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# THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



**WE SELL KEROSENE**

## Compact Car Derby filled the ring with hard hits

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer



The Fall Demolition Derby with compact cars made for a great event, as all 13 registered vehicles entered the ring for a one and only win.

The Compact Car Derby filled the ring at the fall derby this year. Drivers were anxious to hit and hit again as they entered the ring with cheers from the spectators for each.

After the National Anthem, the signal was given by emcee David Looney, and drivers revved the motors of their cars up loudly to let everyone know that they were "on ready."

The first heat was the compact cars. The ring was filled with 13 drivers who were, Zac Peters - 17, Grant Oliver - 07, Chris Boyd - Payout, Chad Ryan - 44, Kenny Collins - 27, Chad McDowell - 13, Coley Fisher - 54, Josie Foutz - 24, Robert Foutz - 24, Courtney Price - 8008, Charlie Foutz - 38, Carter Givens - 32 and Michael Gallimard - 45.

Carter Givens is only 14 years old and got his start in the lawnmower derbies which he was always did well in. Now, he was driving with the "big dogs" as they said, and he was ready to join in.

The horn blew to "go" and cars were crunching

fast as no driver hesitated in this one takes all heat, especially number 13 (Dudding) as he hit immediately.

Others followed pursuit. Number 13 (Dudding) rammed Payout into the wall. Number 32 ramed a car, backed up hit again and then drove around for another victim.

Dust covered the middle of the ring as cars spun around, hitting and going for one another.

Number 45 hit 27 into the corner and he looked like he was stuck as he rocked back and forth diligently to get out.

Number 07 made a good hit onto 69 and then backed into number 13 (McDowell) as 17 joined the fun and hit 69.

Number 8008 and 38 did a mid-circle dance.

Number 13 pushed 8008 right into the middle as 07 came around and made good hits, ramming one car into another.

Number 17 rammed the side of 38 and 07 rammed 8008 again, backed up and rammed the front end of 69 and then the side of 13 (McDowell). Number 8008

See Derby, page 3



PHOTOS BY PAM DIDDING

Hits started fast and hard as the drivers strategically tried to make good hits, leaving some cars out of the derby as they were pushed against the walls.

## Fairgrounds dedicates announcer stand in memory of Sammy Huffman

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer



There was no place he would have rather been than at a derby, many agreed about the late Sammy Huffman. His passion was derby, second to his family.

When people said the name Sammy Huffman in Craig, most everyone knew the man.

He was bigger than life, with a smile and a heart that matched.

He had been the emcee at the Craig County Fairgrounds derbies for many years until his untimely death two months ago. Many felt the heartbreak of losing him so early in life and were saddened. Facebook was flooded with posts of pictures and memories.

At the annual Fall Demolition Derby on Oct. 8, the Fairgrounds Association dedicated the announcer stand, (or "tower" as Huffman called it), in memory of Sammy Huffman.

They redid the roof and added a huge 8-foot-long metal sign that said, "BIG SAM'S STAND" in memory of Sammy Huffman. The picture on the sign is of Huffman leaning against one of his crashed-up derby cars with the saying, "Play Times OVER!"

Randy Dillon designed and made the sign.

"He had such a great passion for the demo derby," BJ Oliver shared. "We felt that we wanted to do this."

At the derby, the association had these words read:

"Today Oct. 8 we gather together as family, classmates, friends, and neighbors to not only have fun and compete in a demolition derby, but to celebrate the memory and life of our dear friend Sammy Huffman."

See Fairgrounds, page 3



COURTESY PHOTOS

The Craig County Fairgrounds Association had a metal sign designed to honor the memory of Sammy Huffman, who was a derby driver in years past and emcee the last several years, by placing a new roof on the announcers stand and an 8-foot metal sign on the front.

## Halloween celebrated in Craig County



Families arrived early at the Craig County Fairgrounds as vehicles were lined up for the annual Trunk or Treat. Emily and Justin brought their entire family, having a blast getting their bags filled with candies.



PHOTOS BY PAM DIDDING

Several families enjoyed the fully decorated scary house. However, some kids made their families stand close by as they slowly walked through the scary entrance. Once they got to the porch and saw the smiling faces, the kids joyfully held out their bags for their treats.

See Halloween, page 4



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# VDOT ROADWATCH

## INTERSTATE 81

**INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT 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 barrier wall can be installed for road crews to work behind. 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. Drivers can expect the following lane closures and upcoming impacts on northbound and southbound I-81:

**WORK ZONE SPEED:** With narrow spacing in lanes due to barrier walls, lack of shoulders and lane shifts in various locations, drivers should adhere to posted 60 mph speed limits in the work zone and allow space when following a vehicle.

**RAMP CLOSURES:** Ramp closures are possible during nighttime hours, 12 a.m., to 5 a.m. Drivers should watch for message boards dates and times the ramp will be closed.

**LANE CLOSURES:** Alternating left and right lane and shoulder closures during nighttime hours between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, are possible. Lane widths will be reduced to 11 feet. Northbound lane closures from I-81 mile marker 136 to 141. Southbound Lane closures from I-81 mile marker 141 to 136.

Nightly lane closures may be in place along the right lane with possible nightly ramp narrows as needed for guardrail and shoulder strengthening. Northbound I-81 lane closures from mile marker 138 to 142. Northbound I-81 exit and entrance ramp narrows possible at Route 311.

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.

**I-81 TROUTVILLE REST AREA CLOSURE** - The Troutville Rest Area located on southbound Interstate 81 near mile marker 158 in Botetourt County is will remain closed until before Thanksgiving to support holiday travel. The opening scheduled for the end of September has been rescheduled due to the contractor encountering challenges with a slope on the project.

Signage indicating the closure is posted in the rest area. A temporary concrete barrier wall will remain in place in front of the facility. The rest area facility, ramps and parking lot are closed to the public. This project will extend the ramp into the rest area by 500 feet and the ramp out of the rest area by 2,100 feet. It will also include expanding the truck parking area at the facility by about 10-13 spaces. Work is expected to be completed before Thanksgiving to support holiday travel.

**REST AREA OPTIONS:** While the Troutville Rest Area is closed, southbound I-81 drivers can use the Fairfield Rest Area at mile marker 195 in Rockbridge County or the Radford Rest Area at mile marker 108 in Montgomery County. In addition, the Troutville Weigh Station, located on southbound I-81 at mile marker 149, will have portable toilets and parking will be temporarily available for commercial vehicles.

**I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY** – Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the Montgomery/Pulaski County line. The old bridge is being demolished. 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 98 to 109. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder clo-

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

**SLOW ROLLS SCHEDULED:** A slow roll operation may be in place daily beginning on Monday through Friday, between mile marker 101 and 105 northbound and between mile marker 109 and 105 southbound, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 12 p.m.

**ROUTE 605:** Intermittent flagging operations will be present on Route 605, located under the New River Bridge, for work overhead on the bridge.

**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.

**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.

**I-81 PAVING OPERATIONS** – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays. Roanoke County: Alternating lane closures on I-81 northbound for milling and paving from mile marker 134.5 to 132.4, 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Periodically, exit 132 northbound may be closed. Message boards will notify drivers.

**I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS** – Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 138 to 152, right and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

**I-81 POTHOLE PATCHING OPERATIONS** – Weather permitting, crews will patch potholes along southbound and northbound Interstate 81. Mobile right and left lane closures will be in place and moving along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the

following morning. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

**INTERSTATE 581 ROUTE 581 BRIDGE WORK OVER WILLIAMSON ROAD** – On Route 11 (Williamson Road) drivers can expect intermittent and alternating lane closures between the intersections with Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue. Intermittent daytime and nighttime lane closures between the intersections above might be required, and will be in place utilizing flagging operations. Any impacts to I-581 will be minimal. Expected completion end of 2022.

**LANE CLOSURES:** A left lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Monday at 7 a.m. through Wednesday at 7 p.m. A right lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Thursday at 7 a.m. through Saturday at 7 p.m. A left and center lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Saturday at 5 p.m. through Sunday at 2 p.m. A right lane closure may be in place on Route 11 northbound between the intersections of Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue periodically. Nighttime left lane closures for both the northbound and southbound directions of Route 11 are possible between the intersections referenced above.

**I-581/220 EXPRESSWAY PAVING OPERATIONS** – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

**I-581/220 LANE & RAMP CLOSURES FOR PAVING AND MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS IN ROANOKE COUNTY**– Weather permitting, crews will be milling and paving along Interstate 81. Right and left lane closures will be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours. Drivers should expect possible delays.

**I-581 BRIDGE REPAIRS** – Weath-

See VDOT, page 5

**TO AVOID COVID-19, YOU'VE GOT OPTIONS.**

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**VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH** You've Got Options, Virginia.

# Derby from page 1



**McDowell (13) and Peters (17) were going hard at it, making big hits and devastating crunches.**



PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING

**Though Peters (17) gave Oliver (07) a great challenge, and even made it off the wall here, only to end up against another wall, as Oliver made the last hits for the Compact Car win.**

# Fairgrounds from page 1

man. Big Sam, as he was affectionately known, was a friend to us all.

Some things you could always count on for big Sam was: ready for a road trip whether it was in the woods or hunting for derby cars, a cold beverage, a good story, to paint a #3 on everything you owned, to speak to you when he saw you no other matter where you were or who you were, to treat you like family, to tell you how he really felt as he didn't hold back and most importantly the love he had for his family.

Today, the Craig County Fairground Association would like to dedicate the announcer stand in his honor and have affectionately named it 'Big Sam's Stand' to forever honor his love, not only for the sport of demolition derby but for

the love he showed everyone he knew.

Now as he watches over all of us from up above in his new heavenly perch, let's all rise for a toast to big Sam!"

Also, Huffman was an artist. He had designed the trophies for the Oct. 8 derby before he passed. They are a metal sign with a pumpkin with a determined look on its face, which had bat wings under it, and cut out letters that said "Fall Brawl 2022."

The winners were happy they not only had won the derby but had a special trophy in memory of Huffman as well.

As Facebook was flooded with thoughts of "Big Sam," many shared their heartfelt memories as well.

Some of his derby buddies chose to share their memories for this article.

"He was a great friend! We actually grew up together and had been friends from childhood. He was one year ahead of me, but he lived beside of my granny, and we spent a lot of time together," Oliver said. "We ran a lot of derby together...I really miss him."

"Big Sam was a great friend. He might as well have been a brother to me," shared Donnie Wayne Fisher, a big-time derby man himself.

"We had a lot of great times running derbies all over the place," he added.

He recalled when "Big Sam" had his first win in West Virginia driving a 1967 Dodge Monaco Station Wagon.

"He loved the sport of derby," Fisher continued. "We took many road trips to get cars together and talked about everything and would laugh

the whole trip."

Fisher added that Huffman loved his wife and kids.

"I still have the last unopened text he sent me because I won't get another one," he emotionally added. "He was a big inspiration to me."

Fisher said he remembered riding his bicycle down to watch Huffman build cars.

"He was such a true friend and I will miss him as all of his friends and family will because he did not know a stranger," Fisher shared.

Justin Dudding recalled that his favorite night was at Richard and Jasmine Brown's wedding derby reception.

"Sammy was the emcee, and I was the D.J.," Dudding shared. "Well, BJ Oliver left his cooler full of beer at the stage, so Sammy and I emptied it for him. We then tossed the empty cans into a derby car parked close to the stage. LOL, as we talked about derbies of the past and Tom T Hall songs all night as we drank BJ's beer."

He added, "I sure do miss the long talks about junk yards we had come across and the phone calls telling me where every Cadillac setting in the weeds he had found were at."

As one of the younger derby drivers, "Baby Grant" (as Huffman called him), Oliver shared, "Yes, I did know Sammy pretty well!"

"Every time I'd see Sammy he'd talk about his derby days," he said. "He would tell

were ramming each other into the walls.

Several cars were starting to fall out as engines gave out, tires went cockeyed and metal was pushed in so far the car wouldn't move any longer.

Number 07 pushed 17, but 17 got away, then rammed 69 in the front, continuing until he pushed him on the wall then went after 38 as his wheels then angle out the wrong way from the hits.

Numbers 07 and 69 start their own party as hits were hard front to front and 69 started smoking badly.

Number 17 snuck around the backside and hit 07, and 07 returned the hit to 17 and they hit continuously as 17 pushed 07 in a circle dance.

Number 17 then went after 69 as 69 returned the favor but stopped moving.

Number 07 rammed 17 in the front, backed up and went in for another nice hit, but 17 got away driving around, contemplating the next move.

However, 07 hit, backed up and hit again, turning them both around

as hits continued and now has him on the wall, pushing 17 but 17 pushed back and came out. The crowd went wild.

Number 07 went after 17 on the front tire, hitting it five times as 17 started spinning, not able to go anywhere.

Number 07 continued to give "baby" hits. Both cars were smoking badly.

Number 17 revved his engine, trying diligently to move, but no luck while 07 patiently awaited another hit.

The horn blew and Looney announced the winners.

The heat was long with all the cars, but Grant Oliver - 07 made the last hit count, taking first place. Zac Peters - 17 came in a very close second and also received the prestigious Mad Dog award. Robert Foutz - 69 gave them both a run for the money, coming in third.

The tractors had to come in and move several cars out, while people took advantage of the break and ordered food from the concession and 50/50 tickets were sold.

friends he had in high school," she added. "He taught me to always take the long way or the "scenic route". We used to go on family vacations to OBX and he and his dad would use walkie talkies and an atlas map to get us there. It would take eight hours but if definitely made an impact on my memories."

His oldest daughter, Samantha, holds Huffman's name.

"Derbies were almost everything to dad. It wasn't there in person; you better believe he was watching it on TV!" Samantha shared. "He even had a derby video games and we would play it together."

Samantha added that she and the family really loved the dedication of the announcers stand and the permanent metal plaque that it now on it.

"I know that dad would have loved it too, especially with it being his favorite pictures and all. It definitely made us all emotional," she shared. "It was very strange for us not seeing him up there or hearing his voice throughout the fairgrounds, but he was definitely with us all that night."

The memorial announcers stand gives honor to a man who had great passion for life and people, as well as the sport. It also seems to create a deep smile within the hearts of many as they gaze upon the art of the memorial sign.



PAM DUDDING PHOTO

**In 2020, when COVID-19 had stopped many events, Sammy Huffman agreed to play Santa at the Craig County Fairgrounds and had the "best time" he shared. At first, he declined, saying he was unsure he could do it, but he seemed to settle into the role of Santa. He asked the kids specific questions, making them smile and laugh. After that, he said he would always be "on ready" to wear the big red.**

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- CLUES ACROSS**

  1. Army legal branch
  4. Dekagram
  7. Underwater ship
  10. 6th Jewish month
  12. \_\_\_ lang syne, good old days
  14. European money
  15. Remover of an apple's center
  17. The content of cognition
  18. Bleats
  19. "1836 siege" of U.S.
  20. Inquiries
  22. Bottled gas
  23. Dutch painter Gerrit
  25. An invasion or hostile attack
  28. Misbeliever
  31. South American Indiana
  32. Bone cavities

**CLUES DOWN**

  1. Mexican wattle & daub hut
  2. \_\_\_ Green: playwright
  3. Building for autos
  4. Rum and lime or lemon juice
  5. Two spiral-horned African antelopes
  6. Jubilant delight
  7. Cyclic
  8. Fiddler crabs
  9. Vehicle carrying many passengers
  11. Dream sleep
  13. Afghan Persian language
  16. Gnawing small mammal
  18. B1 deficiency disease
  21. Not out
  24. Chancellor Von Bismarck
  26. RCO group of atoms

27. Cony
  29. Makes a gas less dense
  30. Instances of disease
  34. A story
  35. Surmounted
  36. Cloisonned
  37. Counterfoil
  38. Kept cattle together
  39. Computer screen material
  43. Ancient calculator
  44. Cuddle
  46. District nurse
  47. Employee stock ownership plan
  50. Distributed game cards
  52. Murres genus
  53. Tear apart violently
  55. Umbrella support
  56. Athlete who plays for pay
  57. Small amount

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# OPINION

## Veterans Day

On November 11 of each year, Americans honor the veterans who served to keep our country free.

The day was originally known as Armistice Day to mark the armistice ending World War I at 11 a.m. on November 11, 1918.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill in 1954 officially proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day to remember those who served not only in World War I but in all the wars our country has fought.

When our country is threatened and our freedom is in peril, we have been fortunate to have brave men and women willing to step forward and answer the call.

From the beginning of the Republic, we have enjoyed the protection of the citizen soldier who leaves the comforts of home

behind to defend our rights and then puts down his arms when the job is done. George Washington served as a model in this regard, but millions of Americans less well-remembered have done the same. It is our duty on Veterans Day to better remember them, especially the ones in our own communities, so that their sacrifices are recognized and their service honored.

This year, Americans lost the last of a certain breed. West Virginia's Hershel "Woody" Williams passed away on June 29, 2022, at the age of 98. He was the final surviving recipient of the Medal of Honor from World War II.

The story of Woody Williams is representative of the veterans of his generation who are passing from the scene but also speaks to



**Morgan Griffith**  
Representative

the experience of veterans across our history. He was born on a dairy farm in West Virginia in 1923. After the United States entered World War II, his older brothers served in the Army, but he chose the Marine Corps due to its blue uniforms. He was rejected at first due to his 5-foot-6 height but successfully enlisted when he tried again in 1943.

He received the Medal of Honor for his actions on February 23, 1945, during the Battle of Iwo Jima. As a corporal with the 21st Marines, 3rd Marine Division, he volunteered to clear a path through the hardened de-

fenses erected by Japanese forces on the island. For four hours, he repeatedly ran under heavy fire between the American lines and the Japanese positions, grabbing the demolition charges or flamethrowers he needed from his comrades and returning to destroy the Japanese defenses.

President Harry S. Truman awarded Mr. Williams the Medal of Honor at the White House on October 5, 1945. He returned home to West Virginia and married his fiancée, Ruby. In his later years, he remained an undaunted voice for his fellow veterans and for Gold Star families.

Woody Williams may have been the last of World War II's Medal of Honor winners among us, but there are plenty of veterans still to thank. According to the most recent data from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, more than 19 million veterans live among us in the United States and more than 700,000 in Virginia. Some of them still

struggle with injuries received in the line of duty.

We can honor veterans not just on the day set aside for them but every day. Consider supporting causes or organizations that work with veterans. Listen to their stories, and even help record them for posterity through the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project. Check in on family members and friends who served.

Further, if you are a veteran who needs assistance accessing your VA benefits or securing medals that were lost or awarded but never delivered, please contact my office and we can assist you.

On the National World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C., is inscribed a quote by the author Willa Cather: "They were mortal, but they were unconquerable."

If they are unconquerable, our country is unconquerable, and for that, we owe America's veterans our deepest gratitude.

## 100 reasons to read

This list from naturalbeachliving.com can be found on a sign in the Craig County Public Library.

The first 25:  
Helps you learn new things  
Go on an adventure without leaving your house

Expand your vocabulary  
Learn from someone else  
Sharpen your brain  
Helps you grow  
Relaxes you  
Makes you happier  
Increases world view  
You can try different

### Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community

Marge Lewter

Genres  
Helps your spelling

Helps you dream big  
Makes you think  
Helps increase emotional intelligence  
Lets you learn about new people  
Kills boredom  
Shows you a new perspective  
Challenges your perspective

Helps improve your writing  
Shows you what is possible  
Helps you focus  
Improves conversational skills  
Inspires you  
Makes you a better leader  
Gives you fresh ideas.  
Come to Swap Day on Nov. 19 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. to pick up some new reading material!

**THE NEW CASTLE RECORD**

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## Halloween

from page 1



Cornerstone Church puts on an annual Hallow Harvest party under their picnic shelter. Food, snacks and hot cocoa were enjoyed by all, candies were handed out and games lasted the entire night. The pie eating contests seemed to be the most enjoyable and prizes were won. The dinosaur and green alien enjoyed the music as they danced a jig.



PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING

Craig Valley Baptist chose to have their annual Trunk or Treat inside this year and kids lined up to go to each person's decorated area for their candies, gifts and even seashells.

Email letters to the editor to aboyd@mainstreetnewspapers.com

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VDOT from page 2

er permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 581. Right, center and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays. Scheduled traffic impacts include: Left or right lane closures may be in place on I-581 northbound from Orange Avenue to Valley View Boulevard from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Left or right lane closures may be in place on I-581 from Valley View Boulevard to Orange Avenue from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Flagging operations may be in place on Liberty Road NW from Lukens Street NE to Hunt Avenue NW from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

wide travel lane and a raised median. A new roadway will extend 13th Street to Norfolk Avenue and the intersection at 13th Street and Wise Avenue will be reconfigured to include a roundabout. Bike lanes, sidewalks, crosswalks and curb and gutter will also be added. Southbound 13th Street traffic has a detour in place using Norfolk Avenue onto 12th Street to Tazewell Avenue. This detour will be in place throughout the duration of this project. Signs will be posted to designate the detour route. Northbound 13th Street will remain open to traffic. Flaggers may be possible and the speed limit through the work zone is 25 mph. The project is expected to be completed in summer 2023.

TRAFFIC PATTERN CHANGE: Northbound traffic will be switched to the northbound lane of 13th Street. Southbound traffic will still be detoured around the work zone.

SURFACE TREATMENT OPERATIONS - Weather permitting, crews will begin surface treatment operations on various routes. Lane closures may be in place and flaggers may control traffic at times during daylight hours. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays. The road surface may be rough for a several weeks after surface treatment is applied. Once it packs down,

the road surface will be brushed and return to a more smooth surface.

ROANOKE COUNTY

ROUTE 311 AND ROUTE 419 ROUNDABOUT AT HANGING ROCK - A road project to replace the signalized intersection of Route 311 and Route 419 in Roanoke County

at Hanging Rock with a roundabout is set to begin. The new roundabout is currently open to traffic. During the remaining construction, lane closures may be in place. Expected completion is end of

2022. Drivers should expect the following: LANE CLOSURES: Single lane closure with a flagging operation will be in place on Wise Avenue between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.



Craig County Emergency Services Job Announcement

Craig County Emergency Services is accepting application for Fulltime Basic Life Support positions. Positions open until filled.

Persons interested in this position should contact Darryl Humphreys Emergency Management/Services Coordinator at 540-312-1541 or email: Dhumphreys@craigcountyva.gov. Applicants need to complete a job application provided by the County. A copy of the job description for the positions is also available for inspection.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS grid with letters filled in for a crossword puzzle.

I-581 PAVING OPERATIONS - Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

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EARLY DEADLINES FOR THANKSGIVING PAPER. There will be early deadlines for the Nov. 23 issue because of Thanksgiving. Please send your news items, photos and church news by Thursday, November 17 at noon to newcastle@ourvalley.org. Send ads by Thursday, November 17 at noon to advertise@ourvalley.org. You may also drop off news items and ads at our offices at 1633 W. Main Street, Salem. The paper will be printed on Monday, Nov. 21 in order for subscribers to receive it by mail before Thanksgiving. The office of The New Castle Record will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 24 for Thanksgiving.

STATEWIDE ADS. AUCTIONS: REAL ESTATE PORTFOLIO AUCTION. Over 80 properties. Commercial, Office Buildings, Apartments, Shopping Centers, Single Family Homes, Multi-Family Properties, Developmental Land, Recreational Acreage located in Southside Virginia being offered at Auction on November 16 at Chatmoss Country Club - Martinsville, VA. HOME IMPROVEMENT: American Standard Walk-In Tubs. Buy from a brand you trust. Patented Quick-Drain® technology. 44 hydrotherapeutic jets. Lifetime warranty on tub and installation!

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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.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. San Kang, 364 Main St., New Castle, Va. Sunday School 10AM, Worship 11AM; UMW 3rd Wednesday@1PM, 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. ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH: Located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershsberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

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Alex Drake returns a kickoff.



Bryce Drake carries the ball as Josh Craft makes a nice block in the backfield.



Carter Calfee catches a touchdown pass from Zachary Peters.



Zachary Peters picks up yards for the Rockets.



Zachary Peters and family are introduced on "Senior Night."



Rockets combine to tackle a Covington ballcarrier.



Veterans are honored on "Veterans Night" at last Friday's football game.



Jaycob Wolfe makes a tackle.

PHOTOS BY CHELSEA LOUTHEN

## ROCKETS END SEASON WITH LOSS TO COVINGTON

It was Senior Night, Veterans Night and Pink Out Night all in one last Friday night in New Castle, and all that was needed was a win in football. Unfortunately that didn't happen as visiting Covington took a 54-24 win over the host Rockets in the last game of the 2022 season.

"We knew we would have a very tough time tackling and stopping Covington," said Craig County coach Jim Fisher. "We are young and small on defense. I think we have three starters that weigh over 150 pounds."

The Cougars were playing their final regular season football game as a high school. They go into the playoffs as the sixth seed in Region 1C, with a game at Narrows this week, and the next time the Cougars lose it will be their last football game as Covington High School. They're combining with Allegheny to make one school next year.

The Cougars are a talented team, with speed and size. That made it tough for the Rocket defense.

"We gave up 54 points, that is tough for a defensive guy like myself," said Fisher. "We should have had one early stop. Isaiah Will stripped Covington's running back and was headed the

other way for a Craig TD but the white hat didn't know he had the ball and blew the whistle."

Craig's plan was similar to what the Rockets did last year against the Cougars.

"We wanted to pound the ball inside and keep the football," said Fisher. "It almost worked last year as we were a couple plays from winning the game. But this year they had an athletic 6'3, 290 pound nose guard and he shut down the inside running game. Fortunately, we had prepared for that possibility and put in a few new wrinkles. We ran some stack unbalanced that allowed us to run the ball a little. We also had invested some time in the "Lonesome Polecat" or "Muddle Huddle," whatever you want to call it. It allowed us to have some offensive production and, as Covington's coach said after the game, it 'gave them fits'."

Zachary Peters was the leader on both sides of the ball. He ran for 67 yards and a touchdown and also was 11-for-20 passing for 192 yards and two touchdowns. Sophomore Jaycob Wolfe has developed into an outstanding young receiver and had five receptions for 101 yards and a touchdown. Freshman Carter Calfee and Sopho-

more Josh Craft also had several nice catches.

The loss ended Craig's season with a 2-5 record. The Rockets won one game by forfeit and had three others that were cancelled for one reason or the other. It was a tough year in regards to illness, injuries and some bad weather.

"It was a tough year, in many ways, but it was also rewarding," said Fisher. "The most frustrating thing was missing games. Between injuries, illnesses, and tropical storms we only got to play six games. It was tough to keep kids motivated with so many long breaks between games. Most of the games that we had to miss were winnable games."

"Peters could have had an outstanding statistical year. He ran for over 500 yards and threw for over 600 in just six games. There is a very good chance he could have a 1,000 yard season in the air and on the ground. Some of the other kids complimented Zach, but he was essentially our offense when Trevyn (Francisco) and Tyler (Fitzpatrick) got injured."

The Seniors were honored on Friday night and they'll be missed. Fisher had 13 seniors on the team, including Peters.

"Zach was a standout but was not our only Senior," said

Fisher. "We had a group of great guys that we are going to miss next season. Nick All was a receiver and defensive back and having a very good year defensively until he got injured against East Mont. Skyler Rodrigues contributed on both sides of the ball as a tight end and defensive lineman. Big Samuel Saunders played offensive and defensive line. Isaiah Garey, a first year player, was a two-way starter on the offensive and defensive line."

"Alex Drake played everywhere. He started out at tight end but had to move to fullback when Tyler got injured. He ended up at center the last few games with the injury to Marcus Keen. He played defensive end and linebacker. He was a swiss army knife for us and sacrificed his own desires for the team. A real team first kid. Bryce Drake was dynamic the first game but injuries slowed him some after that. It was a great group to work with and they will be missed next season."

Fisher plans to return next year to coach and he's optimistic things will be better.

"Trevyn Francisco, Tyler Fitzpatrick, Marcus Keen and Malachi Paitzel all return from injury," he said. "We have a big freshmen group moving up with several standout players. A

few will have to contribute as freshmen for us to be competitive. We will also need to get some guys who elected not to play this season out for football if we can."

"We have a lot of young players who saw a lot of playing time this season. We have some really good players coming back from injury, and some good players coming up from middle school. We can have a really good season if a few of the other guys will come out and join us."

The season is over at Craig but the work never stops. Fisher is already planning for next year.

"We have a lot to do," he said. "We have to outfit a new weight room. We have to get into the old weight room and work hard in the off-season. Every team we played looked and played more physical than we did."

"The 'secret sauce' is no secret, it's hard work. The results in football, and life, are directly related to the amount of hard work you are willing to do and the decisions you make. We also HAVE to do something with our fields, both practice and game fields. They are so very rough. Every opposing team and officiating crew commented on it."