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(USPS-378-080)

"The Voice of Craig County"

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

\$1.00



# **McCleary shows kindness**



Lauren McAllister was ladened with sweet comments from her students during Kindness Week.

Pam Dudding

Contributing writer

The sentiment of showing kindness warms anyone's heart.

McCleary Elementary celebrated the week of February 14 with the state of Virginia by participating in "Kindness Week."

"We celebrated together with all the other schools all across the state of Virginia during this week," said Counselor

Dustin Persinger.

Additionally, during the week, the students brought in non-perishable food items to be donated.

'These will go to Craig Valley Baptist Church, as they provide food for our students to take home every week," Persinger explained.

Persinger noted that last week was Counselor's Appreciation Week and he

See **McCleary**, page 4



The Craig County School Board works diligently to provide the best education for all students in Craig. This year's School Board members are Superintendent Jeanette Warwick, Chairman and Craig County District Rep. Trace Bellassai, Potts Mountain Rep. Faye Powers, Craig Creek Rep. Kevin Altizer, along with newest members, New Castle Rep. Walter Marsden and Simmonsville Rep. Darren Gilreath.

# **New School Board** members officially elected

Pam Dudding

Contributing writer

The Craig County School Board elects new officers when their tenure is up, in January of the new year.

This year, two new members replaced Gina Smith and George Foster who had both completed their terms.

The School Board extends their great appreciation for their service and sincere care for the students and staff of CCPS.

Remaining on the Board are Trace Bellassai, Chairman and representative for Craig City District; Faye Powers,

See School Board, page 3

# Fire Department raises funds while having fun



The Upper Craigs Creek Volunteer Fire Department continues to expand, being only a little over a year old in re-establishing their station and crew. Their recent spaghetti dinner brought citizens from near and far to their front door.

Pam Dudding Contributing writer

Anyone that has done volunteer work knows that it takes heart, time and dedication to complete a project with precision and integrity.

The Upper Craig Creek Volunteer Fire Department continues to pursue their passion of creating a great volunteer service for the community as well as many others in Craig continue to support their

On February 12, they hosted a fundraiser, serving spaghetti, garlic bread, desserts and a drink for only a \$10 donation.

"Sure, we made money

and had some really nice donations given to us as well," Chief Shawn Matheney said.

For those who partook of the meal, the Facebook comments said it all: "The spaghetti sauce was the bomb," and "You did a great job as usual" among many others.

There were so many homemade desserts it was difficult for people to select just one.

Matheney added, "As always, the ladies that donated desserts out did themselves because they were amazing!"

However, Matheney added that once the fundraiser was over and they

See **Funds**, page 3

# Hard-working clerk and school board members honored

#### Pam Dudding

Contributing writer

The Craig County School Board works diligently in making decisions that impact all students and staff personnel at the public schools.

At this month's meeting, Superintendent Jeanette Warwick honored the Board and Clerk for their dedication to their positions.

February is Annual School Board Appreciation Month.

"It is a time to salute the work of our School Board and to celebrate public education," Warwick said before adding, "Our locally elected School Board speaks out for public schools by ensuring our students have the opportunity to benefit from a high-quality education. The decisions and actions affect the present and future lives of

our community's children." She added, "We all deeply thank you for the work you do. I am hoping that the community and staff will join us in celebrating your work this month."

Warwick presented them all with a certificate and a small token of appreciation

in the form of Tootsie rolls. "We thank you for the important 'role' you play," she said, making a play on words. "And you really do play an important role, not only the constituents in your areas, but also all the children in Craig County. It is truly a calling to be here and to give of your time. It's not just about being here for meetings but there is preparation time our members take to read the information."

each one with a Craig Coun- us and help make our jobs

ty public school shirt. There are five Craig County School Board members: Chair Trace Bellassai (Craig City District representative), Vice-Chair Faye Powers (Potts Mountain), Kevin Altizer (Craig Creek), Darren Gilreath (Simmonsville) and Walter Marsden (New

VSBA School Board Clerk Appreciation Week will also be celebrated this week.

"The Virginia School Board Association Board of Directors designated the third week in February with the goal of building awareness of the role the clerks play in assisting school board members and superintendents in our local schools," Warwick shared. "They pro-

Warwick also presented vide an invaluable service for much easier and smoother."

Warwick presented Jessica Belcher with a certificate and the Tootsie Roll package for

the "role" she plays. Bellassai also presented her with a gift from the School Board mem-

"She does a great job at making sure she is communicating with you, putting up with me and in getting what I need," Warwick said. "She also assists Ms. Duncan when needed. She simply does an



School Board Clerk Jessica Belcher (right) was recently presented a certificate and a Tootsie roll bag for the role she plays in the school board. She also received a gift from the board members.



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# OMMUNITY CALENDAR

#### 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 SUNDAY**

 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. 8 p.m. at New Castle Fire

#### **SECOND MONDAY**

•Paint Bank Ladies Auxiliary meeting, 7 p.m. at the Paint Bank Fire Department. Call 897-5346 for more

•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

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

#### **THIRD** WEDNESDAY

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

#### SATURDAY, **FEBRUARY 26**

Johns Creek Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting a fundraiser spaghetti dinner at 5 p.m. It will be carry-out only for \$10 per meal which will include Italian bread, spaghetti, dessert and a drink. Individuals may eat under the outside areas. All funds help to support your local fire department needs and is greatly appreciated!

# Kids dress up like old people to celebrate school's 100th dress day of school



Kindergartener Maia Alls and third-grader Mason Alls both enjoyed the 100th dress day at McCleary.



Dressing like old people was fun for all and these kids (parents) did a great job. Pictured from left to right are Irelynn Burns, Peyton Robertson, Zoe Scott, Harper Aldridge, Ivy Abdelaziz, Pearl Dudding, Layla Brown and Maia Alls.

# Farm bankruptcies decline 50 percent nationwide, trending downward in Va.

For the first time in the last decade, every region in the U.S. had fewer farm bankruptcies in 2021 than the year be-

With dramatic decreases in Chapter 12 farm bankruptcy filings, mid-Atlantic states, including Virginia, are keeping a slower pace, with an eight percent drop in filings in 2021.

Chapter 12 bankruptcy allows family farms to avoid liquidation or foreclosure. According to data from the United States Courts, Chapter 12 bankruptcy filings nationwide were down a staggering 50 percent last year.

"What a difference a year can make," said American Farm Bureau Federation senior economist Veronica Nigh in an AFBF Market Intel report. "The number of Chapter 12 filings in 2021 is the lowest in the last decade, and this is the first time in at least 10 years that there were fewer than 300 filings. The decrease in bankruptcy filings is a noteworthy shift given the significant increases in the number of bankruptcies over the previous three years."

Five farm bankruptcies were recorded in Virginia in 2021, the same as in 2020. The midAtlantic had 15 fewer Chapter 12 bankruptcies than in 2020.

A snapshot of previous years reveals a positive trend in Virginia. While farm bankruptcies in 2019 increased nearly 20 percent nationwide, there was no significant increase in the number of Chapter 12 filings in Virginia. Six Chapter 12 farm bankruptcies were listed for Virginia in both 2018 and 2019.

Industry specialists hope this slow-but-steady trend continues for Virginia and sur-

rounding states. MidAtlantic Farm Credit regional lending manager Matt Ritenour, who is based in Winchester, said the report is cause for optimism.

"Each farming operation is truly unique, but despite the many challenges 2021 brought us, overall Virginia's agriculture community had a positive year," he said. "Our members and the industry have proven resilient and continue to successfully provide food, fuel and fiber for our country.'

Economists agree the decline is worthy of celebration; however, they don't lose sight of the fact that 276 Chapter 12 bankruptcies were filed in

"Returns to farm operators have been incredibly volatile over the last decade," Nigh said. "So, while the last year has brought higher commodity prices for some, it has most certainly brought higher input costs for all. How the latter compares to the former will dictate whether the trend of fewer bankruptcies will continue be 'in' or 'out' in 2022. For once, this is a trend we hope has some staying power.'

> - Submitted by Katie Ward, MidAtlantic Farm Credit Communications Specialist



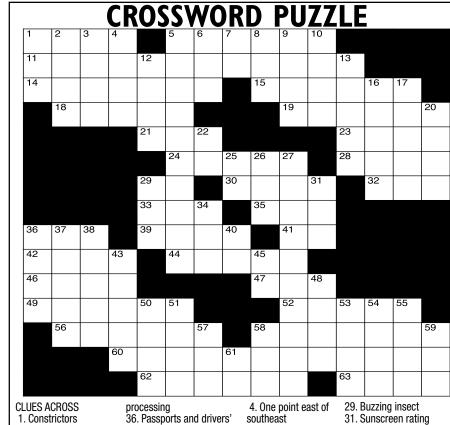
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36. Passports and drivers' licences are two 39. Fishes

11. Speed 14. German city 41. Air Force 42. Personal computers 44. Ecological community

south and southwest 1. \_\_ Humbug! 33. When you hope to get 2. Devices that alert pilots

15. Lacking sympathy 18. Visionaries 19. Wastes away 46. Wings 21. One precursor to 47. Halfway

23. Nursemaid 24. Unconsciousnesses

5. Abounding in rocks

28. Baby's word for father 58. 29. Equal to 64 US pints (abbr.)

30. Senses of selfimportance 32. Midway between

35. Electronic data

60. Repeating remarks 62. Periods in one's life 63. Hyphen **CLUES DOWN** 

Falls

49. Cool, calm and collected

52. Jewelled headdress

56. Musical composition 13. Rechargeable power source 16. Ancient sage 17. Consist of two elements

singer

10. Fastened over

animal's neck

State" (abbr.) 25. Of I

26. Get older

12. Device

31. Sunscreen rating 34. Brew

southeast 5. Subjects to hostility 6. Work unit

Leader 7. Atomic #56 37. Indigo bush 8. British thermal unit 9. "Elusive Butterfly"

38. Burn with a hot liquid 40. Junior's dad 43. Horse mackerels genus

45. Morning 48. Unit of linear measurement (abbr.)

50. Double curve 51. Small, twisted bunch 53. Developed 54. Mars crater

55. Humanistic discipline

20. "Pygmalion" writer 57. Word element meaning 22. "The Centennial 58. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series 59. Wood residue 27. Brotherhoods 61. It cools your home

# Governor Youngkin and Congressman Griffith announce a fifth round of funding for abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization Grant Program

Governor Glenn Youngkin and Congressman Morgan Griffith recently announced that grant dollars are now available to assist those looking to make an economic impact in southwest Virginia. The Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy) received a fifth round of funding for the Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) program. The agency is now taking applications for proposals.

"Economic revitalization and development is critical for southwest Virginia and I'm excited for the positive economic benefits this project will bring," said Governor Young-kin. "My administration will always prioritize job creation, economic development, and lowering the cost of living in the Southwest and across the Commonwealth."

"The AMLER program supports communities seeking to reclaim and redevelop properties with a mining heritage. It has become a great asset for economic development in southwest Virginia and boosted numerous innovative projects promoting renewal and opportunity," said Congressman Griffith. "I urge eligible entities to consider applying for support from AM-LER to aid their revitalization

Virginia Energy oversees the grant which comes from

the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement (OSMRE). The OSMRE has final approval over recommended projects. Proposed projects should have the greatest potential to achieve economic develop goals in southwest Virginia's coalfields and be proposed on land that includes features associated with coal mining that occurred before 1977.

Virginia Energy will receive applications through April 15, 2022. Applications and information can be found via the Virginia Energy website and should be submitted electronically to Tarah Kesterson at Tarah.Kesterson@energy.virginia.gov.

"We are already seeing the

job creation associated with 31 projects announced with these grant dollars over the last four years," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Caren Merrick. "There is new business and growing opportunities in the industrial, agriculture, energy sectors as well as a boost in community development due to this AMLER program."

"We are enabling land, once thought unusable, for new purpose and community enhancement," said Virginia Energy Director John Warren. "This includes eliminating environmental risks as these projects also remediate negative legacy effects of historic coal mining."

Virginia Energy received

the initial \$10 million in 2017 and has continued to receive that amount every year since. Those looking for places to propose projects can find an AML inventory on the Virginia Energy website that lists locations and features for each site. Virginia was one of six states chosen to receive \$10 million to develop Abandoned Mine Land (AML) sites. This grant was part of the federal Omnibus Funding Bill. Projects completed with the funds will not only be designed to boost the economy of southwest Virginia's coalfields but will also improve the environment.

> Submitted by Macaulay Porter, Office of the Governor

## School Board

Vice-Chair representing Potts Mountain; and Kevin Altizer, Craig Creek.

Darren Gilreath shared that he is happy to be the newly elected School Board member for the Simmonsville District.

Gilreath and his wife currently have two children who attend Craig County Public

He is originally from Williamsburg, Kentucky, but has lived in Newport, Virginia, since 2018 and has been a business owner for the last ten-plus years. He currently owns and operates Joe's Trees,

"I chose to run for a seat on the school board because I saw the need for someone in my district as Mrs. Smith was not going to run for the position again," Gilreath said. "I have always believed that people should be a contributor in their community, and this is a way for me to contribute to my community and support the children and staff at our local school."

He noted that he has experience with school site-based committees and operating successful businesses. "I will be able to bring new

ideas to the table that will help the school prosper and have a brighter future," he shared. Continuing, he added, his

areas of importance include, "Retention of our experienced staff and administrators as well as improving the quality of education of our children and future students of Craig County Public Schools."

For the New Castle District, Walter Marsden will be the new representative.

"I was blessed to have been raised by my grandparents on a farm in Central Virginia while my mother was a nurse after WWII," he shared. "My mother re-married and I lived in northeast Roanoke, graduating from William Fleming High School."

Marsden joined the Navy, serving four years mostly on the USS Galveston CLG-3 as a GM traveling the world, including a tour of Vietnam.

"I graduated from Longwood College in Farmville and spent 34 years working for the Norfolk and Southern Railroad," Marsden said. "I retired as Chief Dispatcher for Virginia Division in Roanoke."

Marsden then moved to Craig County in 2002, saying, "Because I wanted to regain my wonderful youth growing up in the country."

"When the opening occurred for the school board, I wanted to maintain a member that was all for our students and future leaders," Marsden explained. "Part of the mission statement of our school board is why I wanted to serve as it prepares our students to become responsible, contributing members of society: 'Every child a graduate, every child prepared for life."

Both individuals attended the February School Board meeting and gave input on various subjects.

Anyone who serves our community on any board knows that it takes their time and wisdom to make not only heartfelt, but serious decisions for our community best

and for our students in our

Always know you can speak to any of the Board members when you have questions or would like to simply say "thank you" to them for their

The monthly meetings are held at the Craig County High School auditorium at 5:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. The community is encouraged to attend, or to go online and watch live.

I personally believe that without the love of community and the extended hands, doing the work, our children will not be able to fulfill their greatest potential. Every parent, every citizen is necessary to mold our kids into great people of Craig County.

## Funds from page 1

had cleaned everything up, they decided to have a cornhole tournament.

tournament consisted of (I think), ten two-man (or wombracket style," Matheney said. "It didn't end until like 11 p.m. But I will add that the Chiefs team, (oh yeah, all the teams

an) teams, played off in had a name - LOL), went undefeated and are the champions!"

> The UCCVFD carried out their vision, which is "since they work hard,

they will play hard too."

Anyone interested in joining the Fire Department, donating or assisting in their fundraisers can contact Shawn Matheney on Facebook or any of the other mem-

"We really appreciate everyone that came out to support us," they shared. "We are working on a possible chili cook-off and a future gun raffle, and of course, we will host our car show in

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# Craig County woman turns 100, celebrated by loved ones and community residents

**Shawn Nowlin** 

shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org

Individuals 100 years or older make up less than one percent of the United States population. Pauline Armes, a beloved member of the Craig County community, celebrated that milestone earlier this month. At the encouragement of the family, a full in-depth article will be in next week's New Castle Record paper.



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On February 8, Pauline Armes celebrated becoming a centenarian with friends and family members with cake, birthday cards and nonstop laughter.

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# Library Bench Challenge

#### **Library Corner**

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community

Since October, volunteers have been collecting recyclable plastic film, weighing it and transporting it to a participating grocery chain to go on to NexTrex. company founded on the premise that ingenuity can help extract value from what was once seen as waste. In creating this turnkey program for schools, they provide students with a understanding and appreciation for the importance of recycling by demonstrating how small, everyday efforts can translate into a tangible product and successful business. Trex is the largest polyethylene film recycler in the United

Trex<sup>®</sup> is proud to sponsor local recycling

programs in universities communities throughout the country. If a team can collect more than 500 pounds of plastic refuse in a six-month span (about 40,500 plastic bags), Trex will donate a highperformance composite bench to your school or community.

Why does the library need a bench? Well, just look at its tiny space. The little library is terribly cute but space, especially in the covid pandemic, has been a problem. weather When the permits, the patrons spill out on to the patio to enjoy the sun, to work or to have lunch. Library meetings are held outside on the patio, and the outdoor furniture is filled to capacity. An additional bench will allow patrons to move outside to their own private space to take advantage of the library high-speed internet.

Why recycle? That one is easy. We recycle

to teach our children not to waste resources, we recycle to reduce plastic in the environment, and we recycle to remind ourselves to just stop consuming so much plastic. We can also vastly reduce the amount of trash in our landfills if we remember to recycle and stop buying so many things that end up in the trash. Maybe when we see the mounds of plastic each family generates, we will be reminded to take our re-usable bags to the grocery store and to buy in bulk whenever

If you would like to help the library team reach our goal by April 1, please save your plastic film and call the library to get specific details of what to collect. Most clean and dry polyethylene(PE), labeled as #2 or #4, plastic film and bags are recyclable. Plastic Grocery bags collected at the entrance to your store are recyclable. Clean bread



Volunteers have been collecting recyclable plastic film, weighing it and transporting it to a participating grocery chain to go on to NexTrex since October.

bags and cereal liners are accepted. Plastic mailing materials and popped bubble wrap are accepted.

Unfortunately, these are not recyclable: Pet food bags, meat and food wrappers, and mesh produce bags.

Polyethylene films are not normally accepted in curbside recycling programs because they can get caught in the

machines that sort other valuable recyclables like paper, cans, and bottles. And bags are generally too dirty after their trip in the back of the recycling truck to be recycled, even if they are collected at the recycling facility. Nex Trex has found a way to get people to save these materials before they go to the recycling center. Things that we normally

use wood for can be made with Nex Trex materials such as decking, boardwalks and outdoor furniture.

Thank you to all the recyclers in the community who are helping to win a new bench made of recycled composite plastic material. We are well on our way with only a few weeks to go!

## McCleary

from page 1

received several notes and cards from the students that melted his heart.

"I decided to pay it forward this week and help our teachers feel the love of students as well by cutting out their names and letting their students

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write them notes," he

The hall walls were decorated with each teachers' name in big letters that had personal "thank you's" as well as sweet

compliments. It seems to be paying off

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because students shared the sweetest thoughts to their teachers. Some of the com-

ments Lauren McAllister received read as follows: "You are my BFF," "You are so sweet and kind, we love you!" "Thank you! You are helpful" "You are the best, you are the best teacher and are so cool." Hearts, smiling faces and other doodles were also exchanged. When I first saw these,

it made me cry because it really touched my teacher heart and made it full," McAllister shared. "I had no idea that these were the things that they were thinking about me. You always feel like you are making them do work, work, work. Just to see that the little things you do for them really does make a difference. Just to know that you are loved means a lot.'

Persinger also shared that they were sharing with students of how we all can show kindness to other people and to our teachers.

He works with each class and "we brainstorm about things we can put on them and the letters are

then decorated in small groups. Other teachers will have their names up and the kids will be also decorating them with the option of writing their comments of them.'

McAllister's were already put up and her children were excited for her to read them.

During the week, the students participated in something different daily to help show kindness.

•Monday – Kindness makes the great grow wear pink or red (Valentine's Day) •Tuesday – Peace, love,

and kindness - tie-dye •Wednesday – Tip your hat to kindness -

hat day •Thursday – Don't sweat the small stuff -

wear your favorite sweat-

shirt or sweater

•Friday – Team CCPS

Rocket blue or school

values kindness - wear

The atmosphere was alive with "kindness" and as we walked the halls, Persinger was greeted by many students who ran over to give him hugs, which were so genuine as each child's face gleaned up towards him to receive one back.

It really is true, "Love conquers all."



In conjunction with Kindness Week, McCleary Elementary added a collection of food items that will be donated to the food bank at Craig Valley Baptist Church.

# COMMUNITY SERVICE DIRECTOR

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# Steger, James Carlton

James Carlton Steger passed away on Wednesday, February 16, at his home in New Castle. Carlton was a member of Forks of Johns Creek Christian Church, Sons of Confederate Veterans and a life member of the Virginia Bear Hunters Association. He worked as a locomotive engineer for Norfolk Southern. He enjoyed playing music and singing with his friends, horseback rid-

ing and farrier work as well as hunting Carlton was predeceased by his par-

ents, James Carl Steger and Genevieve



Frazier Steger. His surviving family includes David and Susan Steger, Clint and Kelly Steger and their children Avery and Jace (all of Catawba). Also surviving are numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends, especially special friend Patricia Neff. A memorial service led

by Rev Bill Frazier and Susan Stimeling was held on Monday, February 21 at 2 p.m. at

Paitsel Funeral Home in New Castle. Family received friends one hour before the service. A private burial will take place at a later date.

## Duncan, Donald Miller

Donald Miller Duncan, 52, of New Castle, went to be with the Lord on Saturday, February 19, at his home. He was born on October 1, 1969, to the late Julia "Judy" Diemart and Bill G. Duncan. Donald served his country in the U.S. Army. He was a faithful member of First Baptist Church of New Castle.

Donald was an avid hunter, fisherman, reader, and he had a special fascination for paintball! Donald was too large to capture into words, a very hard-working person. He was the type that enjoyed the simple pleasures of life and he valued his friends. He was a dedicated son and brother, always trying to save the day! In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his uncle, David Duncan; maternal and paternal grandparents.

Those left to cherish his memory in-

clude his sister, Trudy A. McCarty; as well as a host of cousins, extended family members, and friends.

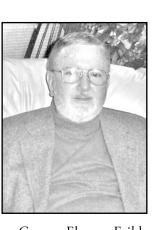
A funeral service to celebrate his life will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, February 28, at the First Baptist Church of New Castle, 40 Boyd Ave., New Castle, VA, with Pastor Kevin Altizer officiating. Burial will immediately follow at the Hebron Church Cemetery in New Castle where military honors will be conducted by the U.S. Army.

Friends may visit with the family from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, February 27, at Paitsel Funeral Home in New Castle.

You are encouraged to use your own discretion regarding face masks and social

Paitsel Funeral Home in New Castle is serving the family of Mr. Duncan.

## Feild, George Elmore



George Elmore Feild, 84, born to Edward Carter Feild and Elizabeth Harrison Elmore, on December 25, 1937, in Courtland, Virginia, passed away quietly in his sleep on February 2, 2022. He leaves behind his wife Nancy Elizabeth Rhudy; three daughters, including Elizabeth Price Feild, Ann Feild Taboada, and Laura Feild Holland; husbands; and seven grandchildren.

George will be cremated, and his ashes will be buried at the Feild Family plot at Grace Anglican Church at 9986 Purdy Road in Jarratt, Virginia, on March 26 at 11:00 am. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, a donation be made in George's name to Jackson-Feild Behavioral Health Services https://app.mobilecause.com/form/zjrkoA.

Send community news and photos to shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org

## **Every Craig County household is eligible** for four free at-home COVID-19 tests

#### Shawn Nowlin

shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org

A few months ago, Virginia began distributing free, at-home COVID-19 test kits. Made by Flowflex, the antigen home test accurately identifies 93 percent of positive specimens and 100 percent of negative specimens.

Many options exist to order a test. People can obtain a free testing kit from the federal program at CovidTests.gov, purchase an athome test at local pharmacies and retailers, and if applicable, do so through health insurance.

What should people do if they test positive? How about if they

Very likely one has COVID-19 if an at-home test is positive. Such individuals, especially those with weakened immune systems or other health conditions, should talk to a doctor as quickly as possible about the treatment options avail-

If an at-home test comes back negative, that means the virus was not found in the body, effectively lowering the risk of spreading CO-VID-19 to others. Even if a test is negative, individuals are encouraged to take another to verify it.

Sixty-five million households nationwide and counting have requested free COVID-19 tests from the government, including numerous families throughout Craig County. Every order is mailed through First Class Package Service, and kits usually ship within 7-12 business days. Inaccurate results are a possibility if antigen tests are exposed for extended periods of time to temperatures below 36 degrees.

Last Monday, Governor Glenn Youngkin said, "I have always been a strong advocate for everyone to get the vaccine. We know that the vaccine is the best protection against severe illness as a result of COVID-19. I have made the choice to get vaccinated and encourage everyone to join me in doing that, but ultimately it is a personal decision to do so. After a heartbreaking pandemic, getting vaccinated can ensure that there are better days ahead for Virginia."

Added Acting State Health Commissioner Colin M. Greene, MD, MPH, "Vaccines work, and we applaud Governor Youngkin for sharing these very important messages. Most of the people hospitalized with COVID-19, especially those experiencing severe symptoms, are unvaccinated. If you have not been vaccinated, please get vaccinated. It could save

As soon as they were readily available, Jeffrey Walker says he ordered four free tests for his wife and two daughters. "I'll do anything to protect my family and loved ones. The way I look at it, taking these precautions helps ensure the safety of those around you," Walker said. "It's still difficult to grasp that we are actually in the third calendar year of this

On CovidTests.gov, the process of ordering and taking tests is thoroughly documented step by

## In Black History Month keynote, RC speaker Brandon Fleming preaches importance of empathy

Brandon P. Fleming, assistant Harvard debate coach and author, believes storytelling is the most effective way to reach someone. If you know someone's story, he believes, you'll be able to relate to them on a deeper level and stand in their shoes for a

moment. "Stories change people more than information ever will," Fleming told an audience gathered in Roanoke College's C. Homer Bast Center and tuning in virtually on Feb. 16. "Stories change people more than data ever will, and the reason why is that stories are the gateway to

empathy.' So, Fleming, in delivering Roanoke College's Black History Month keynote address, told his story. It included joining a gang when he was 12 years old, escaping that life through basketball only to suffer a serious injury, dropping out of college and then re-entering college with almost no preparation.

Then everything changed because of one professor's compassion, said. Fleming While Fleming was a struggling undergraduate student at Liberty University, an English professor pulled Fleming into her office and asked for his life story. Then she proceeded to share her struggles, showing Fleming that she truly cared about him. That altered his philosophy and made him understand the importance of empathy,

Fleming said.

"It's incumbent upon every single one of us to understand that we have a moral responsibility to love first and teach second," Fleming said. "Love first, teach second. I don't care if you're a teacher, I don't care if you're a parent, I don't care if you're a student. We are all in the business of reaching people, and in order to reach people, we must love first, teach second."

Fleming went on to establish the Harvard Diversity Project, which recruits and trains highly motivated Black youth into a summer debate residency at Harvard. The program has helped these students get experience at an Ivy League institution where they can grow as leaders and students.

ning at 7PM.

Fleming spoke to more than 100 people in person at the Bast Center and many more watching via Zoom. His speech was called "Undoing Miseducation," and he recently wrote a memoir entitled "Miseducated."

Makayla Trent '23, who attended in person, said Fleming's words resonated with her.

"I think it's a message that we really need to hear because sometimes we forget how powerful our own stories can be to somebody else and the impact it can have on their life,"

Students had an opportunity to ask Fleming questions, many of which were about how they can better relate to people and encourage others to open

up. Fleming advised students to think about the people who have helped them in the past and to emulate them. "The best way to dis-

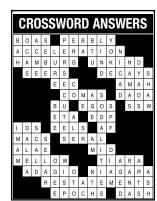
cover what your purpose is and to live a purpose-driven life is to be for somebody else what you once needed," Fleming said.

Trent, a business administration major with a human resources concentration, is involved in a variety of campus organizations including Black Student Alliance, Hispanic Organization for Leadership Achievement (HOLA), Alpha Sigma Alpha, Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), cheerleading and choir. She said she hopes to take Fleming's advice and share it with

those organizations.

"I feel like it was a little reminder and refresher, and I'm going to take it, in all the positions and things I do on campus, to just spread more light and love to our campus and be more open to talking to new people and be more inclusive," Trent said.

Submitted by Roanoke College News



# God's House Is

#### 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: Worship 10:00 a.m

CORNERSTONE CHURCH

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

#### CRAIG HEALING SPRINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

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

**CRAIG VALLEY BAPTIST** 

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

#### CRAIG VÄLLEY GÖSPEL 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.

11:00AM and 6PM. Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7PM, Youth Group

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 10:00ÅM, Sunday Worship 7:00PM, Reformers Unanimous Addiction Recovery every Friday eve-

#### **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 Ser-

### vice 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" 282 Salem Ave., New Castle; 864-5212; Sunday Mornings: 9 A.M. Contemporary Service and 11:00 A.M. Traditional Service with Sunday School at 10 A.M.; Wednesday night Bible study at 6:00 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 FELLOWSHIF

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

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#### **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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M/F/disability/veteran

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#### **Part Time** Newspaper **Production Help**

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#### Legals -**Botetourt** County

#### **ABC NOTICE**

Garrett's Bistro and Spirits LLC, trading as Garrett's Bistro and Spirits, 19386 Main St, Buchanan, Botetourt County, Virginia

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA AI COHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC)
AUTHORITY for a Wine, Beer, Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Daniel Garrett. Member

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

> Legals -City of Radford

#### **ORDER OF PUBLICATION** COMMONWEALTH OF

**VIRGINIA** VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,-317, 20-104 Case No. CL21006521-00 Radford Circuit Court 619 SECOND STREET,

KESSINGER, JOSEPH L. KESSINGER, PATRICIA G The object of this suit is to:

TO OBTAIN A DICORCE FROM THE BOND OF MATRIMONY It is ORDERED that PATRICIA G. KESSINGER appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before APRIL 5, 2022

February 8, 2022 Angel Turpin Deputy Clerk

#### City of Salem

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Legals -

Board will hold a public hearing for comment on the FY 2022-2023 budget on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. The hearing will begin at 7:00 PM at the School Administrative Office, 510 South College Avenue, Any citizen of Salem who wishes to address the

Board should contact Kathy A. Jordan, Clerk of the Board, at 389-0130 by Monday, March 7, in order to be placed on the agenda Individuals who plan to address the Board are requested to bring a copy of their remarks for the record. In accordance with Board Policy KD. Public Participation in Board Meetings, individuals who plan to address the Board are requested to:

- provide their name and address,
- address their remarks to the Board
- · be brief, · provide a copy of their
- remarks for the record, and be prepared to answer questions from the Board,
- In unusual cases or cases of emergency, the Board, by consensus, may allow an individual or organization to speak if not on the agenda.

#### Legals -**ADS** City of

OF A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PURPOSE OF **DETERMINING THE** NUMBER OF PUBLIC VEHICLES, TAXICABS,

AND FOR HIRE CARS FOR WHICH CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY SHALL BE ISSUED DURING THE NEXT YEAR AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF **DETERMINING TO WHICH** PERSON OR PERSONS SUCH CERTIFICATES SHALL BE ISSUED.

Salem

NOTICE

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 98-94 of The Code of the City of Salem, Virginia, the Council of the City of Salem hereby gives notice that at the regular meeting of said Council to be held on March 14, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room, Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Blvd., Salem, Virginia, a public hearing will be held for the purpose of determining the number of public vehicles, taxicabs, and for hire cars for which certificates of public convenience and necessity shall be issued during the next year and for the purpose of determining to which person or persons such certificates shall be issued.

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard, present evidence, and show cause why such certificates should or should not be granted.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, **VIRGINIA** 

H. Robert Light Clerk of Council

#### Legals -Montgomery County

#### ORDER OF **PUBLICATION**

Commonwealth of Virginia VA CODE § 8.01-316 Case No. JJ018698-15 Montgomery County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Cour **MCDSS** 

Charles E. Barkley, Jr. The object of this suit is to: Terminate the residual parental rights of Charles E. Barkley, Jr. legal parent of James Barkley a minor, in that said parent has, without good cause, failed to correct the conditions which resulted in the child entering foster care and it is not reasonably likely that they will be able to do so in a reasonable amount of time, failed to maintain continuing contact with the child and substantially plan for the child's future. Residual parental rights include, but are not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition It is ORDERED that Charles

E. Barkley, Jr. appear at the above-named Court and protect her interests on or before March 14, 2022

2-1-22 Amie Blankenship

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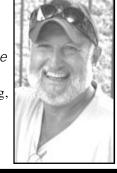
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# ORTS

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## **CRAIG BOYS MAKE REGION 1C BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

The Craig County boys basketball team finished in third place in the Pioneer District basketball tournament last week, qualifying for this week's Region 1Ĉ tourna-

The Rockets are scheduled to open region play tonight at Fort Chiswell. If they win they advance to Saturday's second round at a site to be determined, and the championship game is next Tuesday, March 1. The two finalists advance to the state Class 1 tournament, with the region champ having a home game and the region runnerup playing on the road in the state quarterfinal round.

The Rockets opened the Pioneer District tournament at home last week and took a 74-41 win over Highland County. Craig jumped

to a 21-11 lead in the first quarter and increased that to 44-20 by the half. The Rockets led by 33 points after the third quarter and coasted to the win.

Craig had a balanced scoring attack against the Rams, led by Colton Moore with 20 points. Matthew Lucas had 15, Zachary Peters had 11 points, Nathan Fisher and Mason Huffman had nine each and Dylan Crawford had eight.

That put the Rockets in a semifinal game against Parry McCluer in Buena Vista, and the defending Class 1 state champs just had too much for the Craig boys. The Blues' 6'11" center, Spencer Hamilton, scored 31 points and ruled the paint in a  $6\overline{3}$ -10 win for the home team. Fisher had five points

to lead the Rockets.

That put Craig in the third place game on Friday and the Rockets prevailed over Covington, 58-54, to earn the third seed from the Pioneer District in the region tournament. It also evened Craig's record at 10-10 for the season.

Parry McCluer won the district tournament championship with a 58-24 win over Narrows.



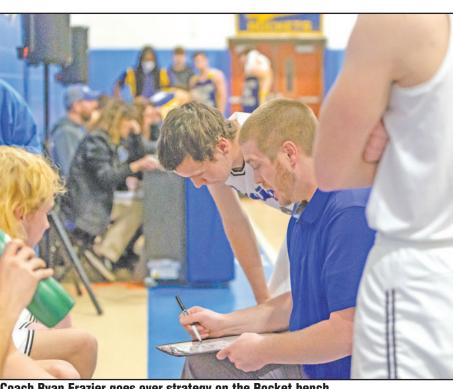
defenders to score.



Nathan Fisher lays one in against Highland.



Matthew Lucas drives by a Highland defender.



Coach Ryan Frazier goes over strategy on the Rocket bench.



Colton Moore pump fakes and scores for the Rockets.

## ROCKETS FALL TO COVINGTON IN GIRLS' DISTRICT HOOPS

The Craig County girls saw their basketball season come to an end with a 41-28 loss to the Cougars in Covington last Tuesday in the opening round of the Pioneer Disrict tournament.

Senior Hannah Caldwell led the Rockets with 10 points and 11 rebounds. Annabelle Gregory had eight points and Hannah Ratliff added sven. Lexxy Brookman sat out with "jumpers knee."

game was hurting," said coach Brock Jones. "We were out rebounded 46-23."

Craig jumped to an early 9-7 lead but struggled after that, as the Cougars outscored the visiting Rockets 21-2 in the second quarter and 18-5 in the third. The Rockets won the fourth quarter but, "that was too much to overcome," said Jones.

The Rockets finished 4-14 for

season progressed despite struggling to find practice time for a variety of reasons.

"I felt we got better as the season went along and, with some individual camps and team camps this summer, next year should be more promising for the girls' team," said Jones. "We are very young and have four juniors returning that will be seniors and be the core to our season next year. and be ready to compete next

year." The summer will be critical for the young Rockets, and Jones has

big plans for next season. Tm looking at team camps now along with individual camps and looking for teams to fill us a 22 game schedule," he said. "I'm hoping to host a Jamboree game in the summer or late fall against some Double A teams to prepare us for the future. We plan to make a trip to Charlottesville and work out with Professional basketball trainer Damin Altizer in the summer, who I had the pleasure to play against in my high school career. Damin went to Bath County and he works out professional players such as Lebron, James Harden, Kevin Durant, Duke's basketball team and many others all around the world. He will be a great person to learn skills from and work on our individual games."





Randalyn Taylor(#21) scores in a recent game.



Hannah Ratliff(#3) drives by a defender.

Summer Huffman is ready to rebound for the Rockets.