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**LeAnn Croy**  
OFFICE MANAGER/CSR  
PH: 540-864-6688  
TEXT: 540-486-2970

leann@guthrieinsurance.net  
www.guthrieinsuranceva.com  
GUTHRIEINSURANCE@YAHOO.COM  
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# THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



**WE SELL KEROSENE**



## Big Derby had less cars but more impact

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer



As the fall big car derby started, all three sets of drivers started the demolition with crunches with front-to-front hits.

The Fall Festival derby is always a lively event and this year's proved to be quite a show.

Though there were less vehicles, the competition and hits were as hard as ever.

Due to the previous week's rain, two other derbies postponed their events to the same night as Craig, therefore others had already been booked for them as well.

Still, the drivers gave the spectators a show to remember as they wildly drove into the concrete arena.

The Big Car heat was a one takes all as well with only six drivers. Drivers were, PJ Welch - 56, Derek Dudding - 13, Brayden Morrison - 69, Joey Minter - 94, Donnie Wayne Fisher - 21 and Daniel Givens - 23.

The lower pitch of the revving engines let attendees know the "bigger" cars were in the ring.

Looney gave the countdown, the horn blew, and it was on.

Immediately 94 and 21 went head-to-head, 56 and 23 and 13 and 69. No

one hesitated at the blow of the horn.

Number 94 backed up and made a huge hit onto 21 while 23 drove around and rams 94. Number 21 then drove around, pushing 94 out of his way as 13 spun around in a circle and hit 21.

Spectators started clapping.

Number 94 and 23 decided to do a door-to-door circle dance until 23 was sandwiched between 13 and 21.

Number 23 pushed 94 into the wall, but 94 took it lightly, backing out and making hits 56.

Number 23 pushed 56 around and then hit the rear of 13, spinning a 180 and forwarded into 56 as 94 hit the side of 23.

Number 23 pushed 94 but 94 spun and revved up and backed up, ramming 23 and tried to push into the wall but the engine of 23 revved up as 94 didn't succeed.

Number 21 decided to ram between 94 and 23, but they didn't pay attention to 21 as they kept ramming each other. Blue smoke started coming out of 23 but he rammed the

See **Big Derby**, page 3



PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING

As all six cars raced around the ring, ramming one another, dust filled the air with the sounds of crunching metal.

## Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets complete annual hike Oct. 23



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN MCALARY

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets started their annual walk on Sunday, Oct. 23. This marks 150 years since Virginia Tech started this event. They begin at 9 a.m. on Rt. 624 - Little Mountain Road, hiked down to Rt. 625 - Sugar Maple Road and then hiked over to Rt. 42 up to Hall Road and across the mountain to 621, ending at Caldwell Fields.



PHOTO BY GINA SAUL

The hundreds of cadets were happy that the day of their long trek was pleasant, not only in the weather but in the turning of the leaves. Chatter was heard the entire trip as they hiked up and down the mountains of Craig County.

## Local races to appear on the Nov. 8 ballot

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

Craig County residents will be heading to the polls next week.

On Tuesday, Nov. 8, voters will select from a number of local candidates.

Registered voters are encouraged to participate in the election process.

The polling precincts will be open from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m.

The sample ballot locally includes the following candidates for New Castle Town Council:

Mayor - J.L. (Lenny) McDonald (running unopposed)

Council members running (only four seats are open) - Thurman (Tommy) Zimmerman, Kimla McDaniel, Robert E. (Eddie) Lee, Robyn Foster and Karen Crush

The House of Representatives candidates are Democratic challenger Taysha DeNaughn and incumbent Republican H. Morgan Griffith.

The Craig County School Board candidate running is Kevin Altizer.

There will be same day registration if needed. One can fill out an application at the time of voting for a provisional vote.

## Winterwear giveaways at Craig Valley Baptist

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

The predictions are that this will be a rough winter, according to the Almanac and the woolly worm.

The Craig Valley Baptist Church will have its coat giveaway with sweaters, hoodies, scarves, winter hats, gloves, mittens and maybe some snow boots and socks this year.

The church had noted that for some, there just wasn't enough money to keep up with the high costs of purchasing winter needs, especially for families with several children, or parents who had lost their jobs.

Craig Valley also noted that there were many citizens who had items in their closets they would

rather give away to their community members, than donate to another town, so the church went to work on this special project.

"We have this as an annual event now," shared Donna Francisco. "It has become very successful in providing for many people, young and old."

The giveaways will be held this Saturday, Nov. 5 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

People can still drop off at the church (located beside of Bibo's Restaurant), on Monday and Wednesday, from 9 a.m. until noon and also from 6-7 p.m. on Wednesday evening.

They do ask that the clothes be cleaned and have no holes or stains and that the zippers be in working order.



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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 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 in 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 closures 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. The project is expected to be complete at the December 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** – Weather 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.

**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.

## ROANOKE CITY

**13th STREET SE IMPROVEMENTS WITH DETOUR** – A project to improve a portion of 13th Street SE in Roanoke is underway. Located in a residential neighborhood just east of downtown Roanoke, this project will improve traffic flow and connectivity along 13th Street SE from Tazewell Avenue to Norfolk Avenue. The project entails reconstructing about 0.2-mile of 13th Street as an improved, two-lane roadway with 10.5-foot-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. Drivers should expect the following:

**PAVING:** Paving is underway until

See VDOT, page 5

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21	22			23				
			24		25			26				
27	28	29		30			31			32	33	34
35			36				37			38		
39					40				41			
42				43				44				
45				46			47			48		
			49				50			51		
52	53	54			55				56	57	58	59
60					61			62		63		
64					65					66		
67					68					69		

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Nuclear undersea weapon
  - Partner to flows
  - "Snow" in Welsh
  - Famed Mexican painter
  - Song
  - ticks outward from the crown
  - Doddering
  - Resist authority (slang)
  - Antsy
  - Wrath
  - Spills the beans
  - Past
  - The woman
  - One has 24 hours
  - Talk
  - It can sting
  - Astronomy unit
  - Rhyme
  - Chinese dynasty
  - Australian river
  - Software to transfer audio (abbr.)
- CLUES DOWN**
- One point east of southeast
  - Italian monetary unit
  - Warship prison
  - Tropical American tree
  - Alias
  - Normal or sound powers of mind
  - English county
  - Not compatible with
  - Female deer
  - Not late
  - La \_\_\_ Tar Pits, Hollywood
  - "Jupiter's Legacy" actress Leslie
  - Impudence
  - Advises
  - Founder of Babism
  - A baglike structure in a plant or animal
  - Male parent
  - A type of plug
  - Capital of Vietnam
  - Fungal disease
  - Romanian city
  - Finished
  - Excrete
  - Unhappy
  - Partner to cheese
  - Coffee receptacle
  - Spend time dully
  - Makes full
  - Snake-like fish
  - Take in solid food
  - \_\_\_ student, learns healing
  - A way to take away
  - Impart a lesson to
  - "Transformers" actress Fox
  - Spiritual leader
  - Every one of two or more things
  - Indian city
  - 17th stars
  - Weapon
  - Amounts of time
  - Isodor \_\_\_, American Nobel physicist
  - Soviet Socialist Republic
  - Witness

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# Big Derby from page 1

side of 56 and 94 came in and pushed 13 around in a circle.

Number 23 pushed 56 into 13 and then 23 came back and hit 69. The hits continue.

Parts were knocked off into the mud as 13 drives over a wheel.

A big hit happened as 94 made on 23 and another. Then 23 rammed 13 into 94 right into the corner.

Number 23 pushed 94, backed up and hit 56.

Numbers 13 and 69 seemed to be racing around in a circle as 23 snuck up on 13 and rammed him.

Number 56 rammed 23 and 69 rammed 56.

Numbers 21 and 94 seemed be out.

Number 56 came back and rammed 69 as 13 and 23 went for one another.

Number 56 hit 13 and 69 rammed 56.

Number 94 started smoking badly but 69 drove around 94 and rammed 56 so hard the front end of 56 came off the ground.

Number 56 pushed 69 into 23, backed up and rammed him again. Number 69 returned the favor.

The 56 car was crushed in hardly at all while all the others were smashed in either the front, rear or both.

Number 23 made a hard hit to 56 as the crowd stood to their feet.

Numbers 23 and 69 went after one another as 69 hit 56 in the rear.

Number 13 got between 23 and 56 as 23 went around to 56 and pushed the rear as 69 was spinning, kicking mud high into the air.

The radiator of 23 busted and water spurted out. It got stuck in the mud hole. While spinning fast, it got out and hit 69 and 56, pushing them both up to the wall.

Number 56 hit the wall, then turned around and came back for a hard hit.

Number 69 came inside to hit 23. Number 56 made a hit to 13 though his tire came off and the rear of his car dug the ground.

The corner mud hole seemed to have captured a few cars. All the cars were smoking bad.

Cars moved slower as the steam was flying. Number 56 tapped 13 in the rear, not hard but enough to count.

Number 13 was able to get enough speed to make a good hit on 69 and 56 taps 69. Number 69 backed up and ran into 13, pushing him.

Number 56 revved his engine. He was trying but his front wheels were angled, and the back ones did not look good. He got little traction and was only able to go about 5 mph it seemed.

Number 69 still had some good speed as he gave 13 a good hit in the right front.

Number 13 then gave 56 a hit. Number 69 backed up and made a hit into 13.

Number 56 still tried hard to get a hit but all that could be seen was smoke.

Then the number 13 car started smoking heavily and made a hit as 69 pushed 56. Number 56 moved forward and 13 restarted his car, but was only able to go a few feet.

Numbers 69 and 56 provided some "love" taps as 69 tried pushing 56 against 23.

Number 56 came back to 69 and 13 came out enough to make a tap hit.

Number 69 pushed 56 hard, but 56 pushed back until 69 was almost against the wall.

The crowd cheered them on.

Number 56 turned his wheels left and right as fast as he could, trying to get the car to move in the direction he wanted with his wheels all angled out.



Welch - 56 got sandwiched between Dudding - 13 and Morrison - 69.



PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING

Welch and Dudding continued to make hits, with cars steaming and tires spinning, until Welch made the last hit, winning first place.

Number 13 pushed 56 about 90 degrees and went forward and back again for another hit as 56 poured out the smoke.

Number 56 tried desperately to make a hit as no one was doing much at the time, with little speed and the rear of the car dragging the ground badly.

Number 69 looked like he was stuck in the mud but all of a sudden, he built up some speed and came out and hit 13, and then 56.

Some questioned how 56 was able to see with all the smoke in and around the car.

Number 13 got out of the way and tapped 69, but 69 got some speed up and made a nice hit to 56.

Taps continued to be made for the next 10 minutes, as the cars moved at a slow pace but 69 continued to push the cars and made taps.

Suddenly, 13 came out with some speed and rammed 69 but 69 pushed him backwards.

Number 56 came in for a hit but 69 backed up when 56 got about 6 inches from him. He tried but the tires didn't go where he wanted.

Number 69 got in the

mud hole as 56 helped him. Then 13 gave 69 a good hit, pushed him further in.

The engines sounded more like tractors instead of cars at this point.

Number 13 got a start and made a good hit into 56 and his bumper fell off.

Number 69 was still in the mud hole and tried to rock it out.

Number 56 tapped 13 with a little speed but 13 seemed to be stopped while 69 still spun in the mud hole.

The horn blew and the long heat was over.

Though it seemed like

each of these drivers was headed to take first place, PJ Welch finished first, Derek Dudding finished second and Brayden Morrison placed third. Mad Dog went to Daniel Givens for giving the hardest hits overall.

The winners received trophies that were designed by the late Sammy Huffman. (A tribute article will be in a November issue.)

The Fairgrounds said that it sends its appreciation to all who support local derbies and invites the public to start preparing for the spring derby.

## OBITUARY

### Fisher, Sr. Dallas Lee "Big D"

Dallas L. Fisher, Sr. of Craig County, VA, born August 1, 1933, passed away Sunday, October 30, 2022, at the age of 89. He was at home, with his wife of 68 years at his bedside at the time of his passing.

He was preceded in death by his son, Dallas L. Fisher, Jr.; parents, Luther & Emily Fisher; brothers, Orsbin & Harold Fisher; and sister, Ressie Thom-

as. He is survived by his wife, Sarah D. Fisher; children, Beverly "Curly" Fisher, Mary Beth Elmore, Ginny Fisher, Marty B. Falgiano, and Tory Frango & husband Randy; daughter-in-law, Magdiel Fisher; grandchildren, Chris Elmore & wife Diane, Ashley Fisher Hendrickson, Brandon, Christian, & Clarke Fisher, Michael, Patrick, & Nicholas Falgiano, Jordyn Frango Moore & husband Chris, and Brayden Frango; great-grandchildren, Kimberly Elmore, Alyssa Hendrickson, & Hunter & Camryn Moore; sisters, Hulda Snider, Frances Lafon, and Hazel Lipas & husband Jack; sister-in-law, Rachel Mattox & husband Harold; numerous nieces, nephews, and countless friends.

After high school, Dallas played baseball in the VA Amateur League. He



signed a contract with the Boston Braves in 1952 and played for the Welch Miners and was then offered a contract with the St. Louis Cardinals. He served in the U.S. Army before beginning his career at General Electric in Salem, VA. He retired from G.E. after 30 years and began working for Craig County schools as a bus driver, where he worked over 30 years before retiring. He dedicated his life to coaching the sport he loved; Little League, High School, and American Legion to name a few.

The family will receive friends at the New Castle Christian Church, 282 Salem Ave. New Castle, VA on Thursday, Nov. 3, 2022, from 5 to 7:00 PM. A Funeral Service will be held at the New Castle Christian Church on Friday, Nov. 4, 2022, at 11:00 AM with Pastor Bill Frazier and Minister J.B. Beane officiating. Interment will follow at Ross Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to Craig Co. High School Baseball or the charity of your choice.

Arrangements by Paitsel Funeral Home. [www.paitselfh.com](http://www.paitselfh.com)

## Upcoming public meetings in Craig County

### Nov. 3

The Craig County Board of Supervisors will meet Nov. 3 at 6 p.m. at the Craig County Courthouse in New Castle. All citizens are welcome to attend.

### Nov. 8

Rep. Morgan Griffith will hold a comment period at the Craig County Courthouse in the break room from 9-10:30 a.m. Nov. 8.

The Craig County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Craig County High School auditorium.

### Nov. 16

A CPMT meeting will be at First Baptist Church

at 40 Boyd Avenue Nov. 16.

### Nov. 21

The New Castle Town Council will meet Nov. 21 from 7-8 p.m. at the New Castle Town Hall at 339 Market Street in New Castle.

### Dec. 1

The Craig County Board of Supervisors will meet Dec. 1 at 6 p.m. at the Craig County Courthouse in New Castle. All citizens are welcome to attend.

### Dec. 13

Rep. Morgan Griffith will hold a comment period at the Craig County

Courthouse in the break

room from 9-10:30 a.m.

Dec. 13.

The Craig County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Craig County High School auditorium.

### Dec. 19

The New Castle Town Council will meet Dec. 19 from 7-8 p.m. at the New Castle Town Hall at 339 Market Street in New Castle.

### Dec. 21

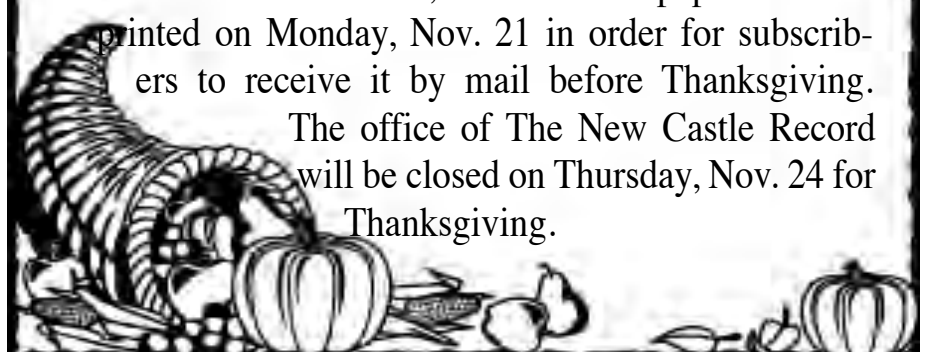
A CPMT meeting will be at First Baptist Church at 40 Boyd Avenue Dec. 21.

-The New Castle Record

## 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](mailto:newcastle@ourvalley.org). Send ads by **Thursday, November 17 at noon** to [advertise@ourvalley.org](mailto: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.



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

# OPINION

## Questionable decisions on scientific research: First COVID, now Monkeypox

At its best, scientific research seeks to explore the universe around us, find ways to understand it better, and harness its power for the benefit of humanity. I support research because I believe that having more information in any field leads to better decisions.

Unfortunately, scientific research can also be misused or lead to unintended but harmful consequences. Institutions engaged in research must apply precautions to reduce the chance that scientific knowledge becomes destructive rather than constructive.

Anyone who believes in these principles ought to be disturbed by two recent developments.

The first is the resumption of funding by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for EcoHealth Alliance.

Regular readers of this column will know that, as part of an investigation by Republican leaders of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I have been question-

ing EcoHealth's involvement in bat coronavirus research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China, supported by NIH grants. The COVID-19 pandemic that has wrought havoc around the world may have escaped accidentally from that lab; I believe the evidence is strong enough to indicate it did.

EcoHealth has not been forthcoming in explaining the details of its involvement at the Wuhan lab. In fact, its leader, Dr. Peter Daszak, hurriedly sought to shut down scientific debate over COVID's origins and has not cooperated with our investigation.

In 2020, NIH suspended EcoHealth's grant due to concerns about the organization's lack of oversight on activities in Wuhan. In 2021, NIH confirmed that EcoHealth did not comply with NIH's safety rule on excessive virus growth in an experiment involving humanized mice infected with chimeric viruses (viruses composed of two or more distinct populations of genetically-



**Morgan Griffith**  
Representative

distinct cells). This year, NIH further revealed that EcoHealth failed to include terms and conditions in its agreement with the Wuhan lab that are required in federal awards. These provisions would guarantee access to the lab's records relevant to the award.

NIH reached the conclusion that EcoHealth's failures in Wuhan represented "material failures to comply with the terms of its award." EcoHealth's failures meant NIH could not examine materials from the Wuhan lab that it should have been able to access.

Nevertheless, on September 22 of this year, NIH issued a new grant to EcoHealth. Dr. Anthony Fauci,

head of NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), told the Washington Post that EcoHealth "adequately addressed" the administrative problems found in its previous grant. He indicated that NIH's hands were therefore tied and put the agency at risk of a lawsuit if it did not issue a grant to EcoHealth.

I am far from persuaded that EcoHealth has adequately addressed any of its problems, and NIH itself has been woefully unresponsive to our requests for information. President Reagan was fond of quoting the Russian proverb "Trust, but verify" in his dealings with the Soviet Union. EcoHealth has shown itself unworthy of trust and unwilling to verify, and NIH should recognize that.

The second disturbing development stems from research being conducted by NIAID on monkeypox. This is the institute of the NIH led by Dr. Fauci.

In the middle of a monkey-

pox outbreak, news reports from the September 2022 issue of Science have detailed experiments by NIAID transferring genes from one form of the virus to another. The result of these experiments, conducted without a clear civilian practical application, could yield a lab-generated monkeypox virus that is 1,000 times more lethal in mice than the current monkeypox virus currently circulating in humans but just as contagious.

I have always supported scientific research, but that research must be conducted responsibly, especially if taxpayer dollars are involved. The American people should not be called on to empty their wallets in support of research that will endanger them.

I urge the entities making decisions about research to be fully transparent about their process and forthcoming to questions from elected representatives. Not only taxpayer dollars but scientific integrity is at stake.

## Robin Cook – medical thriller novelist

### Library Corner

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The titles of Robin Cook's novels are enough

to attract my attention, being in the medical field myself. "Coma," "Brain," "Outbreak," "Mutation" and "Fatal Cure" are just a few of the titles. Do you ever become frustrated by authors who get the accuracy of scenes just wrong. It always makes me think of the cow giv-

ing birth in the movie, "Blazing Saddles." Anyway, Robin Cook, gets it right. He started his career as a physician specializing in surgery and ophthalmology but after several successful novels, he dedicated his path to writing medical mysteries.

According to Wikipedia, "Cook has explored issues such as organ do-

nation, fertility treatment, genetic engineering, in vitro fertilization, research funding, managed care, medical malpractice, medical tourism, drug research, and organ transplantation." Novels are especially enjoyable when they teach you something about the subject matter.

The Craig County Public Library has sever-

al of Robin Cook's audio books in addition to paperbacks and hard cover novels. If facing your fears about medical procedures helps you overcome them, then I suggest trying one of Cook's novels. You might learn something useful about medicine as well! You will find yourself flying through the book and looking for more.

Library News: November SWAP DAY is coming! Come and pick up holiday

decorations from our large collection of donations on Nov. 19 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Bring yours and swap them out!

Warm outerwear is part of the November Swap Day plan, so bring that scarf you got for Christmas last year and is still in the box. It may be a treasure for someone else! Bring you gaudy Christmas sweater to swap out for another!

There will be books GALORE available for your winter reading!

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www.ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*  
Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor* aboyd@mainstreetnewspapers.com  
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

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

## Prevention of respiratory illnesses

This time of year, we are routinely preparing for the beginning of respiratory illness season, encouraging flu vaccines and promoting other prevention messages. What is not routine, both in Virginia and across the country, are the earlier-than-usual reports of increased respiratory cases. More people, particularly young children aged 0-4 years, are being evaluated and treated in urgent care centers, emergency departments, and hospitals for influenza-like illness compared to the same time in previous years. While COVID-19 remains a constant in our communities, the increase in respiratory illness is associated with influenza as well as respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

In response to the early and

### Dr. Cynthia Morrow

Roanoke City and Alleghany Health Districts Health Director

rapid increase in respiratory illness, the Virginia Department of Health is urging residents to get both the new bivalent COVID booster as well as this year's flu shot. Vaccines are the best line of defense.

Beyond getting vaccinated, what else can help prevent illness?

There are several additional practices that can help protect our communities from the worst of these seasonal bugs.

Stay home when sick. If you

have a fever of 100°F or more, stay home until at least 24 hours after the fever is gone. If you have influenza or COVID, you should stay home for longer, at least four or five days after beginning of symptoms respectively.

Wash your hands regularly with soap.

Practice good respiratory etiquette. Sneeze or cough into your elbow, and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

Sanitize commonly touched surfaces more frequently during the fall and winter.

How can I tell if I have the flu, COVID, RSV or a cold?

You may not always be able to tell what illness you have. The flu and COVID-19 have many simi-

See Dr. Morrow, page 5

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# VDOT

from page 2

complete. Drivers should expect lane closures and flagging operations during nighttime hours, 7:30 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

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

**BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY CLOSURE** – The Blue Ridge Parkway will be repairing slope failures and a culvert failure at mile marker 127.9. A 15-mile stretch of the Parkway, mile marker 121.4 to 136, will be closed to all uses including cyclists, pedestrians and drivers. Detour signs to detour traffic around the Bent Mountain section of the Parkway will be in place. Traffic will be rerouted to Route 220 south to Route 419 north to Route 221 south. Traffic traveling north on the Parkway would be reversed. The detour is expected to be in place until 2023.

**PAVING OPERATIONS** – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place and flaggers may control traf-

fic at times during daylight hours. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

**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.

### BOTETOURT COUNTY

**ROUTE 11 BUCHANAN BRIDGE PROJECT** - A construction project on the Route 11 Bridge in the Town of Buchanan is underway. Water Street is closed for the duration of the project and drivers should expect lane closures with flagging operations to begin in about two weeks. Message boards are present to alert and update drivers.

**ROUTE 1095 (HIGHLAND DRIVE) PIPE FAILURE CLOSURE** – Route 1095 (Highland Drive) near its inter-

section with Sanderson Road is closed until further notice due to a pipe failure. The road is currently impassable and drivers will need to seek alternate routes to avoid the area such as Murray Court to Richardson. Please adhere to closure signs. The road is expected to be closed approximately or at least through Mid-December 2022.

**ROUTE 611 (GREYLEDGE ROAD)** – A 1.5 mile section of Route 611 (Greyledge Road) is closed due to flooding that damaged the roadway. Extensive repairs will be needed and a detour will be in place. There is no estimated time for the road to reopen.

**ROUTE 817 (OLD RAIL ROAD) BRIDGE WORK** – Old Rail Road in Oriskany is closed for repairs to the bridge over Craig's Creek, the historic McCallister Truss Bridge. The bridge is located 0.60 miles from Route 704 (Branchwater Road) and 0.20 miles from Route 770 (Edlo Lane). The bridge will be closed during daytime hours, 8 a.m. through 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday, when the water is level is low. Work on this bridge is restricted when waters in the creek is high. All traffic between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. will use the Edlo Ford. Signs have

been posted to alert drivers. Estimated time for completion fall 2022.

**PAVING OPERATIONS** – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement 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.

### CRAIG COUNTY

**ROUTE 311 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER MEADOW CREEK** – Temporary signals control traffic across the bridge and will be in place throughout the project. Construction will begin on the northbound side of the bridge and once completed, work will switch to the southbound side. In addition, a section of Route 646 (Allen Street) between Route 650 and Route 311 will be closed during construction and a signed detour will be in place. All traffic will be detoured to Marshall Street and Kanawha Street to access either 311 or the homes located off Allen Street. Speed limit will be reduced to 35 mph in the work zone with a width restriction of 9 feet. Drivers should expect delays and al-

low extra travel time through the work zone. Weather permitting, the bridge is expected to be open to traffic by the end of 2022.

**TRAFFIC SWITCH:** On September 22, traffic was switched from using the southbound lane to the northbound lane while work continues. Southbound lanes are closed. Temporary traffic signals will continue to direct traffic and message boards will notify drivers.

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY

**ROUTE 8 EVENT TRAFFIC CONGESTION** - Route 8 may experience heavy traffic on fall weekends due to congestion related to tourist events at local farms in the area. If possible, motorists should utilize detours to avoid traveling on Route 8 between Christiansburg and Riner during the peak hours of 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**PAVING OPERATIONS** – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement 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.

# Dr. Morrow

from page 4

lar symptoms, including fever or feeling feverish/chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue (tiredness), sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle pain or body aches and headaches. COVID-19 differs from flu with a possible change in or loss of taste or smell.

RSV is a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms including fever, cough, congestion, runny nose, sneezing, and in infants, fussiness and poor feeding. It can progress to more severe symptoms such as fast or short breathing or wheezing.

The bottom line is that if you are sick, the best thing to do is to stay home and call your healthcare provider to see if you should get tested.

Isn't getting the flu just like getting a bad cold? Why should I get a flu vaccine?

No. The flu can be a serious disease, particularly for young children, pregnant women, older adults, and people with certain chronic health conditions, such as asthma, heart disease or diabetes. Even for otherwise healthy children and adults, influenza carries a risk of serious compli-

cations, hospitalization or rarely, even death. Vaccination is cheaper and more convenient than getting sick, and it protects those around you. Catching a respiratory illness can cost

you in time away from work, medical bills, missed events, and days of misery.

It is not too late to get vaccinated to protect yourself. Vaccination after October can still

provide protection during the peak of respiratory illness season. Find your dose at a pharmacy, doctor's office, or any of our local health department routine immunization clinics.

Email letters to the editor to

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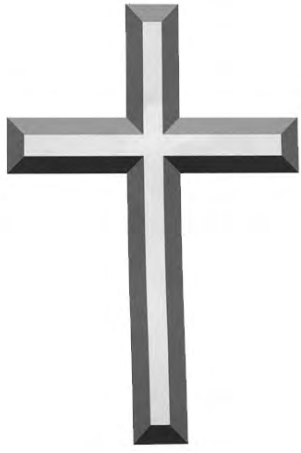
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# SPORTS

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PHOTO BY CHELSEA LOUTHEN

The Rockets will take the field for their final home game this Friday.

## ROCKETS END FOOTBALL SEASON AT HOME FRIDAY

The Craig County Rockets will wrap up the football season, hopefully, this Friday when they host Covington at Mitchell Field. It will be a combination of Senior Night, Pink Out Night and Veterans Night for the Rockets.

Coach Jimmy Fisher is hoping it will be "Football Night," as the Rockets had yet another game cancelled last week when they couldn't suit up enough boys to go to Narrows for a Pioneer District game. It was the fourth time in 10 weeks Craig did not play a scheduled game.

"Another week where we did not have enough kids to compete," said Fisher. "We have nine kids out due to injury and seven are two-way starters. We also had several out sick with flu or strep. We only had 13 healthy bodies on Wednesday and were down to 12 by Friday."

Assuming they play Friday, this will be just the third game of the season for the Rockets. It's been a difficult season for the team after having high expectations back in August.

"This is the fourth game we did not get to play," said Fisher of the Narrows game. "We got a forfeit win from Twin Valley when they folded their team due to low participation. We had to cancel Auburn when we had a COVID outbreak and did not have enough players. We lost the opportunity to play the Mountain View game because of the hurricane and the fact that we were traveling so far. Narrows is a tough match-up for us but those first three cancellations were all winnable ball games."

Last Friday was supposed to be Narrows' Homecoming game.

"We feel very bad for Narrows," said Fisher. "Coach (Kelly) Lowe is a friend and runs a first class program. We were supposed to be their Homecoming Game but we didn't have enough to practice, much less play."

"The kids with the flu and strep should be back this week and hopefully no one else comes down with anything. We should also get at least three kids back from injury and maybe as many as six."

This is a big game for Covington. It's the last regular season game for the Cougars, as the school will combine with Al-

leghany next year.

Also, Covington is currently in eighth place in the Virginia High School League Region 1C rankings and the top eight make the playoffs. A loss could put their playoff spot in peril with Fort Chiswell in ninth and Craig County in 10th, so if the Cougars lose this could possibly be their last football game as a high school.

Covington has had an interesting season. They lost their first seven games in a row and gave up 40 or more points three times. However, in the past two games they beat Parry McCluer, 32-0, and Eastern Montgomery, 48-7, to improve to 2-7.

"Covington's win-loss record is not indicative of their team or their talent," said Fisher. "They are loaded in the skill positions and very athletic. They are hard to play in one-hand touch football, much less tackle."

"We have to find a way to run the ball and shorten the game. We need to limit their opportunities on offense and get a turnover or two. Our game plan kind of hinges on who we have available to play."

While the Rockets have endured a tough season, Fisher has found some light amongst the clouds.

"We were short-handed to start the season and the injury bug has limited our ability to compete recently, but I like our team's attitude and resiliency," he said. "We've had a lot of younger kids step in and play. It hasn't always been pretty but there has been no quit in our guys. Football is like a microcosm of life; if you lose a job or lose a relationship or anything else you have to keep moving forward and keep doing your best. In Romans 5:2-4, God says, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope."

"We've had our suffering through all the injuries and hurdles of this 2022 season, but we are going to endure and we are building character. We are hopeful that our seniors become good citizens, good husbands, and good fathers. We are hopeful that the trials we have faced this season make us stronger as a football program going forward."

## VOLLEYBALL SEASON COMES TO AN END

The Craig County volleyball season came to an end last week with a three-set loss to Narrows in the first round of the Pioneer District tournament. The Rockets fell 25-7, 25-8 and

25-14 in Narrows.

The loss ended a season in which the Rockets failed to win a game. However, they had just one senior, Annabelle Gregory, and some good participation among

the jayvee and middle school teams.

"The goal is to put in a lot of work in the off season and come back stronger next year," said coach Suzanne Crawford.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Annabelle Gregory is the only senior on the Craig County volleyball team.

## RATLIFF RUNS PERSONAL BEST IN PIONEER MEET

Craig County's Hannah Ratliff ran a personal best time of 31:11 over three miles to finish ninth in the Pioneer District cross country meet last week. The meet was held at Parry

McCluer High School in Buena Vista.

Olivia Wilborne of Eastern Montgomery was the individual girls' winner with a time of 21:49. East Mont also won the girls' team

championship.

For the boys, Kovyk Chandler of Parry McCluer was the district champ and East Mont also won the boys' team championship.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hannah Ratliff runs in the Pioneer District cross country meet at Parry McCluer.

## We'll Miss "Big D"



Dallas Fisher autographs baseballs at his Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame Induction.



Fisher poses for a shot with guest speaker Maury Wills at the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame banquet in 2002. Wills, a former big league star, died at age 89 in September and Dallas passed away last weekend, also at age 89.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Fisher chats with the umpire during his days as assistant coach at the high school.

His nickname was "Big D" and he was bigger than life in Craig County. Dallas Fisher, who died Sunday at 89, was the face of Craig County sports for many years.

Fisher could be seen at all sporting events, but the love of his life, other than wife Sarah, was baseball. Dallas played baseball, coached baseball and loved to talk baseball with any and all who would listen.

Born in the "Happy Hollow" section of the county, Fisher was a standout player at Maywood High School and then went on to a 54-4 pitching record for New Castle in

the old Virginia Amateur League. He signed a contract with the Boston (now Atlanta) Braves in 1952 and played for the Welch Miners in West Virginia that season.

After a three year stint in the United States Army from 1953-55 Dallas was offered a contract with the St. Louis Cardinals but chose to take a job with General Electric in Salem. During that time he continued to play baseball for the Appalachian League's Salem Rebels in 1956, followed by a stint as a coach for Virginia Foundry in the Virginia Mountain League.



**Brian Hoffman**  
Sports Editor

After his playing days Dallas continued to stay around the ballparks of Southwest Virginia. He coached Little League ball and was an assistant coach for many years at New Castle and Craig County High School.

"He's been an inspiration for our

baseball team," said Craig County athletic director Carrie Hutton. "We had a parking space for him where could watch the games from his car when his health started to decline. Even then he would have the kids come over to the car and give them advice and instruction. He was truly a legend in his own time."

Dallas also drove a bus for Craig County, taking kids to and from school and to school sporting events. He was at most every Craig County home game, regardless of sport, and was a beloved figure in

the county for nine decades.

In addition to his wife Dallas had six children and numerous grandchildren. He was inducted into the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame in 2002 where he gave a heart-warming acceptance speech that is still regarded as one of the best in the many years of the organization.

Dallas was a personal friend of mine and I always made a point of visiting when I saw him at an event. He'll be greatly missed and we were blessed to have known him.