarter 23-7.

"I had one of those 'Bobby Knight' meetings at half time, and the girls responded tremendously," he said. "The third quarter was the best scoring we've had all year. Our diamond press looked great and

we played hard nosed defensive pressure for eight minutes, and it showed."

Statistically, Hannah Caldwell had nine points, 16 rebounds, and six steals. Sara Jones made her season debut with seven points, 14 rebounds, and 10 blocks. Lexxy Brookman had 10 points and 13 rebounds while Annabelle Gregory had eight points, six rebounds and half a dozen steals.

"We started to push the ball and drive and kick the ball against them," said Jones. "We're getting fundamentally better every day in practice."

On Friday the Rockets were back home to host Eastern Montgomery and things didn't go as well. The Rockets dropped a 57-34 decision in New Castle.

"We watched film on East Mont and I thought we were well prepared for them," said Jones. "We worked on the press break a lot during practice and we were not strong protecting the ball. We were out hustled and ball con-

trol was extremely weak against them."

The Mustangs muscled the Craig girls on the perimeter.

"We are a physical low post team, however East Mont was stronger in the guard play," said Jones. "They were physical in the back court and it hurt us."

"They had two really good scorers. The Underwood girl finished with 23 and we knew on film she was a tough on ball defender and could finish anywhere on the court. They had another girl finish with 24. She could really shoot the ball and that hurt us. They were faster than we were so we had to remain in zone most part of the game because we didn't match up well man to man. We didn't play our assignments well in the zone and didn't move good in it."

The Rockets trailed 32-20 at the half, then were outscored by nine in the third quarter.

Statistically, Lexxy Brookman was seven for nine from the floor and

scored 15 points to go with 15 rebounds.

"She's starting to own the paint," said Jones.

Sara Jones finished with nine points.

"We are gradually working on Sara on the offensive end in the post," said Jones. "She has a great jumper and outside game, but her six foot frame can dominate on the low block once we get her to her capabilities. She's working hard in practice."

Gregory played Underwood tough on defense, giving up six inches in heights. Annabelle finished with just four points but grabbed nine rebounds at 5'2 and also had five steals.

"Annie is our hustler on the team and she never quits going hard," said Jones. "Her defensive presence is coming along and we need that for the last 18 games this year."

Now 1-3, the Rockets were scheduled to play James River on Tuesday. Then, after a week off, they're at home on De-



PHOTO BY JIM DEVINNEY

Annabelle Gregory handles the point for the Rockets.

ember 29 to host Auburn in an afternoon game.

"We have to get back to work and be disciplined

in our defense and understand not to watch and get caught up in the ball," said Jones.

## Rocket boys are off to a 2-1 start



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Matthew Lucas gets on the floor to battle Mustangs for the ball.



Mason Huffman goes high for a one-hander.



Craig County's Zach Peters looks to pass.



Nathan Fisher goes to the hole against Eastern Montgomery.



Craig's Nathan Fisher blocks an East Mont shot as Dylan Crawford(#20) cuts off the lane.

After dropping their first game of the season the Craig County boys' basketball team came on like gangbusters last week. The Rockets opened Pioneer District play with a pair of wins, 45-15 at Bath County and 51-33 at Eastern Montgomery.

"The team played well and we are still getting better," said coach Ryan Frazier. "This (East Mont) was our third game of the season. We had discussed all week how we need to focus on ourselves and not let anything distract us from our goal of winning the game. I thought we did a good job of that and it showed with our play."

The Rockets opened the week by dominating their home opener. Craig led Bath County 25-6 at the half and held the visiting Chargers to just eight points by the end of the third quarter.

Matthew Lucas led a balanced attack with a dozen points. Nathan Fisher had 11, Dylan Crawford had

nine and Mason Huffman had five points, including a three pointer.

The momentum continued in El-liston on Friday at Craig jumped out to a 23-3 lead early in the second quarter. The Mustangs fought back to cut the lead to 26-17 at the half but the Rockets owned the second half, outscoring the host team 25-16 after intermission.

Lucas had a game high 20 points while Fisher finished with his third consecutive double-double with 10 points and 12 rebounds. Crawford had 10 points and eight rebound, Zach Peters finished with six points and six assists while Huffman had three points and Lucas Taylor finished with while points while playing a very good defensive game.

"I was pleased with our progress, we shared the ball well on offense, and we are hard to guard when we do that," said Frazier. "We made sure our

focus was on ourselves and we started to show what we are capable of, but we can still improve in several areas. We played at a high level at times, then it dropped. To reach the goals we have this year we need to maintain that level for four quarters."

The Rockets are now off until December 29, when they host Montcalm. It's a four game day, with a girls' jayvee and varsity doubleheader beginning at noon, followed by a boys' jayvee and varsity doubleheader to follow.

"This will be an important week and a half," said Frazier. "We have Colton Moore joining the team this week, who we need to get up to speed and incorporate into the team. Colton is a very solid player that will compliment the work we have already done with this group. This is a great group to work with and I am excited about what we can achieve this year."

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