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Department of Wildlife Resources introduces new officers to southwest Virginia

Alexander Shedd
alexander.shedd@ourvalley.org

Two new conservation officers are joining the ranks of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) for southwest Virginia. Officers Ron Wood and Andrew Rohrer will be assigned to Craig County and Pulaski County, respectively, and look forward to their new assignments.

"I chose the job to be outside," said Officer Rohrer. "I enjoy hunting and kayaking, hiking... just to be outside is what I'm most excited for, because I worked indoors a lot before this. That change of pace is going to be really nice."

Officer Wood added that he is most excited for "Working outdoors and educating the public about the resources we have in the state."

DWR is responsible for the management of inland fisheries, wildlife and recreational boating, as per the department's website. DWR conservation officers receive law enforcement training at the department's academy and headquarters in Henrico County, Va., in the Richmond area, where they work through a 26-week training program. The program includes combat and survival training, as well as education on conservation law, boating and driving off-road vehicles such as ATVs.

"We do everything from defensive tactics to officer water survival—that was like a 16-hour swimming course—driver training, boat training..." recalled Wood.

"[Physical training] in the mornings, usually for an hour, followed by a lot of classroom time, case law, stuff like that," Rohrer added.

The officers are also eager to establish strong connections with the citizens of their counties. "I'm hoping for a really close, good working relation-



New DWR officers Ron Wood and Andrew Rohrer. PHOTO BY ALEXANDER SHEDD

ship, where they can call me if they have any issues or they see me dropping by, they can wave me down, have a casual conversation if they want, and I can do the same," said Rohrer.

The new recruits were accompanied by Sergeant John Koloda of the DWR who discussed the work the officers should expect from the job. Sgt. Koloda is currently department supervisor of the New River Valley region where he has worked for the last 19 years. Prior to that, he worked as a conservation officer in Roanoke, Botetourt and Franklin Co. "[We] do just about everything as far as general law enforcement, then all the extra stuff we do as conservation officers as far as boating, driving SUVs, ATVs, tracking stuff," Koloda explained. "Anything in the woods and fields is our game. Basically, you get paid to get lost in the woods."

Koloda also spoke on some particularly exciting aspects of being a conservation officer in Virginia in the wake of the successful bust of a large turtle poaching operation in the Commonwealth. "We've got covert or undercover guys that work on that

stuff that's hard for us uniformed guys to infiltrate," he explained. "In the past they've done black market-type things... bear gallbladders, those are very expensive on the black market before they ship them over to Asia. They use them for medicinal things. That's what they're doing with the turtles; they ship them over to Asia."

The officers also mentioned the department's upcoming kid's fishing days in locations across southwest Virginia. The department will be hosting fishing events for children during May in the following locations: May 7 at the Little River in Floyd Co. on Thunderstruck Road, event time TBD; May 7 at Pandapas Pond in Montgomery Co. at the USFS property from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; May 7 at Boy Scout Lake in Pulaski Co. at Camp Powhatan from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and May 14 at Wolf Creek in Giles Co. at Narrows Town Park from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Any individuals interested in a career with the Virginia conservation police or other parts of the Department of Wildlife Resources can visit the official DWR website at dwr.virginia.gov.



PHOTO BY PAM DIDDING

April 30 is National Drug Take Back Day. Many communities are setting up stations for this event. However, Stacey Fisher, at Market Street Pharmacy has a permanent station set up for the convenience of Craig County residents.

National Drug Take Back Day coming April 30

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

Undisposed drugs can cause great harm if not kept in a safe place, away from children, adults with dementia or others who have learned how to sell them or take them for the side effects. Drugs used wrongly can kill. They not only can kill a person, but a family if a loved one gets hooked on them. They can kill a person's quality of life, if they don't

know how to be released from the drugs calling to their body's system.

On Saturday, April 30 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. is National Drug Take Back Day, which is designed for anyone to bring their drugs or vapes to a place for safe disposal. The Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare helps to organize this event, in hopes to prevent accidents that cannot be reversed.

Development & Evaluation Coordinator J.D.

See Drug Take Back Day, page 3

McCleary Book Fair brings smiles to kids

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

To watch a child get excited in getting a book brings a deep sense of satisfaction to parents today. Many children are so "in tune" to iPads, phones and TV's that a book no longer holds any interest, even in a classroom. However, McCleary Elementary hosts an annual Scholastic Book Fair where thousands

of books are available for all ages.

This year, librarian Karen Jones shared that the fair was a great success again. "Parents were so excited to be back in the building as many had not visited McCleary since they brought their children for KG testing," Jones shared. "Also, many of my volunteers commented on how nice it was to be in the building again."

Jones' goal of sales was 600, hoping for each child to get three books. "The favorites among our little ones were Itty Bitty Kitty Corn, Couch Potato, and a sweet multicultural book called Eyes That Kiss in the Corners," she said. "The older students liked the scariest books - The Girl in the Lake and Escape."

"Journals were a big hit this year," Jones added. "Almost every child wanted one, especially the ones with the locks. I had several

children trying to buy three or four journals with their parents' money. I told them they must have a LOT of secrets to need that many journals!"

The sales tallied at approximately \$8,000. The school's profit is 25-50% of that, depending on how much they take in cash versus "Scholastic dollars" which can only be used at the Scholastic warehouse.

Jones shared that what touched her the most was how generous the kids were

with each other. "So many of them were sharing their money so friend could buy something they wanted or purchasing something for their friend instead of something for themselves - it was very sweet."

Jones also had contests for the students. "Several children won book fair items and book fair money by having their names drawn from our 'Reading Ticket Bucket,'" she said. "For a few weeks prior to the fair, students who were caught

reading for pleasure received a 'reading ticket'. All these tickets went into a bucket and names were drawn daily to win prizes from the fair."

Once again, the school had an anonymous donor to step up and provide money so that each child could purchase a book from the fair. "It was so nice that none of the children had to walk away from the fair empty handed," Jones said excitedly. "Our community members really take care of each other."



Little Rebel found the one book with a monster truck on it, and he was so happy that he had to look through it right there at the library book fair.



PHOTOS BY PAM DIDDING

Many kids were brought to the book fair to buy books during the annual event which was back in school this year. One little boy shared that he found books that looked like Legos but was just "like" Legos, explaining to me the important differences. He likes to build and read about kids who like to be robots.



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Roundabout construction begins at Route 311 and Route 419

Traffic to detour onto I-81 between exits 140 and 141 this summer for four to six weeks

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is beginning a road project to replace the signalized intersection of Route 311 and Route

419 in Roanoke County at Hanging Rock with a roundabout. Constructing a roundabout can enhance safety, improve traffic flow and require lower

maintenance costs when compared to traditional intersections.

Work is expected to start in late April and be completed in late fall

2022. During construction of the new roundabout, drivers can expect the following impacts:

From late April through Memorial Day: Nighttime lane closures with flaggers controlling traffic may be in place between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, at the intersection of Route 311 and Route 419 starting in late April for pipe installation and paving and to construct a new right turn lane and a portion of the new roundabout.

Early June through Mid-August: Portions of the Route 419 and Route 311 intersection will be closed, and a detour will be in place for approximately four to six weeks sometime between early

June and mid-August.

During this time period, some drivers will need to detour around the partial intersection closure onto Interstate 81 using exit 140 onto Thompson Memorial Drive and exit 141 onto Route 419. To access the graphic that depicts the partial intersection closure that will be in place for four to six weeks this summer, visit the project page of the VDOT website.

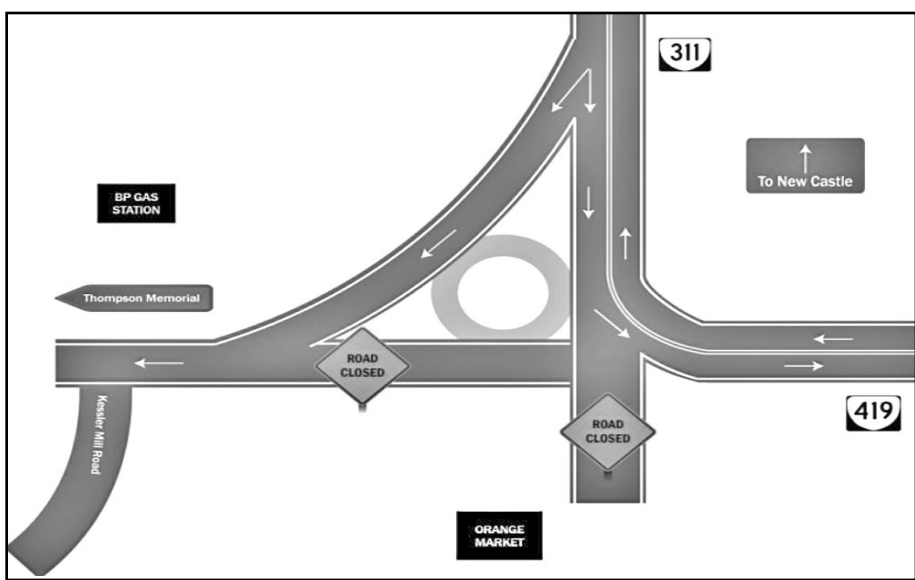
During the partial intersection closure, drivers will not be able to turn left from northbound Thompson Memorial Drive onto Route 311 (Catawba Valley Drive). In addition, northbound Route 419 (Electric Road) traffic will not be able to continue straight at the

intersection onto Thompson Memorial Drive. Southbound Thompson Memorial Drive traffic will not be able to drive straight onto Route 419.

August through November: The new roundabout is expected to be open to traffic in August or September. Drivers should still expect nighttime lane closures with flaggers between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday around the roundabout for final paving, pavement marking and sign installation.

VDOT awarded the \$2.4 million contract to contractor E.C. Pace from Roanoke in February.

Submitted article



Craig Schools gearing up for Summer Boost Program

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

Education is one of the most valuable tools anyone can possess. Craig County Public Schools work diligently in providing the best they can

for their students.

This year, CCPS will be able to offer the Summer Boost Program again. Last year seemed to be a huge success, both in the knowledge the students received and in the added fun they got to experience in going

to summer school.

Superintendent Jeanette Warwick shared at the April school board meeting, "Last year we received a grant to have a summer boost program for our students. It was a two-year grant, so we will continue

to have grant funding for a program again this summer."

Samuel Foster gave a presentation about the plans for this year's summer program. He noted that in February, a survey was conducted to see who would be interested in participating in Summer Boost camp.

"We had 33 respond and out of the 33, 25 said they could do all four weeks," he shared. "Therefore, at that point we knew we could go forward with the program."

He said that last year the summer was short, therefore they had to make it smaller, but this year there is a longer summer. "We will be able to do a four-week program which is the combination of helping them with math and reading, plus a kind of a summer camp atmosphere," he informed the school board.

"We will have science, PE, agriculture, music, art and activities for the students. It is a great opportunity for our children to add to what they already know in math and reading and to pick up something that they may have lost."

There are currently 28 individuals who wish to participate thus far. Kelly Stevens, assistant principal at the high school will be the administrator for the program.

"We are in the process of identifying and inviting students to the boost camp," Foster said. "We can handle approximately 20 students per grade level this year."

School will be for pre-K through 7th grade. Students who are in high school who will be participating in summer school will be in Credit recovery which will be through Virtual Virginia.

Boost Camp starts on June 6 and ends July 1, with hours 8:30 until 2 p.m. for students and 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. for staff and, thus giving the teachers an hour of planning every day. Meals will be served in the cafeteria for all as well.

"Limited transportation will be provided as there will be points where a bus will be where parents can bring their children," Foster said. "These will be major routes."

"We were able to have pre-K through fifth last year with about 20 students per grade," Warwick noted. "That was due to a staffing issue." Warwick added that she is excited to be able to offer the program again and that their staff is ready.

If you are interested in your child being in the program, please call the schools.



PHOTO BY PAM DIDDING

The Summer Boost Program at Craig County Public Schools is gearing up for summer camp. This year they will be able to take 20 students per class grade K-7 and other high school students for summer school. In between their classes the young ones love their new playground, where they get to run and play.

DAR Brings Fourth of July parade to Craig County

Plans are now underway for the county's First Annual Craig County Fourth of July Independence Day Parade. The Craig Valley Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution, in cooperation with the Craig County Tourism Council, is leading the charge for this commu-

nity event.

The parade will be held Monday, July 4, 2022, and follow the same route as the Annual Christmas Parade, beginning at the Fairgrounds at 10 am and ending at the Craig County Courthouse on Main Street in historic downtown New Castle. A Grand Marshal for

the parade will be announced in the near future.

Craig Valley Chapter is currently seeking participants for the parade. Families, community organizations and businesses are encouraged to participate – whether riding bikes decorated with streamers in red, white, and blue; march-

ing units waving flags and playing music; classic cars, trucks and tractors; or traditional floats depicting a patriotic theme. A perpetual trophy named The Patriot's Cup will be provided by the Craig Valley Chapter which will be engraved each year with the name of persons or organization with the Most Pa-

triotic Entry.

Donations to help cover expenses, including the cost of the trophy, are welcome. For information including parade registration, email CraigValleyChapterNSDAR@gmail.com, or contact Craig Valley Chapter NSDAR Regent, Tina Crawford, at 540-765-9913. Infor-

mation is also available on the New Castle Facebook page.

This landmark event will be part of the Stay in Craig for the Fourth campaign which will include events at Wilderness Adventure and Paint Bank.

Submitted article

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING COUNTY OF CRAIG, VIRGINIA PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2506 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the Craig County Board of Supervisors on the proposed County Budget amendment for Fiscal Year 2021-22 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022). The Public Hearing, which may be continued or adjourned, will be held May 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter is heard during the Board of Supervisors meeting at the Craig County Courthouse in New Castle, Virginia.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public review at the County Administrator's Office in the County Administration Building, New Castle, Virginia.

PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENT FY 2021-22 TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR:

County of Craig	\$88,198
Craig Co Public School	\$112,038

Craig New Castle Public Service Authority

Proposed Rate Increase Effective July Billing 2022

Type of Service	Old Rate	Proposed Rate
Residential Water	\$18.93	\$19.88
Residential Sewer	\$32.15	\$33.76
Commercial Water	\$21.23	\$22.30
Commercial Sewer	\$36.71	\$38.55
Intuition Sewer	\$143.44	\$150.62
Non-Metered Service	\$51.63	\$54.22

***The new residential minimum for water & sewer current \$51.08 proposed \$53.64 for 2,000 gallons of water used

***The new commercial minimum for water & sewer current \$57.94 proposed \$60.85 for 2,000 gallons of water used

***The non-metered service - customers on sewer only – current flat fee of \$51.63 proposed \$54.22

** A Public hearing is scheduled for July 5th, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m. in the Courthouse.



LAND FOR SALE

The Craig County Board of Supervisors is offering land for sale: Tax Parcel 47A3-3-1536-A-22, a portion of the Craig County Landfill Property located near State Route 609 and Landfill Road. The 53.324 acre parcel located at the Craig County Landfill site includes a 6.473 acre "Closed Area" tract from the previous landfill. The County will retain approximately 11.5 acres. The County of Craig will receive sealed bids for the remaining parcel consisting of approximately 41 Acres. The "Closed Area" and all Ground Water Monitoring Wells will be maintained in accordance with DEQ regulations by the purchaser. All bids must be submitted on a per acre basis. The "County reserves the right to reject any bids and reserves the right to engage in negotiations with any offerors or other interested parties."

Please submit sealed bids to:
R.R. Dan Collins
County Administrator
County of Craig
P.O. Box 308
108 Court Street
New Castle, VA 24127

Submit all Bids by: Noon, May 17, 2022

Requests for additional information, please contact the County Administration Office by calling (540)864-5010 or in writing to P.O. Box 308, New Castle, Virginia 24127.

Virginia Rent Relief Program portal closing to new applications May 15

~ Virginians have received more than \$713 million in rent relief payments ~

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) announced on April 21 that it is closing the Virginia Rent Relief Program (RRP) application portal at 11:59 p.m., May 15, 2022, to new applications.

Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) requires a prioritization of assistance for households with incomes less than 50% of area median income or households with one or more individuals that have not been employed for the 90-day period preceding the date of application. Any application submitted after April 21, 2022,

will be prioritized based on these criteria, then processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Through March 31, the Virginia Rent Relief Program (RRP) has processed and disbursed more than \$713 million in 141,330 rent relief payments for more than 104,990 unique households throughout Virginia.

In June 2020, Virginia was one of the first states in the nation to create a statewide rent and mortgage relief program with federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds, and re-

ceived additional state support as a bridge between the CARES and Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) funding streams. In total, the program has received more than \$1 billion in funding through federal aid and the Virginia Housing Trust Fund. Chesterfield County and Fairfax County have operated their own ERA-funded rent relief programs for residents with ERA funding.

DHCD will continue to work with partners and stakeholders across the state to create comprehensive strategies to increase the supply of affordable housing, address and pre-

vent evictions and reduce barriers in housing throughout the Commonwealth. Additional information on RRP are available at dhcd.virginia.gov/RRP.

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) partners with state, federal, local and nonprofit housing and community and economic development initiatives. DHCD programs strive to maintain the vibrancy of communities throughout the Commonwealth and include providing universal broadband access, investing in economic development initiatives, promulgat-

ing the statewide building and fire regulations, preserving the affordability and efficiency of Virginia's homes and buildings, addressing homelessness, reducing eviction rates across the state and fostering innovative solutions to create affordable housing. DHCD invests over \$350 million annually, in addition to \$2 billion in federal recovery programs, as a partner to Virginia communities to create safe, affordable and prosperous communities to live, work and do business in Virginia.

Submitted article

Virginia Inspector General finds unresolved issues at state mental health facilities

In the four facilities operated by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services inspected by the Office of the State Inspector General for handling of sexual allegations, staff did not have adequate guidance in terms of identifying the elements that constitute sexual abuse as defined in Code of Virginia § 18.2-67.10. Without adequate definitions and

training, staff might not document and investigate reports of sexual abuse and potentially expose patients to harm. That is one of the findings in OSIG's Unannounced Inspections of DBHDS Facilities for Calendar Year 2021 report. The four facilities are

Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents, Central State Hospital, Southeast Vir-

ginia Training Center and Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute.

The unannounced inspections conducted by OSIG also found that three of four facilities inspected for public safety compliance had outstanding fire marshal citations that were unresolved. Additionally, nine out of twelve crash carts inspected by OSIG were in compliance with in-

spection criteria.

"OSIG provided 40 recommendations for corrective actions," said OSIG Healthcare Compliance Manager Keith Davies. "OSIG will conduct follow-up procedures with Central Office and facilities to determine if conditions have been corrected."

"The goal of unannounced inspections is to review the quality of ser-

vices provided to patients at the facilities; make policy and operational recommendations to prevent problems, abuses and deficiencies; and improve the effectiveness of programs and services," said State Inspector General Michael C. Westfall.

Established in 2012, the Virginia Office of the State Inspector General manages the State Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline;

conducts investigations and performance audits of state agencies; provides training and standards for the commonwealth's internal audit programs; and conducts inspections and reviews of Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services-run facilities and programs.

Submitted article

Good Samaritan Advanced Illness Care and Hospice receives top honors

Good Samaritan, the local leader in advanced illness care, was recognized as a Hospice Honors Award Recipient at the National Hospice and Palliative Care Conference in National Harbor, Maryland in Jan. 2022.

The Hospice Honors Pro-

gram is a landmark compilation of hospices providing the best patient and caregiver experience. This prestigious annual review recognizes hospices that continuously provide the highest level of quality as measured by the caregiver's point of view.

"Of all recognitions given to a hospice, receiving an award based upon the direct experience of those we serve is one of the highest honors," remarks Aaron Housh, Good Samaritan president and CEO. "This distinction is a wonderful reflection of our

dedicated staff who live out our mission each day."

Good Samaritan is the only community-based nonprofit hospice in southwestern Virginia. Founded in 1992, Good Sam is dedicated to the mission of affirming life in the midst of illness and grief,

and above all honoring what matters most to each person and family served. Offices are located in Roanoke and Christiansburg.

Submitted by Scotti Hartman

Drug Take Back Day

from page 1

Carlin encourages people to turn in their unused, unwanted, or expired medications for safe disposal. "As you all know, unused and expired medications that just sit at home are at risk for being misused," he said. "By safely disposing of old medicines, we can help prevent these drugs from being misused and create a healthier community for our youth."

Penelope - 52 Kingston Dr, Daleville; Solomon's Mission - Buchanan; Botetourt County: Sheriff's Office - Westlake Substation; Rocky Mount Police Department; Franklin County: CVS - 9th Street, CVS Towers - 2001 Colonial Ave; Solutions Center - 2328 Melrose Ave; Roanoke City: Fire Station #1 - 150 Hersherberger Rd; Kroger - Tanglewood Mall; Kroger - 3970 Valley

Gateway Blvd; Walgreens - 4049 Brambleton Ave; Roanoke County: Super Shoes - 1838 Main Street; Veterans Affairs Medical Center

This is open to the public and no appointment is necessary. Vape pens will be collected, but they ask that the batteries be removed. No needles or sharps (such as EpiPens or insulin) will be collected.

Other sponsors helping with this district-wide event are Roanoke Area Youth Substance Abuse Coalition, Western Virginia Water Authority, US Drug Enforcement Administration, Prevention Council of Roanoke County Local Police and Sheriff Departments, Virginia Department of Health and FRESH Coalition in Franklin County.

Craig County Police and Market Street Pharmacy has set up a year-round medication disposal box at the pharmacy for the convenience of residents. Drugs should never be flushed in the commodes or poured into the sinks.

For more information and year-round medication disposal box locations you may visit www.westernvawater.org/takeback or www.TakeThemBack.org. "You can read more about how safe drug disposal works, and why it is important, at this link https://raysac.org/2022/04/11/safe-medicine-disposal/," Carlin shared.

The overall goals are to limit access, reduce misuse and to protect our waters.

Craig County Public Schools Sealed Bids Bus Garage Items Bids Close on May 6, 2022 @ 12:00 noon

- Lot 1: 25 Mixed Sizes of Bus Tires (8.25 x20,9.00x20,225/75r22.5, 1 0.00x20)
- Lot 2: 7000 lb Two Post Car Lift
- Lot 3: Good Roads Salt Spreader
- Lot 4: 2009 Crown Victoria Parts Car

*** Lot Lists for bidding available for pick up or drop off at School Board Office (please submit your bids in sealed envelopes). If you have any questions, please contact Shane Gills at mgills@craig.k12.va.us

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- North American people
 - Chinese surname
 - Fit in at the last minute
 - "Very" in musical terminology
 - Underwater displays
 - Crosby's bandmates
 - Belong to he
 - Informed about the latest trends (archaic)
 - Sequences of alternating turns
 - Genus of grasses
 - Satisfy
 - Petty quarrel
 - Made level
 - Ruler of Iran
 - Historical region of Syria
 - Food suitable for babies
 - Something to lend
 - Zone of oceanic trenches
 - Philippine island
 - Domesticated animal
 - Plant of the lily family
 - Bluish green
 - ___ Tomei, actress
 - Without (French)
 - Lilly and Manning are two
 - Apply pressure to
 - Divide in half
 - Bad deed
 - Don't know when yet
 - Hollywood's greatest honor
 - Aiming to exhort
 - Faked
 - A way to pierce
 - Midway between northeast and east
 - Points
- CLUES DOWN**
- Chop up
 - ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
 - Egyptian goddess
 - Split pulses
 - Afflict
 - Type of area rug
 - Tide
 - Affirmative
 - Sudden change
 - One picked
 - Debauched man
 - Stiff bristles
 - Famous arena
 - Established rules and methods
 - Injection
 - Father
 - Protein-rich liquids
 - He delivers gifts
 - Advanced degree
 - Fencing swords
 - Chinese mountain range
 - Shaft horsepower (abbr.)
 - Precursor to hemoglobin
 - Much ___ about nothing
 - Compound fabric (abbr.)
 - A way to act slowly on
 - Ottoman military commanders
 - Popular kids' network
 - Hard compound
 - Sympathize with
 - Northeast college
 - Blood group
 - Frosted
 - Turn away
 - Benefit
 - Dry or withered
 - Bangladeshi monetary unit
 - Reproduced
 - Contributes
 - Thrust horse power (abbr.)
 - Wear
 - Promotes retention of water (abbr.)
 - Very small

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Review: Guns, Germs, and Steel

Library Corner
Empowering individuals to build a stronger community

Author Jared Diamond was a biologist with a passion for studying birds, especially those of New Guinea. The questions asked by a New Guinean named Yani, whom he met during his New Guinea days, popped into his mind. Why did Westerners have such a large population in that land, despite the natives of New Guinea who have been living on this land for forty thousand years? Was one group of people on Earth smarter than others? Why was there such a dimorphism in the goods produced by the different groups and the amount of cargo carried?

Jared Diamond started his research to answer all these questions and to determine why some societies have become powerful and dominant on the global stage and why others do not. And finally he made a striking analysis: civilization did not arise out of an innate superiority between the races, but rather flourished in the Eurasian countries of the Fertile Crescent, includ-

ing Mesopotamia. Weapons were paramount as to why some societies were able to dominate others, but the development of weapons was not universal. The necessary materials were not evenly distributed on the planet, and there were technological prerequisites.

It turns out that not every region is ideal for the emergence of farming. He got some details on why agriculture developed more in some areas than others. He emphasized the importance of domesticated animals. He illustrated the impact of germs and epidemics, the immune defense developed by more urban residents and the damage these germs can cause when these city dwellers come into contact with people who lack such immunity.

After all this analysis, Diamond came up with the thesis that geographical luck is the reason that makes some countries rich and strong and others weak and poor.

The book "Guns, Germs and Steel" draws attention as one of the most comprehensive and multidisciplinary approaches in human history. We can also say that it is an ambitious synthesis of history, bi-

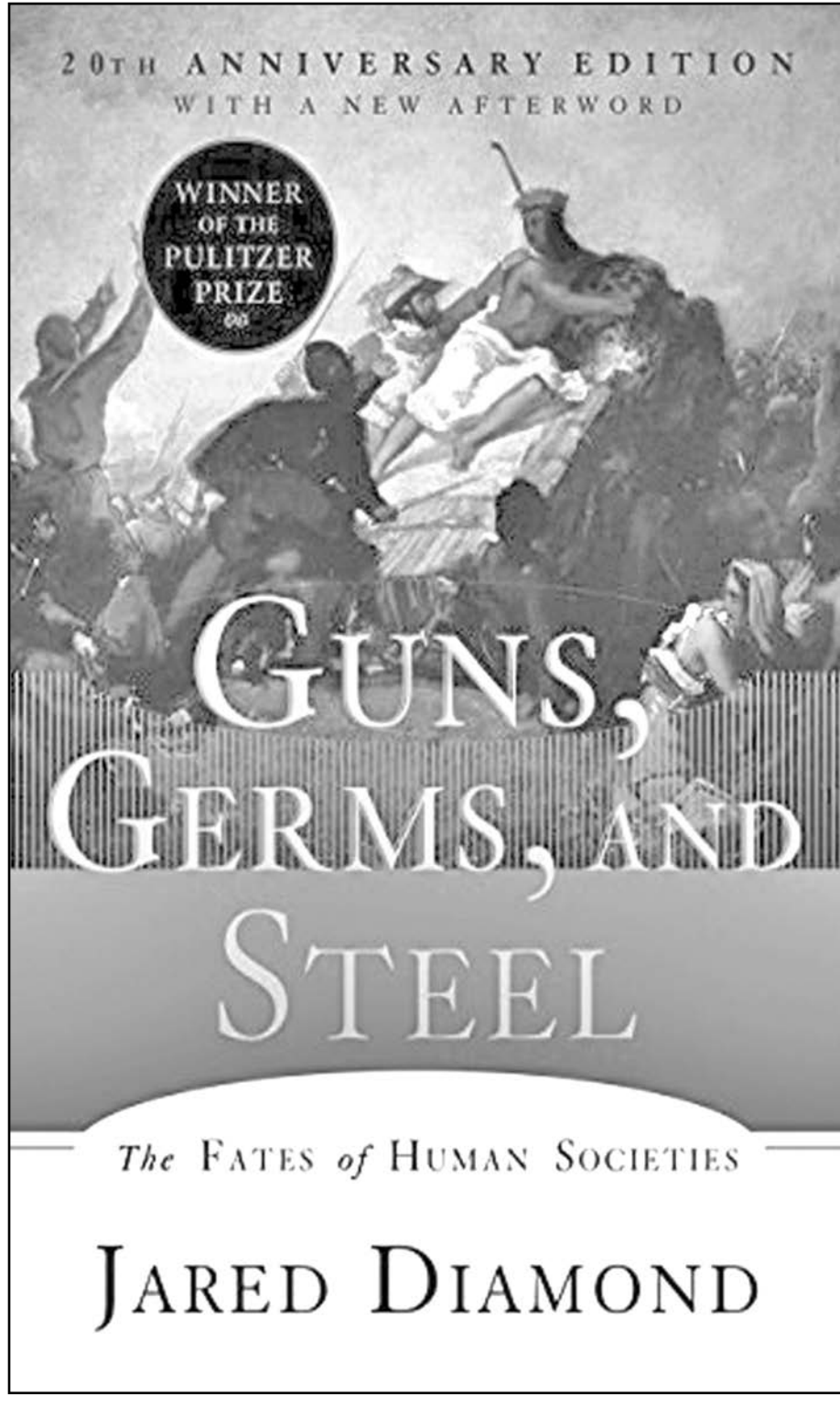
ology, anthropology, environment, culture, geography, linguistics and technology that explains why and how the modern world emerged.

While Jared Diamond claims that geographical luck determines the wealth and power of countries, the name he chose for his book seems to refer to the ways in which agrarian societies conquered populations and maintained their dominance and the fact that weapons, germs and steel made imperialism possible.

It's an eye-opening book full of arguments that can be debated, but from which you can learn a lot. You should read this Pulitzer Prize-winning book.

Library News: Thanks to everyone who participated in the SWAP day success! Lots of books and plants found new homes and folks got to have some great conversations in spite of the windy conditions!

Look for details about the annual meeting coming up in May. Everyone is invited. This is the big meeting where Board of Trustees members are elected by the Friends of the Library, refreshments are served, and a speaker is invited for your enjoyment.



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.

Voice Over Wizard Chris Nichter settles in Wythe County

Chris Nichter brings his 30+ years of voice acting experience to SW Virginia as he settles in Max Meadows. With a wide range of voice acting skills and a multitude of delivery styles, characters and impersonations, Chris has voiced literally thousands of radio, TV and web commercials for local, regional, national and international clients.

Mr. Nichter has narrated seven films for National Geographic Wild TV Network, including "Wild Mississippi," "Florida Untamed," "Super Squirrel" and "Who's Your Doggie?" His resume also includes many

characters for video games, as well as hundreds of other documentary narrations, corporate videos, e-learning and training narrations, web videos, video sales letters, company phone systems and just about anything for which one could use a voice.

The Voice Over Wizard home studio is as professional as Chris's voice, with a state-of-the-art Studiobricks sound booth, pro-quality microphone, digital recording and editing equipment. Plus, Source Connect allows him to digitally connect with studios world-wide.

Mr. Nichter's client list is as wide-

ranging and diverse as his voice talents, including Nat Geo Wild, CBS2-Chicago, Charles Schwab, Subway, GE, John Deere, Konica Minolta, Georgia-Pacific, Ocean Spray, Bud Zero, Blackberry, HP/Intel, Siemens, ASDA, Fisher Price and Virginia Energy.

Chris Nichter, The Voice Over Wizard, is able to accommodate businesses large and small with nearly any budget. To see and hear what he can offer you and your business, visit www.voiceoverwizard.com.

Submitted article

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

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Crash Fatalities Reach 14-Year High on Virginia Roadways in 2021

As crash fatalities reached a 14-year high on the Commonwealth's roadways last year, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) urges Virginians to respond with action to reverse course in 2022.

"There are immediate, simple actions Virginians can take to save lives on our roadways," said acting DMV Commissioner Linda Ford, the governor's highway safety representative. "This is critically important as fatalities continue to increase this year. Vehicles and roadways are safer than they ever have been, yet we continue to lose lives to senseless crashes. Do your part to help. Slow down, buckle up, focus on the task of driving and never drive impaired. It truly is that simple."

Last year, 968 people died in crashes on Virginia roadways — a 14.3% increase over 2020 and the highest number of

annual fatalities since 2007 (1,026 fatalities). According to final crash statistics from DMV's Highway Safety Office, fatalities increased across a number of categories, such as speed-related fatalities, commercial motor vehicle-involved fatalities and fatalities of motorcyclists, pedestrians, bicyclists, teen drivers and mature drivers.

Virginia's increase in overall crash fatalities mirrors a startling national trend. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, more than 31,000 people died in crashes in the first nine months of 2021, a 12% increase over the same time period in 2020 and the highest number of fatalities during the first nine months of any year since 2006. The full report on 2021 U.S. crash statistics will be available later this year.

DMV and its highway safety partners embrace

	Calendar Year		% Change
	2021	2020	
Total Fatalities	968	847	14.3%
Unrestrained Fatalities	334	343	-2.6%
Alcohol-Related Fatalities	247	272	-9.2%
Speed-Related Fatalities	445	406	9.6%
Motorcycle Fatalities	102	87	17.2%
Pedestrian Fatalities	125	114	9.6%
Bicycle Fatalities	16	8	100.0%
Distracted Driving Fatalities	117	121	-3.3%
Teen Driver Fatalities (Ages 15-19)	42	27	55.6%
Mature Driver Fatalities (Ages 65 and Over)	145	126	15.1%
Commercial Motor Vehicle Involved Fatalities	115	102	12.7%

data-driven strategies to reduce crashes, injuries and fatalities on Virginia roadways. These range from education and enforcement to grant funding, news media engage-

ment and advertising. "This trend is poised to continue unless Virginians take action," Acting Commissioner Ford said. "Most people want to contribute to something

greater; by driving safely, you can truly make a difference, not just in your life, but in the lives of everyone with whom you share the road."

So far this year, 245

people have been killed in crashes on Virginia roadways, a 12% increase compared to this point in 2021.

Submitted article

Virginia Department of Transportation road watch

The following is a list of forecasted highway projects that may impact traffic traveling in the 12-county Salem Transportation District this week. Work schedules and construction project timelines are always subject to change and weather dependent. The Salem District covers Bedford, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski and Roanoke counties

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY – Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 104 to 106 from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone.

Shoulder closures will remain in place though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by summer 2023.

TRAFFIC SWITCH – Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the Montgomery/Pulaski County line.

LANE CLOSURES: Nighttime alternating lane closures will be in place on I-81 northbound between mile markers 104-106 from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning as follows:

SLOW ROLLS: Slow rolls may be utilized periodically on both the northbound and southbound lanes from mile marker 98-109 for structural steel deliveries and setting beams.

ROUTE 615 CULVERT REPLACEMENT – Route 615 (Pilot Road) is undergoing a culvert replacement located at the intersection of Pilot Road and Old Pike Road, across from the Pilot Post Office. Single lane closures will be in place and will be maintained by utilizing temporary traffic signals. Lane closures on RTE 615

are expected to begin on May 5 and will be in place through August 2022. Expected completion is October 2022.

ROUTE 460 PAVING OPERATIONS – From Monday through Friday, April 25-29, in the vicinity of Ellet Bridge, drivers can expect lane closures for paving operations from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Delays are possible.

ROUTE 663 CLOSURE FOR BRIDGE WORK – Route 663 (Walton Road) is closed for bridge work. Message boards will alert drivers. Drivers will need to seek alternate routes. Residents will be able to access their homes. The road will reopen on May 9.

ROUTE 643 PAVING PROJECT – This project is to restart in order to resurface an unpaved portion of Route 643 (Yellow Sulfur Road). The work area begins .7 mile south of the intersection

with Route 642 (Jennelle Road) and ends 1.7 miles north of the bridge over Route 460. Traffic impacts will include intermittent flagging operations between these intersections. This project has an estimated completion date of May 2022.

LANE CLOSURES: Intermittent single lane closures utilizing flagging operations will be in place between the intersection of Teaberry Road and Jennelle Road.

UTILITY WORK ON ROUTE 460 - MMI will be installing fiber optic along Route 460 and Route 8 from the Giles County line to the Floyd County line. This work will be ongoing. Motorists should expect shoulders and/or lane closures for travel in both directions.

INTERSTATE 81 INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION

EXIT 137 TO EXIT 141 – A \$179 million design-build project to widen both directions of I-81 between mile markers 136.6 and 141.8 from two to three lanes is set to begin. Starting in February and continuing into the early summer, work will be performed on the inside and outside shoulders along a five mile section of both northbound and southbound Interstate 81 in Roanoke County and the city of Salem. The shoulders will be built up before a barrier wall can be installed for road crews to work behind. A barrier wall will be installed along the shoulders in the spring and summer. Two lanes of I-81 traffic in each direction will remain open during the project with periodic lane closures scheduled during nighttime hours or outside of peak travel times as needed.

The project also includes replacing six bridges, widening two bridges, installing approximately 2.6 miles of sound barrier walls along northbound I-81, improving the southbound exit 137 off-ramp intersection at Wildwood Road and adding interchange lighting at exits 137, 140 and 141 are also included in the project. Expected completion in early 2026.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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

CHESTNUT GROVE CHURCH
Duane Wente, Minister, Rt. 42, New Castle, 540-864-5692. Sunday: Worship 10:00 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

7:00PM, Reformers Unanimous Addiction Recovery every Friday evening at 7PM.

GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
5530 Catawba Valley Drive, Catawba, VA, 540-384-7075. Pastor 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEW CASTLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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282 Salem Ave., New Castle; 864-5212; Sunday Mornings: 9 A.M. Contemporary Service and 11:00 A.M. Traditional Service with Sunday School at 10 A.M.; Wednesday night Bible study at 6:00 P.M. for K-5; If you need a ride to church, please contact Calvin Duncan by 8 P.M. on Saturday at 864-5321; www.nc-cc.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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Legals - City of Radford

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ004566-07-00
RADFORD J&DR - JUVENILE DIVISION
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MORGAN, GABRIELLA JOSEPHINE RADFORD CITY DSS /v. BENJAMIN JOSEPH ALVAREZ
The object of this suit is to: TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF BENJAMIN JOSEPH ALVAREZ, legal parent of Gabriella Josephine Morgan, 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 he 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 parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition. It is ORDERED that BENJAMIN JOSEPH ALVAREZ appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 05/13/2022 08:30 AM.

03/10/2022
Sally Davis
Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ004566-06-00
RADFORD J&DR - JUVENILE DIVISION
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MORGAN, GABRIELLA JOSEPHINE RADFORD CITY DSS /v. KAITLIN MORGAN ADKINS
The object of this suit is to: TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF KAITLIN MORGAN ADKINS, legal parent of Gabriella Josephine Morgan, 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 she 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 parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition. It is ORDERED that

Legals - City of Radford

KAITLIN MORGAN ADKINS appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 05/13/2022 08:30 AM.

03/10/2022
Sally Davis
Clerk

Legals - Montgomery County

Trustee's Sale 1320 Cranberry Lane, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060

(Parcel ID: 032765; Tax Map No.: 052-8-6)
Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated January 31, 2007, in the original principal amount of \$156,642.62 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Montgomery, Virginia as Instrument No. 07001400, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on **May 11, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.**, in front of the building housing the Montgomery County Circuit Court, 55 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, the property containing 3.329 ac. ± designated as Lot 6, shown on plat entitled "Plat Showing Winters Subdivision", recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office, in Plat Book 16, page 436, together with a 30' ingress/egress/regress easement shown on the referenced plat. 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 \$15,500.00 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 calendar 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 on the Foreclosure Sales page of www.glasserlaw.com, 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. Glasser and Glasser, P.L.C. on behalf of Atlantic Trustee Services, L.L.C., and/or M. Brennan Hutt d/b/a H&H Abstracting and/or Rocky Mount Title, Inc. and/or Auction.com-VA, LLC, Substitute Trustees, Crown Center Building, Suite 600, 580 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510, File No. 224082-03, Tel: (757) 321-6465, between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon only.

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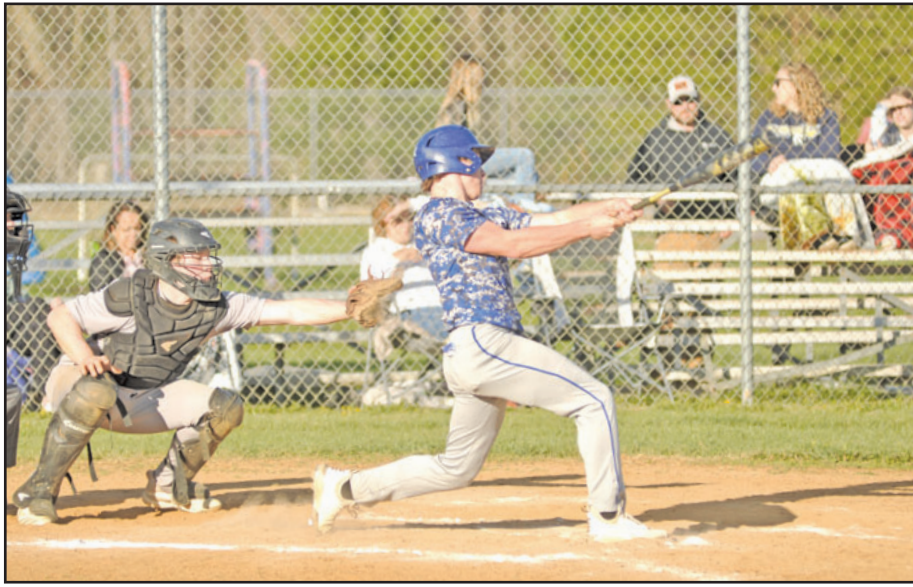
Craig County sports teams return to action after week off for spring break

Craig County High School was on spring break last week and the baseball, softball and soccer teams all had a week off. That will

change this week as the school teams head down the stretch and look toward the post-season. The baseball team will have

three games this week. The Rockets are home to Bath County on Tuesday, at Eastern Montgomery on Thursday and at Parry McCluer on Friday.

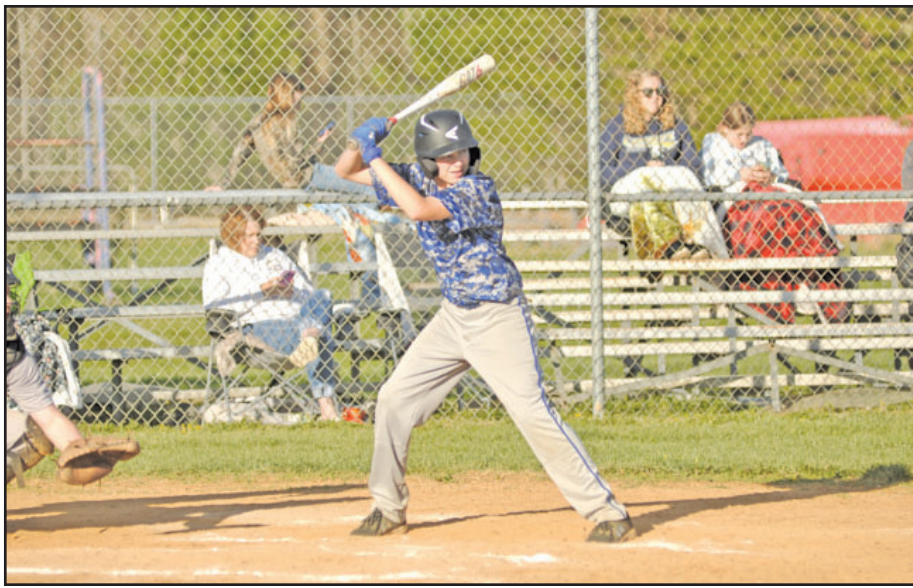
The softball team is at East Mont on Thursday and at Parry McCluer on Friday, and the soccer team is home to Bath Tuesday, home against Eastern Montgomery on Thursday and at Parry McCluer on Friday.



Brayden Frango connects for the Rockets.



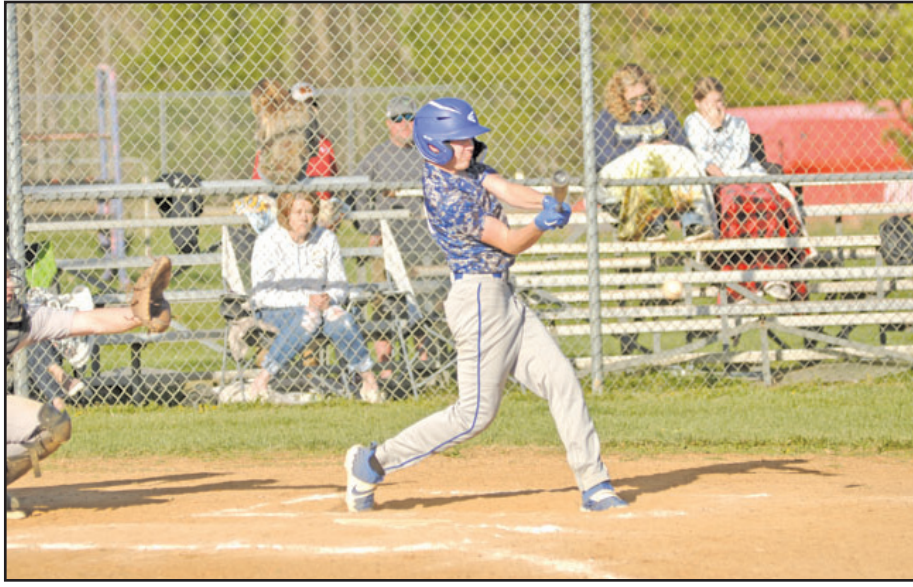
Hannah Ratliff makes contact.



Hayden Reynolds takes his turn at bat at a recent game.



Craig's Jennifer Fitzpatrick takes a cut.



Jaycob Wolfe bats for Craig.



Kylee Clifton throws the ball in from the outfield.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Fitzpatrick sets new Craig Co. record in the discus, Rockets will compete in two track meets this week

The Craig County track team will be busy with two meets this week. The Rockets are at Eastern Montgomery today and they're going to Cave Spring on Saturday for the big "Knights Invitational." This will be the 12th annual Knights Invitational and a large number of schools will be competing from all classifications.

Action begins at 9 am and continues until late afternoon. The Rockets competed in a meet at Parry McCluer over spring break and Tyler Fitzpatrick set a new school record in the discus. Tyler tossed the disc 123' 7" for a new Craig County mark while taking first place. Isaiah Garey had a heave of 103' 5" for

his personal best and Isaiah also took sixth in the shot put at 35' 1". Both Isac Morris and Ashton Early had new personal records in the 1600 meters. Isac had a time of 5:43 and Ashton ran it in 6:19. For the girls, Summer Huffman finished second in the Shot Put with a throw of 25' 2".

Tryouts for Sabres travel soccer team are May 10 and 11

Tryouts for the Salem Sabres youth soccer team are scheduled for May 10 from 6-7:30 pm for boys and May 11 from 6-7:30 for girls at the Sabres Field in Salem. Those interested can register in advance on the Sabres' website. All the details on tryouts and the registration form are posted on the website.

The organization had a record number of teams last fall and will have many teams once again. The girls will have teams for U10, U12 and U14 while the boys will have teams for U10, U11, U12, U13, U14, U15 and two high school teams. Coaches include soccer coaches from both Salem High School and Glenvar High School.

"We really want Sabres to be a place where all kids can join, learn about the game, meet friends, and have fun," said Kristin Elder of the Sabres organization. "We also offer financial assistance to players who need help with dues. Many people think that travel soccer means weekends traveling hours and hours away, but Sabres is part of the Skyline League, which means that usually the furthest we have to travel is to Charlottesville. And, of course, half of the games each team plays

are right here at our fields in Salem." Josh Jones, head boys' coach at Glenvar High School and a former state champion girls' coach at Salem High, is Executive Director of the Sabres. "Since 2006, Salem Sabres has been the local soccer club for players in Salem and Glenvar wanting to find exceptional soccer opportunities and a true soccer family," said Jones. "Each year we continue to grow and I'm so excited for what the future holds for the club."

"As the head boys coach at Glenvar, I see firsthand the many benefits that come from playing with a competitive soccer club like Sabres. Our fees are the lowest in the area and with most of the clubs we play being nearby, travel is very limited. We want soccer to be accessible to everyone, and I encourage any players looking to take the step from parks and rec soccer into travel soccer to come give Salem Sabres a try."



Bryce Drake clears the ball for Craig County in a recent soccer game.

PHOTO BY REGINA DEVINNEY

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