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ourvalley.org (USPS-378-080) "The Voice of Craig County" Wednesday, March 2, 2022 \$1.00



Rabies shots fundraiser helps provide funds for Rescue Squad



Dr. Marge Lewter slowly approaches each animal with the assistance of a volunteer to give Kimla McDaniel's dog, Ella, her rabies shot.

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

By 9 a.m. last Friday, the rabies shots were to start being administered at the Craig County Fairgrounds with over 25 vehicles in line and volunteers in place at the gate to help guide people. Cats were in their cages and many dogs were looking out windows checking out the event. Other dogs had their heads out windows.

Veterinarian Dr. Marge Lewter, along with many volunteers, set up the station, though blistering winds continually blew their papers off the tables and out of their hands.

Still, they pushed through until the very end.

The volunteers assisting were, Dr. Marge Lewter (administering shots), Robert Wrzosek, Walter Marsden,

See Rabies, page 5



The New Castle Town Council approved a lower local cigarette tax than Roanoke to be effective by May 30.

New Castle cigarette tax now lower than Roanoke

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

The implementation of a cigarette tax in Craig County has generated much discussion in the last few months.

At the February 21 meeting, the Town Council chose to implement a

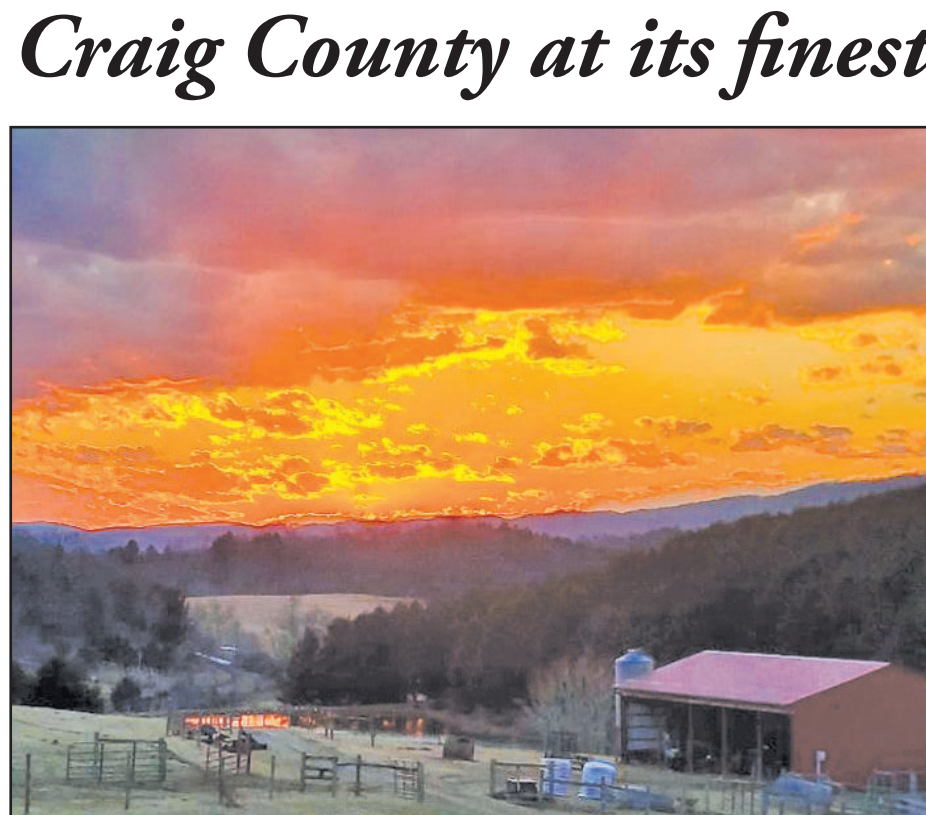
20 cents per pack cigarette tax, therefore canceling out the county tax for those businesses within the town limits, including Gopher Market, Food Country and Family Dollar.

The county cannot charge their tax on these localities. However, with new

See Cigarette Tax, page 3



It took many volunteers to make the rabies clinic run smoothly and successfully, though the blistering wind tried its best to mess with their paperwork multiple times.



Kammie Fisher recently captured the reflection of the sun off their pond as the evening sun set and the sky looked like molten fire.

School Board has begun budget preps

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

One of the most difficult jobs of the Craig County School Board is to make their budget monies go as far as they can, covering the most needed areas.

The following members were present at the February monthly meeting: Superintendent Jeanette Warwick, Chair and Craig City District representative Trace Bellasai, Vice Chair - Potts Mountain Faye Powers, Craig Creek Rep. Kevin Altizer and Darren Gilreath - Simonville and Walter Marsden - New Castle.

Superintendent Warwick gave an overview of the budget process.

"Though it's still very early and these are not solid numbers, we are beginning the process

of developing our budget," she said.

The presentation is also available on the schools' website.

"At the very end, it is all about our kids. Every child a graduate, every child prepared for life," she emphasized. "Whatever that means to that child, whether going onto a two-year or four-year institution, or workforce, we want to give them the skills they need to be prepared for life."

Warwick added, "The budget has to drive what we do in the school system in order to make sure that we are able to support this mission and our goal."

She shared the financial outline of the divisions educational program.

"Every year we want to be very intentional with our money and make sure any expenditures or any approvals that we make

always end to affect our students," she said.

Warwick explained the current budget funds she has to work with is from Governor Northam, however it will change in the future.

Warwick gave an outline of the process:

- January through March - Stakeholder input
 - March and April, the School Board will adopt a budget
 - May the Board of Supervisors will adopt their budget and the School Board may have to revisit the budget pending the decisions of the BOS (which depends on local shares and contributions from the BOS)
 - June and July will continue with expenditures and audits
- She went over the Governor's proposal for pay increase. Marsden asked about the

Governors' budget, as the increase in inflation does not cover the five percent possible raise. Bellasai agreed wholeheartedly, adding that since Craig County is so small, they do not have the large tax base, nor did they receive the added funds that some schools received from the locality.

"I would encourage you to reach out to the Board of Supervisors for those funding options," Bellasai added.

Warwick noted that she shared with the BOS that if they do not receive all the matching funds, the schools will lose approximately \$800,000 in state funding.

She also shared the Composite Index which determines a school divisions ability to pay education costs fundamental to the Commonwealth's Standard

of Quality.

The Department of Education determines what the average daily membership of the schools will be. The historical data includes:

- 2014 - 2016 = .3157
- 2016 - 2018 = .3026
- 2018 - 2020 = .3235
- 2020 - 2022 = .336
- 2022 - 2024 = .3362

"However, for many years now, Craig County Public Schools have suffered in that the student membership (attendance) continues to decline annually and is currently at an all-time low," Warwick added, "This is a trend we are seeing in many counties. However, just because our enrollments are declining, it is not in just one grade level."

See Budget Preps, page 5



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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.

Fenwick Mines still a thing a beauty



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lorna Bragg recently captured the special beauty of Fenwick Mines during its late February season.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

From left to right, Easton Rutter, Pauline Armes, Vanessa Rutter and Sawyer Rutter.

Beloved community resident becomes a centenarian

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.

"I knew that this was such a monumental milestone and I wanted her to be able to celebrate this in the best way imaginable," Pauline's granddaughter Vanessa Rutter said. "However, due to the circumstances of a pandemic and people not gathering together as they normally would, we had decided to postpone that until later in the spring so we could do an outside event."

She added, "I still didn't want her special day to go unnoticed so I knew I had to do something that she would never forget. So, I set out with a goal to do 100 cards received from 100 different people for her 100th birthday. I was

very eager and excited to do this and as I started reaching out to people, it was an overwhelming response from individuals in Craig County, throughout the United States and even outside of the country."

Originally from Cedar Bluff, Virginia, while Pauline didn't grow up in Craig County, she is loved by an innumerable amount of locals

of all ages. Most of her adult life was spent living on a farm with her late husband, Wade Armes. Together, they had four children: Larry, Jack, Nancy and Jim.

In addition to her four children, Pauline also has five grandchildren – Rick Alsbrook, Vanessa Rutter and Misty, Tim and Darlene Armes – and seven

See **Centenarian**, page 4



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

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Bay Area Transit Auth. (abbr.)
 5. Pull apart by force
 9. Ancient Egyptian King
 12. Missing soldiers
 13. Capital of Japan
 14. Diamond month (abbr.)
 15. Spheres
 16. Surpassing good
 17. British thermal unit
 18. Philippine island & seaport
 19. Legally argued
 20. Belonging to singer Fitzgerald
 22. Bowler hats
 24. Has a strong odor
 25. Doyens
 26. London Gallery
 27. Rural delivery

28. Rods
 31. Stonehenge plain
 33. Withdraw from membership
 34. Execute or perform
 35. Central or Yellowstone
 36. Municipality in Norway
 39. Bay of NW Rep. of Ireland
 40. Skin designs
 42. Son of Jephunneh
 43. Baseball's Ruth
 44. Clare Booth __, Am. writer
 46. Black tropical American cuckoo
 47. Filled with fear or apprehension
 49. 6th Jewish month
 50. Wide metal vessel used in cooking

51. Make by pouring into a cast
 52. Colombian city
 53. Heat unit
 54. Carpenter, red and army
 55. Adam and Eve's garden

CLUES DOWN

1. Big man on campus
 2. Made public by radio or television
 3. Labelled
 4. Inform positively
 5. Drinks habitually
 6. Supplemented with difficulty
 7. SW Scottish river & port
 8. American poet 1874-1963
 9. Pads
 10. Ingestion or intake
 11. Tie up a bird before cooking
 13. Bulrushes of the genus Scirpus
 16. Turned rod on a spinning wheel
 21. Having or covered with leaves

23. The 44th U.S. President
 28. Midway between S and SE
 29. Tuberculosis (abbr.)
 30. Inspected accounting procedures
 31. A twilled woolen fabric
 32. Potato state
 33. The work of a sailor
 35. Involving 2 dimensions
 36. Fanatical or overzealous
 37. Consolation
 38. Wild sheep of northern Africa
 39. Erect leafless flower-bearing stalk
 40. Afrikaans
 41. Weighing device
 43. Very dry champagne
 45. Emerald Isle
 48. A resident of Benin

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Cigarette Tax

from page 1

information of neighboring county cigarette taxes, the county may consider reducing their county tax too.

Present members at the Town Council were: Mayor John "Bucky" Johnson, Vice-Mayor Tommy Zimmerman, Clerk and treasurer Nina Davis, Town Attorney Bruce Mayer and members Lenny McDonald, Karen Crush and Heather Duncan.

The main subject of the meeting was the adoption of an ordinance of a town cigarette tax.

Business owners Mike and Richard Carper of Gopher Market and IGA Express Exxon and David Stephens, Food Country store manager, attended.

"Our cigarette sales have dropped drastically," Stephens said. "With the cigarette price increase, our retail sales are down around 30 percent. So that means people are going out of our county to buy their cigarettes."

Stephens reported that since January 1, their sales loss was great.

Mike Carper noted that he read in last week's paper of how much revenue the county was going to raise on the proposed cigarette tax.

"I know that our two stores sell 78 percent of the cigarettes in this county. I picked three random weeks and last week, we were down with the tax increase," he explained, adding, "Last week, we received 116 cartons of cigarettes at Gopher and 114 at IGA Exxon. Before January 1, our total cigarette sales were 150 plus cartons every week, which is down 24 percent overall."

The American Lung Association did a survey and Virginia's average cost of a pack of cigarettes, before inflation hit, came to \$5.25. If the Carpers lose 35 cartons per week in sales, which equals to approximately 150 per month, that is \$7,875 a month in lost revenue per store. That does not include the loss of what those citizens would have bought in gasoline, food, lottery tickets, drinks, and beer or wine purchases.

Carper said, "It has also hurt our bottom line."

Mayor Bucky John-

son asked if it had affected our overall store sales.

Carper quickly responded, "Absolutely!"

"I want to do what is right by the citizens of Craig," Carper added. "If you guys are working for the citizens, we three have the most at stake," referring to Gopher Market, IGA Express Exxon and Food Country.

"With 78 percent out of our two stores and another almost 20 percent at Food Country, that is almost everything," he said.

Carper proposed, "We would like to see no higher than say \$2.00 per carton. I know there is a provision request from the county to ride along with their ordinance and I ask that you not do that. If you are going to allow the county to do the other \$2.00, then do the entire \$4.00 for the town."

Carper agreed that it is a revenue generator but stood firm with his and Food Country's decreasing figures that, "we are running people off!"

Carper reiterated the words spoken at the BOS meeting that the county wishes to wait a year to see what happens. "But we already know. We lose business," he said.

Tommy Zimmerman asked about the county's tax and the town's tax to see if then it would be a \$6.00 per carton tax.

Mayer explained, "No, with our permission, we can allow them to also have their ordinance." (Though he does not believe the total of both can go above the \$4.00 per carton.)

"I'm begging you, don't do that. Let's start off small and let's see what happens. Let's give it six months and the cigarettes sales will be back up because they will be cheaper," Carper shared. "It's not a hard sale. It's not hard to figure out. You guys are on the board because you are smart, not because you are just there."

He added, "Give me six months and I will show you. If I'm wrong, it can be published in the paper that Mike Carper was wrong."

Carper also informed them that stamps do not have to be purchased as a member had this concern.

"You do not need steady increases in the cost of EMS," Spence said.

"Yes, there have been steady increases in the cost of EMS," Spence said.

McDonald continued, "That is not going to go away with the cigarette tax. If we do a smaller cigarette tax in the town, they still need \$100,000 and we have taken that source of revenue away from the county."

Zimmerman also asked of how much of that \$100,000 is raised by insurance costs of billing the insurance companies and Medicare for services rendered.

Spence shared that the EMS does bill, but is currently unaware of the exact amounts.

McDonald's concern is that there is no infrastructure to implement and the county ending up looking for revenue through property taxes.

It was explained that would be all of Craig residents instead of just the few that smoke and the small businesses that take the revenue loss.

McDonald continued, "Inflation is up over seven percent and cigarette costs will go up significantly more from inflation than the tax the county has proposed. The sales of cigarettes since 2002 have dropped 12 percent. This is a piece of the business that is going away slowly. It is not something the convenience stores can rely on year after year, as it is going to drop. So, I am struggling to see where we would step into this as a town in that we would not have a mechanism in place to enforce, manage or audit it. My concern is that we are stepping into a potential storm that we really aren't prepared for. I realize there is a competitive nature between Roanoke and Craig County on the tax that has been implemented. Just as our county has given a good faith saying, 'we will look at it again as soon as we run out of these stamps.' Roanoke County is also willing to reconsider where they are placing their taxes. I am empathetic to our business owners. You need the business. I also know you gain businesses by putting in those skill machines."

Carper said, "To your point, cigarettes were down. It is the number two sales in convenience stores. Over 27 percent of our business comes from cigarettes. If you take that away, we won't be here."

Mayer then explained how the wholesaler buys the stamps and places them on the cigarette packs.

Carper noted the easiest was not to do the stamps, where the wholesaler pays for the stamps, but to get the quarterly payments from the local businesses buying from the wholesaler who in turn pay the town.

Explained Mayer, "My opinion is that we should have a stamp. There could be some kind of check-system, where we make sure they are not selling cigarettes without stamps. We can do some spot checking."

The county just got the authority to apply a cigarette tax, but cities have had it for some time.

He noted it takes up to five weeks to get the stamps, which would be different from the county stamp. They have to pay a discount to the wholesaler for putting a stamp on the individual packs.

Mayer stated \$920 per week in tax to Town, \$874 after discount paid, which equals \$45,000 per year. Stamp costs are about \$125 per month.

Davis shared they could call and set an appointment to purchase the stamps from her.

Carper reminded them that normally 15,000 stamps come on a roll for wholesalers.

Mayer expressed possibility of having an auditor.

Addressing Jesse Spence who was in attendance at the BOS meeting, McDonald shared, "The reason this happened in the first place is our EMS are slowly having to step away from volunteer services and pay EMS personnel. Also, this allows us to have them to have the correct certifications to take care of everybody and you needed \$100,000."

Carper quickly responded, "Absolutely!"

"I want to do what is right by the citizens of Craig," Carper added. "If you guys are working for the citizens, we three have the most at stake," referring to Gopher Market, IGA Express Exxon and Food Country.

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Craig County School Board

March 8, 2022
5:30 pm

Regular School Board Meeting
& Public Hearing
FY 2022 Budget Input

Location
CCHS Auditorium

be here."

Pam Dudding feels like one of the main points was that we have small businesses in Craig County.

"We don't have what they have in Roanoke. They depend on the people to buy their cigarettes, who also at the same time purchase fast-food items, lottery tickets, gas and beer," she said. "I set there one evening and watched people buy cigarettes. They aren't just buying cigarettes when they come in. I know you are concentrating on the cigarette sales, but the cigarette sales that they are losing doesn't include the gasoline sales lost, the small convenience items lost, the beer, wine or lottery tickets lost."

McDonald did note that gas was cheaper in Craig County.

Speaking up, Carper said, "And why do you think? (As the Carpers have done this intentionally to keep business in Craig.) In Roanoke, they have multiple gas stations they drive by. Why do they come to us?"

McDonald answered, "Because it is three cents cheaper."

Then McDonald added, "Ok, I get your point on the cigarettes."

Dudding explained that if Craig businesses are losing 37 percent of their revenue, the county won't be receiving "all that tax" that they were expecting, just like other counties that have done this exact thing in previous years and it boomeranged on them as well.

Zimmerman stated, "I don't care what you are dealing with, if you keep the price down, sales go up."

"I have my concerns that I don't think we are in position to implement it," McDonald said. "I feel the county says that they will in time reconsider."

Several attendees chimed in quoting the BOS previous statement, "They may reconsider after seeing a years of tax implementation."

Crush emphasized, "But if they hire these two EMS employees, they are then responsible, so how then would the county lower the cigarette tax? They aren't going to lower it."

Zimmerman made the motion to, "Enact at 20 cents per pack. Let the county have the entire revenue and take care of the implementation, etc. and it would be theirs."

Mayer shared that he believes the town must collect the tax.

Carper shared that he feels like they are getting too deep into the implementation.

"The stamps come and get the huge roll, and you don't see the wholesaler again until he is almost running out," he said. "There are only three stores and you're looking at 98 percent of the cigarette sales here."

Stephens said, "This is only three stores that we are talking about in New Castle."

Carper repeated the option of using no stamps and have the wholesalers to pay quarterly.

Mayer asked how they would know. If the stamps are there, then we can check.

Carper expressed, "Our inventory is closely the same all the time. As far as enforcement – two years from now, no one is going to come look and see if there is any kind of stamp on a cigarette and you know how that goes."

McDonald said, "No, because we have never done it before."

Carper said, "I have, and I know how it goes. I'm throwing it out there that you don't have to do the stamps if you feel it is that big of a deal."

Dudding reiterated, "Again, you are talking about a small town. Trust. We are talking about initially considering a trust factor."

"We are just saying to give us a fighting chance as we have lost a lot in this new 40 cents per carton tax and not just cigarettes, it is across the board," Carper added. "Our sales are down."

Carper shared that he actually had a customer message him asking which store in town she should buy her cigarettes. He explained they were the same. She said, "Well, I'm going to Roanoke tomorrow."

"Now that is just one customer that reached out to me, but how many others have not?" he said.

McDonald said, "Apparently another 26 percent."

"Let us prove it to you," Carper suggested.

Mayer suggested to hold off.

Zimmerman said he believed the longer they hold off, the more sales will be lost.

Mayer reiterated that the county said they would look at it again.

It was noted that the county had stated at their meeting that they wanted to have a 12-month period before making any changes though Spence said he was sure that this would be a topic of discussion at future Board of Supervisors meetings.

"I can tell you we will reconsider the rate for sure," he said. "If we had the knowledge of what Roanoke County's rate would be when we adopted our ordinance, I don't think we would have made our rate 40 cents."

Spence explained, "It is a way to increase our revenue without increasing real estate taxes, which all of our neighbors are currently taking, so it is a route the county chose to use as well. The rate is not set in stone, and I think

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See Cigarette Tax, page 4

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Craig County School Board

March 8, 2022
5:30 pm

Regular School Board Meeting
& Public Hearing
FY 2022 Budget Input

Location
CCHS Auditorium

- Forestry Mulching/Brush Cutting
- Right of Way & Land Clearing
- Stream & Pond Services
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Swap Days 2022

Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community

Green things are emerging! Spring will soon be here. Do you like plants? Do you like free plants? If so, then come to the library on Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for our Plant Swap Day. There will be house and garden plants. Bring some yourself and trade out for new ones. This is a good time to start cuttings of your indoor plants to bring to Swap Day. By April, they should have

roots to bring to the event.

Take home plants for free. Pull your truck or car onto the lot and give out free plants. It's time to enjoy the outdoors and share a day with your neighbors. And there will be books. Lots of free books. We welcome book donations in advance or on Swap Day.

Start your spring cleaning by sharing your extra books and plants with others. Any overflow will be distributed to other plant and book lovers in the area.

Future Swap Days at the library will be on Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Household Goods Swap Day - June 25
Holiday Décor &

Winter Clothing Swap Day - November 12

Swap Days were great fun last year. A lot of amazing things were re-homed, all for free. We look forward to seeing you there this year!

Library News:
Volunteers are always welcome. We need trained desk volunteers, program and event volunteers, committee members and more. Attend a board meeting on the second Monday of the month to learn more. Volunteer for a day, or every day - we can use you!

Thank you to everyone for your continued support through the pandemic and onward to the future!



SUBMITTED PHOTO

In less than two months, Plant Swap Day will happen at the local library.

Centenarian

from page 1

great-children, Logan and Hayden Reynolds, Sawyer and Easton Rutter, Page and Leah Armes and Tiersten Spencer.

One of Vanessa's favorite memories with her grandmother was being taught about crocheting as a child. "I have so many fond memories with my grandmother. I always enjoyed her teaching me to crochet and cook her delicious oatmeal cookies. I think I really understood her more once I became a mother myself. She taught me a lot about

being a parent. It is always a good thing to look to Psalms and Proverbs with all my problems and worries," Vanessa said.

Early on, Pauline realized that life was an adventure. While she never had a driver's license, that has never held her back from having a positive impact on friends and family and making countless memories with loved ones.

The New Castle Record wishes this remarkable woman a very happy belated 100th birthday!

Cigarette Tax

from page 3

it can be changed. We were down a member when the vote happened. When it was proposed to make an adjustment, it was 3-2 then and we lost one of the positive votes."

McDonald asked Spence about Roanoke rates and Spence said that Dan Collins had more information, though when Roanoke County was asked about changing their rates, they were undecided.

"With that said, you do know the rates," Carper added. "Right? You know Roanoke County is \$2.50. There is a lot of moving parts to this, but you now have the knowledge that maybe some of the other counties that didn't look into it. We need to be competitive and now we are not, not at all."

Duncan asked if the county had talked of what they would do if the town adopted this tax.

"No, but I can only speak for myself as one member of the Board," Spence said. "I would do what you feel is the best for the town of New Castle. We were using it as a way to raise revenue, but we have other methods, so it's nothing personal. It is just a way to fill in some gaps, especially in areas we see a lot of increases and EMS is one of them."

Mayer shared that they did get an official request from the county not to disallow their 40 cents per pack.

Zimmerman shared that that would not help the businesses.

"This would help our businesses out, as that is what they are asking us for," Zimmerman said. "This council represents the town and its people and its busi-

nesses. That is all I have heard for the last several years from people to take care of our businesses. So, let's take care of our businesses."

Zimmerman made a motion to enact a town cigarette tax of 20 cents per pack as soon as possible and reiterated that he did not want to keep the funds from the cigarette tax.

"We have a good working relationship with the county, and it has improved over the years, and I don't want to see something driving a wedge between us now," he addressed Spence, "We are not doing this to take money away from you, we are doing this to help our businesses."

McDonald shared, "Now is the time to vote on a date so we can publish it so their customers will come back."

The ordinance was adopted to have a town cigarette tax of 20 cents per pack, with an implementation date of at least May 30, 2022. All members voted yes except for McDonald.

The ordinance passed. The Carpers and Stephens thanked the Board for their consideration and caring for their small businesses.

Later, Carper shared, "I'm very gracious for the decision of the New Castle Town Council on adopting a 20 cents per pack cigarette tax at the February meeting. As I said, my cigarette sales were down almost 20 percent in just six weeks into the County's 40 cents per pack cigarette tax that took effect on January 1. Businesses in Craig County were put at a huge disadvantage with the county tax. This not only affected our cigarette sales, but overall sales in our

stores."

He added, "New Castle businesses will now be in-line with surrounding counties issuing cig taxes. This was not only the right thing to do for Town businesses, but for all of Craig County citizens that depend on our small businesses on a daily basis. Hopefully, we can work with the County to have a more reasonable cig tax that will not shut small businesses doors. Cigarette sales are a huge part of the retail businesses in Craig County. In a convenience store they are #2 behind fuel. For us to send that business out of the county really made no sense. Again, I want to thank the NC Town Council on listening to all the information and making an informed and the right decision for Town businesses and all of Craig County citizens."

"I believe 20 cents per pack is fair and competitive, but the 40 cents per pack was out of line in our market. The county chose to charge the maximum they could and put us out of the competitive market and took many customers out of Craig, out of our businesses," Stephens said. "That is all we were asking for, was a fair shake, to be competitive with Roanoke (or surrounding counties). We already have enough going out of our county now. Even our bank is closing; we don't need more."

Stephens noted that the most competitive prices on commodities are cigarettes and gasoline.

"The town stepped up, listened to us, and helped us as a business," Stephens said. "We weren't asking the county for zero tax, but to lower it. The town did and we all appreciate that."

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

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

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Legals - Botetourt County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 904 CRAIG CREEK ROAD, EAGLE ROCK, VA 24085.
In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated October 28, 2005, in the original principal amount of \$53,200.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 050006912. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090 on April 4, 2022, at 5:00 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: A CERTAIN STRIP OF LAND SITUATE ON THE NORTH SIDE OF STATE HIGHWAY ROUTE #615 ABOUT ONE AND ONE-HALF MILES WEST OF THE HOME OF R. E. ROBINSON AND FLORA S. ROBINSON, AND BEING LOCATED BETWEEN STATE ROUTE NO. 615 AS NOW LOCATED AND OLD COUNTRY ROAD NO. 615; THENCE IN AN EASTERLY DIRECTION WITH THE MEANDERS OF OLD COUNTRY ROAD TO A STAKE ON SOUTH SIDE OF SAID OLD COUNTRY ROAD; THENCE IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION, PASSING ONE FOOT WEST OF A LARGE LOCUST TREE, IN A STRAIGHT LINE STATE ROUTE NO. 615; THENCE IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION WITH THE

Legals - Botetourt County

NORTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF STATE ROUTE NO. 615, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING ONE ACRE, MORE OR LESS. ALSO KNOWN AS TAX MAP NUMBER 27B(1)SEC 9-14-19. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwvsales.com. BIDDERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO WEAR A COVER OVER BOTH NOSE AND MOUTH AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING AT THE AUCTION. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsales.com. VA-333688-2.

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 984 BLUERIDGE DRIVE, BLUE RIDGE, VA 24064.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated January 24, 2006, in the original principal amount of \$149,377.15 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia, in Book 0000 at Page 0026 as Instrument No. 060000515. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090 on April 4, 2022, at 5:00 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH ALL THE APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING, LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, STATE OF VIRGINIA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: BEING LOT 26, BLOCK F, SECTION NO. 4, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OF BLUE RIDGE HEIGHTS, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 146, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's

Legals - Botetourt County

Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwvsales.com. BIDDERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO WEAR A COVER OVER BOTH NOSE AND MOUTH AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING AT THE AUCTION. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsales.com. VA-350877-1.

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, 24141
KESSINGER, JOSEPH L. v. 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

Legals - City of Salem

PUBLIC HEARING
The City of Salem School 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, Salem. Any citizen of Salem who wishes to address the Board should contact Kathy A. Jordan, Clerk of the Board, at 389-0130 by Monday, 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.

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

Legals - City of Salem

Notice of Public Sale

Notice is hereby given that Storage King USA 201 Berkley Rd.NE. Roanoke VA 24012 will sell the contents of the storage units listed below at a public auction to satisfy a lien placed on the contents (Virginia Statute 55). The sell will take place at the website Storage Treasures.com on 03/15/2022 at 9:00 am. The sale will be conducted on Storage Treasures.com, under the guidance of Christopher Rosa (2907004316) on the behalf of the facility's management. Units will be available for viewing prior to the sale on Storage Treasures.com. Contents will be sold for cash only to the highest bidder. A 15% buyer's premium will be charged as well as a \$100 cleaning deposit per unit. All sales are final. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is described as "general household items" unless otherwise noted. 292-Annie Saunders-household goods.

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 Court
MCDSS /v. 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
Clerk

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF PROPERTY 1564 Alleghany Spring Road, Shawsville, VA 20158

Tax Map No. 097-A113A, Parcel ID 150126
In execution of a Deed of Trust dated March 3, 2008, in the principal amount of \$104,607.92, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, of record as Instrument Number 08002073, Woods Rogers PLC, Trustee, will offer for sale at public auction outside the main entrance of the Montgomery County Circuit Court, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, on March 22, 2022 at 12:00 noon, the property described in said Deed of Trust lying in Montgomery County, Virginia, and further described as follows:

All of Lot 1, containing 1.695 acres, as shown on a plat of survey entitled, PLAT Showing Relocation/Vacation of Lot lines, for Timothy L. Wimmer and James L. Wimmer & Grace Kelley-Wimmer, Plan No. P-6912, dated August 16, 2007, revised December 10, 2007, prepared by Marvi D. Stine, L.S., of Highland Surveys P.C., which plat of survey is recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, as PB 28, pg 67.

TERMS: Cash - Bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%)

Legals - Montgomery County

Notice of Public Sale

of the sales price by cashier's or certified check may be required. Balance of purchase price shall be due and payable no later than ten (10) days after sale.

WOODS ROGERS PLC, Trustee
For Information Contact: Woods Rogers PLC, P.O. Box 14125, Roanoke, VA 24038-4125, Telephone: 540-983-7729

Legals - Town of Vinton

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, the **Town Council** of the Town of Vinton, Virginia hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on **Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments concerning:

An ordinance repealing in its entirety the Vinton Town Code, Appendix B - Zoning Ordinance as adopted by Ordinance 634, enacted December 19, 1995, with amendments, and adopting by reference the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Vinton, Vinton, Virginia.

Further information concerning this public hearing may be obtained in the Planning and Zoning Department located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, VA 24179. (540) 983-0605, between 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Interested persons may be heard at the above public hearing.

Given under my hand this 3rd day of February, 2022.

Richard W. Peters, Jr.
Town Manager

NOTICE OF INTENT TO COMPLY WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.

Reasonable efforts will be made to provide assistance or special arrangements to qualified individuals with disabilities in order to participate in or attend the meetings. Please call (540) 983-0605 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting so that proper arrangements may be made.

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please be advised that the Vinton Town Council will hold a public hearing at its meeting on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia, on the following, to-wit:

TO SET A PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RATE OF NOT MORE THAN \$1.00 PER \$100 ASSESSED VALUATION IN THE TOWN OF VINTON.

TO SET A MACHINERY AND TOOLS TAX RATE OF NOT MORE THAN \$1.00 PER \$100 ASSESSED VALUATION IN THE TOWN OF VINTON.

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

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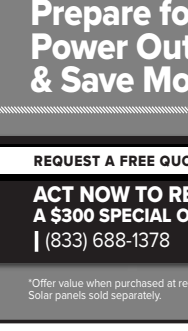


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Rocket basketball season ends with loss to Fort Chiswell

The Craig County boys saw their basketball season come to an end with a loss to Fort Chiswell last week. The Pioneers took a 65-31 win in the first round of the Region 1C tournament.

“Fort Chiswell was a very good team,” said Craig coach Ryan Frazier. “They were long and athletic, and played a unique zone defense that was tough for us to crack.”

It took nearly three minutes for either team to score before the Pioneers ended up getting into a rhythm, aided by a great environ-

ment in their gym. With the win Fort Chiswell advanced to the second round where they upset defending state champion Parry McCluer, 54-45. That put Fort Chiswell in the region championship game on Tuesday against Auburn and clinched a spot in the state while ending Parry McCluer’s season.

Leading scorers for the Rockets in the game at Fort Chiswell were Nathan Fisher with 14 and Dylan Crawford with eight, and they both chipped in with eight

rebounds while Fisher added 6 blocks.

“I was proud of the fight our team had, and that we never quit,” said Frazier. “That mindset was a major reason we were playing in that game in the first place. Fort Chiswell showed just how good they are as they went to Parry McCluer in the next round and got a win against the Blues.”

The Rockets finished their season at 10-11.

“I was really excited for the team to experience a regional game, and

they are the ones that earned that spot,” said Frazier. “It was a good year for Craig County Basketball. Although we feel as a group we could have had a few more wins, we are pleased with our progress, especially after not having a season last year. I think another year of development would have gone a long way for these seniors, who a majority of which was their first varsity experience.”

The 10 wins were the most for the Rockets in a few years, and the boys played hard every night.

“This season was a really enjoyable one for the coaching staff,” said Frazier. “Everybody we had took in the information we gave them and they really tried to apply it to the games. Every single person on our team this year contributed. We would not have had the success we had if it were not for everyone pushing each other in practice and making each other better.”

“This was my most enjoyable year coaching yet and I am proud of the progress we have made here at Craig County.”



Colton Moore

PHOTOS BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY



Dylan Crawford



Matthew Lucas



Nathan Fisher



Zachary Peters

TIME OUT FOR DAVE

The recent incident between the Michigan and Wisconsin basketball teams brought back memories of a time when I called a late timeout with the game in hand.

If you’ve been out of the country for the past two weeks, Michigan basketball coach Juwan Howard became irate when Wisconsin coach Greg Gard called a timeout with a 15 point lead and 15 seconds left. It resulted in a near brawl when tempers flared during the handshake line and Howard was suspended for the remainder of the regular season.

Certainly, there’s a matter of etiquette involved here. It was unsportsmanlike of Gard to call that timeout with the game decided, but others might argue that Michigan was still pressing at that point and they might have better served to back off as well. They weren’t going to catch the Badgers, down 15

with 15 seconds to go.

Whatever, there was no excuse for punches being thrown after the game, and I’ve yet to hear either coach offer an apology. Cooler heads should have prevailed.

With that said, I coached recreation basketball teams when my step-sons played and recall a game when I called a timeout in a similar situation. My team had the game well in hand with time running out when I signaled for a timeout with just seconds on the clock. With that, the obviously aggravated coach from the other team charged over to our bench and wondered just what the heck I was doing?

I explained to him that we had a boy on the team, Dave, who had never scored a point. He was a bright young man and a wonderful child but he had some motor skill challenges and, when he was on the floor,



Brian Hoffman
Sports Editor

we were virtually playing four against their five. I always had him on my team because he was a friend of my son’s and his dad helped me coach and, hey, it’s recreation basketball.

When I told the opposing coach I called the timeout to try and get Dave a basket in his last chance he not only settled down, but offered to have his team back off when Dave got the ball. With that I drew up the play to have the ball inbounded to Dave under the basket. There was no guarantee he would put it in.

The teams took the floor, the whistle blew, and my player inbounded the ball to Dave.

He looked round, concluded he was open, and put a two-handed shot high off the board. It bounced on the rim a couple times and dropped through the net just as the horn sounded.

Dave watched the ball go through the basket in half disbelief. He threw his arms in the air, the crowd roared and players from both benches rushed the floor, congratulating Dave on his first ever basket. At that point no cared who won the game, it was a win-win for everyone.

Nic Schmitt, who punted and kicked for the Virginia Tech football team, was on my 14 year old team that season. Years later, when he was a senior for the Hokies, I did a story on Schmitt for the paper. One of the questions I asked him was ‘what are some of the most memorable moments you’ve had in your sports career?’

Nic was a member of state

championship high school football teams at Salem, kicking the game-winning point one season. He was an all-state kicker and also a standout receiver, defensive back and kicker returner, so he had many memorable moments.

At Tech, he was the first string punter and backup placekicker. He played in some huge ACC games and won all kinds of honors at Tech. You’d think his favorite sports moment would have been pinning Miami inside the 10 or punting against Auburn in the Sugar Bowl, or even kicking the winning point to win that high school state championship. But no, do you know what Nic said?

He said his favorite all-time moment in sports was when Dave scored that basket.

I did my best to hold back tears, and that was one timeout I’ll never regret.