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# THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



**WE HAVE KEROSENE**

## Town Council members ready for 2023



**Lenny McDonald** was elected the new mayor of New Castle. "I have been on the town council for three and a half years and during that time, I realized what a treasure our little town is," he said.



**Eddie Lee** follows in his family's footsteps as a Town Council member, wishing to contribute something positive to his community as well.



Raised in Craig County, **Robyn Foster** shares that she looks forward to serving her community. She is pictured with her faithful companion, "the boss," **Ellie**.

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

The votes were tallied, and the New Castle Town Council has a new mayor and two new board members. The new mayor is J.L. (Lenny) McDonald who will be replacing Bucky Johnson. New Castle Town Council members are Thurman (Tommy) Zimmerman, Robert E.

(Eddie) Lee, Robyn Foster and Karen Crush. "I have been on the town council for three and a half years," shared McDonald. "During that time, I realized what a treasure our little town is." McDonald noted that when the previous mayor, Johnson, announced his intentions of retiring, he assumed that Zimmerman

would be the obvious choice for mayor since he was the vice mayor. "However, Tommy came to me and asked that I consider running as he would not be, and I was shocked and honored that he would feel I could do the job," McDonald shared. "Before putting my name forward though I wanted to talk to Bucky Johnson to see if he was willing to reconsider his

decision and stay on." McDonald said that in their conversation, Johnson said that he had served and felt it was time to step away, but he also felt that McDonald would be a good choice for taking the mayoral role. "Finally, I sought out our secretary, Nina Davis, as I wanted her opinion and I wanted to know if I did run would she be willing to stay

on," he added. "She stated that she would stay on and at that point, I knew that with their support that I would run." In being on the council in previous years, McDonald stated that what he learned most about New Castle was its history through the voices of the people who live there.

See **Town Council**, page 5



**The Craig County Public Library** sends a grand "thank you" to all the businesses who have donated gift cards thus far for their monthly raffles. Through the end of December, they are collecting food items for the Craig County Department of Social Services food pantry. "Any donors' names will be in a drawing for a \$10 gift card," shared Alex Whit.

## Library grateful for local support in monthly raffles

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

Most small towns have few businesses whom a group can go to for support and though Craig County is considered one of those, their hearts are big and generous. The Craig County Library has always strived to bring as many benefits to the community as possible yet struggles at times with financial means to do so. However, over the last several months, businesses in Craig County have answered a call to an idea which has proven successful to their needs. "Every month we went to a local business to see if they would donate a gift card that we could raffle off monthly for the li-

brary," explained Michaela Crawford, the librarian and program coordinator. The raffle tickets were on sale at the library check-out desk. They also sold tickets during special events, such as the Fourth of July parade and Memorial Day. The ticket donation was between \$1 to \$3 each and were sold from the first of each month with the end of raffle being the last working day of the month. "Individuals left us with their name and phone number and at the end of the month a name was drawn as the winner of the gift card," Crawford shared. They only have means to accept cash.

See **Library**, page 2

## Looney supported by community during cancer battle

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

When life hits hard and it takes a toll, it can be refreshing to see people come together for a good cause to help someone in need. On Saturday, Nov. 19 several men hit the basketball court for an alumni game to raise funds for Sean Looney. Sean, a 2006 graduate of Craig County High School, was diagnosed with cancer. "I was completely shocked when I was first diagnosed. You don't think you'll hear the word cancer when you are only 34 years old," he said. "The type of

cancer I have is very aggressive and spreads quickly. By the time I went to see my doctor, it had spread to my liver, lungs and several lymph nodes. I had to undergo a surgery to remove the initial tumor and then extensive chemotherapy." "Once we heard that Sean had been diagnosed with cancer, we knew that we wanted to do something to help raise money," shared Kim Wolfe, an employee of Craig County Public Schools. "Both of his parents, John and Cathy Looney, retired from Craig County Public Schools and his brother, Will, is also a Craig Coun-



**Sean and Libby Looney** hold tight to their faith and to one another as he battles cancer, while the community of Craig County supports them and their family.

See **Looney**, page 3

## Crowd turns out for New Castle Christmas Parade



The New Castle Parade lasted a long time and the smiles, laughter and exuberant atmosphere that the entrees and music created proved to be fun. Many of the kids lit up as the EMS vehicles drove through with their lights turned on and horns tooting, as the kids gave the arm motion to blow their horns.

PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

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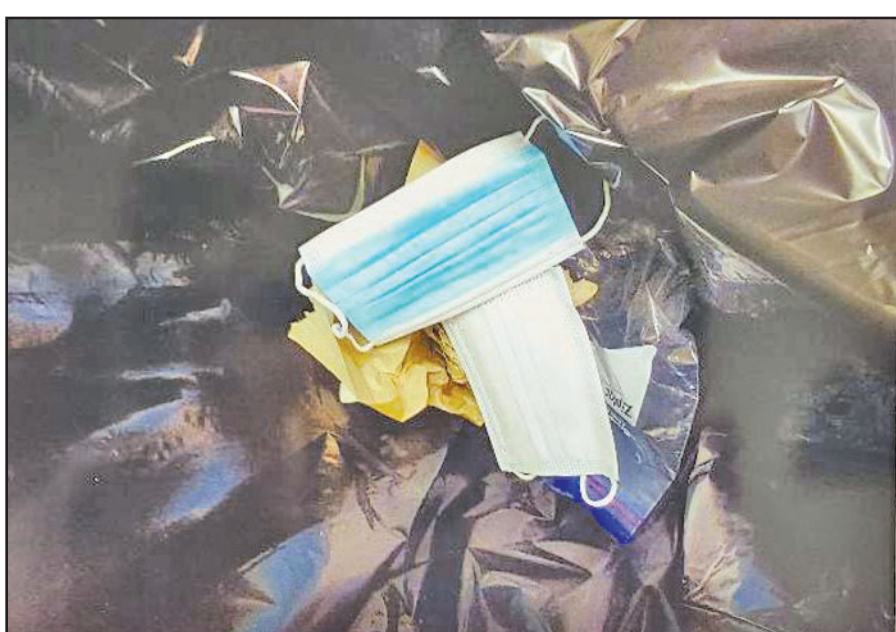

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## Craig County hosted Community Remembrance Event on Nov. 29



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

Sheila Hypes lost “the love of her life,” her husband Perry, to COVID. She told her heartbreaking story at the Craig County Community Remembrance Event on Nov. 29. An article with additional photos will appear in next week’s issue.



“I see being able to live like we used to be able to a little more because when we were COVID we were all locked away and didn’t get to be who we wanted to be.”  
Cheyenne Combs

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHEYENNE COMBS

Students from Ms. Frazier’s photography class and 4-H Teen Club participated in a photovoice project, taking pictures of their community that reminded them of the theme of COVID.

## Donations to first responders encouraged during season of giving



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

With the holiday season of “giving” in full swing, a suggestion has been made to remember the EMS workers of Craig County. Maybe give a donation of cash, toilet paper, cleaning supplies or goodies for them to munch on, or even a meal. Stop by a local EMS, fire, rescue or police department and get that “holiday warmth in your heart.”

## Library from page 1

The local businesses that have graciously donated gift cards thus far for Craig County Public Library’s local monthly business raffles are Pine Top Restaurant, Lasterday Market, The Emporium, Helms True Value, Food Country, Subway and IGA Express.

“The purpose of the raffles were a fundraiser for supporting our programming and events,” Crawford explained. “We are hoping to increase our community outreach especially with children’s programming, however, COVID put a damper on our ability to have and host events.”

She added, “Our summer reading program last summer was one of first events since the beginning of COVID and we are hoping to have bigger and better with each year and more and more community involvement.”

They stopped the raffles in September for the Fall Festival raffles.

But they are currently having a food drive during the months of November and December to benefit the Craig County Department of Social Services food pantry.

Community members can drop off donated food items at the library to have their name placed in a drawing for a \$10

gift card. The drive will end on Friday, Dec. 23, and they will draw the winner for the gift card that day as well.

“We have collected eight boxes of food to donate to the food pantry thus far,” exclaimed Crawford. “We thank you all so much for your kindness and caring. We are blown away by the generosity of our small community.”

Crawford recognized the Craig County FFA also as they assisted in collecting food items for the pantry.

Their hours are:  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday – 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Wednesday – 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Saturday – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Sunday – Closed

They hope to restart their monthly raffle program in the new year.

If any business wishes to donate a gift card or other items for their fundraising raffles, please connect with them at craiglibrary@swva.net or call (540) 864-8978.

Crawford shared, “We greatly appreciate all of our local businesses and hope to work closely with them in the future to help strengthen the unity and functionality of our small community!”

# Kudos to Craig County!

**82% of Craig County Middle School Students and 69% of High School Students protect their lungs and do not vape.\***



\*According to the 2021 YRBS data.



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# Looney from page 1

ty High School alumni.” She added, “We have worked with John and Cathy for several years and we are a pretty tight knit work family.”

Wolfe and Sierra Frazier came up with the idea of hosting an alumni basketball game and several others helped to organize the successful night.

“We knew that Sean was a Craig County High School alumni basketball player and his dad, John, was a coach for the boys basketball team for several years so what better way to raise money than to have an alumni basketball game!” Wolfe said.

“When we found out about the fundraiser, we felt loved, special and appreciative!” Sean Looney said. “Even though we don’t live there anymore, I felt like part of the community because everyone was so supportive.”

sale table and Ryan Frazier made sure that the players had some practice jerseys to wear.

They had several CCPS staff members to donate baked goods and drinks for them to set up a bake sale during the game.

There were enough players to have four extras on each team to give each other a break in playing, as Sloss announced during the game that the “oxygen was located at the end of the court,” as some players were a bit “winded” in playing.

It was a fun time for all as Sloss even played some great music to stimulate the atmosphere.

At halftime, they had a contest where whomever could hit a half court basket would receive half of the winnings. It was \$1 per try for the halftime contest.

Several guys and a couple girls gave their efforts. Many hit the rim and “ooooos” were heard from the spectators in the bleachers.

James Hodges and Luke Potter were the only two shooters to make the half-court shot.

“Since it was a tie, they had to do a shoot out and see who could make a basket from the free throw line, 3-point line and once again from half court in the fastest time under one minute,” Wolfe shared. “Neither of them made the half-court shot again in the shootout but Luke had the fastest time at the free throw and 3-point line, so he walked away the winner.”

The game then continued as the players on both teams went for it all, making great shots, layups and passes.

The end score was White team - 49 and Blue team - 46.

Though it was a contest, the score was close the entire game.

The players of both teams would joke around a bit, pushing each other and talking “stuff.”

Also, it seemed the spectators were cheering for everyone. It made for a very enjoyable and meaningful evening.

Sean’s dad, John shared, “We are glad to live in Craig. There are so many people praying and helping us out. I’m not surprised though; Craig is so close knit.”

Also, Matt Faw donated an authentic Virginia Tech replica football helmet that is autographed by former Hokie player, Michael

Vick. An online auction for it will be set up soon and the proceeds will be donated to Sean as well.

About \$1,600 was raised Saturday night from the \$5 admission to the game, bake sale and donations.

“We really need a lot of prayers!” Sean added. “Even though I am on a break from treatment, it’s still on our minds every day. I am dealing with some late side effects of the chemotherapy, so prayers for those to subside.”

“It was amazing to be a part of something like this and to see the community

come out and support a great cause,” Wolfe shared.

Frazier’s quote on her email by Albert Einstein seemed appropriate for this game, “Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile.”

One of the latest updates which Sean and his wife Libby posted on Facebook included, “His oncologist took his case to the tumor board and they all agreed he has responded really well to treatment. There are a few enlarged lymph nodes they made a plan for.”

“I am now on a short break around the holidays

before I have more scans and blood work to see what else needs done. I am so grateful for the break in treatment and more time to spend with my family.

The doctors plan to rescan and do bloodwork after the new year, which will determine the need for surgery.

We want to say thank you to everyone who came out to the game to support us!” Sean shared. “Thank you for the donations, the prayers, and loving our family. It feels good coming from a small community, I can feel the love!”

“We are so thankful for this break!” Libby shared. “It will last through the holidays and has already given us precious family time as Sean is finally starting to feel better. We are eating meals at the table as a family again, and that might be the best part for me!”

She continued, “I am praying for a miracle, and I believe at the next scans they will say, “What enlarged lymph nodes? What cancer? It’s gone and you are in remission!””

The family invites the community to “Please join us in praying.”



**Nineteen guys joined together to play an alumni ballgame to raise funds for Sean Looney, a Craig County Public Schools graduate.**



**The game was played on Saturday, Nov. 19.**



PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING

**“Once we heard that Sean had been diagnosed with cancer, we knew that we wanted to do something to help raise money,” shared Kim Wolfe, an employee of Craig County Public Schools.**

## 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**
1. Chop up
  5. Ones who utilize
  10. Sings with closed lips
  14. South American hummingbird
  15. Serves as a coxswain
  16. Liquor distilled from coconut or rice
  17. Spur
  18. Senile
  19. Tanzanian people
  20. Cruel
  22. Boxing’s “GOAT”
  23. Yokels
  24. London soccer team
  27. Chinese chess piece
  30. Supervises flying
  31. 007’s creator
  32. Shaft horsepower (abbr.)
  35. A spider makes one
  37. Liquefied natural gas
  38. Opaque gem
  39. Brazilian palm
  40. Periodical (slang)
  41. You might step on one
  42. Marvin and Horsley are two
  43. Partner to cheese
  44. Unpleasant smell
  45. Field force unit (abbr.)
  46. Fashion accessory
  47. Cool!
  48. Time zone
  49. Songs to one’s lover
  52. German river
  55. Go bad
  56. Sword
  60. Very eager
  61. Leaf bug
  63. Italian seaport
  64. Napoleon Dynamite’s uncle
  65. Member of Jamaican religion
  66. Large wading bird
  67. Carries out
  68. Eternal rest
  69. It holds up your head-words
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Not low
  2. Small water buffalo
  3. A mark left behind
  4. Archaic form of have
  5. Fiddler crabs
  6. Popular Hyundai sedan
  7. Deport
  8. Making over
  9. Midway between south and southeast
  10. Arabic masculine name
  11. Type of acid
  12. Popular 1980s Cher film
  13. Outdoor enthusiasts’ tools
  21. Chinese city
  23. “Star Wars” character Solo
  25. The bill in a restaurant
  26. Old, ugly witch
  27. Burn with a hot liquid
  28. To claim or demand
  29. “A Doll’s House” playwright
  32. Involuntary muscular contraction
  33. Pea stems (British)
  34. Double or multiple fold
  36. No longer is
  37. Lakers’ crosstown rivals (abbr.)
  38. S. American plant cultivated in Peru
  40. Cloth or fabric
  41. Flanks
  43. Disfigure
  44. Angry
  46. Baltic coast peninsula
  47. Large, flightless birds
  49. Plants of the lily family
  50. Medieval Norwegian language
  51. Polio vaccine developer
  52. Not soft
  53. Exchange rate
  54. Voice (Italian)
  57. Baseball’s Ruth
  58. Famed guitarist
  59. Take a chance
  61. Wife
  62. Elaborate handshake

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# OPINION

## Getting the most out of library resources

### Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community  
Michaela Crawford

What is a library if not a giant resource, but are you aware of the numerous resources available to you FREE OF CHARGE by being or becoming a library patron? These resources have the potential to gain access to numerous avenues of assistance and help you further your support outlets. Resources are a means to enhance and supplement experiences. These experiences can range from a hobby to your career, your education, or an evening out on the town. Knowing your resources and how to access them can greatly alter your experience and our library is here to help you make the most of your experiences.

What goal do you have in mind? Are you in need of assistance with a

genealogical search? Are you on the hunt for a better job, but need to jazz up your resume? Are you seriously struggling with algebra? Are computers a completely foreign language to you? It's okay! The library is available to help!

So, how do you get started? First and foremost a library card is essential. A library card opens thousands upon thousands of doors! Not only do they open magical doors into fictional worlds that have the capability of taking you away on a fantastical adventure, but they can also open very real doors that hold the potential to change your life. You may have found your dream job, but you have not had the need to touch up your resume for over a decade. At this point, you may not be sure what exactly employers are looking for on a resume. Your local library can help.

The Library of Virginia has numerous resources which are made available to patrons of ANY library in Virginia. Brainfuse is one such

resource. Brainfuse is available online and a link can be found on Craig County Public Library's webpage. Using your library card you can create a Brainfuse account. Your account allows you access to resume help, live interview assistance, job search help, as well as tips if you are facing unemployment.

Brainfuse may also help with those pesky homework assignments. Has it been ten years since your last algebra class, but your child is looking to you for help with their math homework? Look no further, Brainfuse is your answer! Live tutoring services, skill-building labs, writing assistance, and language assistance for language learners are available online for your needs. Beginning is simple enough. You can ask a specific question for assistance or you can utilize their live tutoring services available daily from 2 p.m.-11 p.m.

Veterans may also benefit from Brainfuse. Are you at a loss for how to apply for pension benefits,

fill out an application for DIC, or understand your accrued benefits? Assistance is available to help locate, apply for, and understand the benefits and resources available to veterans. VetNow navigators are available for assistance Monday-Friday from 4 p.m.-Midnight and from Tuesday-Saturday midnight-1 a.m.

Living in a small community may make you feel as though you have limited resources. However, knowing your resources in a small community is extremely beneficial not only to yourself but to those around you. The more aware you are of your resources and your ability to obtain access to them the more likely you are to aid in the building of a stronger, more resilient, and altogether highly functioning community.

As a library in a small community, we not only offer several resources from the Library of Virginia, but we are a resource ourselves. Beginning with our knowledgeable staff to the thousands of books and movies we have on our shelves, we can assist you with your needs or help you find a way to access the re-

sources available to you. Currently, our library offers computer services, fax/print/scan, book, movie, telescope, and hot spot rental, take and make crafts, book sales, tech tutoring, job assistance, 24/7 Wi-Fi access, and tourism information. If you have forgotten your library as a valuable resource we urge you to stop by, apply for a free library card, take a look around, and familiarize yourself with your local library.

#### Upcoming and ongoing events:

Breakfast with Santa Dec. 10 and Dec. 17 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Last-erday Market MORE INFORMATION TO COME

December Take and Make crafts are available for children and teens FREE

December Family Togetherness calendars FREE

Food Drive through Dec. 23. Drop off donated food items during library hours for a chance to win a \$10 gift card. All food items are donated to Craig County Department of Social Services

FREE Christmas book bundles available starting Dec. 5

## Return to the basics



Morgan Griffith  
Representative

Unfortunately, our legislative process in Con-

gress is broken and I submit it must be changed by going back to the basics.

With the 117th Congress coming to a close and with a shift in majority parties, now is the appropriate time to make changes to the Rules of the House.

That is why I recently

testified before the House Rules Committee to offer amendments to the rules.

I believe simple changes to our current House rules could help fix the broken legislative process.

One of my proposed rules changes is to restore the Holman Rule, which existed for more than 100 years. In 1876, the Holman Rule was created by Congressman William Holman as a tool to cut spending by restructuring an agency. Holman thought spending was out of control.

The Holman Rule allows representatives to offer retrenchment amendments on the floor of the House of Representatives to appropriations bills. Retrenchment means these amendments could rearrange an agency or department of the Federal Government to cut specific programs, positions, or salaries.

In 2017, I revived this rule for the 115th Congress, but in 2019 Speaker Pelosi dismantled this tool.

I suggested rules changes limiting abuses that regularly happen in Congress today. I proposed a change to the germaneness rule. Its goal would be to only allow amendments to a bill that actually pertain to

the bill's purpose. Also, I proposed a single purpose rule so that a bill could only have one purpose. Further, these limitations could not be waived without a two-thirds vote of the House.

Shouldn't a bill address one issue and be straight forward? My single purpose rule would make it so.

This rule would still allow for complex bills like an infrastructure bill. However, two bills or concepts could not be combined into a single bill unless their purposes were the same. For example, a bill to set doctors' reimbursement rates under Medicare could not be amended into a rewrite of Medicare.

To rewrite Medicare would require a separate bill.

In the words of my friend, Majority Leader Terry Kilgore (R-Gate City), when someone tries to amend his bill and it isn't pertinent, he says, "Get your own bill."

By creating a stricter germaneness standard, you actually help preserve the single purpose rule.

For the germaneness and single purpose changes to be effective, they should not be waived.

Additionally, I pro-

posed an amendment to set time limits for bill introduction. This would focus individual members on bills that the members are most passionate about. It would also reduce the practice of introducing a bill on the cause celebre of the day for publicity purposes.

This amendment allows a remedy for bills that are "truly" important by giving members the ability to ask the House for permission to introduce their "vital" bill late.

Numerous states have deadlines and stricter requirements for late introduction.

The American people deserve a legislative body that works for them. I believe these suggestions would make our legislative process more efficient.

Returning to the basics can work.

Also, for more than 200 years, every member had a right to make a motion that the Chair was vacant, which if passed would trigger the election of a new Speaker.

Polarization of our country, combined with 24-hour news and social media where every day has some alleged crisis or someone claiming the sky is falling, has created

an atmosphere where a Speaker can legitimately fear a motion to vacate the Chair daily. This can lead to chaos.

Accordingly, I offered a rules change dealing with a motion to vacate the Chair.

The current rule implemented by Speaker Pelosi and her majority prohibits the long standing right of individual members to make the motion. My amendment restores the individual right but provides guardrails to allay a legitimate fear of chaos by limiting when the motion may be made.

Lastly, in any given election, the American people make a decision. The American people elect 435 representatives. Each member of Congress represents roughly the same number of people. In order to ensure the people's will is executed in Congress, I proposed that committee assignments on most committees reflect the proportionality of the members elected.

Most of these amendments restore old rules or clarify existing rules. It would mean a return to the basics of parliamentary procedure.

My experience has been a return to the basics is usually a good idea.

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

Give us your view: aboyd@mainstreetnewspapers.com  
To subscribe: 540-389-9355  
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# Birds and events

*{Frances Stebbins has been covering events in Western Virginia, especially those relating to faith communities, since 1953. Her column now appears monthly.}*

Until I moved in 2014 around the corner in my Salem neighborhood, I was never a regular feeder of birds. I knew the names of a few like the colorful Blue Jays or the red Cardinals, but that was about all.

Things changed when I bought a smaller house on a narrow lot and discovered that my three immediate neighbors all had feeders hanging from their trees. With a large open deck on the rear of my cottage to catch one of Salem's famous views, the wood railing soon became a feeding station.

My daughter, accustomed in Florida to bird feeding, presented me with a bag of black sunflower seeds, a favorite with most of our avian friends. Now each morning a flock of doves—the symbol of the City of Salem—sit patiently on the railing awaiting their breakfast. There are Sparrows and Cardinals galore, an occasional yellow Oriole and once,

to my delight, a red-headed Woodpecker.

I've learned in my old age that Jays fight off less aggressive birds, and that some neighbors go to the trouble to buy special homes for Hummingbirds.

Turning to Scripture, Jesus used birds to show that God cares for the smaller creatures that, seemingly, do not work or spin.

And one of my favorite musical compositions is "The Birds" by the Twentieth Century Italian composer, Ottorino Respighi.

I'm glad to have become familiar with songs, colors and a few habits of our flying friends. They are a poor substitute for my beloved cats, the last of which passed over the "Rainbow Bridge" nearly a year ago. During the coming holiday season, I may treat myself to a visit with the three neighbors who all own cherished felines.

These are all indoor cats, and these neighbors are the same ones who are the feeders of birds.

### New faces

At any given time, clergy are coming and going in the Roanoke Valley. Several new faces are

## Frances Stebbins Correspondent

becoming familiar to churchgoers in Salem.

As spiritual and administrative leader of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson will not live in Roanoke, for headquarters of the conference are in Richmond. The new leader was assigned recently at the Southeast Jurisdictional Conference to serve a large portion of the state.

She will succeed Bishop Sharma Lewis who will be moving to the Mississippi Conference. I attended a service several years ago when Lewis introduced some local Methodists to the African American style of singing.

In the highly organized system of United Methodist church government, spiritual leaders such as bishops, as well as pastors of congregations, are rotated in a regular pattern annually. Hauptert-Johnson, who will be assisted by a group of district superintendents, will soon be getting

acquainted with members from parishes in the Roanoke District.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson is from Florida and was a lawyer before answering her call to ordained ministry. Her academic education includes the University of Florida, the Florida College of Law and Candler School of Theology of Emory University in Atlanta. Ordained a bishop in 2016, she is married to the Rev. Allen Johnson and is the mother of a daughter, Samantha.

At Salem Presbyterian Church, welcome is being extended to the Rev. Chris Vogado who has been serving New Hope Presbyterian Church in Gastonia, North Carolina.

Members are awaiting the arrival of the Rev. Matthew H. Cox who is coming from the Eastern Virginia town of West Point to Fort Lewis Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.)

At St. Paul's Episcopal Church the Rev. Dr. James Hubbard is driving from his Amherst home weekly to serve as interim rector. Of retirement age and trained as a professional interim priest, he replaces, for at least the next two years, the Rev. Dr. David Comp-ton who left the past April.

SALEM AREA ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES (SAEM) was nominated for the Virginia

Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Award as a "faith-based" organization. Though not the top finalist, SAEM was recognized for its work over the past 25 years in providing food, clothing and educational resources for low-income residents of the City of Salem and the western part of Roanoke County.

Established by the late Joan Dorsey, SAEM now includes a free clothing closet bearing her name, a summer feeding program involving eligible school children in the Salem area and other free services. It is financially supported by about a dozen Salem area congregations as well as numerous businesses, service clubs and individuals.

Recently elected to one-year terms on the board of SAEM are Cindy Neathawk, chair; Artice Ledbetter, vice-chair overseeing the feeding program; Trula Byington, vice-chair for the Joan Dorsey Clothing Closet; Carey Harvey-cutter, treasurer, and Gary Lautenschlager, secretary.

Volunteers are needed to staff the clothing closet. For more information about it, call Byington at 540-389-4889. Lautenschlager at 540-357-7691 may be called for information about financial support.

## Town Council

from page 1

"I also learned a lot about how municipalities work and how their budgeting works in its own unique way," he said.

McDonald said that the most important things on the future agenda to address as the new mayor would be to continue the progress that Johnson initiated.

"Our town's park is set for some great upgrades over the coming year," he said. "Also, the town and county have partnered in bringing a Farmers Market to Main Street. I want to be sure that we see that project through to its best possible outcome given the budgetary challenges."

Going forward, McDonald did share that he would like to see a greater participation at the meetings from the community.

He added that he would like to see a greater transparency as well.

"We have the technology available to get the word out when our meetings are being held," McDonald said. "I also believe that we should stream our meetings on the internet for those who are home bound or

unable to attend so that they can be aware of our efforts to improve our town."

Eddie Lee was newly elected this year as a council member.

"I returned to New Castle in November of 2014," he shared. "I always wanted to be here in my retirement years."

Lee was raised in the town of New Castle where his paternal grandfather, father and mother all served as Town Council members.

"My roots go much deeper than that as my great-great grandfather Elisha B. Wagener was the first county surveyor and helped map out Craig County when it was formed in 1851,"

Lee added. "I hope that I can contribute something positive to our

town."

"I am slow to accept change and like things the 'Old Fashioned Way,'" Lee said. "I hope this position isn't a hinderance in serving on council."

He also noted that he is not affiliated with any political party.

"I have great pride in my town, county, state and country," Lee said. "I also have a strong love for history and am very proud of my 12 Craig County ancestors who served in the Army of Northern Virginia during our Second War for Independence (1861-65)."

Lee shared that his

"only goal at present as a town council member is to keep the town of New Castle as much like it is as possible."

"I thank all who showed faith in me and voted for me," he said.

"In addition, I would like to say, I am pleased to see the preservation of the older buildings downtown. My mindset might be stuck in the past, but I admit that progress can bring about positive changes and still preserve history."

Foster shared, "As a newly elected New Castle Town Council member, I realize I am part of a team. Thanks to the voters for instilling their

confidence in me. I look forward to serving starting in January 2023."

The monthly meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall building. Those interested in getting involved may leave a message at (540) 864-

2200 with any questions or connect with a council member via Facebook.

The community is encouraged to attend the meetings and support the council as well as give suggestions to the needs one sees or to offer volunteer support.

### JOB OPENING

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.

Operator Trainees will be offered \$15 per hour. Employee candidates with experience i.e. operators license, backhoe operators, pipeline construction experience or other qualities that the board may find pertinent may negotiate wages.

Applications can be picked up at the Craig New Castle PSA Office or a resume can be mailed to  
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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 Wentz, Minister, Rt. 42, New Castle, 540-864-5692. Sunday: Worship 10:00 a.m.
- CORNERSTONE CHURCH**  
Pastor Don Brown, Corner of Salem and Wagner, New Castle, 580-3228. Sunday Worship 10:30am (Children meet separately, Nursery provided). Bible Study - Wednesday 6p Teens - Wednesday 6p. Ministries: Men, Ladies, Young Adult, and Seniors. Times vary, call for details.
- CRAIG HEALING SPRINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)**  
Pastor - Kenneth W. Davis, Jr., 6 Grannys Branch Road (Johns Creek), New Castle, Phone: 864-6102. Sunday School at 10 am. Sunday Worship at 11 am every Sunday. Fellowship meal after Sunday Worship on second Sundays. Everyone is welcome!
- CRAIG VALLEY BAPTIST**  
171 Salem Avenue, New Castle, 864-5667; Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m., Wednesday: Prayer Service and Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Youth Group 6:30-8:00PM, Bible Buddies at 6:30-8:00PM. Transportation provided - call the church. Hearing devices also available. www.craigvalleybaptist.com
- CRAIG VALLEY GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP**  
HWY 621, Pastor Roy Lee Law Jr., "Jay", 864-8984. Sunday School 10:00am; Worship 11:00am., Wednesday night Bible study 7pm, from HWY 311, up HWY 621, 8 miles on left.
- CROSSROADS CHURCH**  
21892 Craigs Creek Road, New Castle. Pastor Gary Burch. 864-7520. Sunday School- 10-10:45AM, Sunday Worship - 11AM-Noon.
- FIRST BAPTIST**  
Pastor Kevin Altizer, Corner of Main Street & Boyd Ave., New Castle. Church phone 864-5919. Sunday School 10:00AM, Sunday Worship 11:00AM and 6PM. Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7PM, Youth Group

- 7:00PM, Reformers Unanimous Addiction Recovery every Friday evening at 7PM.
- GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
5530 Catawba Valley Drive, Catawba, VA, 540-384-7075. Pastor Lorraine Taylor, agladypastor@msn.com. Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Evening service at 7:00 p.m.; Youth (ages 13-18) & Super Church (ages 4-12) Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. You can also watch on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m. www.graceassemblycatawaba.org
- GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
159 Old Railroad Ave, New Castle, 540-864-PRAY, Sunday School 9:30AM, Sunday Worship Service 10:00AM, Wednesday Night Services 7:00PM.
- HEBRON UNITED METHODIST**  
Pastor Rodney Longmire, Rt. 606, 1981 Caldwell Mt. Rd., New Castle, 540-400-3419. Worship 11:15AM.
- LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST**  
Rev. Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, & 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.
- LEVEL GREEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
3388 Cumberland Gap Rd. Newport, Duane Wentz, Minister, 540-544-7179. Sunday School 10:00am, Sunday Morning Worship 11:00am, Children's Church 11:00am. Choir Practice, bi-weekly 7:00pm, Ladies meeting first Monday of each month at 7:00pm.
- LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST**  
Pastor Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle, 540-525-7662. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, & 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.
- MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN**  
4199 Craig Valley Drive, New Castle, 864-6622. Sunday: Worship Service 9:00 a.m., Children's Church 9:15 a.m., Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
- NEW CASTLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
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282 Salem Ave., New Castle; 864-5212; 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.
- THE CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
118 Main Street, New Castle. Service Times: Sunday, Bible classes-10 a.m., Worship-11:00 a.m., Evening Worship-6 p.m.; Wednesday, Bible classes - 7 p.m.
- NEW CASTLE UNITED METHODIST**  
Rev. San Kang, 364 Main St., New Castle, Va. Sunday School 10AM, Worship 11AM; UMW 3rd Wednesday@1PM, Youth and other programs, Bible Studies.
- ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
99 2nd Street, New Castle. Rev. Stephen McNally. 540-473-3691. Mass is on Sunday at 11:15 AM.
- CRAIG COUNTY COMMUNITY CHURCH - 'WELCOME HOME!'**  
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- ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
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# SPORTS

Send story ideas & announcements to [bhoffman@ourvalley.org](mailto:bhoffman@ourvalley.org)

## CRAIG BOYS OPEN BASKETBALL SEASON WITH LOSS TO BLAND



Drew Duncan(#14) contests a Bland shot.



Hayden Reynolds sinks one of his five three-pointers against Bland.



Jaycob Wolfe works in the paint.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN  
Matthew Lucas blows by the defense to score for Craig.

The Craig County boys opened the winter basketball season Saturday with their first action against an opponent from another school since practice began. Craig was limited in preseason practice with sickness and school closings and the Rockets didn't have a single scrimmage before opening Saturday.

The final score was 76-53 in favor of visiting Bland County. The Rockets hung close in the early going, trailing only 16-13 at one point before Bland went on a 10-0 run to increase the lead to 26-13. Up 40-28 at the half, the Bears started the second half on a roll and the Rockets never recovered.

"We are obviously disappointed in the result on Saturday but

there were some positives," said Craig coach Ryan Frazier. "I thought at times we looked good offensively. We still have plenty to work on, but I feel that we have a good base offensively to work from."

Craig was led in scoring by junior Matthew Lucas with 28 points on 50 percent shooting, and Hayden Reynolds who also shot 50 percent from the floor, including five threes to finish with 15 points.

"We scored 53 points in the first competitive action we have had this season," said Frazier. "We did a solid job on the boards for the most part, with Drew Duncan and Jaycob Wolfe holding their own in the paint."

Bland's three-point shooting

hurt the Rockets. The Bears made seven threes in the first half alone.

"Bland has a solid team with many seniors," said Frazier. "I felt their experience gave them an advantage over our guys, many who were playing their first varsity minutes. This will be a good learning experience as we hope to bounce back this week."

The Rockets return to action with a game at Class 3 Staunton River on Thursday. On Saturday Craig will be at Montcalm for a 3:30 pm game, and that will be part of a jayvee-varsity, girls-boys quadrupleheader.

The next home game is Tuesday, December 13, when Craig entertains Parry McCluer. That will also be their Pioneer District opener.



Daleigh Donithan passes against Bland.



Hannah Ratliff brings the ball up the court.



Kallie Fisher(#12) is closely guarded by a Bear.

## CRAIG GIRLS ARE AT ALLEGHANY TONIGHT

The Craig County girls will be looking to pick up their first basketball win this week with three games in six days. The Rockets opened the season with two losses last week.

The girls were at James River for a Monday game, but results were too late for publication. Tonight, Wednesday, they're at Alleghany and on Saturday they have a 2 pm game at Montcalm that's part of a four game girls-boys "quadrupleheader."

The Rockets opened the season at home last week and dropped a 48-24 decision to an improving James River squad. Sophomore Caitlin Canada equaled Craig's total with 24 points of her own.

"I knew it would be a tough game altogether as my daughter Kailyn, who plays jayvee, plays AAU basketball with Caitlin," said Craig coach Brock Jones. "I knew she would give us match up troubles and she did. She's a tough player and well keyed in the fundamentals department."

Craig trailed 10-6 after one quarter, then in the second quarter the Rockets started getting in foul trouble and were down 32-14 at the half. Lexxy Brookman

led the team with 13 points and 11 rebounds.

"I think we had somewhere upwards of 30 turnovers," said Jones. "We beat the press fairly well in the first half, but then we didn't take care of the ball in the second half. We just get into too much of a rush and try to force the pass. We see an open person and we try to make that 30 foot pass. Slowing the game down and making sure we make a good pass and get a good shot is the focus point."

On Saturday the girls welcomed Bland County to town and the Bears had a big height advantage as they took a 51-19 win in New Castle.

"Another tough match for us," said Jones. "Scoring the ball is still an issue for us."

Mckenzie Tindall, a talented lefty, scored 20 points and gave the home team fits.

"Tindall was equally as good as Canada from James River and she gave us a fit all night," said Jones. "The focal point was to close out and get a body wherever number 10(Tindall) was on the floor. We had some meltdowns defensively and didn't close out with

our hands up or slide our feet on defense and she made us pay for that."

The Bears also had several big girls under the hoop.

"Bland was way more physical than us and really knew how to attack the basket and finish," said Jones. "I was talking to their coach before the game and he said he didn't know much about our program and I ran through that I had three seniors, one junior, two sophomores and two freshmen on the varsity team. And he said, 'wow you are young,' and said he was the total opposite of that. He had eight seniors out of nine on the roster. Experience was a major factor for us."

Brookman led Craig with six points and eight rebounds. Maggie Mays and Annabelle Gregory chipped in four points each and freshman guard Kallie Fisher got plenty of experience in her second game on varsity, playing 31 out of 32 total minutes.

"We have taken two hard losses to start the season, but we are improving in practice daily and not giving up," said Jones. "Fundamentals and court time is what we need."



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN  
Lexxy Brookman goes to the hoop for two points.