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THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



DOG FOOD & STOCK FEED



The Wagner – Walker – Yoder Cemetery is located right below the state shed, on the road parallel to Route 615 in Craig City. It was terribly grown over with briars and weeds, especially around the edges and fencing area.

VFW Post 4491 clears overgrown cemetery



COURTESY PHOTOS

The briars and overgrown bushes were taken down by VFW Post 4491 and Wayne "Bigfoot" Belcher at the cemetery to give it a new facelift. The newly cleared cemetery has received its respect and now can be walked through without being scratched by briars, thanks to the local VFW and friend.

Alumni basketball game fundraiser held for Looney



PHOTO BY PAM DIDDING

Nineteen guys eagerly gathered at the Craig County High School Auditorium to play in an alumni basketball fundraiser for Sean Looney, a graduate of Craig County Public Schools, as he has been going through cancer treatments. An article about the fundraiser will appear in next week's issue.

Craig County Rescue Squad hosting 2nd Annual 'Light Up Craig' contest

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

The Christmas season has arrived, and people have already started putting up their Christmas lights and trees.

Posts are flooding the Facebook pages as many exchange comments about them all, both funny and sentimental.

And, in Craig County, the 2nd Annual Christmas Decoration Contest is now underway, sponsored by the Craig County Rescue Squad.

The deadline to enter is Dec. 16 and there is a \$25 entry fee.

The prize is \$200 cash. The winner

See **Light Up Craig**, page 2



Darrell Frango won the contest last year, with his entire driveway lined with blow up decorations, music and lively moving items.



PHOTOS BY PAM DIDDING

Frango decorates his entire home with lights that make it a winter wonderland and every room of his home is decorated with a specific theme.

Christmas parade set for Dec. 3



PHOTO BY PAM DIDDING

The New Castle Annual Christmas parade is set for Saturday, Dec. 3. It will begin at the Craig County Fairground and travel down Route 311 where it will take a right turn onto Main Street where kids will be able to enjoy a visit with Santa and get candy. Everyone is encouraged to enter with a float or vehicle, etc. or come and watch the parade go by.

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

To watch a child display such excitement when they intently gaze at a parade pass by, is heartwarming and seems to

bring out the youthful spirit in everyone.

Craig County will be having its annual Christmas parade on Saturday evening, Dec. 3 at 6 p.m. this year.

It will leave the Craig County Fair-

See **Parade**, page 2



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V DOT ROADWATCH

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.

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

SLOW ROLLS SCHEDULED: On Monday, November 21, a slow

roll operation is planned between mile marker 101-105 northbound and 109-105 southbound between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

SLOW ROLLS: A slow roll operation may be in place daily 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.

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 clo-

See VDOT, page 5

Upcoming public meetings in Craig County

Dec. 1	Dec. 13	Dec. 19	Dec. 21
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.	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 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.	A CPMT meeting will be at First Baptist Church at 40 Boyd Avenue Dec. 21.
			<i>-The New Castle Record</i>

Registration open for 9th Annual GAUNTLET

Registration for The Advancement Foundation's 9th Annual GAUNTLET is now open.

It is Virginia's largest business program and competition, offering a formula to assist entrepreneurs develop their business ideas, collaborate with other entrepreneurs from across the region and connection to business resources.

To date, The GAUNTLET has worked with more than 700 entrepreneurs and awarded over \$7 million in resources, including grants, cash and in-kind prizes.

For more information about The GAUNTLET and to apply online, visit: www.TheAdvancement-Foundation.org/Gauntlet. Virtual classes start Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023.



-The New Castle Record Virtual classes start Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023.

COURTESY OF THE ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION

Parade

from page 1

grounds at 6 p.m., follow Salem Avenue (Route 311) to Main Street where it turns and proceeds two blocks to the courthouse.

The fairgrounds will open at 4 p.m., if those who are participating wish to decorate their entries there.

Entrees can include any vehicles, tractors, motorcycles or four-wheelers, floats, groups, or clubs to walk, and any other creative safe means that brings life to a parade.

Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will be at the courthouse to give out candy and to talk to find

out what the kids are asking for this Christmas.

Packs of candy will be given to each child, compliments of the Craig Botetourt Electric Cooperative, which Angie Guthrie-Ponton of Guthrie Insurance packaged for each child.

They ask that all participants in the parade to be at the fairgrounds by 5:30 p.m. to line up. No advance sign up is required.

Floats and lights with music are encouraged and they ask that candy not be thrown from the vehicles this year, to pre-

vent kids from running in and around the vehicles passing by.

For more information on being an entry, contact Kathy Jones at (540) 864-5010.

Come early and grab a good spot to sit, either on Route 311 or Main Street, and enjoy a fun evening in New Castle.

Light Up Craig

from page 1



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

A friendly waving snowman welcomes everyone to Frango's home to enjoy the many decorations.

will also receive a \$100 gas gift card, donated from IGA Express Exxon or Gopher Market.

To enter, go to craigrescue.com/lightupcraig, email them at officers@craigrescue.com, check out the Facebook page or connect with Robert Wrzosek or Trace Bellassai or call the volunteer station at 540-864-5115 to leave a message and someone will return the call.

The judges will be coming around to the homes on Dec. 18 and 19.

Contestants will be judged in three categories: Creativity (originality, unique design and creative use of lights and decorations), Arrangement (display and placement of decorations) and Overall appearance (color coordination, balance, and overall attractiveness).

Also, there will be a "community favorite" chosen by members of the community via online voting which is sponsored by the local IGA Express Exxon.

So, those who are interested may participate online! They will win a \$100 gas gift card, donation from IGA Express Exxon or Gopher Market.

Last year Darrell Frango took first place with a driveway filled with blow up decorations, his home and garage lined with lights and on the inside of his home, every room was filled with Christmas cheer, each having a different theme.

"It takes me several weeks to get this all done," Frango shared. "I've done this for years and keep adding to my collection. I love it!"

"We are excited about the contest again this year," shared Trace Bellassai from the rescue squad.

They are hoping more will enter this year, creating a great list of homes for everyone to drive by and admire.

The list of decorated homes will be at <https://craigrescue.com/lightlist>.

Poindexter named Roanoke County chief of police

Roanoke County announced earlier this month that Michael Poindexter will assume the position of chief of police on Jan. 1, 2023.

"I am honored and humbled to be selected as the next Police Chief of the Roanoke County Police Department," said Poindexter. "I look forward to further serving the citizens of Roanoke County as well as working with the men and women who serve our community."

Roanoke County said it conducted a nationwide search to fill the chief of police position. Poindexter received the approval

of an interview committee led by the county administrator.

"We are extremely pleased to make this announcement," said Roanoke County Administrator Richard L. Caywood, adding, "Mike's dedication and years of experience in the Roanoke Valley coupled with his education, leadership, and growth within the department were impressive. We are confident he will provide a smooth transition into the important role and fulfill the duties well."

Poindexter has been acting as assistant chief of police for the depart-

ment since April of this year, as well as supervising the professional standards unit, the Roanoke County Criminal Justice Academy, Services Division and Crime Prevention.

Before this role, he dedicated 28 years as police commander, police sergeant and police officer gaining experience in criminal investigations, administration, mentorship and human resources within numerous divisions and platoons in the county.

Poindexter earned an undergraduate degree in criminal justice from Bluefield College in 2011.

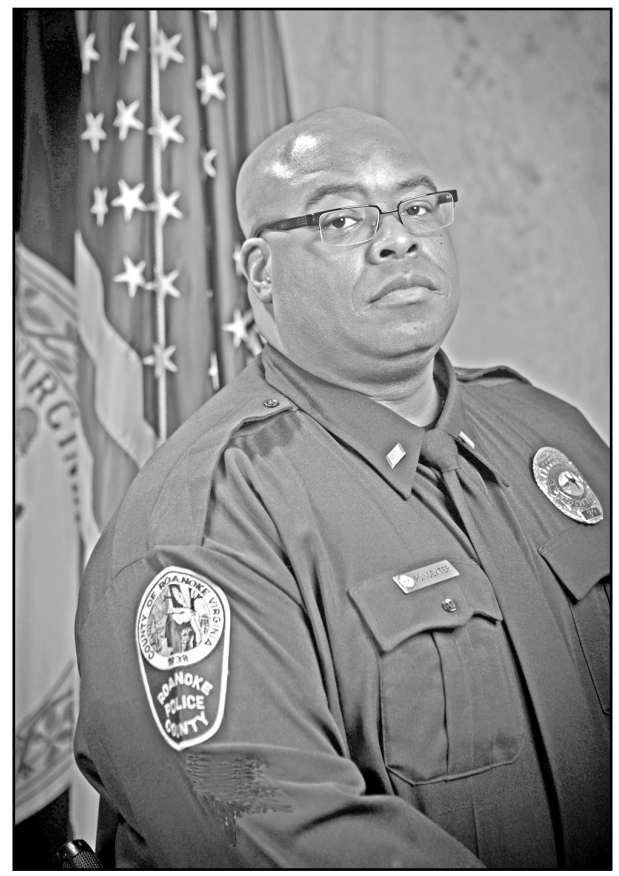
Poindexter is the fourth

person to lead the Roanoke County Police Department since it formed in 1990. As chief of the department, Poindexter will direct the activities of the department, which is an agency of 140 sworn employees and 16 civilian personnel.

Poindexter and his wife have been married for 25 years and are natives of the Roanoke Valley.

Poindexter will follow Chief Howard Hall who announced his retirement in September, after serving nearly 40 years in law enforcement.

-The New Castle Record



Poindexter

COURTESY OF ROANOKE COUNTY



Poe COURTESY OF ROANOKE COUNTY

Poe named assistant director of economic development

Roanoke County announced last week that Danielle Poe, a Roanoke Valley native, has been appointed assistant director of economic development. She assumed her new position Monday.

"We are fortunate to gain a leader within the Roanoke Valley who has expertise not just on the Valley and innovative strategies for economic development,

but is respected for her leadership," said Richard L. Caywood, county administrator. "I know she will complement the department well."

Poe previously managed the day-to-day operations within the Roanoke Regional Airport Commission for three years and oversaw risk management strategies for various projects as the business manager. She has over 15 years of ex-

perience in various other roles, including as the economic development specialist for Downtown Roanoke, Inc.

She holds an undergraduate degree in exercise, sport and health education from Radford University. She is affiliated with a number of organizations, including chair of Leadership Roanoke Valley, the Roanoke Boosters Club and Wasena Elementary

PTA. "I am excited for the opportunity to work with the Roanoke County Economic Development team," said Poe. "Roanoke County has a vision, momentum, and support by leadership making it an exciting time to make this transition. I think the best is yet to come, and I can't wait to get to work!"

-The New Castle Record

Candlelight Remembrance Service set for Dec. 6

The holiday season is full of trees and trimmings, caroling and gifts, wonder and joy; but for families who have recently lost a loved one, it can also be a difficult time of grief and heartache. For this reason, John M. Oakey and Son Funeral Home will host their Annual Candlelight Remembrance Service on Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. in their chapel.

"We understand the grief journey that many families go through after losing someone they love," said Cathie Thomas, president of John M. Oakey and Son. "Perhaps there is no time of the year when we are more aware of the empty space our dear one has left behind than during the holiday season."

Pastor Mike Lauridsen, of Parkway Church on the Mountain, will share an inspirational message of healing and hope to help families prepare their hearts for a holiday season following a loss. "Walking through grief can be a difficult and uncertain trek," explained manager,

Dave Vanderpool, "especially for families who are experiencing the first holiday season absent of someone they love."

The decorated historic home is all set to warmly welcome families inside to share memories and to light candles of remembrance in honor and memory of loved ones lost. "We want to emphasize that this is a special service for the community and not just for families that we have served this past year," said Thomas. "All are welcome."

The reading of the poem, "The Four Candles" is always a meaningful part of the service after which guests are invited to light a candle of remembrance for their dear ones.

"We have orchestrated a meaningful service which we hope will be of comfort to families," said Thomas. The John M. Oakey and Son family has a special gift for each guest as a memento of gratitude for allowing them the privilege of caring for their family during a most difficult time. "Each family we serve is special to

us and becomes part of our family," explained Thomas. "We are so grateful for the faith and trust bestowed upon our funeral home by our community."

Immediately following the service, families are invited to stay for a time of fellowship and light hors d'oeuvres.

Holiday traditions are special at John M. Oakey and Son and the staff would like to invite the community to participate in one of their own by honoring the memory of a loved one on the Lights of Love Memorial Tree. This too is not just for families who have called upon John M. Oakey and Son this past year, but all are welcome to place a "light of hope, joy and peace", on the tree to shine throughout the holiday season.

For more information about the candlelight service or to add your loved one's name to the Lights of Love Memorial Tree, at no charge, call 389-5441 or email info@johnmoakey.com

-Candy Long



John M. Oakey and Son Funeral Home

COURTESY OF CATHIE THOMAS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <p>1. Single Lens Reflex</p> <p>4. People of southern Benin</p> <p>7. One who is learned (abbr.)</p> <p>10. Neckwear</p> <p>11. Solid water</p> <p>12. A way to work the soil</p> <p>13. Inspiring</p> <p>15. Pick up</p> <p>16. It wakes you up</p> <p>19. Parcel</p> <p>21. Popular dog breed</p> <p>23. Lets out a sigh</p> <p>24. Embedded into the surface</p> <p>25. Hard liquors</p> <p>26. One from Scotland</p> <p>27. Satisfy</p> <p>30. Used to introduce a contrasting statement</p> <p>34. Antidepressant drug type (abbr.)</p> | <p>35. Similar</p> <p>36. Winged horse</p> <p>41. Soft drink maker</p> <p>45. One who doesn't live up to expectations</p> <p>46. Nursemaid</p> <p>47. Inheritor</p> <p>50. Hot, often dusty wind</p> <p>54. Forces as an introduction</p> <p>55. Earned top billing</p> <p>56. Mansion</p> <p>57. A partner to a carrot</p> <p>59. War-horse</p> <p>60. Midway between northeast and east</p> <p>61. It checks the heartbeat</p> <p>62. Aquatic salamander</p> <p>63. CNN's founder</p> <p>64. Being precisely suitable and right</p> <p>65. Strongly alkaline solution</p> | <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <p>1. Pinocle trick</p> <p>2. A system of connections</p> <p>3. Emblems of royalty</p> <p>4. Work with a soft hand</p> <p>5. Plant cultivated in Peru</p> <p>6. A timid man</p> <p>7. Lacking intellectual depth</p> <p>8. A way to order</p> <p>9. Intoxicating</p> <p>13. Mimic</p> <p>14. Surfers use it</p> <p>17. Small Eurasian deer</p> <p>18. Popular Miller beer</p> <p>20. Finds out about</p> <p>22. Unusual</p> <p>27. Small European viper</p> <p>28. Indicates before</p> <p>29. Birth swine</p> <p>31. 7</p> <p>32. Useful keyboard key</p> <p>33. Letter of the Greek</p> | <p>alphabet</p> <p>37. Edible mollusk</p> <p>38. Stitched up</p> <p>39. Utilized</p> <p>40. ___ in tradition</p> <p>41. A way to get through</p> <p>42. Let off</p> <p>43. Fashionable source of shade</p> <p>44. In due time</p> <p>47. Printing speed</p> <p>48. A major division of geological time</p> <p>49. Nocturnal, cat-like mammal</p> <p>51. ___ de la ___</p> <p>52. After B</p> <p>53. Unusual</p> <p>58. Former money of the EU</p> |
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OPINION

Reasons to read 51-75

Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community
Marge Lewter

Previous columns this month from the Craig County Public Library focused on the first 50 reasons why you should read from natural-beachliving.com. This week, we have an additional set of 25 reasons:

Variety of options
Keeps your brain busy
Can be great bonding time
Helps you speak better
Improves critical thinking
Helps you feel smarter
Learn something new
Great for all ages

Easily portable
Helps you sleep at bedtime
Find inspiration
Helps your grammar
Improves your brain
Builds self confidence
Inspires you to try something new
Brightens your day
Shows you more than the movie
Learn about your country's history

Gives you something to think about
Makes you wonder
Experience another culture
Keeps you busy
Builds self esteem
Entertainment
Stimulate your brain
The Craig County Public Library thanks you for your support! We look forward to serving you during the new year!

A Thanksgiving tribute to the turkey



Morgan Griffith
Representative

of Massachusetts, and indeed it is part of the American story.

Although accounts of the 1621 Thanksgiving at Plymouth colony indicate only that "fowl" was eaten, not turkeys specifically, they eventually became a frequent presence on dinner tables. The reason is not surprising: the birds were quite plentiful. An article on Britannica.com notes that at least 10 million turkeys are estimated to have lived on the continent when Europeans arrived. By the 20th century, their numbers had shrunk to a mere 200,000, but today millions of wild turkeys once again roam the United States, thanks in

part to the conservation efforts of the Pittman-Robertson Act sponsored by U.S. Senator A. Willis Robertson of Lexington.

A popular myth holds that Benjamin Franklin suggested the turkey as our national symbol instead of the bald eagle. Although he did not in fact offer that proposal, he did make favorable comparisons of the turkey to the bald eagle. In a letter to his daughter, he mused about a medal for the Society of the Cincinnati, an organization made up of Continental Army officers. The eagle on the medal looked similar to a turkey, prompting Franklin to observe:

"For my own part I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen as the Representative of our Country. He is a Bird of bad moral Character. He does not get his Living honestly. You may have seen him perch'd

on some dead Tree near the River, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the Labour of the Fishing Hawk [osprey]; and when that diligent Bird has at length taken a Fish, and is bearing it to his Nest for the Support of his Mate and young Ones, the Bald Eagle pursues him and takes it from him."

For the record, I do not share Franklin's low opinion of the bald eagle. As for the turkey, Franklin continued:

"For in Truth the Turkey is in Comparison a much more respectable Bird, and withal a true original Native of America. Eagles have been found in all Countries, but the Turkey was peculiar to ours . . . He is besides, tho' a little vain and silly, a Bird of Courage, and would not hesitate to attack a Grenadier of the British Guards who should presume to invade his Farm Yard with a red Coat

on."

We can wonder whether Franklin ever expressed his thoughts on the matter to George Washington. Perhaps he did not share Franklin's affection for the bird, because while the first president, and as Henry Lee said, "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen," Washington was not the first president to pardon a turkey.

The precedent for the White House turkey pardon was set by Abraham Lincoln, who spared the life of a turkey at the behest of his son. Later presidents such as John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan held their own events pardoning turkeys, and George H.W. Bush made it an annual occasion starting in 1989. Several of the turkeys participating in the ceremony in recent years retired afterward to Virginia Tech.

But if George Wash-

ington had little to say on turkeys, he had plenty to say on Thanksgiving. During his first year in office, 1789, he called for Thursday, November 26 to be set aside as "a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

His proclamation went on to list the blessings the young country enjoyed, from its new Constitution to its civil and religious liberty, and called on Americans to offer thanks and supplication for the country's future.

Editor's note: Due to early press deadlines because of Thanksgiving, this column did not make it into last week's issue.

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

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

OBITUARY

McPherson, Jennifer Gail Carper

Jennifer Gail Carper McPherson, 70, of New Castle, passed away at her home on Sunday, Nov. 27, 2022, with her beloved husband, B.B. McPherson, and her family by her side. She was

born on Aug. 11, 1952, daughter of the late William R. Carper, Jr. and Barbara Ann Caldwell Carper.

Family and friends will be received at Paitzel Funeral Home,

286 Main St., New Castle, Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022 from 6-8 p.m., and Friday, Dec. 2, 2022 for funeral services at 2 p.m. Interment will follow at Huffman Cemetery.

Email letters to the editor to aboyd@mainstreetnewspapers.com

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AND GIVE US YOUR THOUGHTS

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VDOT from page 2

asures 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, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

bound 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.

14th STREET CLOSED: 14th Street closures may be in place for drainage installation.

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 will be in place on Wise Avenue between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

PAVING: Paving is underway until 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 traffic 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.

BOYD 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 periodic lane closures with flagging operations to be in place during daytime hours. Message boards are present to alert and update drivers. Expected completion in summer 2023.

ROUTE 1095 (HIGHLAND DRIVE) PIPE FAILURE CLOSURE – Route 1095 (Highland Drive) near its intersection 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.

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

T R A F F I C SWITCH: Traffic has been 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 114 TURN LANE CONSTRUCTION – Construction is underway on road improvements on Route 114 (Peppers Ferry Road) for a new entrance to Belview Elementary School. Motorists should expect daily lane closures controlled by flagging. Work is expected to be completed by the end of November 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.

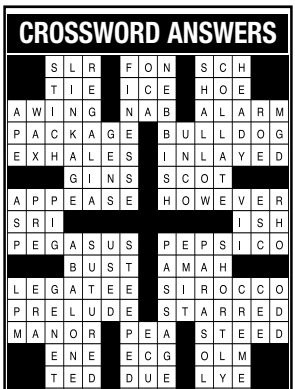
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The Craig New Castle PSA has a Full Time job opening for an operator or operator trainee. An Operator Trainee needs no experience but will be expected to attend training sessions and will be required to become certified in wastewater and/or water treatment. Job duties will include but will not be limited to operation of the wastewater and water treatment facilities, maintenance of equipment, supply lines and vehicles and any other aspect of running the daily operations of the Craig New Castle PSA. Benefits include health and dental insurance, life insurance, retirement, vacation and sick leave and paid holidays.

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 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.

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

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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.

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 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.

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 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 Prayer 10:00-10:30 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday Service 6:00 pm.

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

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 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.

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ROCKETS OPEN BASKETBALL SEASON THIS WEEK, QUADRUPLE-HEADER IN NEW CASTLE SATURDAY



Senior Lexxy Brookman returns to play the post.



Senior Annabelle Gregory is Craig's point guard.



Hannah Ratliff is a captain for the Rockets.

The Craig County High School basketball teams open the season this week and the highlight will be a "quadruple-header" on Saturday at the high school gym.

All four games will be against Bland County, beginning with a noon game between the jayvee girls. The varsity girls will follow at approximately 1:30 pm.

The jayvee boys will take the floor next at approximately 3:15 pm, then the varsity boys will wrap up a big day with a game at around 5 pm. One admission price is good for all four games and the teams will warm up in the auxiliary gym so there will be minimal time between games.

The Bland game will be the season opener for the Rocket boys, who were scheduled to scrimmage Smith Mountain Lake Academy on Tuesday. The girls will have a game under their belts as they were scheduled to open at home with James River on Monday. Results were too late for publication, but the Rockets are looking forward to a good season under second year head coach Brock Jones.

Craig returns four starters from last year's varsity team, senior center Lexxy Brookman, senior point guard Annabelle Gregory, senior guard Hannah Ratliff and sophomore swing player Maggie Mays. Brookman was a second Team All-District selection last year, averaging 10.3 points per game and 9.7 rebounds per game. Offense will mainly roll through Lexxy this year.

"She is arguably the best post player in the Pioneer District and not many teams last year had answers for her when she caught the ball on the block," said coach Jones. "We're expecting a big season from Lexxy. She's working one-on-one with me during post-perimeter drills and getting her foot work down and learning different moves this year on the block. High expectations for Lexxy this year and so glad I get to coach her."

Gregory averaged 4.6 assists per game and 2.4 steals

per game last year.

"She's like the energizer bunny and just keeps going," said Jones. "She handles the ball well, is quick, and plays tremendous defense. We are looking forward to Annie looking for her shot more this year."

Gregory will give opponents fits with her ball-hawking defense.

"We have worked on her on ball defense and learning to stay in front of the player and not reach," said Jones. "Annie will have the toughest assignment game in and game out guarding the other team's best defensive player. She brings the grit to the team with the tough attitude and not backing down and giving it her all. Annie may only be 5'2 but she thinks she's 6'5."

Ratliff is the team's captain. She'll be counted on for heavy minutes.

"She worked hard in the off season a lot to earn this title," said Jones. "She's a cross country runner and she can go pretty much the whole game if need be. She can run the point if needed and has tremendous on ball defense, sliding her feet really well. She has worked on her shot during the offseason and has improved."

Mays was a solid player for the Rockets as a freshman last year, leading the team in scoring in seven different games.

"Maggie brings great ability to the team for us," said Jones. "She can handle the ball, rebound and score inside or out. I have been coaching Maggie for about four years now with AAU and her game has improved so much. The future is bright for Maggie the next three years and she will be leaned on a lot going forward the rest of her career."

Junior Ashley Cayton will move up to the varsity after playing jayvee last year. A junior guard, she was pulled up for the Pioneer District tournament last year.

"Ashley can knock the deep ball down well and has a wonderful follow through shot," said Jones. "She brings some length to the table and a smile to every practice regardless of the situations."



Senior Zachary Peters is a talented point guard for Craig.

Sophomore Madison Underwood brings size to the team and strength around the basket.

"Madison is a strong girl who rebounds well and clears out space under the basket," said Jones. "She will see heavy minutes in the post this year and can also score around the basket. She was Lexxy's primary sub last season as a freshman and gave us great minutes."

Two freshman will join the varsity this year and will make immediate contributions. Daileigh Donithan is a swing player while Kallie Fisher is a guard.

"Daileigh has the best shot on the team and we have high expectations for her this year," said Jones. "She's another kid I have coached in the AAU program. She shoots the ball really well and understands the game. She will see plenty of minutes on the floor with designed plays for her."

Fisher brings solid ball handling ability to the team and on-ball defense. She's a first cousin of Gregory.

"Another kid I have coached for four years during AAU and such," said Jones. "Kallie was a member of the Virginia Bandits AAU program along with two other Craig County basketball members who won the Commonwealth Games at Liberty

University this past summer. She'll be leaned on heavily in the back court as a freshman. We're super excited to she's finally old enough for the varsity."

Jones sees Eastern Montgomery as the best team in the Pioneer District coming into the season.

"East Mont will be the team to beat this year in the Pioneer, followed by Parry McCuler," he said. "Then it's open. We have a shot to be top three in district this year if the girls work and put the time in."

Both the girls' and boys' teams have struggled to find practice time with school closed for sickness and bad weather.

"We had to push back our first practice due to illness at the school, and then doing school wide cleaning," said Craig County boys' coach Ryan Frazier. "Unfortunately that sickness crept into the team and we have yet to have a practice with our full squad. Given that, we are still looking forward to what we can achieve this year."

The boys return two starters from last year, senior guard Zachary Peters and sophomore guard Matthew Lucas. The Rockets lost seven seniors from last year's team.

Peters is returning after being an honorable mention all-



Matthew Lucas was first team all-district as a freshman.

district player last year. He's a true point guard with great vision and range of passing.

"If you're open Zach will find you," said Frazier. "We're looking for him to make a big impact in the district this year as one of the best true point guards in the area."

Lucas was a first team all-district selection as a freshman and Frazier is looking for big things out of him.

"Matthew has worked hard in the off-season on his game and his strength training," he said. "We are expecting another good year from Matthew with a year of varsity experience under his belt. He'll be one of the better all-around players in the district and will have to adjust to being the focal point of the opposition's defense."

Craig will have several juniors moving up to the varsity after graduating seven seniors from last year's team. Hayden Reynolds, Drew Duncan, Will Johnson, Seth Parsons and Chris Matheny are all juniors who Frazier is counting on.

"They will all have big minutes or big roles to play on the team this year," he said. "We feel like they are all capable of making an impact on the team."

Two sophomores, Talon Ritter and Jaycob Wolfe, will also be on the varsity.

"These two will have a sizable role in the team as sophomores," said Frazier. "They're young but both show a lot of promise and this year will help them gain experience. We're looking forward to working with all the newcomers to the varsity program."

"As you can see we have low numbers with nine players on the varsity team. Within that nine we have enough talent to make an impact in the district this year. We're replacing a lot of production in points and rebounds, but we feel like we have a group that can do it."

The boys made the Region 1C tournament last year and are hoping to get that far again this season.

"Our goal is to play in a regional game for the second year in a row," said Frazier. "It will take a lot of work but the boys are more than able to get there."

"Our team will look a lot different, which may mean we adjust and play a little differently. We will be much smaller across the board but I feel we have some very skilled players, and players that compliment each other really well and enjoy being together. If we work hard and work together toward our common goal we can have a very successful season."

MIDDLE SCHOOL ROCKETS HAVE DOUBLEHEADER THURSDAY



The Craig County Middle School basketball teams will host a doubleheader on Thursday against Covington. Action begins at 5 pm. Here Emily Smith(left) brings the ball up the floor in a recent game and Brayden Dunbar(right) handles the ball for the boys' team.



PHOTOS BY CHELSEA LOUTHEN