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BOILED PEANUTS ARE BACK!

ourvalley.org

(USPS-378-080)

"The Voice of Craig County"

Wednesday, July 20, 2022 \$1.00

8 33463 00108 2



Tommy Zimmerman was the first Grand Marshall, leading the parade behind the VFW patriotic Truck in his sporty candy apple red corvette.

Independence Day parade birthed in Craig

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

With so much violence going on in the world, we need more "times of unity." Our Craig Valley Daughters of the American Revolution agrees and planned the first Independence Day

parade for New Castle. Word was spread far and wide and there were many different entries to vie for the first-place award. Also, several entrants shared that they just wanted to be a part of celebrating the real meaning of Independence Day, the birth of our nation's first 13 colonies,

being separated from Great Britain. "To say I am delighted with the turnout for our First Annual Craig County Independence Day Parade would be an understatement," Regent DAR Tina Crawford shared. "Our

See Parade, page x



PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING

Independence Day celebrates our freedom as a nation. Rick Dudding honored the military men and women who have served, by draping a flag over his car, titling it "Remember those..." Craig County Veteran Danny Kendall who served 20 years as U.S. Army paratroopers rode shotgun in the patriotic car.

Thank you, Craig County for making the 1st Annual Craig County Independence Day Parade a success!

Your participation, attendance, and enthusiasm are appreciated, and we can't wait to do it again.

See you July 4, 2023!

Craig Valley Chapter, NSDAR



SUBMITTED BY CRAIG COUNTY DAR

VFW creating a Cookbook and needs recipes

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

Our local Craig Valley VFW Post 4491 has started a fundraiser to help offset their bills and help pay for the needs at their Post.

They are designing their own cookbook and are looking for people in Craig to donate their recipes for them. The deadline for recipe submission is July 24.

The titles to the different cookbook sections are appetizers, soup and salads, main dish, side dish, desserts and wild game.

Also, any great recipes for diabetics would be greatly appreciated. Feel free to submit 5-6 recipes from each person.

Michelle Songer is heading this grand fundraiser and will be at Food Country on Saturday, July 23 from 3-5 p.m., if you would like to drop

off your recipes.

Also, they are looking for businesses to put ads in their cookbook. It is a 4" x 2" ad for only \$35.00.

The VFW members of Craig have continued to serve our community in many ways. You can submit your recipes to Michelle Songer at Msonger2013@gmail.com or contact Billy Lee at (540) 864-6169. Let us help them to design one of the best cookbooks Craig County has seen!

Warner talks rural broadband access at New Castle meeting



PHOTO BY ALEXANDER SHEDD

Sen. Warner met with Craig and Botetourt broadband industry representatives and citizens in New Castle on Saturday, July 16.

Alexander Shedd
alexander.shedd@ourvalley.org

Virginia Senator Mark Warner visited the Craig-Botetourt Electric Co-Op in New Castle on Saturday, July 16 to speak for an hour with local leaders

in broadband and other industry representatives from Craig and Botetourt County.

"A reason I ran for governor, and for that matter Senate, is that I felt there was this promise of an interconnected world that

See Broadband Access, page 2

CCPS "Load The Bus"



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

The Craig County Public Schools is hosting their annual "Load the Bus" event at Food Country on Saturday, July 26 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., collecting school supplies for the students of Craig. Come and be a part of supplying our kids in Craig with all they need to have a great school year!

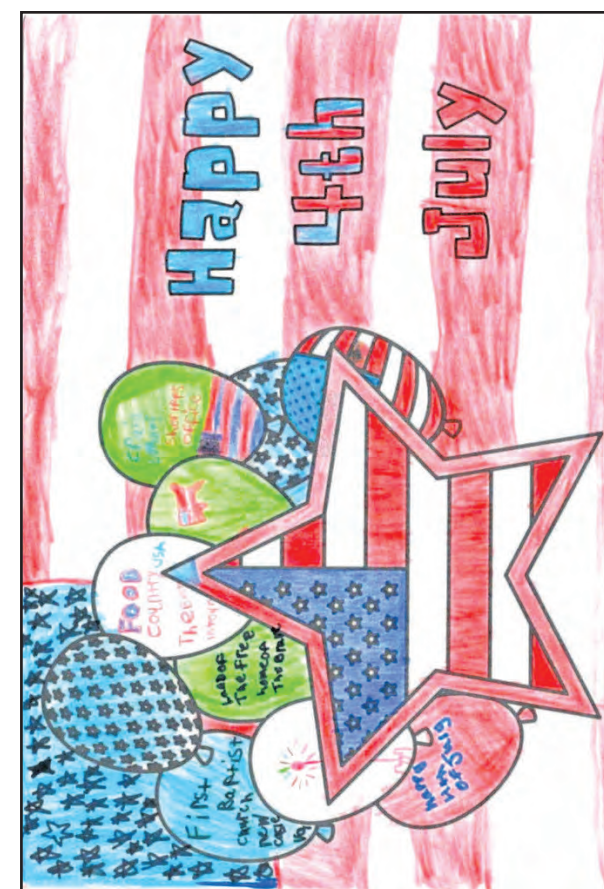
Department of Social Services Coloring Contest Winners



Addyson Crofts, Age 5



Benjamin Spence, Age 6



Dylan Sarver, Age 12

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PHOTO PAM DUDDING

The Craig County Library hosted their annual membership drive, and the winner of the gift certificate was Michelle Songer. She received a \$100 gift card from Food Country's manager, David Stephens.

Library Membership Drive names winner

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

The Craig County Public Library draws people of all ages to its doors, for books, videos and internet.

President Hilda Henderson shared, "Each year in the month of June, the Craig County Public Library, Inc. (Friends of the Library) conduct a Membership Drive to renew memberships and sign up those who are joining for the first time."

To encourage folks to sign-up, they offer the chance to win a \$100 gift certificate at a local business of their choice. The drawing is for those who sign up in June but you can join this group anytime.

The fees are greatly appreciated to help support the library costs of salaries to programs: Adults \$5, Youth \$1, Families \$15, and Businesses \$20. This year's winner was Michelle Songer, who received a \$100 gift card at Food Country.

"Not a bad gift for her family that she won with her \$5 membership fee!" Henderson said.

She added, "Our Craig County Public Library is an asset to the Community, providing books in a variety of formats: large print, audio, E books & Kindles, magazines & newspapers, computer use & training, Wi-Fi and Hot Spots, Printing & Fax Service, FREE Notary Service, assistance with online job applications, voter registration, Little Libraries located throughout the county, ordering barn quilts, children's programs, online certified courses: Universal & Rocket Language, test proctoring: GED, college & vocational courses, GED study materials, tax forms, tutoring services, Visitor's Center information, community bulletin board, telescope checkout, movies, and music."

They encourage you to visit the library and if you don't have a card, to please sign-up.

"You will discover the many resources available for you and your family," Henderson shared. "If you don't see it, just ask. Our staff is there to help you."

Ask about the Friends of the Library membership forms to support this valuable resource serving our community.

Blue Ridge Potters Guild comes to the Salem Museum

Submitted by Blue Ridge Potters Guild

Blue Ridge Potters Guild members will be demonstrating various pottery techniques at the Salem Museum, 801 E Main Street in Salem, on Saturday, July 30 and Saturday, August 6.

On July 30, Sandy Walker will be making handmade pottery tools from 10 a.m. to noon, and Carol Eaton will be demonstrating hand-building and decorating techniques from 1 to 3 p.m.

On August 6, Stephanie Firestone will be demonstrating throwing and hand-building a structural piece from 10 a.m. to noon, and Lyn Jordan will demonstrate throwing on the wheel from 1 to 3 p.m.

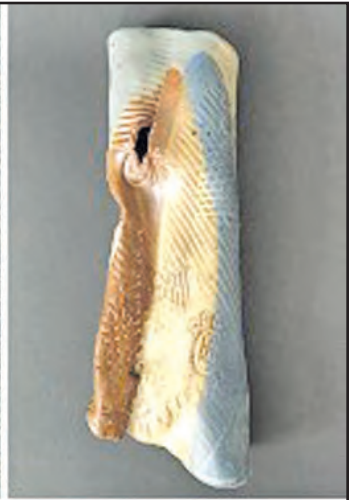
Watch as these potters create unique pieces. Feel free to ask questions and get to know the potters. The programs are free and open to the public.

One more program will be held on November 5 and will feature different potters.

Also explore the fam-

ily-friendly Salem Museum that has exhibits on various topics throughout the Museum. Admission is free. It is located in the historic 1845 Williams-Brown House. The current featured exhibit is "Cheers for 30 Years, Salem Museum's 30th Anniversary Exhibit".

For more information about the Potters Guild visit <https://www.blueridgepotters.com/>; for more information about the Salem Museum visit <https://salemuseum.org/> or visit us on Facebook.



Broadband Access

from page 1

would provide this 'great leveler' so that all the jobs wouldn't need to be in areas that are strictly metropolitan," Warner began. "Time and distance wouldn't be the divider that they've always been, and it would really be an opportunity for people to not have to leave their hometown to find a job."

The timing of the visit

coincided with the current use of COVID-19 federal relief funds from the bipartisan infrastructure law and the American Rescue Plan. Last month, Warner announced that \$219.8 from the American Rescue Plan's Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund would be distributed for broadband funding in Virginia. Now, he

emphasizes the need to utilize that money to expand high-speed broadband access to Virginia's rural communities.

"Virginia was one of the first places to start putting in the basic infrastructure on mid-atlantic broadband," Warner stated. "Now, with COVID and with the funding coming out of that,

there really is not going to be any reason we can't get this done."

Warner also noted that, speaking from his time in the telecom industry, most rural broadband companies have failed. What makes this time different, he said, is allowing rural electric cooperatives to provide the "last mile" of service to

their customers, meaning servicing the physical final connection between a provider and a customer. According to Warner, large providers typically have not been equipped to adequately service the last mile in rural communities.

"I think it's really important because many people who've tried in the past when we had municipal broadband—people didn't know how to operate the system," said Warner. "It's one thing to go without, it's another thing to be able to service your customers and operate on an ongoing basis. So both the fact that the rural electric co-ops can provide last mile, and the bigger players, the AEPs and the Dominions, can do the middle there...I think it's a good idea."

Unfortunately, Warner also noted that, due to the current historic spike in inflation and large-scale supply chain issues, certain hurdles still remain. One in particular is the cost of fiber optic cable, which has more than tripled since

the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. "It's going to get worse before it gets better," Warner commented gravely.

After addressing his major points, Warner opened the floor for questions both on broadband and in general. Another issue raised during the hour-long meeting was the difficulty in dealing with railroad companies while installing broadband infrastructure. Fiber optic cable must be run underneath train tracks, and only a representative from the railroad company is allowed to undertake such a project; it was noted that these companies have been notoriously unpredictable with scheduling and rescheduling. Additionally, an individual from Craig raised the idea of taxing the Jefferson National Forest land at a higher level to increase county revenues. Warner replied to both that these are organizations that are difficult to work with politically, but assured all that his office would look into it.

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Beagles flood Virginia shelters after breeding facility closure

-A USDA investigation resulted in the closure of the controversial Envigo dog breeding facility in Cumberland County-

Alexander Shedd
alexander.shedd@ourvalley.org

Approximately 4,000 beagles are being taken in and adopted out by rescues across Virginia in cooperation with the Humane Society's seizure of the dogs from a controversial breeding facility in Cumberland. The facility, owned by private research company Envigo, recently came under fire after an inspection from the US Department of Agriculture revealed significant neglect and overall poor care of the thousands of beagles bred and held in the operation.

The inspection came in the wake of years of reports and underground investigations of the beagle breeding facility by famed animal rights group PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals). Following the USDA inspection, the facility was publicly reprimanded by Governor Glenn Youngkin and ultimately closed by July 2022. Several animal welfare bills, including the aptly named "Beagles Bill," have also been signed at Youngkin's desk as a result.

Envigo has now agreed

to surrender all of the remaining 4,000 dogs to the Humane Society, as well as paying a flat cost for the care of each individual dog. The Humane Society is currently working with animal shelters across the Commonwealth to distribute and adopt out the beagles.

Roanoke-based rescue Angels of Assisi is one of the many rescues receiving the beagles as the Southwest Virginia regional center has reached capacity, and has already begun to adopt them out with an increase in local adoption events. Angels Community Engagement Director Dayna Reynolds spoke to WDBJ about their relief in creating more space to take in the regional center's overflow of animals.

"When the regional shelter has to take in stray animals, unfortunately, sometimes they have to make some tough decisions," said Reynolds. "So we weren't able to help them, and now we're super excited we were actually able to go to our RCACP and pull a bunch of dogs."

Last month, Envigo's parent company, Inotive, Inc., announced its clo-

sure of the Cumberland facility, as well as a rodent-breeding facility in Pulaski. A statement by Inotive President and CEO Robert Leasure Jr., claimed "Since the Envigo acquisition in November 2021, the Cumberland, Virginia, facility was recognized as needing improvements and investments. Inotive has been pleased with the continued and significant progress in improvements at the Cumberland facility since the acquisition, as evidenced by recent inspections by the USDA and other auditing organizations."

The USDA inspection showed a number of shocking failures in Envigo's treatment of the dogs, including filthy conditions and situations where dogs needed emergency medical care and went entirely unnoticed. One building that housed hundreds of dogs was without working air conditioning in the middle of summer. According to the report, Envigo's internal records also claimed that, from Jan. 2021 - July 2021, more than 300 puppies died in the facility of "unknown causes."

PETA Vice President

of Evidence Analysis Dan Paden commented in an interview with WFXR, "Taking this facility out of 'production' is going to have a huge impact on the number of animals of that kind who are used

for these experiments. They deal and experiment on all sorts of animals across the U.S. and abroad. So the fact that they're finally doing the right thing and shutting this place down and let-

ting these animals get the chance they deserve won't change our interest in them, and we'll always pay very close attention to what is going on in their laboratories and in their breeding mills."



Beagles from the Envigo breeding facility in Cumberland.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PETA

Bank of Botetourt's President & CEO elected to the Virginia Bankers Association's Board of Directors

Submitted by Bank of Botetourt

Bank of Botetourt is pleased to share that its President and CEO, G. Lyn Hayth, III has been elected to serve on the Virginia Bankers Association Board of Directors. The Virginia Bankers Association represents banks of all sizes and charters and has served as the unified voice for Virginia's \$881 billion banking industry and its 45,000 employees since 1893.

G. Lyn Hayth, III has been with the bank for 36 years, and has been in banking for almost 40 years. Since becoming CEO

in 2010 the Bank has expanded from ten branches to thirteen, covering more than 2,500 square miles with more than \$717 million in total assets. Bank of Botetourt is proud to be the largest bank headquartered in the Roanoke MSA and is now the longest serving financial institution in our region.

Hayth graduated from Virginia Tech with a B.S. in Agricultural Economics and a Master of Science Degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He is a graduate of the Virginia Bankers School of Bank Management at

the University of Virginia and is also a graduate of the Graduate School of Banking of the South at Louisiana State University. He resides in Botetourt County with his wife, Angela.

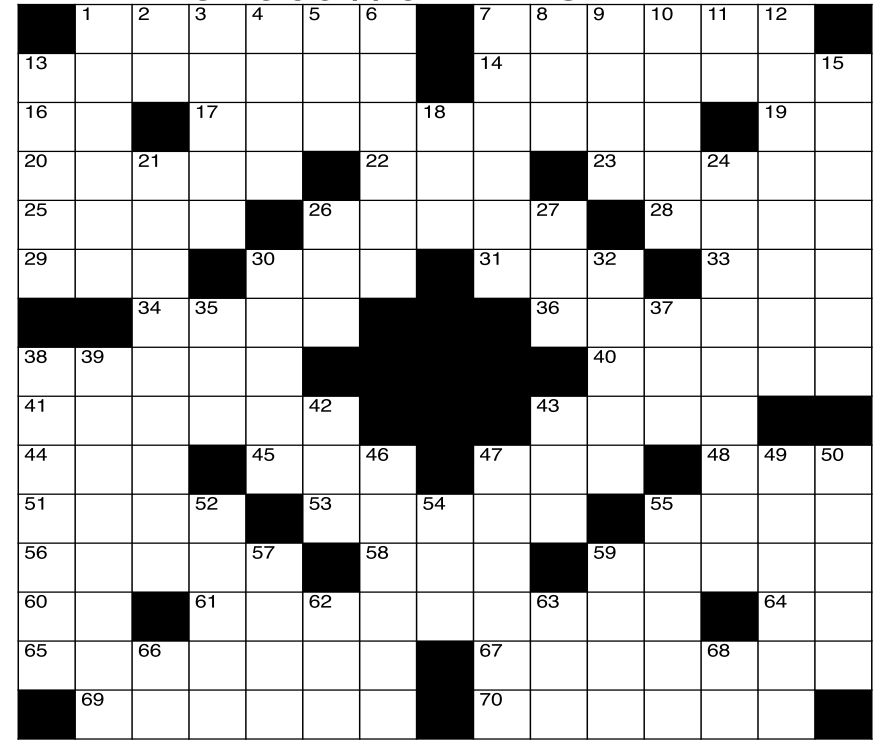
Bank of Botetourt was chartered in 1899 and operates thirteen retail offices in Botetourt, Rockbridge, Roanoke, and Franklin counties, the City of Salem, and the Town of Vinton, all in Virginia. Bank of Botetourt also operates a mortgage division, Virginia Mountain Mortgage and a financial services division, Botetourt Wealth Management.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Bank of Botetourt President and CEO G. Lyn Hayth, III

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Eurasian shrubs
 - 7. Strikes and rebounds
 - 13. Group of advisers
 - 14. Modern necessity
 - 16. Top lawyer in the land
 - 17. Philadelphia university
 - 19. Of I
 - 20. Functions as a laser
 - 22. Basketball phenomenon
 - 23. Famed island
 - 25. Parent-teacher groups
 - 26. Distributes
 - 28. Self-immolation by fire ritual
 - 29. Ad __
 - 30. Circulation problem (abbr.)
 - 31. Brother or sister
 - 33. A famous "Squad"
 - 34. Stage actor Anthony
 - 36. Violent seizure of property
 - 38. Saclike cavities
 - 40. Sound units
 - 41. Counts on
 - 43. Dad
 - 44. Woman (French)
 - 45. A digital tape recording of sound
 - 47. Polish Baltic peninsula
 - 48. Recipe measurement
 - 51. Requests out of dire need
 - 53. Precious stone weight unit
 - 55. The immaterial part of a person
 - 56. Anoint
 - 58. Golf score
 - 59. Supernatural
 - 60. Northwest Territories
 - 61. Can be made suitable
 - 64. A professor's helper
 - 65. Having a toothlike edge
 - 67. Got atop a horse
 - 69. Judged
 - 70. Static balance between opposing forces
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Flowing
 - 2. Computer department
 - 3. Lasts
 - 4. DiFranco and Samsonyan are two
 - 5. __ de sac
 - 6. Merchant
 - 7. Hosts film festival
 - 8. State of agitation of fuss
 - 9. A way to praise
 - 10. Opaque gems
 - 11. McKinley is one
 - 12. Smallest interval in classical Western music
 - 13. Famed designer Lauren
 - 15. Occupies
 - 18. Small island (British)
 - 21. Misuse of the sacred
 - 24. Covers with a thin sheet
 - 26. Most valuable player
 - 27. Title of respect
 - 30. Investigated discreetly
 - 32. Belonging to the bottom layer
 - 35. Black tropical American cuckoo
 - 37. Music genre
 - 38. Indicates one is in mourning
 - 39. Secured forever
 - 42. Bodily cavity
 - 43. A dog is one
 - 46. Chose to do something
 - 47. Annoy persistently
 - 49. Large hotel rooms
 - 50. Beg
 - 52. Docket
 - 54. Subway dwelling rodent
 - 55. Sources
 - 57. Mild Dutch cheese
 - 59. Spanish city
 - 62. Consumed
 - 63. Ballplayer's tool
 - 66. Midway between north and east
 - 68. Atomic #3



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Summer Reading for Everyone

Library Corner
Empowering individuals to build a stronger community

There will be a drawing for everyone who enters the CCPL summer reading program to win prizes. There are categories for young readers, 12 years and under, ages 12 to 17, and even for adults 18 and older. Come on in to the Craig County Public Library to sign up and start logging your books!

Reading is a great way to become disconnected! Yes, to turn off distracting electronics and get lost in a book. That is relaxation at its best. You can take your

paperback book to the beach and not worry about sand or heat ruining it. You can take your book camping and not worry about a little rain getting on it. Well, those you check out from the library should be taken care of, but the library book barns are full to the rafters of books you can take along, trade, loan out or give away.

Take advantage of a good book! Ask friends what authors they like. You'd be surprised! One 'tween said Malcom Gladwell is her favorite while another loves J.K. Rowling. I was surprised to find that Susanne Collins' Hunger Games drew me into reading the whole series. Or, if you like a non-fiction

documentary approach, check out Dopesick by our own Beth Macy.

"Part of being human is wanting our own story to be heard and understood. Some have a gift for telling those stories in ways that enthrall and persuade others. But every single one of us has the capacity to learn from the stories of others. As we work to change the world, that may well be the single most important action we can take." Michael Brune.

Get inspired by a good book. Get inspired to learn more, to change your life, to change the world, to open your imagination, to write your own story. The possibilities are endless!



PHOTO BY MARGE LEWTER

A note on beagles

Alexander Shedd
alexander.shedd@ourvalley.org

For this week's front page stories, you may have noticed that I wrote an article on the closure of the beagle breeding facility in Cumberland. This is a story that's close to my heart, so I thought it appropriate to write an addendum here to express my feelings separately and avoid any questions of impartiality in the main article.

The USDA report on the Cumberland facility is truly horrific—hundreds of dogs suffering from heat exhaustion and generally horrendous conditions, injured dogs out on the facility floors without any notice or care, poor access to food and water, 300 puppies "mysteriously" dead in six months—these are just a few of the things the USDA investigators noted. What took them so long to investigate the

facility is anyone's question given the repeated attempts by PETA to get their attention over the past several years, but I digress.

My fiance, Olivia, is a veterinary student at Virginia Tech's college of veterinary medicine. During the first year of her degree in 2020, she participated in a program that is mandatory for first-years in which groups of eight students would take care of a puppy that lives on the vet school grounds. Each student is required to visit with and walk their group's puppy a certain number of times per week—these dogs, affectionately known as "canine mentors," are well cared for by both the students and their handlers at the school and serve a dual purpose in also being employed by the students for the program's regular research labs and classes.

Shortly after meeting her group's dog, a beagle named Marshmallow (sic), Olivia fell in love and committed

to adopting the puppy at the end of the school year. The timetable ended up being moved slightly due to outside circumstances, and we took Mellow home on the first day of the first COVID-19 lockdown. The remainder of Olivia's classes were moved online and I had just been laid off from my short-lived job as a barista, leaving us with nothing but time and a fairly generous COVID unemployment check. Mellow single handedly (paw-edly?) made those early days of the pandemic bearable.

Mellow is the true apple of both of our eyes. We love her more than I thought it was possible to love a dog, and since her adoption she has been our constant companion and best friend. She loves walks, zooming around the yard and wrestling with our two cats, whom she is aware we refer to as her "brothers."

While the Tech program now uses local shelter dogs, Mellow's "class" of canine mentors was the last of many years of the school's partnership with the Cumberland Envigo facility, a deal that seems to have ended after this news first hit headlines in 2020. Mellow, as well as all the other beagles from the vet school, all of which were successfully adopted out by the school every year and many of which were adopted by students, all came from the Cumberland facility and undoubtedly suffered the same conditions as those recently seized by the Humane Society.

Virginia Tech and the

Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine are not at fault for this, nor do I mean to point any fingers at what I consider a fantastic school and fantastic veterinary program. Rather, what upsets me is that the Cumberland facility for so long got away with these abuses towards countless dogs just like our Marshmallow. In Envigo's parent company's statement, the Inotiv CEO noted that the Cumberland facility comprised less than 1 percent of the company's profits—a figure meant to distance themselves from the facility that, to me, feels more like professional apathy falling far short of what the outrageous moral failure of this facility should evoke. Animal research has a place in our society, whether we like it or not; all we can hope is that the companies

responsible for those undertakings are conscious of their own actions. When they fail to meet the bare minimum of standards, lives are lost of animals who otherwise could live full and meaningful lives just as any other dog. There is no excuse for it; it's at best gross neglect, and at worst cruelty.

Virginia's shelters are reaching full capacity. I urge anyone who has room for a new fur baby in their life to visit the Angels of Assisi adoption event this weekend, July 15-17 at the PetSmart on 220 south of 419, Friday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, as well as the future events they'll undoubtedly hold soon as shelters all across Virginia are left to repair the damage Envigo has done.



My beloved and intrepid beagle, Mellow.

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USPS 378-080 1633 W. Main St.
(540) 389-9355 Salem, VA 24153
www.ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*
Alexander Shedd, *Editor* alexander.shedd@ourvalley.org
Brian Hoffman, *Sports Editor* bhoffman@ourvalley.org
Debbie Nixon, *Graphic Designer* dnixon@ourvalley.com
Toni Smith, *Graphic Designer* toni.smith@ourvalley.com
Lynn Hurst, *General Manager* lhurst@ourvalley.org
Randy Thompson *Advertising Consultant* advertise@ourvalley.org
Give us your view: alexander.shedd@ourvalley.org
To subscribe: 540-389-9355

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Parade from page 1

chapter gave away over 200 spinners and American flags to the parade watchers." There were at least 400 people in attendance.

Crawford is a relatively new resident of Craig. "I first posed the question to my fellow members of the Craig Valley Chapter DAR shortly after last July 4th, curious why there wasn't one in New Castle and whether there had ever been an Independence Day Parade," Crawford shared. "Other than the 1976 Bicentennial Wagon Train that came through New Castle, even the oldest members of our chapter, many who are life-long residents of Craig, could not recall one."

After approving their desire to have a parade, their chapter began work in January to secure all the needed approvals from the town.

"As we moved into mid-May, I had an image in my mind that it would only be me and Diane Givens marching down Main Street - lol!" Crawford joked, "But little by little, registration forms started coming in and as the date closed near, I was receiving texts, phone calls and emails asking if they could join in the parade."

They lost count of the actual number of entries, since there were many last-minute ones, but there were close to 40 units with over 100 people in the parade, which made for a great day.

The DAR set up the Patriot Cup trophy table at the courthouse.

"At the fairgrounds, it soon became deliriously happy chaos as more and more vehicles pulled through the gates - and that included tractors, trucks, vintage and classic cars, motorcycles, firetrucks, wreckers - as well as carloads of children eager to march in the parade," Crawford said.

The judging took place prior to the start of the parade by three of their friends from the Allegheny Chapter of DAR, JoAnn Sutphin, Diane Cately and BJ Willard.

"Our District Director, Jeanne Motley Dooley and her husband also attended which made the event special for our chapter," Crawford added.

The Town of New Castle Vice Mayor Tommy Zimmerman served as the very first Grand Marshal, leading the parade.

Emcees, Tim Leftwich, David Givens, and new Farm Bureau agent David Brown did an awesome job providing lively commentary and patriotic music during the parade.

Leftwich shared, "I've been here about 40 years and never regretted living here, there's such good people here!"

"My son, Justin Crawford, the great-grandson of

Myrtle Crawford who lived in New Castle for over 50 years, played the part of Uncle Sam, giving out flags and spinners to the crowd," Crawford said. "And how can I not acknowledge the many businesses and merchants along the parade route who went above and beyond with their patriotic decorations to make the parade festive."

The Masonic Lodge provided free lemonade and the Craig County Historical Society offered a delicious chili dog bag lunch with dessert provided by the Craig County Public Library's bake sale.

Crawford shared, "As the parade emptied the fairgrounds and poured onto the streets, hearing the sounds of the firetruck horn blasts and patriotic music playing, I was overtaken with emotion as I was taken back over 60 years when I was a young girl watching my own hometown Independence Day Parade from the shoulders of my dad."

All of their months of planning had finally come to fruition.

"My good friend Diane Givens ran to my side and hugged me and said 'Let's go! It's time for a parade!'" Crawford excitedly shared. "I jumped on the DAR truck and seeing the sight of families with their small children and senior citizens waving flags and spinners, as well as every age in between, absolutely made my day. The entire town was filled with happy, smiling faces enjoying our own small-town parade and celebrating our freedom and independence."

Smiles, laughter, American flags and an atmosphere of freedom was almost tangible as people greeted one another warmly, conversations were plenteous and the American red, white and blue were worn, displayed and honored.

As each entry rode, drove or walked by, hand waves were exchanged from both sides. It was truly a great and memorable event.

Family and friends of Crawford's, Kim Maskew and Eric Jackson, from Kingsport, Tennessee came and said they thoroughly enjoyed the parade. Jackson is an Army Veteran, serving from 1984 until 1992.

Mark Jones was celebrating his grandson's fourth birthday, born July 4.

The town shared a solemn moment as the VFW Post 4491 decorated truck, which led the parade, stopped in front of the courthouse. They exited the truck, going into the courtyard to retire the tattered flag at the courthouse and replace it, adding an honorary time of reflection and prayer for the entire town.

Honor was truly shown on our Independence Day celebration.

Vintage vehicles, tractors, floats, and people walking garnished the trek from the Fairgrounds to Main Street. Patriotism was displayed everywhere. Even spectators and some pets were adorned in their patriotic colors.

Winners of the Most Patriotic Entries were, Craig Valley Post 4491 VFW with their military decorated truck the Dunbar Boys, Chase & Jonah (aka little Elvis) won the children's Most Patriotic entry, receiving copy of the Constitution and a Quill and Ink set "to practice writing like they did in the 'olden days,'" Crawford added.

Also, each child received gold medals with patriotic ribbons which they wore proudly. The first-place winner of the engraved Patriot Cup will be displayed at The Emporium.

"The VFW will forever have the bragging rights that they were the very first winner of the Patriot Cup," Crawford shared.

The DAR sends many thanks to those who made this parade happen: County Administrator - Dan Collins and the Craig County Board of Supervisors, Craig County Tourism Council for their part in making the parade become a reality, Mayor Bucky Johnson and the New Castle Town Council for their support, Darryl Humphreys - CC EMS Emergency Management Coordinator for providing stand-by emergency services, Sheriff Trevor Craddock and his deputies for providing important traffic control and safety, the Fairgrounds Association for the use of the fairgrounds, and VDOT also placed important traffic signage along Route 311 to ensure safety for those traveling that road on July 4.

"I think I can speak for our DAR, that we plan to continue this as an annual tradition and will try to make it bigger and better with each coming year," Crawford added.



The Dunbar Boys, Chase & Jonah (aka little Elvis) won the children's Most Patriotic entry.



Steve and Wes, both military Veterans, rode their trikes, flying the American flags proudly.

PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Disposition of Property**

The Craig County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing **Thursday August 4th, 2022 at 7 pm**, at the Craig County Courthouse in New Castle, Virginia, to consider the disposition/ FOR SALE of property, **Tax Parcel 47-A-38**, Camp Mitchell Property located off of State Route 689 Camp Mitchell Road. The 9.6900 acre known as Camp Mitchell -Little Mountain, 495 Camp Mitchell Road, New Castle, Virginia 24127.

Public comment on the disposition of property may be submitted in writing to the County Administration Office, P.O. Box 308, New Castle, Virginia 24127, by calling 540-864-5010, or in person at the public hearing.

By Order of the Craig County Board of Supervisors in accordance with Code of Virginia, § 15.2-951

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation opens record \$14.9 million grant round

Submitted by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation is accepting applications for nearly \$15 million in land conservation grants, a record amount.

A total of \$16 million each in fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024 was approved in the state budget, with \$4 million each year allocated to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. Another \$2.9 million in previously awarded grants that was not spent because projects were withdrawn or came in under budget is being made available, in addition to the newly allocated \$12 million.

The foundation provides grants to support conservation in the following categories: farmland preservation, forest preservation, historic preservation, natural area protection, and open spaces and parks.

The program provides 50-50 matching grants for localities and nonprofit conservation entities.

Under state legislation that went into effect on July 1, Virginia's Indian tribes will be eligible to apply for the first time. State agencies and federally or state-recognized Indian tribes may receive 100%.

The deadline to apply is 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 6.

A virtual workshop for potential applicants is scheduled for Aug. 8 at 1 p.m. Details about the workshop, the grant manual and application are posted at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/land-conservation/vlcf>.

In 2021, the board awarded \$7.5 million for the fiscal year 2022 grant round to fund 30 conservation projects and protect 8,000 acres of land across the commonwealth.

VLCF board members are appointed by the governor, the Senate and the House of Delegates. The board includes the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, who serves as chair, and the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry.

DCR provides staff support to the board.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Craig County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing **Thursday August 4th, 2022 at 7 pm**, at the Craig County Courthouse in New Castle, Virginia, to consider the disposition of property, 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 "Closed Area" and all Ground Water Monitoring Wells will be maintained in accordance with DEQ regulations by the purchaser.

Public comment on the disposition of property may be submitted in writing to the County Administration Office, P.O. Box 308, New Castle, Virginia 24127, by calling 540-864-5010, or in person at the public hearing.

By Order of the Craig County Board of Supervisors in accordance with Code of Virginia, § 15.2-951

God's House Is Always Open

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 Loraine Taylor, agladypastor@msn.com. Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Evening service at 7:00 p.m.; Youth (ages 13-18) & Super Church (ages 4-12) Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. You can also watch on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m. www.graceassemblycatawba.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
"WHERE YOUR HEART CAN FEEL THE DIFFERENCE"
282 Salem Ave., New Castle; 864-5212; Pastor Bill Frazier. Sunday Service: 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 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 Slacy, 364 Main St., New Castle, Va. 864-5242; Sunday School 10AM, Worship 11AM; Monday Adult Choir 7PM, UMW 3rd Wednesday 7PM, Youth and other programs, Bible Studies.

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

CRAIG COUNTY COMMUNITY CHURCH - 'WELCOME HOME!'
Sunday service 9-10:15am at the VFW building in New Castle. Casual dress if you desire and contemporary praise and worship. If you don't have a 'home' church, please join us at ours with Pastor Gary Burch. Check us out on facebook or contact us at: craigcountycommunity-church@gmail.com.

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Legals - Botetourt County

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. Code Ann. §§8.01-316,-317
Case No. 22-7
Botetourt County Circuit Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re **James Daniel Hull Amy Diane Hammond, Stephen Holloway Hammond v. James Brandon Hull**
The object of this suit is to: Adopt James Daniel Hull by stepparent, Stephen Holloway Hammond. It is ORDERED that James Brandon Hull, whose location is unknown appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before August 15, 2022.
Signed and dated- Tommy L Moore, Clerk 06/24/2022

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY IN RE: ESTATE OF GARY GROVER HOWELL, DECEASED

NOTICE

Having been requested to do so by Lenden Eakin, attorney for the administrator c.t.a. of the estate of Gary Grover Howell, Deceased, and in accordance with Section 64.2-550 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, all creditors of Gary Grover Howell and all persons in any way interested in his estate are hereby notified that I have fixed the 17th day of August, 2022 at 9 o'clock a.m., at my office at 13 South Roanoke Street Fincastle, Virginia as the time and place for determining an account of the debts and demands against said Gary Grover Howell or his estate, the priorities among them, a the names of the persons to whom they are due. All creditors of Gary Grover Howell, deceased, and persons interested in his estate should appear at the time and place named, or any other time or place to which the proceedings may be adjourned, and protect their interest. Given under my hand this the 15th day of July, 2022. Malcolm McL. Doubles Commissioner of Accounts

Legals - City of Radford

ABC NOTICE

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TIMOTHY LUSKIN, Licensing Manager.

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

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Legals - Montgomery County

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Case No. CL22000756-00 Complainant, v. Mimia Lee Moore, ET AL., Respondent(s).
ORDER OF PUBLICATION
The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Complainant, County of Montgomery, Virginia, for delinquent real estate taxes against certain real property located in the County of Montgomery, Virginia, described as follows: Tax Map No. 406-4 90-93 Account No. 008301. Beginning at a point on the east side of Peach Street corner lot number ninety-four (94), Midway Heights, which beginning point is 125 feet south of the Intersection of Peach and Oak Streets; thence from said beginning point and with the line of lot number ninety-four (94), S 74° 00' E 200 feet to a point, common corner of lots numbers ninety-four (94), ninety-three (93), one hundred fifty-six (156) and one hundred fifty-seven (157); thence with the lines of lots numbers one hundred fifty-seven (157), One hundred fifty-eight (158). One hundred fifty-nine (159) and one hundred sixty (160), S 18° 00' W 100 feet to a point, common corner to lots numbers one hundred sixty (160), one hundred sixty-one (161), ninety (90) and eighty-nine (89), N 74° 00' W 200 feet to a point on the east side of Peach Street, thence with the east side of Peach Street, N 18° 00' E 100 feet to a point, corner to lot number ninety-four (94), the point of the beginning, and being all of lots number ninety (90) ninety-one (91) ninety-two (92) and ninety-three (93) as shown and designated on a map of Midway Heights, which map is of record in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, in Deed Book 140, page 497. And being the same property conveyed to Ira J. Moore and Mimia L. Moore by Rickey L. Stowers and Karen M. Stowers by Deed dated October 29, 1985, and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia on November 15, 1985. This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservations of record which affect the property herein described.
IT APPEARING that an Affidavit has been made and filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the identities and location of certain parties to be served, that the last known address for the Respondents herein are as follows: Mimia Lee Moore, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is 3055 Peach Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073; Ira J Moore, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; and that any officers, heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the Respondent named herein are made parties Respondent to this action individually and/or by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties herein and all Parties Unknown and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before August 12, 2022 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Montgomery, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their

Legals - Montgomery County

interests in this cause. Entered on the 6th day of July, 2022.
K. Mike Fleenor, Jr., Judge I Ask For This: John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805)
Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC
P.O. Box 31800
Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800
Phone: (804)545-2500
Facsimile: (804)545-2378
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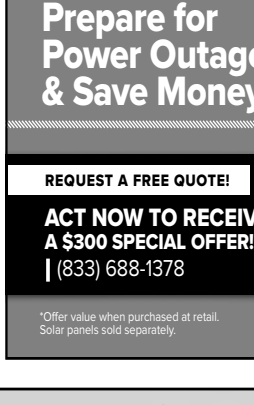
Legals - Town of Vinton

Notice to Our Family Medicine Patients

Effective Saturday, July 30, 2022, R. Parker Slayton, M.D., will no longer practice from Carilion Clinic Family Medicine in Vinton. Your confidential medical records will remain with Carilion Clinic. If you choose to continue your medical care with us, you do not need to take any action. If you choose to transfer to another provider and need a copy of your Carilion Clinic Family Medicine record, please contact our office for a medical record request/transfer form. After you return the form and the request is processed, your medical record will be sent to another provider of your choice within a reasonable time. If you need help finding a physician in a different office, please call the physician referral line on Carilion Direct at 800-422-8482.

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TYLER UBERSTINE TOOK THE PATH LESS TRAVELED AS HE CLIMBS THE BOSTON RED SOX ORGANIZATION

By Chelsea Roemer
Promotions and Social
Media Assistant
Salem Red Sox

Gripping the baseball firmly while holding it behind his back, he runs his fingers across the seams as his eyes gear directly toward home plate, waiting for the catcher's signal. After receiving the go-ahead, he winds up and gives a solid release of the ball that meets the mitt after crossing the middle of the plate. Strike three.

Tyler Uberstine walks off the mound after recording five strikeouts across five innings in his debut for Northwestern. It became a surprise for many to learn that this was not only his first outing in a Wildcat uniform but marked his official collegiate start and the first time he has pitched for a team in roughly six years.

The Manhattan Beach native has been competing on the baseball field since he was three years old, but the path that led him to his current position in the Boston Red Sox organization differs greatly from most professional athletes. His travels took him to Salem this summer, where he was promoted to Greenville in the Red Sox organization two weeks ago.

The narrative of Uberstine's career began after the T-ball stage, as he was consistently told he was not good enough to make the team and was left behind. Fast forward ten years, Uberstine was on the freshman team for Chamaine college prep, yet he barely faced any batters.

"Once the field started getting bigger after little league the opportunities to play became scarcer," Uberstine said. "I was the kind of guy that was placed on the freshman team as a sophomore and still rode the bench."

His time to prove himself on the mound was limited, but his tenacity and passion for the game remained consistent. Showing slight improvement, he began to throw harder and made the varsity baseball team by his senior year. With the idea of playing baseball at the

next level continuously on his mind, Uberstine began to browse Division III institutions, leaning toward the academic side of the process. Unfortunately, due to his lack of outings, scholarship opportunities were not arising.

"I reached out and applied to several schools I thought I could attend because I always maintained a really good GPA," Uberstine said. "But I ended up never hearing back from anyone."

In the fall of 2018 Uberstine headed just northeast of his hometown to attend the University of Southern California, where he began to study Business. However, baseball was still a frequent topic on his mind.

To satisfy his craving of being back on the mound, he decided to join the university's club baseball team. After one semester of participating, Uberstine had the desire to play at a more competitive level. This led him to seek permission from Dan Hubbs, the USC varsity baseball coach at the time, to try out for a spot on the roster as a sophomore.

Once permission was granted, Uberstine went to work.

During his second semester of college, he was out the door at 6:00 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, taking an Uber an hour and a half each way to PFA (Preparation, Fitness, Attitude) in Claremont, California. There he trained with Dave Coggins, a former pitcher in the Philadelphia Phillies organization, throwing and getting in a workout before returning to campus for a full day of classes. To take his dedication one step further, he would long toss a baseball with his roommate on top of a parking garage to get more reps in at night.

It did not take long before he saw improvement and was launching pitches in the mid-to-high 80s range by the time he took practice with USC's team in the fall of his sophomore year.

"When I threw in the fall it was my first time getting on the mound since I was in high school and I

had to really work through the nerves," Uberstine said. "I knew it was going to be tough because there were 39 guys competing for a spot on a 35-man roster and I had to wow the coaching staff."

His outings in the fall impressed the USC coaching staff enough for them to invite him to official team practice that started in January. Uberstine continued to work with the team during the winter months, but everything took a turn once official cuts came just two days before the season was underway.

"I received a text from my coach wanting to meet in his office where he told me that there was not going to be a spot for me on the roster that season," Uberstine said. "Since I had gone through media day and even received a custom glove, the news really shocked me."

The story of Uberstine's career could have ended with his attempt to walk on, but his determination added another chapter with the decision to enter the transfer portal in search of another chance.

Uberstine upped his training and began to contact several institutions to express interest, one of which was Northwestern. He touched base with Northwestern's pitching coach Josh Reynolds, sending him videos of his scrimmages at USC. However, there was still no guarantee of a spot on the roster.

"I remember receiving an email of Tyler throwing and that opened up a conversation about him possibly coming here," Josh Reynolds said. "We had a potential spot to cover if one of our guys got drafted, but it was a tough situation because it was so up in the air, and I could not promise anything."

Luckily, the spot that was deemed uncertain opened as Uberstine and Reynolds remained in contact. Uberstine sent Reynolds a video of him firing the ball at over 90 MPH and secured his fate.

"He responded to the video of me throwing with, 'WE WANT YOU



PHOTO BY JOHN WACHER

Tyler Uberstine never gave up on his dream and was recently promoted from Salem to Greenville.

AT NORTHWESTERN,' in all caps." Uberstine said.

Uberstine toured the campus in the spring and officially committed to the university on May 16, 2019. He settled into his new city right away, as he moved in early to take summer courses. Once everything geared up in the fall for both school and academics, he immediately gelled with Reynolds and showed he was ready to compete.

"We knew he had a great arm but did not have a lot of experience throwing at the college level," Reynolds said. "However, his work ethic and drive are just something I have never seen before and he never stopped working to be better every day, even during the offseason."

During his first year, the redshirt sophomore dominated on the mound before the season was cut short due to COVID-19. In only four starts, he achieved 15 strikeouts through 22 innings pitched and earned a 2-0 record with a 2.86 ERA.

After sports were cleared to resume, Uberstine came back even stronger. As a redshirt ju-

nior, he tossed four scoreless innings in a win over Penn State and struck out a career-high eight batters in five innings against Rutgers, in his first full baseball season since his senior year of high school.

Now that he was turning heads while pitching at the collegiate level, his next goal of playing professionally started to manifest. Uberstine's skills on the mound caught the attention of Alonzo Wright, a Midwest area scout for the Boston Red Sox organization.

"In the fall I could not see him live due to COVID, so I went off clips and thought it was crazy that he had no player history," Wright said. "I thought his athleticism was insane despite not having a full year of baseball under his belt and knew he had grit like no other guy I had seen."

Wright and Uberstine met in person for the first time in December of 2019. It was then that Wright knew he was going to be his biggest advocate for him to get drafted. The two kept in touch during the months leading up to the draft and built a solid relationship.

"Immediately I had a gut feeling he was going to be special, and made a big case for him," Wright said. "When the draft was going on I had no idea what was going to happen, but I got a phone call with Boston's decision to take him."

In the 19th round of the 2021 draft, Uberstine received a phone call with an offer to become part of the Red Sox organization. He made it official after signing on the dotted line on July 24th.

"Going pro had been a dream of mine since I could remember and it was a long journey to get here," Uberstine said. "I would have never made it this far without the motivation from all the teams that cut me from their program."

Today, Uberstine and Wright keep in touch, with Wright cheering him on all the way from the Midwest.

"The second I met him I knew he wanted it and he would do anything to achieve it," Wright said. "He is very genuine; I can't say enough good things about Uberstine, and I wish there were more athletes like him."

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH GAMES WILL OPEN IN LYNCHBURG FRIDAY

The Tailgate Party and Opening Ceremonies for the Virginia Commonwealth Games are each getting a remix for 2022 when the games open Friday in Lynchburg. The Parade of Athletes will kick off at 5:30pm, leading into Opening Ceremonies, which will feature the newly crowned Miss VA Victoria Chuah, the Lighting the cauldron and the official kicking off the Games - while also highlighting the 50th Anniversary of the passage of the Title IX legislation.

The Tailgate party will begin at 6 pm following the conclusion of the Opening Ceremonies. There will be lots of games and activities and all the festivities will take place from 5:30-8 pm this Friday, July 22nd in the Liberty University Indoor Football Practice Facility. Both events Friday evening are free to the public and open to the community.

There are five new sports and one returning sport this year. Cheerleading, Gravel Racing, Adaptive Rugby, Inclusive Track & Field, and Team Volleyball are new and Mountain Biking is returning. There been a variety of competitions already this year, including Adaptive Rugby, Baseball, Figure Skating, Swimming, Triathlon Snowflex, Adult Softball, Pickleball, Racquetball and Wres-

ling. To date over 2,500 athletes have competed in the Games in 2022.

Main Games weekend is July 22-24 and it will bring 12 sports to Lynchburg and the surrounding area, one in Roanoke, one in Christiansburg and Chess is virtual. That's a total of 15 sports in three days, including over 100 teams in basketball alone.

"Liberty University is proud to continue its partnership with Virginia Amateur Sports as we host the 2022 Virginia Commonwealth Games here on campus," said Liberty University President Jerry Prevo. "We look forward to welcoming the athletes and their families to Lynchburg as these talented athletes exhibit their skills and determination during this week's competitions."

"We are proud to partner with Liberty University and Virginia Amateur Sports to host the 2022 Commonwealth Games and, most importantly, to welcome all of the athletes, families and friends to our City," said City of Lynchburg Mayor Mary Jane Dolan. "The Commonwealth Games bring thousands of athletes to the City and we are thrilled that both the number of participants and the impact they have in Lynchburg continues to grow. While you are here, we encourage you to explore

all Lynchburg has to offer - from fantastic food offerings to historic sites and exciting outdoor activities. We hope you enjoy your time in the Hill City."

The Commonwealth Games are partnering with the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank again this

year in an effort to Torch Hunger. There is a text to donate campaign, with a goal of providing meals to area families in need. Interested persons can learn more about the campaign by texting BRFOOD-BANK to 44-321.

VIRGINIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CUP WINNERS ANNOUNCED BY VHSL

Some familiar faces and two first-timers led the way in the 2021-22 National Guard Cup competition, presented by the Virginia Army National Guard for year-long athletic success in Virginia High School League sports. The Cup was called the "Wells Fargo Cup" prior to this year.

Lord Botetourt finished 12 among 40 Class 3 schools with 162.5 points. The Cavaliers had 37.5 in the fall, 20 points in the winter and 105 in the spring, paced by a state runnerup softball team and a third place girls' soccer team.

James River tied for 32nd in Class 2, scoring all 37.5 points in the winter thanks to a boys' basketball team that reached the state semifinal round.

First awarded in 1990, the Cup represents 33 seasons of excellence, with six Cups awarded for academic activities and athletics in each of the VHSL's six enrollment classifications. A point system determines the winners based on overall performance in VHSL state championship competitions. Points are awarded on the following basis: first place, 50; second place, 45; third place, 40; fourth place, 35; fifth place, 30; sixth place, 25; seventh place, 20; and eighth place,

15. In a tie, the schools receive an equal number of points based on the number of schools that tie and the number of schools that finish higher in the standings. For example, semifinal losers split third and fourth place points (37.5 points each). Schools earning the League's Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award earn 50 points each.

The schools claiming Cups for the first time include Glenvar in Class 2 and Battlefield in Class 3. In Class 1, Auburn won for the fourth straight time and the fifth time in six years, as no Cups were awarded in 2019-20 due to COVID-19. In Class 3 Maggie Walked claimed its seventh Cup overall, after winning six in a row in Class 2 from 2014-19. In Class 4 Western Albemarle won its fourth straight Cup and seventh overall after winning the past three in Class 3, while in Class 5 Deep Run won its fourth Cup since 2017.

This is the first year the Virginia Army National Guard is sponsoring the trophy. The Virginia Army National Guard has been serving the Virginia communities since 1607. To learn more about the Virginia Army National Guard, visit <https://nationalguard.com/select-your-state/VA>.