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**WE HAVE KEROSENE**

# Craig County residents remember those lost to COVID



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

Craig County Public Schools, along with other groups, hosted a heartfelt evening Community Remembrance Event on Nov. 29 in which stories were shared, student projects were presented and avenues of assistance to the rural community were offered, all of which related to the impacted of COVID-19. Superintendent Jeanette Warwick shared her testimony and gave great kudos to the CCPS staff for working so closely together to provide for the students while they were in the midst of a new chapter of life with the pandemic.

**Pam Dudding**  
*Contributing writer*

COVID is a word which has haunted homes and minds for three years now. However, a group of people came together to help of-fer healing in different ways. On the evening of Nov. 29, the Department of Social Services - TAP, United Way, Virginia Tech, Craig County Public Schools and community members joined to-gether to provide solace, togeth-

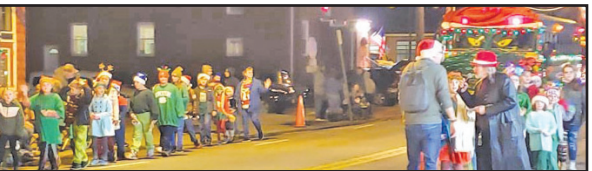
ness and assistance to those who had experienced the travesty of COVID in their lives. When people entered the school, an array of photographs caught their attention. Sophie Wenzel, with Virginia Tech Center for Public Health Practices and Research, offered an opportunity for Craig citizen to tell their stories, through a Photo Voice Project and a Story Tree. The Photo Voice Project invited students from Craig County High

School in the 4-H Club and the photography class to take pictures, and title them of how COVID im-pacted them. Wenzel noted that “especially teens are not asked how they feel or how COVID affected them and how they feel,” therefore this gave them that opportunity. She added, “In October at the Craig County Fall Festival we set up the Story Tree and asked people to share their story of how COVID has impacted them either person-

ally or in the community level and how they see how their community is starting to recover.” There were approximately 100 varied stories on the tree thus far, written on note cards and tied tightly to the branches. Leslie Clark, a representative of Family Health Strategies for United Way, both shared with Channel 7 News which was there to cover the story and with the audience. “We are providing an opportu-nity for the community to come

together and to take a breath, of this post pandemic, to take stock of what we have in this community and to acknowledge the loss of life that has impacted this commu-nity,” she said. “We want to celebrate the re-silience of this community and to look forward with hope and be-yond this pandemic,” Clark added. “We know that especially in small communities that COVID has

See **COVID**, page 3



The McCleary Elementary young kids walked the entire distance waving and shouting cheer to people, celebrating their “Bucket Fillers” club at the school.

## Parade brings joy and smiles to community



“Baby” Grant Oliver chose the Grinch theme for his ride this year in the parade, on his last derby car.



Many floats joined in the parade this year, including the newest Lunachicks baseball team, with balloons decked out in their colors.



PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING

Clubs joined in and decorated their vehicles with lights, music and more and the spectators seemed to enjoy them all.

See **Parade**, page 5

## Library, Lasterday hosting day with Santa Clause Dec. 17

Santa visited Lasterday last Saturday and will re-tur-n Saturday, Dec. 17. The Craig County Library and Lasterday hosted a day with Santa, where kids (10 and un-der) get free pancakes, a visit and picture with Santa and Mrs. Clause,

plus get a free toy and candy. Preregister next week on Facebook at Lasterday or the library so kids can talk with Santa as Allycia got to do this Saturday. Kids 10 and under are free sponsored by CHIP and Kids 11 and up are \$6 each.



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

## Upper Craig Creek Volunteer Fire Department brings Santa to kids

**Pam Dudding**  
*Contributing writer*

As the sirens rang from the Upper Craig Creek Volunteer Fire Trucks on

Route 311, kids ran out to meet Santa, who was taking a ride. One home at a time, See **Santa**, page 5



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

Santa stopped at the doorsteps of many kids on Saturday, Dec. 10, giving out candy and many wanted to tell them what they were hoping for under their tree.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Upper Craig Creek Volunteers of the Fire Department worked diligently in filling loads of candy into bags for Santa to give to the kids.



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# VDOT ROADWATCH

## INTERSTATE 81

**INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXIT 137 TO EXIT 141** – A \$179 million design-build project to widen both directions of I-81 between mile markers 136.6 and 141.8 from two to three lanes is set to begin. Starting in February and continuing into the early summer, work will be performed on the inside and outside shoulders along a five mile section of both northbound and southbound Interstate 81 in Roanoke County and the city of Salem. The shoulders will be built up before barrier wall can be installed for road crews to work behind. Barrier wall will be installed along the shoulders in the spring and summer. Two lanes of I-81 traffic in each direction will remain open during the project with periodic lane closures scheduled during nighttime hours or outside of peak travel times as needed. Drivers can expect the following lane closures and upcoming impacts on northbound and southbound I-81:

**LANE CLOSURE WITH SIGNIFICANT TRAFFIC DELAYS** - Tentatively scheduled to start on Monday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m., a right lane closure will be in place on southbound I-81 at mile marker 138.4 in Roanoke County near Salem for major re-

pairs to the bridge over Route 635 (Goodwin Avenue). The lane will remain closed around the clock and is expected to reopen prior to the morning commute on Thursday, Dec. 8. Drivers between Roanoke and Christiansburg will be significantly impacted during this closure. This bridge is located within the work zone for the I-81 widening project between exits 137 and 141 and was damaged when hit by a tractor-trailer. The repairs involve removing a section of damaged concrete, replacing reinforcing steel and pouring new concrete.

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

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

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

# CAT OF THE MONTH



COURTESY PHOTO

This little fella is Benny. He is seven months old and is neutered. He has distinctive Bengal markings, loves back rubs and being brushed. Currently, he is not a lap kitty but as he grows, he could grow to like that too. Contact Barn Cat Buddies at 540-238-5549 to inquire about adopting Benny.

# Donations to fire departments are encouraged

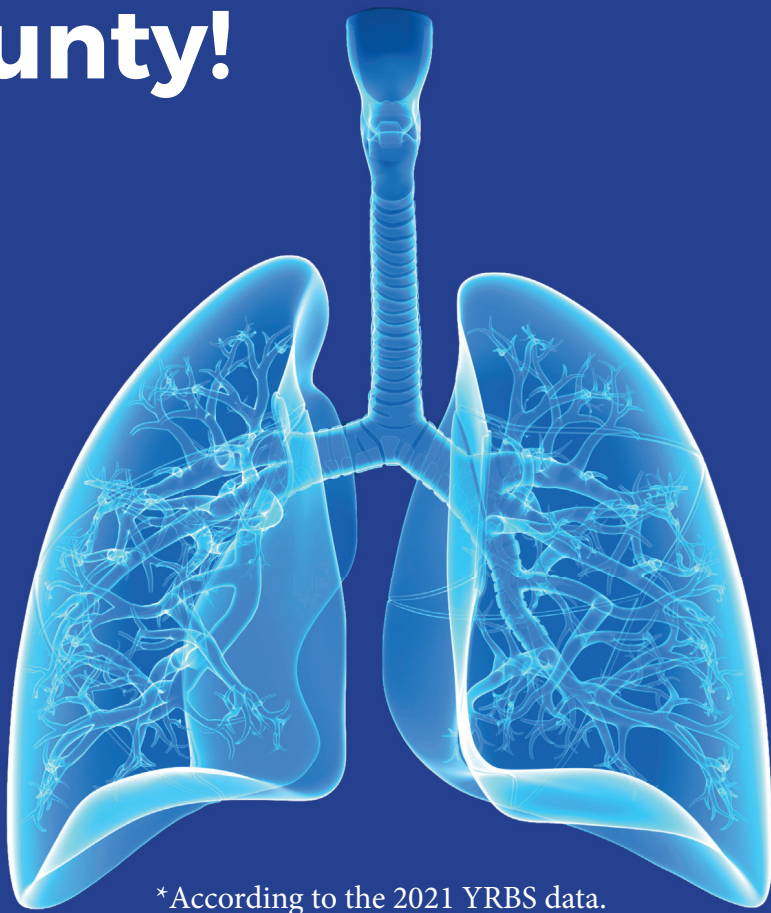


PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

The Craig County Fire Departments were glowing in lights and sirens at the parade. May Craig residents use this time to donate to them for support. Whether financial from \$10 to \$1000, it is all appreciated, or cleaning supplies, paper products or even some snacks or a pot of soup, as many work 24 hours or longer in 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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# COVID

from page 1

greatly impacted these folks. Loss of life here means so much more in a town of 5000 as opposed to a town of 100,000. We know that loss of jobs has a greater impact here. Therefore, we just want to take a moment to celebrate small communities and what they have to offer in their togetherness and closeness.”

She noted that according to VDH there have been 24 fatalities since the COVID pandemic started.

“As United Way, we are conveyers and connectors,” Clark said. “We know that there is strength in community and so to see a community come together and honor people from their past and to honor those who are still here fighting it just means the world to us.”

Superintendent Jeanette Warwick said when she was asked if their school would be willing to participate in this event, she said that she was a bit surprised but understood, as the impact in Craig was very traumatic to many, in various ways.

“I vividly remember when I received the news on Friday March the 13th that the governor had ordered a school closure, starting Monday March 16 through Friday the 27 at a minimum. However, on March 23 he ordered all schools to close for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year,” Warwick shared. “In my 32 years of serving in public education I never thought I would ever hear those words.”

She shared how the Craig County school system then jumped into action to begin a new chapter and making sure their students were taught through a new “virtual” system unknown to CCPS teachers and also fed as the cafeteria staff daily fixed meals for students and the school delivered them.

“It truly took a whole village to navigate this process and none of us could have gotten through that closure without each other,” Warwick added as she thanked the CCPS staff for their perseverance and dedication that began on Friday, March 13 and “has yet to truly end.”

Warwick became superintendent in 2016 and shared that each year she has chosen a theme and this year was the “Wizard of Oz,” “because the pandemic changed so much of how we do business that we truly are not in Kansas anymore; it has changed everything.”

Warwick described how in the classic movie, the lion was searching for courage the tin man was searching for a heart and the scarecrow was searching for knowledge and wisdom.

“Those are the characteristics that we have all had to hold on to in order to continue to navigate this pandemic as we had to be courageous, we had to have a heart and love each other and continually search for knowledge and wisdom,” she said. “Dorothy was trying to get back to Kansas because there was just no place like home.”

Warwick continued, “So tonight I’m glad we are gathered here in our hometown of Newcastle to honor those who have lost loved ones to COVID, share the impact that COVID has had on our community and to celebrate the resilience of our residents, and yes, finally to set our sights on our future.”

Clark shared that they were

awarded a COVID equity grant through the Virginia Department of Health that allowed them to create a multimedia campaign that provided outreach to rural areas.

“We wanted to provide something that could create healing to communities, and we knew that with 24 deaths and 34 hospitalizations in your small community of 5000 was a great impact,” she added. “And, since working here I have discovered that you are the most welcoming beautiful people.”

She spoke of the COVID impact to families in loss of life, loss of health, loss of job or income, increased depression, anxiety, substance abuse and vaccination opinions.

“Many of these things have divided people over the last few years,” Clark stated.

She reported that according to VDH, approximately 50% of Craig County has been fully vaccinated.

“Where community is working together there is always hope and we want this year to be one of healing and of hope,” she said. “We’re taking this opportunity tonight to take a breath, to honor our loved ones and to honor all that everyone has been through and to feel good about where we are headed as a community.”

TAP representative Jo Nelson shared her viewpoint on COVID in the rural areas, being a rural resident herself.

“We did not take and accept all the rules and guidelines easily,” she shared. “Therefore, when we looked at the pandemic to see how we could be helpful, we seen a need how we could help the rural communities and the number one aid was the ability to access emergency money.”

They have been able to find funding specifically for Craig and Allegheny counties to assist in some areas, such as mortgage, rent, childcare, paying for medications, to give a few examples.

“We just need to know how to help you the best way we can,” Nelson said.

She also noted that there was the potential of helping families in non-COVID crisis as well, including the possibility of tuition being paid at Mountain Empire for specific areas of study.

Nelson added with care, “This community always comes together. Even when there are no family members, their neighbors seem to step in. I appreciate you all for supporting each other through this crisis and beyond.”

The CCPS music teacher Alyssa Shulke and many of her pre-K, kindergarten and 1st grade class sang “This Little Light of Mine.” Their zeal in acting out the song and their smiles, seemed to soften the “COVID-loss” theme.

Craig County native Sheila Hypes spoke about the untimely loss of her husband, Perry, the “love of her life of 42 wonderful years of marriage,” to COVID-19.

She began, “It was November of 2021 that Perry was in the hospital fighting for his life and I will never forget it. This was not a good experience for me and my family.”

Sheila shared that when Perry first had symptoms, he thought it was a minor cold and just took over the counter medications and actu-

ally continued to work at his job.

Later, she tested him for COVID, and though it was positive. Perry told her everything was going to be OK. However, he then started sleeping a lot.

Sheila continued her heartbreaking story about Perry having to go to the hospital, her inability to be with or even see her husband during this time due to COVID hospital regulations. Then they put him on the infamous vent and sadly later died after almost a month in the hospital.

When Perry was at his last hours, they called her in.

“The shape my husband was in, will never leave my mind,” she shared with tears. “We had to say our goodbyes and leave.”

A few days later, she had to go to Paitzel Funeral Home where she started making arrangements, and a gentleman was assisting her.

“This is why I love a small town,” Sheila said. “Julie and I had gone to school together and I lost it. I needed help as I couldn’t answer all the questions the man was asking me.”

Julie then helped Sheila through the heartbreaking process, including planning his final ride to his resting place in the back of a pickup truck.

Sheila then shared that the most tragic and difficult part of COVID was the separation.

“There was no communication from the hospital to me and my family,” she stated with the understanding of heart that she knew that they were swamped and short staffed.

“But there is no loss like losing the love of my life,” she said with tears. “I know others had more than one loss in their family due to COVID and I can’t imagine what that would be like because just losing my husband has changed my life forever.”

Sheila also shared that she is grateful for her children and grandchildren who have been her rock and helped her during this time of grief.

Perry and Sheila’s granddaughter, Peyton, wanted to speak, but her heart broke after just a few words. Sheila said she wanted to let them know how much she missed her “Pawpaw Perry” and that she was sad that she couldn’t be there when he left this world.

Pastor Lorraine Taylor of Grace Assembly Church encouraged everyone to continue to support one another and to lean on and trust God.

“Smiles are free, and kindness is contagious,” she shared. “That’s what I heard during the Thanksgiving holiday from one of my nephews.”

She stated that studies have shown that people who are thankful and show gratitude are happier.

“Together we are stronger, happier, and wiser,” Taylor added and quoted many Bible scriptures of encouragement.

“A better world starts with you. Of all the attributes, love is the greatest and by this people will know that we belong to God.”

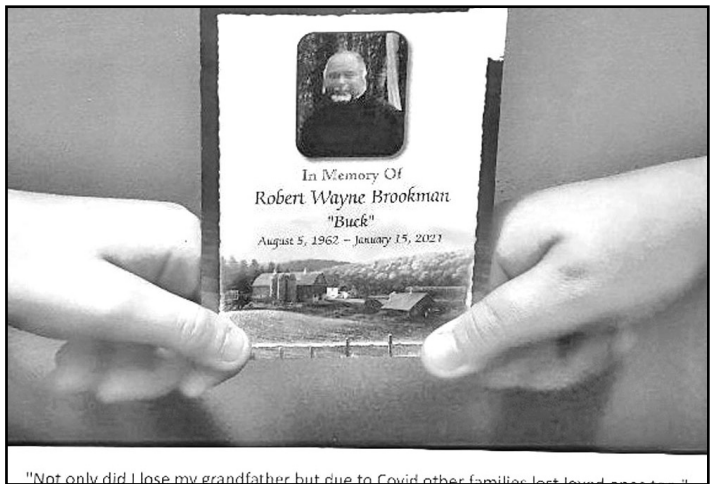
She spoke of caring for one another, showing love in action while dealing with the unknown paths of the COVID pandemic side effects.

A special song was beautifully sung by Amy Horton and Ashlyn Arthurs. One line said, “The sky is finally open and there’s always

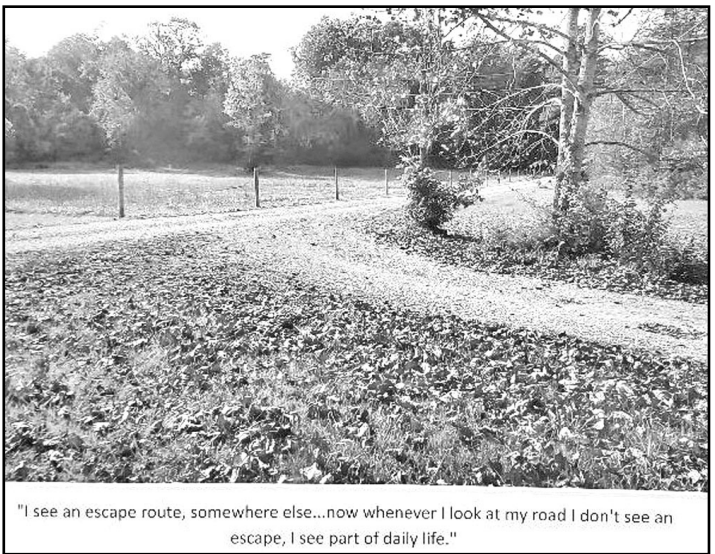


PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

**Music teacher Alyssa Shulke led some of her students in singing and acting out the words to, “This Little Light of Mine.”**



**Lexxy Brookman lost her grandfather to COVID, understanding the other 23 families’ losses.**



**During this pandemic, many people have wanted an “escape route,” which Claire Morris depicted.**



COURTESY PHOTOS

**For many students, the school’s closure was a hard hit for them. Cheyenne Combs was able to capture this in her photo.**

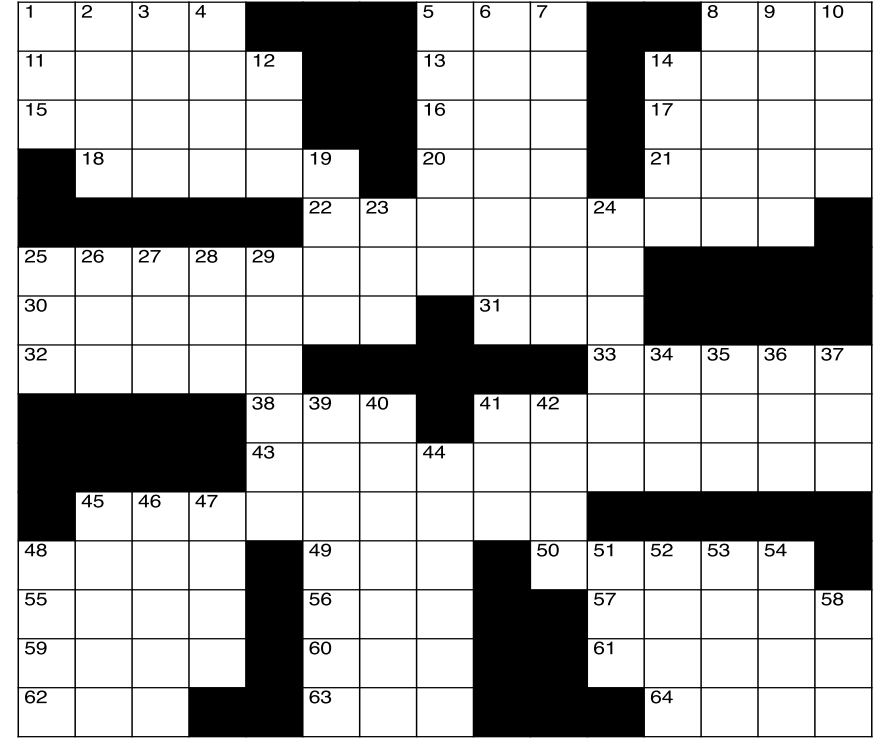
been a rainbow hanging over your head.”

Warwick concluded the evening with a special thanks to everyone, with hopes that the togetherness helped the hurt and loss that people have endured.

She gave special thanks and

gift cards to several who assisted in making the evening a blessing: Alyssa “Ms. Music” Schulke, Sierra Frazier, Pastor Lorraine Taylor, Jessica Belcher, Access Marketing and Roanoke and Craig County Health Departments and Jo Nelson with TAP.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS  
1. A people of Eastern Afghanistan  
5. Supervises interstate commerce  
8. Touch lightly  
11. Relating to bees  
13. Mauna \_\_\_, Hawaiian volcano  
14. Mosuo culture religion  
15. Italian village  
16. Stiff bristle  
17. Wealthy enclave in Rio  
18. Cause to lose courage  
20. Examines animals  
21. Ethnic group of Laos and Thailand  
22. Gets rid of  
25. Having easily perceived thoughts  
30. Removed surgically  
31. Principle underlying the universe

32. Popular airline  
33. Antelopes  
38. Peacock network  
41. Utter repeatedly  
43. One from the Golden State  
45. Photographers  
48. Father  
49. Popular BBQ dish  
50. Cavalry sword  
55. Ancient Greek sophist  
56. Atomic mass unit  
57. Afflicted in mind or body  
59. Indian mythological figure  
60. Mild expression of surprise  
61. Jewish spiritual leader  
62. Brew  
63. Doctor of Education  
64. Impudence

CLUES DOWN  
1. State attorneys  
2. Imitated  
3. Latvian capital  
4. Irish goddess  
5. Taste  
6. Dried  
7. Spanish saloon  
8. Mother of Perseus  
9. Evergreen coniferous trees  
10. Refuse to comply  
12. Negative  
14. Hyphen  
19. A way to record  
23. Not good  
24. One who tends the furnace  
25. Small amount  
26. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)  
27. The whole quantity  
28. \_\_\_ King Cole, musician

29. One’s opinion  
34. Holds ashes  
35. Stablecoin cryptocurrency  
36. Side-blotched lizards genus  
37. Legislator (abbr.)  
39. Concentrated bombardment  
40. Took for oneself  
41. Nigerian City  
42. Thousands of pounds  
44. Inspired  
45. Secret clique  
46. Expression  
47. Dough made from corn flour  
48. Comedian Carvey  
51. Swiss river  
52. Prejudice  
53. Actor Idris  
54. Resistance fighters  
58. Criticize

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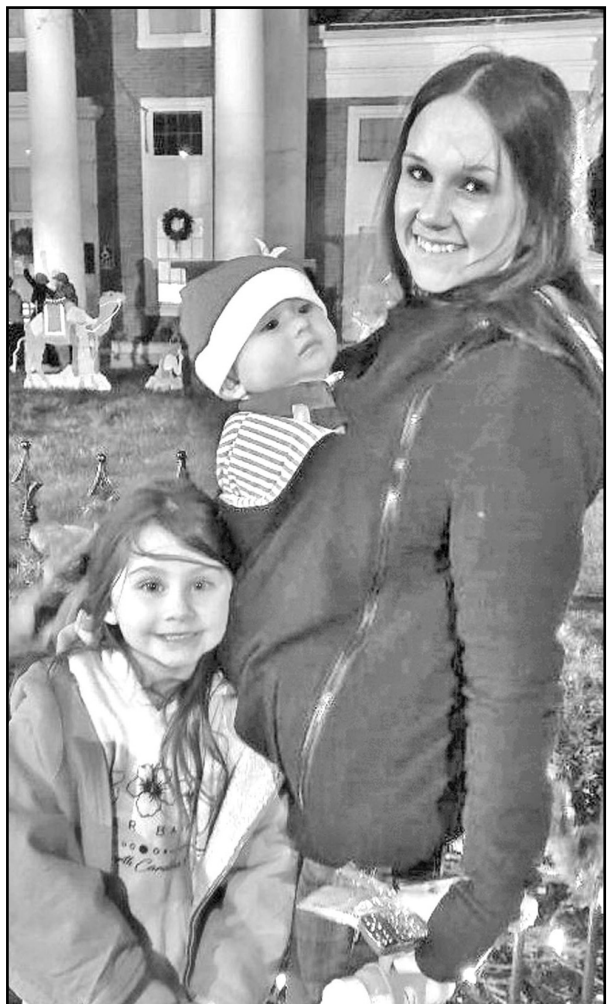
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# Parade

from page 1



Hannah Harless and her two little ones, Sophia and Sawyer, enjoyed the parade festivities.



The line to see Santa was very long after the parade, however some little ones still seem to be in awe at the sight of the bearded man dressed in red.



This little fella danced and enjoyed the holiday music that emcee Tim Leftwich was playing while people waited on the parade to arrive.



Some of the older folks enjoyed this vintage carriage lit up beautifully.

PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING

# Santa

from page 1

the fire trucks meandered into tight driveways, pulled over on the side of the road, just to make sure they got a visit from Santa.

This has become an annual tradition of the newly established volunteer fire department of Upper Craig Creek.

They announced on Facebook, days before, that Santa's helpers were busy filling candy bags to give to each child.

Shawn Matheney, fire chief, shared, "We look forward to seeing everyone!"

The squad and volunteers met at the Upper Craig Creek Fire Station, and "fueled up" on eggs, sausage and pancakes before starting their trek with Santa.

On Saturday, Dec. 10, the fire trucks started at 9 a.m. at the Craig County line and drove Route 311 to Carpers Quick Mart.

Parents joined together at some stops, so that Santa could see many kids.

Squeals of excitement and kids jumping for joy were the experience Santa looked forward to as he spoke to each child.

As he handed candy bags to the kids, eyes were gleeful, and the atmosphere around seemed to be filled with hope and



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

It has become an annual event for the Upper Craig Creek Volunteer Fire Department to give Santa a ride down Route 311 and side roads to give the kids of Craig, an early visit.

excitement.

The UCCVFD traveled for a few hours to make sure all the kids got to see Santa in person, meandering onto side roads and also down Route 621, after traveling Route 311.

The squad shared that they were happy to be a

part of making little kids smile.

Also, they send out a big "thank you" to all the

people who gave donations to make this possible, adding "Have a HO-HOHO Christmas!"

CROSSWORD ANSWERS															
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- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veteran's Pension and Survivor's Pension Benefits

To apply for Lifeline, you must apply to the Lifeline National Verifier at [www.checklifeline.org](http://www.checklifeline.org). You may also print an application from that website. If you have questions about applying, to check eligibility or to request an application, visit [www.checklifeline.org](http://www.checklifeline.org) or call the National Verifier at 1-800-234-9473.

If you qualify for Lifeline, you may also be eligible for the FCC's new low-income internet assistance program called Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The ACP is a government program that helps qualifying consumers pay for internet service. If you qualify for ACP, you may receive up to a \$30/month discount on your internet service. For more information about ACP, visit <https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/>.

Lifeline and the Affordable Connectivity Program are government assistance programs. The programs are non-transferable. Only eligible consumers may enroll in either program. There is a limit of one discount per household, per program. Lifeline credits on internet service are only available where minimum supported broadband service is available. If the household becomes ineligible for Lifeline and/or ACP, the household will be subject to TDS' regular rates, terms, and conditions.

For more information from TDS about these programs, visit <https://tdstelecom.com/lifeline.html> or [tdstelecom.com/acp](https://tdstelecom.com/acp), or call 1-888-CALL-TDS.



208056VA/11-22/12202

# God's House Is Always Open

## BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

11599 Cumberland Gap Road/Rt. 42, New Castle, 864-5242; church phone:544-7040 Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m., Sunday School 10:30 a.m., Choir Tuesday 7:30p.m., Youth Outreach and Missions Program. Rev. Charles Stacy.

## CHESTNUT GROVE CHURCH

Duane Wente, Minister, Rt. 42, New Castle, 540-864-5692. Sunday: Worship 10:00 a.m.

## CORNERSTONE CHURCH

Pastor Don Brown, Corner of Salem and Wagner, New Castle, 580-3228. Sunday Worship 10:30am (Children meet separately, Nursery provided). Bible Study - Wednesday 6p Teens - Wednesday 6p. Ministries: Men, Ladies, Young Adult, and Seniors. Times vary, call for details.

## CRAIG HEALING SPRINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

Pastor - Kenneth W. Davis, Jr., 6 Grannys Branch Road (Johns Creek), New Castle, Phone: 864-6102. Sunday School at 10 am. Sunday Worship at 11 am every Sunday. Fellowship meal after Sunday Worship on second Sundays. Everyone is welcome!

## CRAIG VALLEY BAPTIST

171 Salem Avenue, New Castle, 864-5667; Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m., Wednesday: Prayer Service and Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Youth Group 6:30-8:00PM, Bible Buddies at 6:30-8:00PM. Transportation provided - call the church. Hearing devices also available. [www.craigvalleybaptist.com](http://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](mailto: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](http://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

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General Information

**Historical Society  
debt still owed**  
To whom it may concern  
By Roger Davis. In 2018, I  
contracted restoring a  
cabin for the Craig County  
Historical Society. I was  
presented with an  
appraisal that stated the  
cabin was 80% complete.  
After starting the  
foundation, I was able to  
inspect the cabin  
materials. The logs were  
in very bad condition due  
to being stored for 20  
some odd years with three  
other deteriorating cabins.  
The termites had  
destroyed a lot of the logs,  
this was going to require a  
lot of extra work and  
materials. After discussing  
this with several historical  
society members and  
notifying them that there  
would be an extra charge  
to this restoration, I was  
told to continue. This  
project went from a  
restoration to a total  
rebuild. I had to collect  
parts and pieces of other  
structures from all around  
the county, including a  
large log barn that I had to  
demo and dismantle. I  
have restored about 20 of  
these cabins this one  
being the most difficult I  
have ever done.  
Restoration time is usually  
about 6 months for one of  
these cabins, this one  
took almost a year. After  
completing this project, I  
submitted a bill for \$5000  
dollars for extra time and  
labor. The Craig County  
Historical Society voted  
and approved but two of  
the Historical Society  
members decided I did not  
deserve this and I was not  
paid. The two Historical  
Society members were  
disrespectful and hard to  
work with throughout the  
whole project. I restored  
the other cabin in town  
about 20 years ago with  
no problems. The Holstein  
cabin will stand for many  
years as a testament to  
my hard work and skills- I  
believe I should be paid  
for it. I want to give special  
thanks to the people that  
contributed to this project:  
Rob Bradley, Rob Givings,  
Mary & Pete Hutchinson,  
Joel Johnston, Randy  
Zimmerman, Ed Mattox,  
and Karen Barnheart.

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CERTAIN HTAT OF  
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FOR GERALDINE B.  
CARTER, DATED APRIL  
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deposit of ten percent (10%)  
of the sale price or ten  
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For more information  
contact: BWV Law Group,  
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# SPORTS

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## ROCKETS HAVE DISTRICT HOOP GAMES THIS WEEK



Will Johnson brings the ball up the floor.



Talon Ritter plays defense for the Rockets.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Craig was missing Zach Peters last week due to a sprained ankle.

The Craig County boys will open Pioneer District play this week with two Pioneer games. They were scheduled to host Parry McCluer on Tuesday, and on Thursday they travel to Covington. The Rockets are still looking for a win after dropping two games last week.

Craig was at Staunton River last Thursday and dropped a 78-41 decision to the Class 3 Golden Eagles from the tough Blue Ridge District. The Rockets started the game strong but quickly ran out of steam as the game went on.

“They pressed full court and that gave us some trouble,” said Craig coach Ryan Frazier. “When

we were able to break the press we couldn’t capitalize on our advantage breaks.”

Matthew Lucas led the team with 26 points. Drew Duncan played a great game and finished with a double-double of 12 points and 10 rebounds.

“This was Drew’s best game I have seen him play, and against good competition,” said Frazier. “This will do wonders for Drew’s confidence, and we hope to have performances like this more often.”

The Rockets played without starting point guard Zach Peters, who was out with a sprained ankle.

On Saturday the Rockets traveled to Montcalm and lost 72-54. Once again the team started off strong by scoring 17 points in the first quarter, giving the Rockets a slight advantage after eight minutes.

“This was a very tough game,” said Frazier. “We had 27 turnovers as a team, which will make getting a win very difficult no matter who you play. Having said that, we played well enough to win the game. We got in foul trouble early and with nine available players it made it difficult.”

Peters was sidelined again with the sprained ankle and the Rockets were out-shot at the foul line,

36 to 12.

“The ‘stop-start’ nature of the game made it difficult to get in much of a rhythm,” said Frazier. “Again, in a game where we had 27 turnovers we could have done more to be in the game at the end.”

Lucas had 26 points and 10 rebounds, Hayden Reynolds finished with 16 points and 10 rebounds and Duncan chipped in with seven points. Will Johnson had five rebounds.

“Last week was a tough week for us,” said Frazier. “Positives from the week were I think we have improved in each game we have played this year. That is ob-

viously the goal, to keep improving as the year goes on so by the time we get into the important district games we will be ready to go.

“This has been valuable experience for a lot of our guys. Having Zach out has increased some minutes for other guys to get valuable experience. Every single person on the team will come up big for us at some point this year, and the more comfortable they get the better we will be as a team.”

After this week’s games the Rockets will be off until December 28 when they go to Brookville.



Daileigh Donithan(#11) defends a shot against James River.



Kallie Fisher drives to the basket for the Rockets.



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH GARRETT

Lexxy Brookman lines up a free throw in last week’s game in Buchanan.

## GIRLS PLAY COVINGTON AT HOME FRIDAY NIGHT

The Craig County girls’ basketball team will close out the 2022 portion of their schedule with two games this week. The Rockets were scheduled to play at Parry McCluer Tuesday, and Friday they host Covington in the last game before New Year’s.

The girls picked up their first win last Saturday when they won at Montcalm, 55-44, to improve to 1-4 on the season.

“We fought through the tough environment that Montcalm offers,” said coach Brock Jones. “I think we ended with 31 team fouls to their 13. It was a tough battle to win but we came out on top from tough nosed defense. We matched up well with them and were able to play

our man-to-man defense and press and we pressured them well.”

Lexxy Brookman led the Rockets with 15 points, 12 rebounds, and seven blocks. Freshman Daileigh Donithan had her best game to date with 12 points, knocking down two three balls. Sophomore Maggie Mays added 10 points and seven rebounds and four assists and Annabelle Gregory added eight points and 11 steals.

“We played really good defense,” said Jones. “We were aggressive and that got us in some foul trouble but I liked the approach that we took to them.”

The Rockets were able to pull three JV players up to play since Montcalm didn’t

have a JV girls’ team and they all played well. Brooklyn Cayton added six points and five steals off the bench with senior guard Hannah Ratliff unable to make the trip.

“I was pleased with how we played at Montcalm,” said Jones. “We were up 25 with five minutes to go in the game and the fouls started to really add up, so we had to call some pressure off and eat the clock. Good first win to build confidence for us moving forward.”

The Rockets had two games last week prior to the win. At James River on December 5th Craig lost to a strong Knights’ team, 45-14.

Lexxy Brookman led Craig with six points and 10 rebounds.

“We had a ton of missed

easy shots that didn’t fall around the basket,” said Jones. “We gave up probably 20 points in the paint on layups contested that didn’t fall for us, shots that we would typically make. Their press killed us in the first half but we started to beat the press in the second half but couldn’t finish around the basket when we did. Tough matchup for us.”

Last Wednesday at Alleghany the Rockets fell to the host Mountaineers, 45-19. Alleghany took a 24-0 lead at the outset, paced by six straight threes, and never looked back.

“Everything they shot from deep was falling,” said Jones. “We were playing well and contesting the shots at the start, they were just better

shots that went in. Taking away the six straight threes to start the game we finished the game losing 21-19, which was manageable. We have got to start the game quicker and can’t get behind so soon. Alleghany I think is a team that we can play with if we stop the open three ball.

Brookman had four points and eight rebounds while Gregory had four points and five steals for Craig County.

“I’m hoping for the match up at home we come out better and stop that early run and can compete with them moving forward,” said Jones. “They’re a good shooting team for sure, but we can improve by closing out on defense and boxing out.”

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