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"The Voice of Craig County"

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

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Land Lab finally becoming a reality

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

When you drive into Craig County High School (CCHS), one can now view the new fencing that has been constructed to the left of the school which takes up a lot of land.

The FFA (Future Farmers of America) students of CCHS have been working diligently on making their Land Lab's vision their new reality.

It's finally making a mark on the property, and a big mark.

Emily Nolen, the Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor at Craig County High School, shared, "I have plenty of kids staying after school and putting the work in. Their hard work is showing."

John Hunter has donated his time because he enjoys the

project and assisting Nolen in getting it underway as much as she does, as he noted he just wants to help support the FFA in Craig.

"I've known John since I was a little girl and he knows how much this project means to me," Nolen said.

Hunter explained each step as students listened, but then they proceeded to do the labor.

The students learned how to mark off the property, set fence posts (and dig many, many holes themselves), install the fencing, install braces, brace wire and the woven wire, how to drill pin holes and properly hang the gates and even how to add a holding bolt for the gate so that it won't sag over time.

See Land Lab, page 3



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Throughout this new venture of building the Land Lab, John Hunter has volunteered many hours in teaching the Ag students how to build a fence and hang gates. He also welcomes other citizens to join him in helping CCHS see their dreams become a reality.

After prom in need of donations and gifts

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

Craig County High School (CCHS) seniors are so excited that the doors have opened again to their school functions, including this year's Operation After Prom event.

"After not being able to hold After Prom for two years due to COVID, students at CCHS will finally be able to enjoy an After Prom event this year," Coordinator Karen Jones, also the McCleary Elementary Librarian and Gifted Resource Teacher.

The After Prom event, which will be held on April 9, provides an Alcohol Free - Drug Free alternative to the traditional drinking parties that have become the accepted form of celebration following the prom.

"Far too often, the lives of young adults and their special events are marred by the tragedy of drinking and driving accidents," Jones said. "The goal of Operation After Prom is to provide an alcohol free/drug free celebration to prevent such tragedies and to offer a fun alternative for our high school students."

The After Prom event also offers the community an opportunity to show their love and support for our young people.

"This project requires a large commitment, not only from the small group of volunteers who organize the event, but from the entire community,"

Jones said. "We are asking businesses and individuals to help make this event possible and to make it a night to remember for our high school students."

During the evening of Operation After Prom, more games are played than you can imagine, and fun is at its height.

Jones added, "We will need volunteers to help get sponsors, chaperone the event, etc."

The committee is asking businesses and individuals to help by donating however they can, with monetary donations, or items or merchandise that would appeal to high school students.

Gift certificates will be used as door prizes. They can use both small and large amounts in these.

For crafters who make handmade items, donated items are welcome! The more items, the merrier the students!

Or, if you sell items and wish to donate your wares or buy something as a door prize. No items will be turned down for our students in Craig. A variety is great!

Interested individuals who would like additional information can contact Monday through Friday from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 pm at 540-312-9285, or email Karen Jones (OAP Coordinator) at ksJones@craig.k12.va.us

Let's help our staff to get lots of prizes as they bring in the students, so they don't wish to go anywhere else and possibly get hurt. Let's help give our seniors a great After Prom party!



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Our local Craig Valley VFW Post 4491 is always there to lend helping hands to military services, community needs and individual help. They are now in need of financial support as they recently had to replace their water pump that quit working.

Local VFW Post 4491 in need of support

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

Veterans throughout Craig County have always served their community, after faithfully serving their country. Their hearts remain true to their life of service.

Our local Craig Valley VFW Post 4491 has had many expensive challenges in keeping up their Post.

They lived with orange water for decades,

until they had the water system installed a couple of years ago, due to some wonderful donations.

They have worked diligently in repairing and replacing many things that has needed attention and raised funds to cover them.

Over the last few years, the new wall heaters were installed, so they don't have to rely on the wood stove and these new systems have air conditioning as well. The

Post would get really hot in the summer for their meetings which kept them from having many functions. Over the last four decades, they never had AC before.

These installations then allowed them to rent the Post to community families and for other functions.

They have served the community by volunteering at the Feeding

See Post 4491, page 3

Craig girls prove you don't have to be big to be great



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Some of Craig's tiniest girls recently got to play basketball with the help and support of coaches and family members. Here, they are learning the art of excitement after making a two-point basket.



While the ball may get away at times, these little tikes, kindergarten through second grade, still fought to take it back to their team for a score.




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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.

craiglibrary.org.

EVERY SUNDAY

• **Alcoholics Anonymous** meeting, 8 p.m. at New Castle Fire Hall.

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.

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

DAR Chapter begins new year

Craig Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the America Revolution held their annual meeting recently where new officers were installed by Cynthia "Ricki" McKinney, Regent of Fort Lewis Chapter, and newly elected Chaplain of District VII. Visiting with Cynthia was her daughter, SSG Seyward McKinney (ret).

Officers who will serve for the next three years are Tina Crawford, Regent; Margaret Hines, Vice Regent and Registrar; Lois Groseclose, Secretary; Diane Givens, Treasurer; Dianne Brown, Chaplain; Mary Page Cosby, Librarian. Gifts were presented to Margaret, Tina, Diane and Cynthia in appreciation of their kindnesses and service to the chapter.

Tina Crawford gave a brief program on Washington's Farewell Address, reviewing his thoughts on unity, the Constitution, political parties, isolationism, religion, morality

and education. Our first President's words are still meaningful and timely today.

The Chapter is marking its 15th anniversary in 2022 and will be making plans for service projects and events to celebrate the date. The chapter was established in 2007 by the late Betty Huffman St. Clair and the late Helen

Looney. The founding regent was Nancy Field, now of Raleigh, North Carolina.

Established in 1890, the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American his-

tory and securing America's future through better education for children. For more information, visit DAR.org. To learn more about Craig Valley DAR, contact Tina Crawford at 540-864-6216 or Margaret Hines at 540-864-8447.

Submitted by Craig Valley DAR



Left to right, Ricki McKinney, Tina Crawford, Margaret Hines, Dianne Brown, Diane Givens, Lois Groseclose and Mary Page Cosby.



Outgoing Regent Margaret Hines presented the new regent, Tina Crawford, with the chapter gavel and a Regent's mug. The gavel was presented to the chapter in 2007 by the serving state regent.

Turmoil in the world's breadbasket adversely affecting Va. farmers

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is impacting global grain exports and production, oilseeds, fertilizer and petroleum, and is creating volatility for Virginia farmers.

"Ukraine is a country that's sensitive to shipping and sensitive to agricultural production," noted Robert Harper, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation grain manager. "Ukraine is one of the top five corn producers in the world."

Harper said that over one billion bushels of corn are exported from Ukraine, but because of the conflict, that crop will not be planted this year.

"This is creating extreme volatility in the futures markets," he explained.

Qu Dongyu, director general of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, wrote in a Morning Ag Clips op-ed that Russia is the world's largest exporter of wheat, and Ukraine is the fifth largest. Together, they supply 19 percent of the world's barley, 14 percent of wheat and four percent of corn, making up more than one-third of global cereal exports.

Since more than 30 percent of the world's wheat comes from the Black Sea nations like Russia and Ukraine, "traders see that

as 30 percent of the world's wheat disappearing," Harper said. "And the world is trying to figure out what we'll do if we lose 30 percent of our wheat."

Compounding this is the inability of commercial vessels to travel freely through the Black Sea, where Ukrainian ports have shuttered. That affects grains, crude oil and fertilizer, Harper noted. "Producers in Virginia will be dealing with the consequences of that."

Dr. Mark Alley, professor emeritus of crop and soil environmental sciences at Virginia Tech, told a gathering of cotton growers March 10 that the components of ma-

ajor fertilizers used in Virginia agriculture also are affected.

"Belarus and Russia are significant exporters of potash and nitrogen, and these are now off the world market," Alley said. Fertilizer prices in the U.S. have increased as much as 200 percent from this time last year.

Lewis Everett, a cotton, peanut and small grains farmer in Southampton County, said the rise in fertilizer prices is negatively affecting his farm.

He said even though prices for cotton are decent, inflation, supply issues and extremely high fertilizer costs mean that he'll operate in a deficit. "Even though

we're looking at a high commodity price, our cost of production is going to offset the margin difference in accelerated or inflated cotton price."

Everett added that he's concerned about the availability of supplies as well as the increasing costs of fertilizer and fuel. "And at what level of the ratio between the commodity price and the cost of production does it fall out at a net margin?"

He said the cost of nitrogen has more than doubled, and he typically applies it to the cotton throughout the growing season. "So that's just one fertilizer product ... that will definitely sting a

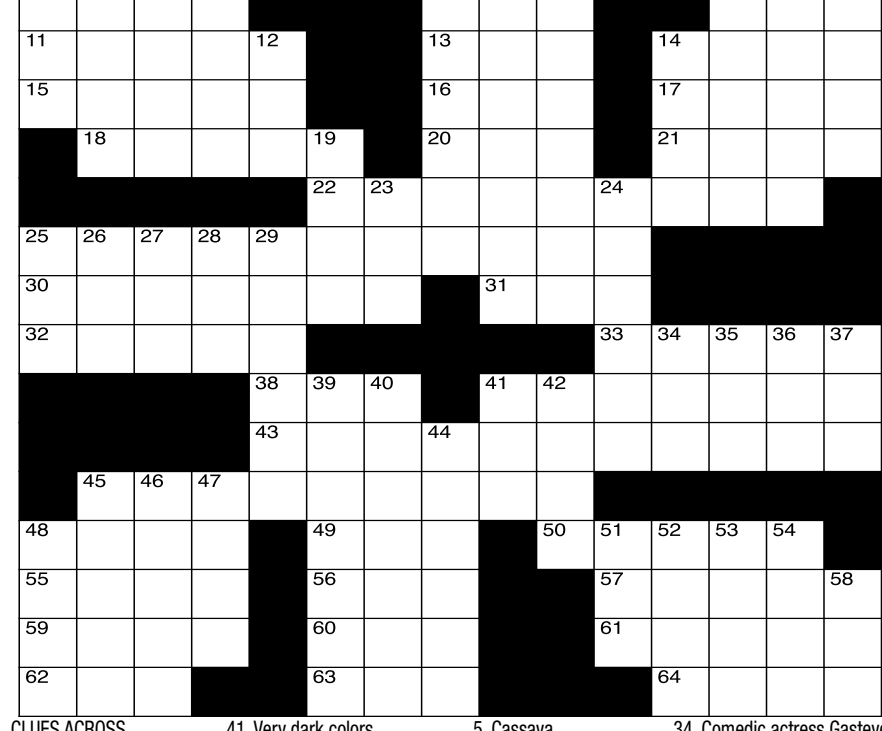
little bit as we move into the '22 production year."

Amelia County beef cattle, small grains and produce farmer Kenney Barnard said he's noticed fertilizer prices increasing for a while now. Last fall when he fertilized his small grains, it cost \$150 per acre. "Within six weeks it had gone up \$30 an acre," Barnard said.

Even though that was before the Russia-Ukraine conflict, he's concerned now. Increased input costs for fertilizer and fuel "are the highest I've ever seen," exclaimed Barnard, who's been farming since 1968.

Submitted by Lewis Everett

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- One who regrets
 - Time zone
 - Subway dweller
 - Bend in a river
 - Alias
 - Isodor ____, American Nobel physicist
 - Very (music)
 - Zero
 - Phil ____, former CIA
 - Competitions
 - Unwell
 - Puts in place
 - Gets rid of
 - Allows light to pass through
 - Climbed quickly
 - We all have it
 - There's a North & South
 - Emaciation
 - Supervises flying
 - Very dark colors
 - Unwanted
 - Grants
 - Three visited Jesus
 - Wife of Amun
 - Broadway actress Daisy
 - A Spanish river
 - (German)
 - French opera composer
 - Six (Spanish)
 - Last letter
 - Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
 - A curved shape
 - Make a mistake
 - Tall plant
 - Cassava
 - Talented
 - Capital of Estonia
 - Finger millet
 - In a way, assists
 - Men's fashion accessories
 - Misery
 - Skin disorder
 - Selling at specially reduced prices
 - Good friend
 - Stationary portion of a generator
 - Expression of disappointment
 - The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
 - Where birds fly
 - Midway between north and northeast
 - Chaotic states
 - Comedic actress Gasteyer
 - Kids' dining accessory
 - Snakelike fish
 - Midway between south and southeast
 - Assign lifelike qualities to
 - One who cites
 - Midway between east and southeast
 - North wind
 - One or the other
 - Cavalry sword
 - Of the Hungarian language
 - Life stories
 - Flat tableland with steep edges
 - Swiss river
 - Plant that makes gum
 - French cleric
 - One point east of northeast
 - Free from

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State-of-the-art Infusion Center opens within Sarah Cannon Cancer Institute at LewisGale Medical Center



LGMC staff celebrate new Infusion Center opening

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Inside the LewisGale Infusion Center.

Sarah Cannon Cancer Institute at LewisGale Medical Center opened a state-of-the-art infusion center for patients to receive treatments ranging from chemotherapy and new targeted anti-cancer treatments, antibiotics, and hydration fluids to red blood cells and platelets, as well as non-chemotherapy injections.

“Our new infusion center

greatly expands our ability to provide the latest, most sophisticated therapies for our patients in the Roanoke Valley, as well as provide them with a comfortable environment they so deserve,” said Dominique Dempah, MD, general surgeon at LewisGale Medical Center.

The \$1.3 million infusion center includes 21 private bays that

are equipped with new chairs that offer patients heat and massage for comfort during treatment, as well as mobile work stations that allow for private communications with staff and to schedule future appointments.

“We are committed to caring for, and improving, the overall health of individuals who live in our communities, eliminating the

need to travel far from home,” said April Woodward, vice president of oncology for LewisGale Regional Health System. “At Sarah Cannon, people who live with cancer – those who work to prevent it, fight it, and survive it – are at the heart of every decision we make.”

As part of the new infusion center opening, the facility is also expanding valet parking and now

offers this service in front of the cancer center entrance.

Sarah Cannon Cancer Institute at LewisGale Medical Center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. To schedule an appointment, call 540-776-4160.

Submitted by Christopher Finley, Senior Market Director

Land Lab

from page 1

“They have been doing nearly all of it,” John shared. “They put all the staples in this, put on the braces and dug the holes.”

“We have been working on this since last semester,” Nolen said.

She added, “We are working on marking the working

facility in order to place a head chute and a working pen and we hope to have some animals in soon for the rest of the semester.”

Nolen added that their annual greenhouse sale will start after spring break nearing the last week of April or the first week of May.

She added that if people are interested, they can contact her to pre-order at enolen@craig.k12.va.us. These funds will help support the FFA.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Emily Nolen, Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor at Craig County High School, has great visions for her students as they bring to reality the dream of having a Land Lab at CCHS. Students pictured here are Maygen Wright, Adam Charles, Kadance Anderson, Jamie Ratliff, Marcus Keen, Maci Winebarger, Neveah Hypes, Justin Boitnotte, Madison Kendall and Randalyn Taylor.



Ag students are learning from professionals and are excited about building their new Land Lab. Building this long fence and hanging gates was more intricate than some originally thought and required lots of their manual labor.

Post 4491

from page 1

America, raising funds for the local food bank and recent hurricane victims, and annually honoring teachers of the year as well as all first responders.

Also, they honorably provide the military salute at funerals to those who served, both here in Craig and in other coun-

ties if they are needed in addition to community military holidays.

They have allowed the Annual Veterans and Active Military dinners and the boy's youth club to use the Post for free for many years.

Unfortunately, they just had a very unexpected replacement of their

water pump which cost approximately \$1,640 which was more than they had in their account.

The pump was as old as the building which was built in the late 1970s.

“It just quit,” shared Commander Billy Lee. “It was the type that goes down in the well.”

He added that they had to replace the electric

wire into the well also.

They do need funds to help pay for the pump and its installation as it came very unexpectedly and cleaned out their account. They are in need of approximately \$1,000 for this to be paid and the insurance is due next month.

Their hopes are to have a dinner in the near future to help build up

their account again, but their need is immediate. COVID has put a damper on their annual fundraising fish dinners.

The 4491 Post is one of the heartbeats of our community.

Also, as a note to the community, their driveway needs to be redone. It is steep, and washes away easily. Vehicle tires spin easily going up which create even more ruts in it.

If you would like to rent the Post for a function, it is \$25 for one hour, \$40 for two hours and \$75 for all day (or only \$25 all day for Post 4491 member.) They do charge an additional \$25 if they haul off the trash for the event.

To donate towards their immediate need, interested individuals may send your check to VFW Post 4491, 295 Hunters Drive, New Castle,

VA 24127 or Billy Lee – Commander, 27 Cavalier Lane, New Castle, VA 24127.

They are very appreciative of any donation or ideas for fundraisers.

Let's continue to thank our Veterans for their service by helping them to have a respectable place for them to continue their meetings and functions.

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Spring Cleaning

Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community

With a library as small as ours, when an item is added to the collection, another item must leave to make space. Every inch of usable space is filled with books and movies at the Craig County Public Library.

Patrons can check out any item absolutely free of charge as well as ordering by way of the interlibrary loan. Let your librarian know what you'd like to have at the library. The library receives funding from the Library of Virginia specifically for adding new resources for our patrons.

What this also means,

is that your tiny library cannot keep multiple copies of an item on the shelves. Every donated book cannot go on the shelf, even if these are in great condition. Your donated books go to good homes in other ways. If they will not be added to the collection, they will be put in the Book Barn where they wait for someone to "browse and buy" from the Friends of the Library collection, or they may be given away on one of our special Swap Days. The important thing is that books get into the hands of readers!

Swap days are coming up three times a year so look for the new flag making the announcement as you drive by! Each Swap Day has a theme with the one next month being plants for home and gar-

den.

The Library collection of movies also gets updated periodically, and the old DVD's are put into the book sale. Currently, there are a tall stack of movies to choose from, so come on by and check it out! Space has to be made for the exciting new media that has been ordered.

The Craig County Public Library thanks everyone for their support and patronage. You can become a Friend of the Library for only \$5 a year! This membership allows you to come to our annual meeting in May and vote for the board of trustees. You will be called upon from time to time to help with an event. We treasure our Friends for they know the value of libraries in the lives of people of all ages!



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Whenever an item is added to the library's collection, another item must leave to make space.

DRPT Director Jennifer Mitchell steps down, Acting named

Secretary of Transportation W. Sheppard Miller III, recently announced that Jennifer Mitchell, Director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation will step down from the agency effective March 18, 2022. The Governor,

upon recommendation of the Secretary, has selected Jennifer DeBruhl, who has been the department's Chief of Public Transportation for over five years, as the acting director.

"Jennifer Mitchell has served the Commonwealth well over the

last eight years, steering it through a number of major initiatives, including dedicated funding to WMATA, extending Amtrak service to Roanoke and the capstone, \$3.7 Billion Transforming Rail in Virginia. Jennifer has been a real credit to Virginia and we wish her well as she moves to this exciting and important position. We look forward to continuing to work with her in the future." Miller said.

In 2020, in recognition of her significant achievements, Mitchell received the Thomas W. Rice award from the Virginians for High Speed Rail, and was named by COMTO as a "Woman Who Moves the Nation". In 2018, she was named by Railway Age as a Woman of the Year

"It has been a great honor to serve the Commonwealth, and I am proud of what this agency has accomplished to improve our public transportation and rail systems," Mitchell said. "There is still a lot of work to be done, especially as we emerge from the pandemic, and I am pleased that the Governor chose Jennifer DeBruhl to steer this agency forward."

Starting in April, Mitchell will start as the Deputy Administrator at the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). As a part of the United States Department of Transportation, FRA administers rail funding, provides safety oversight, and studies new improvements and innovations. Mitchell will play a significant role in implementing the Infra-

structure Investment and Jobs Act.

"As excited as I am about Jennifer Mitchell's opportunity, I am equally excited that we have such a talented professional in Jennifer DeBruhl to step into this role. I have known and worked with her for over 10 years and know that she will do an excellent job," Miller said. DeBruhl, who joined DRPT in 2016 as the Chief of Public Transportation, has over 25 years of public service to the transportation community. She has provided leadership in the evaluation, assistance, and execution of a \$4.2 billion portfolio of public transportation, commuter assistance, and congestion management programs throughout the Commonwealth. Prior to joining

DRPT, DeBruhl served at the Virginia Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration.

DeBruhl has an undergraduate degree in Urban Studies, a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning, and a Certificate in Public Management, all from Virginia Commonwealth University.

"I look forward to furthering the innovative work happening at DRPT and addressing the Commonwealth's pressing rail and public transportation needs," DeBruhl said. "I'm eager to work with everyone at the department and our partner agencies to take on the challenge of getting public transportation back on its feet after the coronavirus pandemic."

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

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The New Castle Record encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Record reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length content and style. News of public interest is solicited from all sections of the county.

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

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OBITUARIES

Sizer, Phyllis Lee

Phyllis Lee Sizer, 82, passed away peacefully on March 17, 2022. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joe Nelson Sizer; parents, Buck and Dixie Lee; and sister, Catherine Hedge.

She is survived by daughters, Vickie Kibler and Brenda Dillon; grandchildren, Alex Kibler (Courtney), Kacy Ledford (Josh) and Landon Hunt; great-grandchildren, Aiden and Easton Kibler and Grayson Ledford; brother, Bill (Nancy) O'Brien; special friends, Shelby Rexrode and Re-



nee Brown.

Phyllis was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She dearly loved her furbaby, Bentley. She will be greatly missed by all that knew her.

A Graveside Service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, March 21, at Huffman Memorial Park with Jonathan Lee officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Mt. View Christian Church, New Castle, VA.

Arrangements by Paitsel Funeral Home. www.paitselfh.com

Blankenship, Lois Mae

Lois Mae Blankenship, 91, surrounded by her family, passed away on March 15, 2022. Lois was born on June 17, 1930, in Vinton.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Carl (Junior) Winston Blankenship; parents, Oscar Vernon and Lizzie Kate Price, and was the last surviving of her 12 siblings; brothers, Clarence (Pearl) Price, Robert "Bobby" (Marie, Libby) Price, Howard (Valerie, Miriam) Price, Leo (Laura) Price, Oscar Vernon, Jr. "OV" (Vivian) Price; sisters, Viola (Elmer) Gray, Doris Wood, Thelma "Ducky" (Daniel) Schultz, Violet "Jenny" (Clyde) Wrenn, Betsy (Paul) Green, Dorothy "Dot" (Frank) Dame; son-in-law, Robert "Bobby" Darouse; and daughter-in-law, Judy Blankenship.

Left to cherish her memory are her sons, Jerry Blankenship, Roger (Donna) Blankenship; daughters, Dianne Darouse

and Patti (John) Ritter; 11 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; seven great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Lois was an active member of Craig Valley Baptist Church for many years. She taught Sunday School, vacation bible school, helped in the nursery, and assisted anywhere she could. She enjoyed sewing, cooking, canning from her garden and spoiling all "the boys" in her large family.

Visitation was from 11 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 19, at Paitsel Funeral Home in New Castle, followed by a Graveside Service officiated by longtime friend J.C. Winstead at Crossroad Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Craig Valley Baptist Church or a charity of your choice.

Arrangements by Paitsel Funeral Home. www.paitselfh.com

February 2022 general fund revenue collections support revised forecast

Governor Youngkin recently announced that February revenue collections support the revised general fund forecast issued last month. Total general fund revenues fell 1.2 percent in February compared to last year's unusually large number, as more refunds were issued this February due to last year's delayed opening to the refund-processing season. February is not considered a significant month for revenue collections. On a fiscal year-to-date basis, total revenue collections rose 13.6 percent, ahead of the annual forecast of 9.2 percent growth.

"This revenue report supports the mid-session forecast, and reinforces the need for us to cut costs on families and strengthen Virginia," said Governor Youngkin. "We have strong revenue forecasts that can fund tax cuts. With the highest gas prices on record and the highest inflation rates in decades, we have to provide relief for Virginians and we have the revenues to do it now."

"This month provided no surprises since we announced the mid-session forecast last month. The key to the general fund revenue forecast remains the 4th

quarter when individual income tax final payments are due on May 1," said Secretary Cummings. "I am closely watching nonwithholding collections given its connection to a volatile stock market. However, I am confident that the revised revenue estimate provides sufficient cushion to meet the forecast."

Collections of payroll withholding taxes decreased 1.3 percent in February. Collections of sales and use taxes, reflecting January sales, rose 7.9 percent in February. February receipts include January post-holiday sales

and gift card purchases, completing the holiday shopping season, however the severe winter weather could have delayed some purchases. The main tax return filing season began in February; the Department of Taxation issued \$280.1 million in refunds compared with \$217.0 million in February of last year. Through February, 595,000 refunds were processed compared with 486,000 last year.

On a year-to-date basis, collections of payroll withholding taxes – 56 percent of General Fund revenues – increased 9.7 percent

ahead of the annual forecast of 9.0 percent growth. Sales tax collections – 17 percent of General Fund revenues – increased 14.8 percent through February, ahead of the annual forecast calling for an 11.4 percent increase. Recordation taxes advanced 0.5 percent on a fiscal-year-basis, ahead of the 4.3 percent decline in the annual forecast. Total revenues rose 13.6 percent through February, ahead of the annual forecast of 9.2 percent growth.

Submitted by Macaulay Porter, Office of the Governor

Commonwealth's unemployment rate held steady at 3.3 percent in January

Governor Glenn Youngkin recently announced that Virginia's unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.3 percent in January, while total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 4,900 jobs. The Commonwealth's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.3 percent is 1.5 percentage points below the rate from a year ago. The labor force increased by 16,461 to 4,277,757, as the number of unemployed residents decreased by 1,892 to 139,261. The number of employed residents rose by 18,353 to 4,138,496. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which rose from 3.9 to 4.0 percent in January.

The Commonwealth's labor force participation rate increased slightly by 0.3 percentage points to 62.9 percent in January. The labor force participation rate measures the proportion of the civilian population age 16 and older that is employed or actively looking for work.

"My administration is committed to boosting economic growth, creating jobs, attracting businesses, and lowering the cost of living for all Virginians," said Governor Youngkin. "One of our top priorities is ensuring that Virginia's economy serves and benefits Virginia's workers, businesses, and families alike."

"The economic growth that we have seen in recent

months slowed slightly in January, but that's no cause for worry," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Caren Merrick. "Our unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, and our labor force participation rate rose to 62.9 percent last month. We're confident that our business and worker friendly policies will continue to spur economic growth throughout the Commonwealth in the months ahead."

"We see plenty of good signs for Virginia's economy," said Secretary of Labor Bryan Slater. "In recent months we have seen employers across the Commonwealth, and the nation, struggle to find and retain quality workers. We

must work together with our workforce development partners to ensure that workers in Virginia have access to training and resources necessary to fill these positions."

From January 2021 to January 2022, the VEC estimates that establishments in Virginia gained 89,800 jobs, an increase of 2.3 percent. In January, the private sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 83,400 jobs, while employment in the public sector gained 6,400 jobs. Compared to a year ago, on a seasonally adjusted basis, eight of eleven major industry divisions experienced employment increases while three saw employment decrease. The largest over-the-year

job gain occurred in leisure and hospitality, up 46,200 jobs (+13.7 percent). The next largest over-the-year job gain occurred in professional and business services, up 17,700 jobs (+2.3 percent). Other job gains occurred in trade and transportation (+10,700 jobs), education and health services (+7,800 jobs), and government (+6,400 jobs). Within government, only local government saw an increase in employment (+11,100 jobs) while state (-4,500 jobs) and federal government (-200 jobs) both lost jobs over the year. The largest job decreases over the year occurred in manufacturing which lost 2,800 jobs (-1.2 percent). Other employment losses

occurred in construction (-1,700 jobs) and finance (-1,600 jobs).

For more details, visit the Virginia Employment Commission's website at vec.virginia.gov

Submitted by Macaulay Porter, Office of the Governor

CROSSWORD ANSWERS																
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God's House Is Always Open

<p>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.</p> <p>CHESTNUT GROVE CHURCH Duane Wente, Minister, Rt. 42, New Castle, 540-864-5692. Sunday: Worship 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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!</p> <p>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</p> <p>CRAIG VALLEY GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP HWY 621, Pastor Roy Lee Law Jr., "Jay", 864-8984. Sunday School 10:00am; Worship 11:00am., Wednesday night Bible study 7pm, from HWY 311, up HWY 621, 8 miles on left.</p> <p>CROSSROADS CHURCH 21892 Craigs Creek Road, New Castle. Pastor Gary Burch. 864-7520. Sunday School- 10-10:45AM, Sunday Worship - 11AM-Noon.</p> <p>FIRST BAPTIST Pastor Kevin Altizer, Corner of Main Street & Boyd Ave., New Castle. Church phone 864-5919. Sunday School 10:00AM, Sunday Worship 11:00AM and 6PM. Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7PM, Youth Group</p>	<p>7:00PM, Reformers Unanimous Addiction Recovery every Friday evening at 7PM.</p> <p>GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD 5530 Catawba Valley Drive, Catawba, VA, 540-384-7075. Pastor Lorraine Taylor, agladypastor@msn.com. Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Evening service at 7:00 p.m.; Youth (ages 13-18) & Super Church (ages 4-12) Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. You can also watch on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m. www.graceassemblycatawaba.org</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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. Rev. Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, & 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST Pastor Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle, 540-525-7662. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, & 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.</p> <p>MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN 4199 Craig Valley Drive, New Castle, 864-6622. Sunday: Worship Service 9:00 a.m., Children's Church 9:15 a.m., Sunday School 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>NEW CANTERBURY PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP Pastor John D. Abbott, Hwy 621 (10 miles), phone: 864-8242, Sunday Morning Lesson 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday Night Service 6:00 pm.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>THE CHURCH OF CHRIST 118 Main Street, New Castle. Service Times: Sunday, Bible classes-10 a.m., Worship-11:00 a.m., Evening Worship-6 p.m.; Wednesday, Bible classes - 7 p.m.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CRAIG COUNTY COMMUNITY CHURCH - 'WELCOME HOME!' 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>ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH 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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If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com



Auctions

Auctions

Legals - City of Salem

Legals - Town of Vinton

Legals - Botetourt County

Legals - Botetourt County

PUBLIC NOTICE

The contents of the below listed Units located at Affordable Mini Storage, 1045 Peppers Ferry Rd. NW, Christiansburg VA will be sold at Public Auction at the facility at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 28, 2022

The Storage Buildings are listed below:

SB12, SB38, SB48

Affordable Mini Storage reserves the right to refuse any bid. TERMS: Cash or Credit Card at Sale.

Tarter Creep Feeder
Round Bale Rings
Tarter American Squeeze Chute
Shop Tools:
Two Hydraulic Presses
Vices
Workbenches
Air Compressors
Wrenches
Manual Tire Changers
Metal Band Saw
Log Chains
Chain Binders
And Much More, too
Numerous to List

Terms: 5% Buyers Premium (EXCEPT FOR CATTLE), Cash, Good Check or Card (4%), Announcements made on the day of the sale will take precedence over any written matter. Everything is sold "As is - Where is" with NO implied or expressed warranty. Items are represented to the best of our knowledge, Hours and Mileage are Noted, But Not Guaranteed by Auctioneer or Seller, Auction company, Auctioneer, and/or seller assume no liability in the event of an accident on the grounds of the auction. Good Food by Mill Creek Baptist Church Auctioneers
Cody L. Manspile - Lead Auctioneer VA AL# 2907004430
Linford Berry- VA AL #2907004397
Marcus A. Showalter- VA AL# 2907004772



Farm Retirement Auction

of Mrs. Kathryn L. Bush and The Late Rodney Bush
Saturday, April 2nd, 2022 9a.m
292 Shawnee Trail, Troutville, VA 24175

Internet Bidding Available on some Equipment at www.CircleCAuction.com
VA AF# 2908001046
Sale Order Cattle, Tools/Shop Equipment, Tractors/ Farm Equipment
Finishing on Miscellaneous

Cattle:
30+/- Angus and Angus Cross Brood Cows
15+/- will be Cow/Calf Pairs with the Balance being Bred
One Coming 5 year Old Angus Bull
All Cattle will be vet checked prior to the auction for Pregnancy and Age

200+/- of 2020 First Cutting 4x5' Round Bales, String Tied Outside Kept

Tractors:
New Holland T4.75 with 665 TL Loader (Skidsteer Attach) - only 353 hours
John Deere 5055E with 553 Loader - 2798 hours (being used daily to feed)

New Holland TL80 with 52 Loader (Skidsteer Attach) - 789 hours
New Holland T4040 - 700 hours

Case 1390 - showing 1379 hours - approximately 2300 on the tractor

Case 580B construction series backhoe with 24" & 12" buckets
Hay Equipment:
New Holland BR7060, twine tie - less than 10,000 Bales
New Holland 316 Square Baler

New Holland H7220 Discbine with Rubber Roller Conditioners
New Holland 488 Haybine - used less than 10 acres (like new)

New Holland 474 Haybine
New Holland 451 7' sickle bar mower

Two New Holland 258 Rolabar Rakes (one has never been used)
New Holland 163 Four baskets hydraulic fold tedder

Two Basket tedder
Two New Holland 80 3PT hitch bale carriers
Four Flatbed Haywagons - 18'

Equipment:
2014 Compro 16' bumper pull livestock trailer
Titan 1808P 8' pull type rotary cutter
Tarter 3PT woven wire unroller (never used)
LandPride RTA2072 3-point hitch tiller
Woods 6' 3PT bushog
2 Wheel flatbed cart
Skidsteer pallet forks, bale spears (two)

Two pull type discs
Shaver HD10 3PT post driver
Two 3PT potato plows
Danuser F-8 post hole auger
9" & 4" auger bits
Ford 501 16' two bottom plow
Bushog 90-08 8' 3pt scraper blade
Quick attach 9' front blade
Skid Steer (converts to a box blade)

Herd 3PT Hitch Spreader
Two Troy-Blit "Horse Rear Tine Trillers"
FMC 3PT hitch sprayer with booms

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
Case No. CL22000168-00
ROANOKE COUNTY Circuit Court
305 East Main Street, Salem, Virginia
VICK, BROOKLYN RAYNE v. VAUGHT, BROOKLYN RAYNE
The object of this suit is to: NAME CHANGE OF MINOR
It is ORDERED that CECIL DURAN VICK appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before 04-01-2022 @ 11:30 AM

FEB 18 2022
Benjamin Guerrant
Deputy Clerk

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Board of Appeals (Building) of the City of Salem, Virginia will hold a public hearing, in accordance with the provisions of Section 18-38 Code of City of Salem, Virginia, on **March 31, 2022, at 3:30pm in the Community Room at the Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard**, in the City of Salem, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting and hearing shall be to determine if a certain structure is dangerous to the inhabitants of the City and whether such structure should be ordered to be repaired or demolished. The structure is located as follows:

(1) A dilapidated structure located at 17 7th Street Street, Salem, Virginia (Tax Map # 184 - 2 - 2).

All parties in interest at the public hearings will be given an opportunity to be heard, present evidence, and show cause why action by the City and Board to remedy a potential dangerous situation should or should not be granted. For additional information, contact the Building Official's Office, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia (Phone 375-3036). THE BOARD OF BUILDING APPEALS OF THE CITY OF SALEM

BY Troy D. Loving
Troy D. Loving,
Building Official

Legals - Montgomery County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ004883-09-00
Floyd County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Floyd County DSS v.

Brandi Reed
The object of this suit is to: Terminate the residual parental rights of Brandi Reed, legal parent of Luna Kelley, 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 Brandi Reed appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before May 3, 2022.

2/22/22
Nikki King
Clerk

THE CLASSIFIEDS - Where the Deals Are!

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

To place your ad, call 389-9355

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED BOND ISSUE BY THE TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA

The Council of the Town of Vinton, Virginia (the "Council") will hold a public hearing on the proposed issuance of a bonds by the Town of Vinton. The estimated maximum amount of the bond is \$710,808. The proposed use of the bond proceeds is to pay the Town's share of costs of capital improvements to the Western Virginia Water Authority's regional wastewater treatment plant and costs of issuing the bond. The public hearing which may be continued or adjourned and at which persons may appear and present their views on the proposed bond will be held at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on April 5, 2022, in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, located at 311 S. Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia 24179.

Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate at this public hearing should contact the Town Manager's office at (540) 983-0607.

Susan N. Johnson
Town Clerk

Trustee's Sale 3772 Lithia Road, Buchanan, VA 24066 (Parcel ID: 77-38B)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust endorsed on April 13, 2012, in the original principal amount of \$136,694.30 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Botetourt, Virginia on April 27, 2012, as Instrument Number 120001762, and modified by a Loan Modification Agreement recorded on January 11, 2017, as Instrument Number 170000150, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on April 27, 2022 at 2:00 PM, in front of the building housing the County of Botetourt Circuit Court, 1 W. Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, the property designated as New Parcel 38A-1, containing 1.250 acres, more or less, as more fully shown on that certain "Family Division for Ralph L., Jr. and Rebecca S. Watts", dated October 31, 2006, prepared by Kyle D. Austin, Land Surveyor, and recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Plat Book 39, Page 20. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$13,000.00 or

10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review upon request before the sale, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector. Tromberg, Morris & Poulin, PLLC on behalf of Southeast Equity Trustees, LLC and/or Auction.com-VA, LLC, Substitute Trustee(s), 413 Stuart Circle, Suite 314, Richmond, VA 23220, File No. 21-000116, Tel: 561-338-4101.

STATEWIDE ADS

AUCTIONS

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LIVESTOCK SALES

G&E Virginia Premium Assured Heifer/Cow Sale. March 26th, 2022 12:00 noon. G&E Test Center Gretna, VA. Call George Winn at 434-489-4458.

RECRUITMENT

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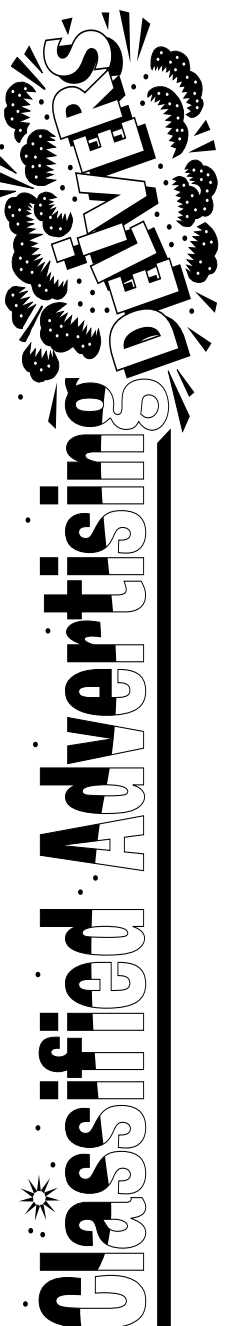
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"mailto:landonc@vpa.net" landonc@vpa.net

SERVICES

DIVORCE-Uncontested, \$395+\$86 court cost. WILLS-\$225.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. HYPERLINK "https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com" https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com.

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SPORTS

Send story ideas & announcements to bhoffman@ourvalley.org

Craig is at James River for softball game Thursday

Craig County softball team is at James River on Thursday for a non-district game. The Rockets will be looking for their first win after dropping game to Christiansburg and Altavista to open the season.

Christiansburg took a 12-2 win over Craig in the season opener in Christiansburg on March 15. Sara Jones started on the mound and allowed

two earned runs while striking out three in two innings. He also had Craig's only hit, a two run double that drove home Annabelle Gregory and Madison Underwood.

Jones was on the mound again Friday at Altavista as the Colonels took a 13-0 shut-out win. Jones allowed three earned runs and fanned four in three innings. Karly Potter and

Hannah Raffiff provided bullpen help for the Rockets in the two games.

Gregory was two for three with two stolen bases against Altavista. Jones and Jennifer Pitzpatrick were one-for-two with singles.

"We struggled with the fundamentals this week," said Craig coach Elaina Wolfe-Carper. "They looked re-

ally good at our practices all week and things fell apart in the games. I think that at this point it's mental for us. At practice, they make their plays and make great contact with the ball. The girls need to work past the pressure that comes in for games and be confident in their abilities. If they do that, then the wins will come. This is a talented group, but many

just don't have the experience that helps in these game situations."

After Thursday's game at James River the Rockets will have their home opener on Tuesday, March 29, against Christiansburg. Then it's off to Giles a week from today, on March 30, and back home to host James River on Thursday, March 31.

Rocket soccer team has four straight road games



PHOTOS BY CRYSTAL HICKSON

Alex McDowell(right) and Ava Greenway defend for the Rockets.



Bryce Drake controls the ball against Auburn.

The Craig County soccer team will try to bounce back from an opening day loss with four straight games on the road.

Craig was at Bath County

on Tuesday of this week, followed by a game in Covington against the Covington Boys Home on Friday. Next week the Rockets are at James River on Monday. Then, they're off

until April 5 when they travel to Eastern Montgomery. The next home game is Friday, April 8, against James River.

The Rockets opened the season last week against a

strong Auburn team and lost 8-0. The Eagles controlled the game, reigning shots on the Rocket goal.

"We had a few good runs into their defense but

couldn't get through to the goalie," said Craig coach Jeff Hickson. "I want to say they had roughly 20 to 30 shots on our keeper, who had about 10 saves."

Baseball team opens this week

The Craig County baseball team will have their first game since 2019 on Tuesday of this week when the Rockets play host to Bath County.

Craig only has two games in March. Next week they're at Giles for a March 30 game on Wednesday.

Things pick up in April with three

straight home games. Craig will host Eastern Montgomery on April 5, Narrows on April 12 and Covington on Thursday, April 14.

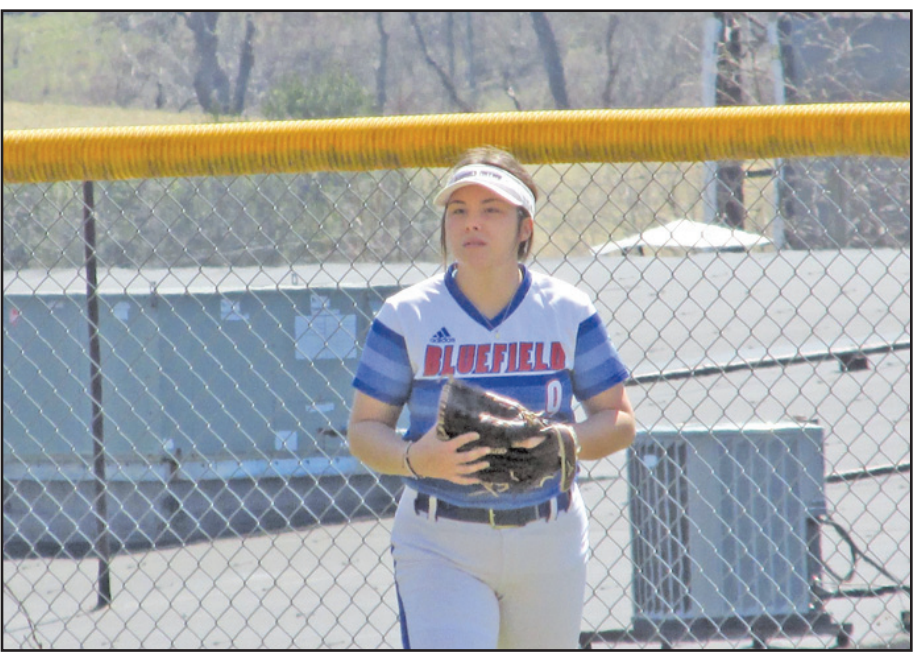


PHOTO BY MICK HAUPT

Taylor is pitching for Bluefield University



Hannah Taylor (#9) is a pitcher for the Bluefield University softball team.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Craig County graduate Hannah Taylor is a sophomore pitcher for the Bluefield University softball team.

On Saturday Taylor

pitched her first complete game, going all nine innings as Bluefield dropped a 3-2 extra inning game to Union College. Hannah also

had two hits for the Rams.

A 2020 graduate of Craig County High School, Taylor was a standout for the Rockets

before losing her senior high school season due to the pandemic. As a junior she was named first team All-Pioneer District, second team

All-Region and Pioneer District Pitcher of the Year.

Taylor has appeared in six games for Bluefield this spring, starting two.

She currently has a 2.42 earned run average.

When Hannah is not pitching she plays outfield for Bluefield. She has four hits and an RBI.

Salem Red Sox Return to Carolina League

MiLB announces leagues for the 2022 season

The Salem Red Sox, Class-A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox, will once again be a member of the Carolina League, announced by Minor League Baseball last week. This is the 53rd year the Red Sox are participants of the league, after spending the 2021 campaign in the Low-East League.

The Red Sox have been in the Carolina League since 1968. In 1972 the Salem Pirates, an affiliate of the Pittsburgh

Pirates, captured the league championship for the first time. Since then, the professional team in Salem has celebrated being the best in the Carolina League three more times, the last being in 2001 as the Salem Avalanche, a Houston Astros affiliate.

Salem is joined by the 11 other teams and will primarily compete against teams in the Northern region of the conference.

"We are excited to

be back in the Carolina League after a year away," Salem's General Manager Allen Lawrence said. "The Red Sox have a lot of history in the league, and we are thrilled at the opportunity to make even more history against a handful of great teams."

Opening Day for the Red Sox is set for Friday, April 8th, as the Red Sox play host to the Lynchburg Hillcats. First pitch is slated for 7:05 p.m.

