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**ANGIE GUTHRIE-PONTON,**  
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PH:540-864-6688  
TEXT: 540-486-2970

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



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**



## Metal Carnage announces year-end derby winners

**Pam Dudding**  
*Contributing writer*

For all of those derby fans, this year was a great year for the drivers who seemed to enjoy bashing up their cars against others in the demolition derbies.

Metal Carnage TV shared that as their 2022 Points Series came to an end, they congratulated two of Craig County's drivers, and now champions, "Baby" Grant Oliver and Donnie Wayne Fisher.

Metal Carnage TV unveiled the championship trophies which were cut out of metal and had the look of the American flag with its red and white stripes and blue background tapered in stars.

They were tall and stunning, with the drivers' name plate attached to the bottom wooden stand and a 2022 Champion metal sign added to the side.

"This is our second year running the Metal Carnage Point Series, but we've been in the derby community for several years," Metal Carnage shared. "We got started in 2017 when our founder, Dustin Price, de-

ecided to run in the Mayhem at The Mile derby at Motor Mile Speedway in Dublin with a GoPro camera on his car."

They said that after they noticed how much fun Dustin had, his cousin, Courtney Price, decided to get in on the action, along with Josh Meadows.

"From there Dustin made a hand-held camera mount for the GoPro and we started reaching out to promoters asking to film their shows," they added. "We noticed that there isn't a point series that covers our area, so we decided to create one."

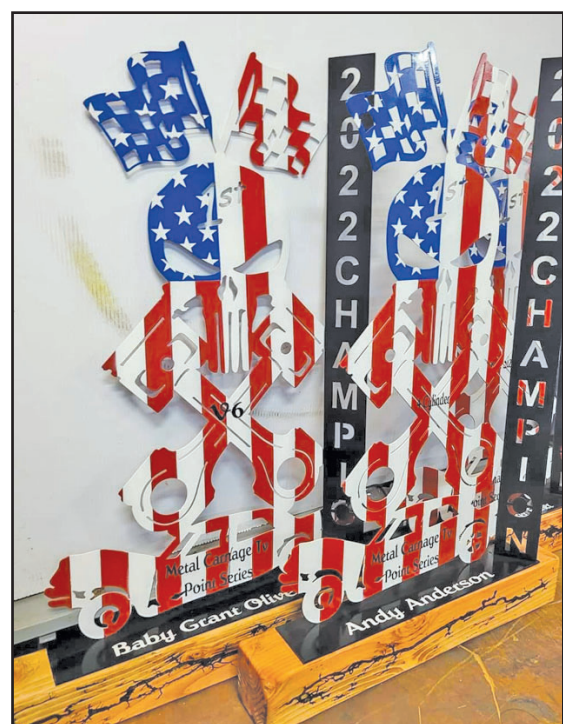
Points are given out based on how many cars run in each class, and then dependent on the driver's finishing position.

"Metal Carnage TV is all about the show, the big hits, so we give additional points for Mad Dog winners; point amounts are again based on how many cars were in the class," they shared. "However, we also deduct a point if you're caught sand-bagging."

See **Metal Carnage**, page 2



**Metal Carnage made their year-end decisions on the overall derby winners for 2022. First place in big cars went to Donnie Wayne Fisher and "Baby" Grant Oliver who took first place in compact. Both were excited about receiving the award, the honor and the beautiful trophies. Pictured are Donnie Wayne Fisher, Andy Anderson, "Baby" Grant Oliver and Trevor Fisher in the front.**



PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING

**Metal Carnage TV designed the metal red, white, and blue trophies, which were stunning, placed them on a wooden stand and engraved their winning place and name.**



**Children typically love snow, so the FFA poured shaving cream on the tables and kids loved it, making snow men but mostly just playing. Cora and Maria had loads of fun and didn't want to leave this table.**

## FFA hosts Christmas craft night at school

**Pam Dudding**  
*Contributing writer*

craft night for the kids. There were tables set up to decorate cookies, play in the snow (shaving cream), color

The Craig County FFA sponsored a Christmas

See **FFA**, page 2



PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING

**In the corner, a reading station was set up and kids laid on the rug while a Christmas story was shared with them.**

## Library, Lasterday and CHIP bring Christmas cheer to local children



**The combined atmosphere of joy and fresh pancakes was very welcoming as parents lined up to order while others were enjoying their meal and socializing with one another.**

**Pam Dudding**  
*Contributing writer*

Over two weekends, the Craig County Library and Lasterday Market brought smiles and joy to over 50 kids in Craig, as well as the parents who brought them.

As soon as they walked through the door of Lasterday, the atmosphere of excitement permeated

their beings while watching the volunteers busy at work, making sure the experience was grand.

Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus were sitting by a huge stack of toys and candy, Anna (Nikki King) and Olaf (Jon), characters from the movie "Frozen," were there to greet everyone, and the smell of fresh pancakes drew those present into the dining area where kids and parents were en-

joying their breakfast.

Each child received a free toy and candy, a picture of Santa and the younger kids received free pancakes.

The event was a partnership between the library, Lasterday Market and CHIP of the Roanoke Valley and the department connected with the Craig County Social Services.

See **Lasterday**, page 2



PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING

**Santa was the first thing most kids seemed to see as they walked through the door, with their eyes as big as golf balls and their smiles as wide as the Mississippi. Little Raelyn was still unsure about this man in red at first, but after a few moments, a smile appeared.**

## Winners of 2nd Annual Decorating Light Up Craig contest to be announced this week



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

**The Craig County Rescue Squad has the entrees for the 2nd Annual Decorating Light Up Craig contest. Everyone is welcome to drive by and see the beautiful decorations these families have displayed. Winners will be announced this week. The entrees are: Sierra Frazier - 422 Main Street, Anna Lee - 9459 Peaceful Valley Dr., Courtney and PJ Welch - 243 Herndon Ave, Pat Crawford - 353 Court St., Carl Saunders - 164 Wagener St., Angie Guthrie Ponton - 207 Main St., Robert Senter - 4430 Craig Valley Dr., Darrell Frango - 872 Hunters Dr., Terri Marsh - 23053 Craigs Creek Rd. and John Green - 8448 Upper Craigs Creek Rd.**



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# Metal Carnage from page 1

Their favorite motto is "I'd rather lose putting on a show than sandbag to win."

They noted that, "As for choosing the winners, it all comes down to the points earned during the shows we cover throughout the year, typically ending our season in October."

Young Grant Oliver, who people call "Baby Grant," started getting into derby demolitions when he was only 15 years old.

He took first place in the compact car division.

"My dad was the one who encouraged me 100%!" he exclaimed with a big grin.

His father, BJ Oliver, shared, "His winning the award made me feel very proud of him."

Oliver added that his father's buddies and Donnie Wayne had an influence on him, giving him the "itch" to try it himself and as he did, Grant said, "They loved it!"

He shared that he's already looking forward to the upcoming season of derbying, as he will "try to make them run a little better."

Following in the footsteps of many people who enjoy the sport, Oliver said he encourages the younger ones to join in as well, though he is still only 17 years "young."

"I got the nickname 'Baby Grant' as I was the youngest in my family," Oliver shared. "However, now that I'm older, it's just a joke about it now."

"I would like to thank Justin Boitnotte for all the long hours and hot days he helped me and everyone that helped me in the pits," Oliver said.

"You can either be good at making money or spending it all and I think we see which one I'm better at!" He said as he posted a picture on facebook with two "future derby cars" on a rollback. "Always gotta be ready for the next derby season!"

Winning the Metal Carnage award at such a young age was quite a feat. "It meant that not only could the people you share a passion with be friends, but they turn into almost a family-like relationship," he added.

Metal Carnage TV full size car derby winner was awarded to Donnie Wayne Fisher.

"I have to give a big 'thanks' to Metal Carnage TV," Fisher shared. "I have won a lot of shows, but these Mad Dog trophies and points trophies are definitely the nicest ones around."

He added, "I was lucky enough

to win the points again this year, though I didn't think I had any chance this year."

"I want to add a congratulations to Grant Oliver and to Andy Anderson on their points as well this year," Fisher said.

"For any drivers interested in our series, please feel free to reach out to us on our facebook page Metal Carnage TV, and be sure to subscribe to our YouTube channel, Metal Carnage TV," Metal Carnage TV shared. "And once again, a huge congratulations to Donnie Wayne & Baby Grant on their championship wins this year!"

# Lasterday from page 1

"We all knew we wanted to do something great for the community this holiday season, so we teamed up to host the event," Nikki King shared. She is the director of program services with

CHIP of Roanoke Valley.

"CHIP provides support services for families who qualify for Medicaid," King said. "We help with general questions about parenting, milestones, breastfeeding education, etc. as well as providing ac-

cess to community health nurses to answer health related questions."

She noted that they can also assist with mental health services, transportation services and basic necessities like housing, job placement and other community resources which are always free to their clients.

"While we do provide services to families, we really pride ourselves on just building relationships and being a support to folks who may just need someone to listen or ask ques-

tions. We know parenting is really tough and complicated, and we really love just having folk's back as they navigate parenthood," King shared.

CHIP also contributed by sponsoring the pancakes and cocoa and providing the free toys and candy.

Each group shared that they felt the event was successful.

King added, "We had a great turnout, and the kiddos had a blast playing with their new toys and getting to visit with Santa!"



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

The mound of toys brought smiles to every child as they got to choose which one they wanted while even the parents seemed to enjoy picking out their favorite as well.

# FFA from page 1

a cow, make a Christmas hanging ornament, write a letter to Santa and to even listen to a Christmas story being read. Hot cocoa, coffee and brownies were on sale as a fundraiser.



Many ornaments were painted, and kids proudly took them to their parents to hang on their trees.



Bingo was a big hit at the event as kids won stickers and tattoos. They used animal crackers to cover up the Christmas bingo card which had pictures of Santa, candy cane, gingerbread man and all things Christmas.



PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING

Santa will be getting lots of letters as kids got to write their letter to Santa.

## 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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# Roanoke College Poll: Virginians more optimistic

The Institute for Policy and Opinion Research (IPOR) at Roanoke College interviewed 652 adult residents of Virginia between Nov. 13 and November 22 in a survey addressing topics such as the midterm elections, political anxiety, abortion, Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's national spotlight, and general feelings about current and former elected officials. The survey has a margin of error of 4.48%.

## Governor Youngkin, Trump and the national spotlight

The Roanoke College Poll asked Virginians' opinions about Youngkin and the national spotlight. With continued speculation that Youngkin may run for president in 2024, we found that 34% of Virginians think he should run, while 52% do not, mirroring similar sentiment from August. Among Republicans, a slight majority (52%) feel that he should seek the party's nomination for president. Regarding former President Donald Trump, 59% of Virginians somewhat or strongly disagree with his decision to run again in 2024; when only Republicans are considered, only 59% felt somewhat or strongly that he should actually run.

When the Roanoke College Poll asked Republicans in August who they would vote for in the Republican primary, 28% picked Youngkin, while 62% selected Trump; in this month's poll, Youngkin has gained substantial ground, taking 39% of the Republican vote compared to 52% for Trump. Just 7% mentioned voting for someone else or said they haven't decided.

## Approvals, favorable/unfavorable, direction of Virginia, country

Youngkin's approval rating has remained relatively constant over the last several polls (53% in May, 55% in August and 52% now); disapproval has increased to 41% (up from 35% in August), which mirrors his disapproval rating shortly after he took office in January; Democrats' approval of his job dropped to 31% from 37% in August. Approval for President Joe Biden has increased slightly, as well, up to 41% compared to 39% in August. Job approval for the U.S. Congress is up, now at 27% compared to 23% in August and 21% in February; Republicans and Independents drove that increase.

Half (50%) of Virginians currently have a favorable view of Youngkin, but 40% (up from 37% in August) have an unfavorable view. The increase in unfavorable views, unsurprisingly, comes from Democratic sentiment. Biden saw an increase (44% now compared to 41% in August) in favorable views and decline in unfavorability (51% now compared to 55% in August). This poll found that former President Trump's

favorability fell to 33%, down from 37% in August; unfavorability of the former president is now at 60% among Virginians. Consistent with how Republicans in Virginia see Trump compared to Youngkin, favorability of Trump dropped to 72% (from 77% in August) in that party.

When asked about the country, 28% of respondents said that things are going in the right direction, up from only 25% in August; 68% replied that things have gotten off on the wrong track, down from 72%. Regarding the commonwealth, less than half (47%) say that we are heading in the right direction, while 48% say we're going in the wrong direction, expressing less optimism in our state compared to August.

## American democracy and the economy

Following a recent CBS News/YouGov Battleground Tracker survey, we asked Virginians, "when they think about the next few years, which is a bigger concern for them right now" — "having a strong economy" or "having a functioning democracy." We found that a slight majority (51%) of Virginians report being more concerned about having a strong economy, while 46% reported being more concerned about having a functioning democracy. Much like the results reported in the CBS News/YouGov poll, we found differences across party affiliation, with 67% of Republicans being more concerned about the economy and 63% of Democrats being more concerned about a functioning democracy. Independents were slightly more concerned about the economy.

This aligns with the most important issues Virginians believe are facing the commonwealth today. Half (50%) of Virginians cite inflation, the economy or jobs as the most important issue facing the commonwealth, while gun policy, abortion, crime and climate change each garnered about 9% of the respondents as the most important issue. Election integrity and race issues were cited by about 4% or 5% of respondents.

## Abortion and the Supreme Court

Prior to the U.S. Supreme Court decision in June that overturned Roe v. Wade, the Roanoke College Poll found in May that 35% of Virginians felt abortion should be legal under any circumstance, 53% felt it should be legal under certain circumstances, and only 11% believed abortion should be totally illegal. Six months later, the Roanoke College Poll now found that 42% of respondents in Virginia feel that abortion should be legal under all circumstances, 45% believe it should be legal under some circumstances, and just 11% favor a total ban on abortion.

In August, 35% of Virginians agreed with the court's decision to overturn the 1973 landmark Roe v. Wade decision; that has decreased to 27% in this month's poll. More Republicans and Independents here in Virginia now disagree with the Supreme Court's decision than in August.

However, more Virginians (40% now compared to 37% in August) have a favorable view of the Supreme Court. A majority (53%) continue to have an unfavorable view. This increase was driven primarily by a slightly more favorable view of the court by Democrats in Virginia.

## Russia and Ukraine

With the ongoing war in Ukraine now in its 10th month, three-quarters (75%) of us continue to follow the news either very or somewhat closely. Democrats report following the news more closely now (84% than in August (80%)), while the opposite is true of Republicans (70% in August, 62% now). Fewer Virginians, though (55% now, 64% in August), believe that the worst is still yet to come; this change comes from both Democrats and Independents.

## Gridlock in Washington

The Roanoke College Poll began shortly after the midterm elections on Nov. 8 when control of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives started to become clearer. A plurality (42%) of Virginians feel that the results will "make no difference" in the ability of Washington to get things done, but more Virginians (29%) than not (25%) believe that the midterm election results will make it "more likely" for Congress to get things done for the country. We saw modest differences across party affiliation, with 39% of Democrats reporting that the midterm results will make it "more likely" to get things done in Washington, while only 26% of Republicans and 24% of Independents responded similarly.

## Political anxiety

IPOR has tracked political anxiety in the commonwealth since mid-2016, and those results were last reported in May. In this November poll, 78% of Virginians report trusting the federal government to do what is right only some of the time or never, virtually unchanged from May. A majority (58%) thinks that ordinary citizens can do a lot to influence the federal government, up six points from May. The poll found that a majority (58%) thinks their side is losing more than winning in politics today, and nearly a third (32%) thinks their side is winning more than losing, which represents a significant change in both responses from May. Separated by party, 56% of Democrats feel on the winning side, while only 18% of Republicans feel that way.

On one hand, half (50%) of Virginians believe that the

country's best years are ahead of it, which represents a six-point increase since May. Similarly, while a large majority of Virginians (82%) continues to see the nation divided regarding the important issues facing the country, 16% think that Americans are united in the challenges we face, the highest it has been since the index's inception.

On the other hand, a majority of respondents (51%) is dissatisfied with how the federal government is working, with another 17% reporting feeling angry, 24% feeling satisfied, and just 6% feeling enthusiastic. In the aggregate, each of these measures has remained relatively stable over time, but the responses of subgroups have varied, particularly those of Democrats and Republicans, depending upon which party is in power. See the crosstabs at the end of the topline, linked at the end of this release, for more.

Six questions regarding political anxiety are used to construct our Political Anxiety Index, and data since late 2017 appears in the graph above. Higher numerical values represent more anxiety, with an index maximum value of 300 and minimum possible value of -300. (Note that in prior releases about anxiety, lower numbers meant more anxiety; current and past values have been flipped so that higher numbers do reflect more anxiety, and this scale will continue to be used in the future.)

Political anxiety overall (grey line) had not changed much over the last four years with the exception of an all-time high in May, when gas prices had sharply increased, higher prices had been evident at stores for several months, and the draft opinion that led to Roe v. Wade being overturned had just been released. Anxiety has now returned to a normal value (69.3), down from 109.5 in May and similar to 65.7, which was the value a year ago. As usual, a large gap between Democrats (-36.5) and Republicans exists (156.6) with Independents solidly in the middle (not shown because Independents roughly follow the overall line). Those values in May, respectively, were 34.6 and 161.2; as we note over time, the party in the White House determines which party has less anxiety in the index. The current return to the "normal" level is due to the large change in index for Democrats since May; Republican anxiety decreased just slightly.

## Analysis

"The story from this poll is that Virginians have mixed feelings about the direction things are going in the country and in Virginia," said Dr. Bryan Parsons, senior political analyst at IPOR and the Roanoke College Poll. "While we see a slight rise in the percentage of Virginians who believe things are going in the right direction in the coun-

try, we see a slight drop in the percentage of those who believe things are going in the right direction in Virginia. Adding to that, slightly more than four in 10 Virginians believe that the results of the recent midterm elections will make no difference in being able to get things done in Washington."

"This poll also shows small yet noticeable changes in the approval ratings for both President Biden and Gov. Youngkin. President Biden's approval rating is up slightly from our May poll earlier in the year. Gov. Youngkin's approval rating is down slightly, but the more noticeable change is that his disapproval rating is up six points from the same May poll earlier in the year."

"The favorability ratings for Biden and Youngkin are also worth mentioning since Virginians' overall favorability of both leaders have improved slightly from our May poll earlier in the year. As for former President Trump, this poll records the highest unfavorable rating in IPOR polls since January 2016, with six in 10 Virginians reporting an unfavorable opinion of him."

"Looking ahead to the 2024 presidential election, about a third of Virginians think that Gov. Youngkin should seek the Republican nomination, including a slight majority of Republicans (52%). As for former President Trump, a majority of Virginians (59%) either somewhat or strongly disagree with his decision to run for president in 2024. Republicans, however, are more supportive, with nearly six in 10 Republicans reporting that they somewhat or strongly agree with his decision to run. Interestingly, when we asked about a potential matchup between Youngkin and Trump in a Republican primary, a slight majority of Republicans (52%) reported that they would vote for Trump compared to 39% of Republicans who reported that they would vote for Youngkin instead."

"Virginians' unfavorable opinions of the U.S. Supreme Court remain unchanged from our last poll in August, but the percentage of Virginians who disagree with the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade is up six points from August and up nine points from May, when we asked Virginians their attitudes about the draft opinion released before the decision. This result suggests that Virginians' overall disagreement with the decision persists from when the news broke earlier this summer."

"The percentage of Virginians who reported that they have been following the news about the war in Ukraine is virtually unchanged since our last poll in August, which suggests that we do not see any

See Poll, page 5

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3		4	5	6	7
8			9			10	
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42							43

**CLUES ACROSS**

- Baseball stat
- Blaze
- Sea eagles
- Tails in Italian
- Monocot genus
- Mother or father
- The Jungian inner self
- Covered with gold
- Residual oil
- Signs up for school
- Furniture for daily meals
- Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
- Lower limb
- Guy (slang)

**CLUES DOWN**

- A brief comment
- Sultanate of NW Borneo
- Importune
- Forelimb
- Models of ethical behavior
- Harangues
- This (Spanish)
- Springfield Area Mobile Intensive Care
- Sang at Christmas door to door
- Partly or nearly blind
- Posterior pituitary gland hormone
- American Nurses Association (abbr.)
- The 7th Greek letter
- Strives to equal
- Toff
- Coleoptera insects
- The color of blood
- Slipped by
- Of she
- A short musical passage
- CNN's founder Turner
- Radioactivity unit
- Exculpation defense
- Walking back and forth
- Come forth from
- Oxalis
- A soft twilled fabric of silk
- The two large chest muscles

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# OPINION

## Library president offers message

Greetings from the Craig County Friends of Library, We hope this finds you doing well and enjoying the holiday season. After the past few years, the library staff and volunteers have all enjoyed finding some normalcy once again. When I visit, I see people of all ages using the computers, checking out books and movies, and discovering events on the community bulletin boards. If you haven't visited our little library lately, you should. Although space is limited, they sure know

### Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community  
Joanna L. Ryan President

how to use what they have wisely. I am thankful that in 2022 I was able to participate in two of the three Library SWAP DAYS, and I have to say, those are my favorite days! I truly enjoy connecting with other

members of our community and seeing happy people leave with FREE books, warm attire, plants, and holiday decorations or housewares. I enjoy seeing people return each season to peruse what we have to share. If you are driving by in April, June, or November and see the parking lot bustling, please stop in, even if just to say hello and browse.

Best wishes to all,  
Joanna L. Ryan  
President



COURTESY PHOTO

**Three times a year the library has Swap Day. It is a day that the book barns are opened, and books are free. Folks show up with items to rehome and take away new treasures. Spring its plants. Summer its household items. Fall its holiday decor and warm clothes. All Free. We may be short on space inside but we can party outside. Plan on joining us next year so you don't miss out.**

## Say what?

nese Communist Party. Earlier this week, in my capacity as Ranking Member of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I along with the Ranking Member of the full Committee sent a letter to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Jennifer Granholm, asking for more information as to why DOE awarded TWO HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS to Microvast Holdings. A company that, by its

own admission, is regulated and controlled by the People's Republic of China. Say What? This is an electric vehicle battery manufacturing company. Now it is true its U.S. base is in Texas, but it is controlled by the Chinese Communist Party. Shockingly, amid public and widely acknowledged national security concerns, the Department of Energy awarded this grant just two months ago. What is even more shocking, is that it was not difficult to discover the company's ties and reliance to the Chinese Communist Party. A simple search through their U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filings was all it took.

ATING IN CHINA..." "The PRC government exerts substantial influence over the manner in which we must conduct our business activities and may intervene, at any time and with no notice. If the PRC government at any time substantially intervenes, influences or establishes new policies, regulations, rules, or laws, such actions may result in a material change to our operations and/or the value of our common stock."

China for their use. In fact, the current FBI Director Christopher Wray at a recent speech publicly cautioned companies about partnering with Chinese businesses, "When you deal with a Chinese company, know you're also dealing with the Chinese government." He candidly warned in the same remarks, "The Chinese government is set on stealing your technology—whatever it is that makes your industry tick—and using it to undercut your business and dominate your market."

claimed that some of the billions of dollars being spent would explicitly boost domestic manufacturing capabilities with the goal of freeing American supply chains from China. And the bill even directed DOE NOT to issue grants to companies that use battery material supplied by or originating from a foreign entity of concern or companies subject to the jurisdiction or direction of China.

But DOE did it anyway – say what?

Hard to believe!

I intend to discover what steps DOE took, if any, in investigating Microvast's operations in China, what coordination the agency exercises with our national intelligence community before issuing such grants, and what percentage of DOE grant dollars have gone to other companies that are controlled by the Chinese Communist Party.

Business operations in Communist China are much different than most of the rest of the world. To encourage what the Chinese Communist Party calls the "modern enterprise system with Chinese characteristics," it requires many state-owned and privately owned companies, and some foreign joint ventures, to create "Party Member Groups" within each companies' management structure. Among other things, these committees promote the Chinese Communist Party's economic plans.

I have written in the past about how the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure package spent more new money on green policies than roads. Proponents

Awarding taxpayer dollars to a company with known and self-proclaimed ties to the Government of the People's Republic of China raises serious concerns about DOE's ability to manage the billions of dollars that have been put under their control and protect those dollars from exploitation by the Chinese Communist Party.



Morgan Griffith  
Representative

You may not have heard of the company Microvast Holdings before, but you've certainly heard of the People's Republic of China – controlled by the Chi-

## THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

USPS 378-080 Salem, VA 24153  
(540) 389-9355  
1633 W. Main Street  
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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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.

In fact, according to the tech investor website Nanalyze, nearly 80% of Microvast's revenue assets are located in China.

Microvast disclosed the Chinese Communist Party's control over its operations in their publicly available SEC filings:

"THE CENTRAL AND LOCAL PRC [People's Republic of China] GOVERNMENTS CONTINUE TO EXERCISE A SUBSTANTIAL DEGREE OF CONTROL AND INFLUENCE OVER BUSINESSES OPER-

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China to partner with local Chinese entities. This exposes U.S. companies' confidential proprietary and technological business information to the People's Republic of

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LICENSED IN VA, WV, TN & NC

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OWNER/AGENT  
ANGIE@GUTHRIEINSURANCE.NET

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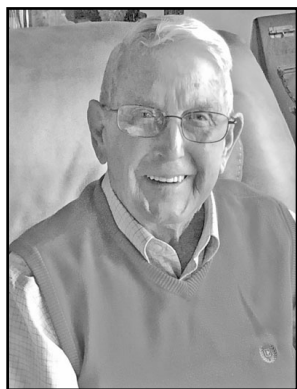
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# OBITUARY

## McCaleb, Burgess Leon

Burgess Leon McCaleb, 87, passed away peacefully with his children by his side on December 17th, 2022. Leon was born August 23rd, 1935, and lived in Craig County his entire life. He, courageously and without complaints, battled cancer for years. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 45 years, Martha Mitchell McCaleb, his parents Alfred and Muriel McCaleb, father-in-law and mother-in-law Dr. Walton F. and Lucille Mitchell, sister Gerlene Humphreys, sister and brother-in-law Emogene and Paul Bradford, brother-in-law and sister-in-law Walton F. and Evelyn Mitchell Jr., and sister-in-law Betty Mitchell.



Left to treasure his beautiful memories are his two children Michelle "Missy" (Bill) Frazier and Burgess "Mack" (Donna) Leon McCaleb Jr., his grandchildren Ryan (Sierra) Frazier, Brittany (Corey) Phillips, and Dylan and Taylor McCaleb, great-grandchildren, Emerson Phillips, Judson and Finley Frazier, sister-in-law and brother-in-law Patsy and Calvin Duncan, special friend Betty Ring, numerous nieces and nephews, and countless friends.

Leon proudly served his country in

the U.S. Army from 1958-1960. He was a pillar in the community as he was instrumental in helping to build the Field of Dreams and keeping the Fairgrounds open for future generations. He created many beautiful trails during his years at the US Forestry Department where he retired in 1994. Leon was a kind, helpful soul and so many people benefited from his endless generosity. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends and using his work equipment to help anyone in need. Leon was quite talented and loved working in his shop to make beautiful Christmas décor and other crafts. He never encountered a project too big or problem too complex.

Visitation will be held at the New Castle Christian Church on 12/20/2022 from 6:00 - 8:30p.m. A funeral service will be held at New Castle Christian Church on 12/21/2022 at 11:00a.m. with Pastor Mike Bowman and Reverend Randall Blankenship officiating. A graveside service will follow at the Huffman Memorial Park Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests all donations be made to the Field of Dreams, P.O. Box 371, New Castle, VA, 24127.

## Donations to local first responders are encouraged



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

The Craig County Sheriff's Department works diligently to keep law and order in Craig County. Donations during this season are critical to them, whether financial or in donating supplies or dropping off a special treat or meal. Many Craig residents always show their appreciation to the first responders. Pictured are Sheriff Trevor Craddock with the dispatchers, Trace Bellasai, back row, Patrick Old, Ashley Dunbar, second row, Erin Dresser, Agnes Sink, first row, Diana Smith, Leeann Mattox and Donna Birtsch.

## Poll from page 3

evidence of news fatigue about Ukraine. With that said, we saw a nine-point increase in the percentage of Virginians who think the worst of the war is over. A little more than a third (36%) of Virginians reported that they think the worst of the war is over compared to 27% when we last conducted our poll in August.

"Despite the record turnout we saw among young voters in the midterm elections, a little more than four in 10 Virginians think that the midterm results will not make a difference in the ability to get things done in Washington. Ultimately, additional gridlock in Washington may not do much to move the needle on the levels of political anxiety we continue to track in our polls."

"Perhaps the most promising result for our November poll is that 16% of Virginians think that Americans are united in the issues and challenges facing the United States. While this is admittedly a small percentage compared to the eight in 10 who think we are still divided, the share of

Virginians who think we are united is the highest that IPOR has recorded since we first began asking this question in August 2017, and it is an eight-point increase from August 2021. It is far too early to say that this result suggests we are becoming less divided, but perhaps it is a small step in the right direction."

### Methodology

Interviewing for the Roanoke College Poll was conducted by The Institute for Policy and Opinion Research at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia, between Nov. 13 and Nov. 22, 2022. A total of 652 residents of Virginia, 18 or older, were included in this study. Telephone inter-

views, conducted in English, comprised 393 of the respondents, and 259 responses were drawn from a proprietary online panel of Virginians. The landline sample consisted of random-digit numbers generated in proportion to the Virginia population so that all residential telephone numbers, including unlisted numbers, had a known chance of inclusion. Cellphone samples were purchased from Marketing Systems Group and comprised 56% of the completed telephone interviews. Lucid, LLC, facilitated the online panel.

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

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The Monroe County Health Center is **seeking bid proposals for snow removal** for the **Craig County Health Center and Craig County Dental Center** in New Castle, VA. Proposals should include snow plowing, salt or liquid de-icing to parking lots and walkways, and shoveling of entrances and ramps. All interested parties are required to be Licensed and Insured. For more details, and to arrange for site inspection, please contact Chris Terry, Facility Manager, at 304-772-3065 x144.

# God's House Is Always Open

<p><b>BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 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.</p> <p><b>CHESTNUT GROVE CHURCH</b> Duane Wente, Minister, Rt. 42, New Castle, 540-864-5692. Sunday: Worship 10:00 a.m.</p> <p><b>CORNERSTONE CHURCH</b> 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.</p> <p><b>CRAIG HEALING SPRINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)</b> 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!</p> <p><b>CRAIG VALLEY BAPTIST</b> 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</p> <p><b>CRAIG VALLEY GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP</b> 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.</p> <p><b>CROSSROADS CHURCH</b> 21892 Craigs Creek Road, New Castle. Pastor Gary Burch. 864-7520. Sunday School- 10-10:45AM, Sunday Worship - 11AM-Noon.</p> <p><b>FIRST BAPTIST</b> Pastor Kevin Altizer, Corner of Main Street &amp; 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</p>	<p>7:00PM, Reformers Unanimous Addiction Recovery every Friday evening at 7PM.</p> <p><b>GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b> 5530 Catawba Valley Drive, Catawba, VA, 540-384-7075. Pastor Loraine Taylor, agladypastor@msn.com. Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Evening service at 7:00 p.m.; Youth (ages 13-18) &amp; 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</p> <p><b>GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 159 Old Railroad Ave, New Castle, 540-864-PRAY, Sunday School 9:30AM, Sunday Worship Service 10:00AM, Wednesday Night Services 7:00PM.</p> <p><b>HEBRON UNITED METHODIST</b> 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, &amp; 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM. Rev. Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, &amp; 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.</p> <p><b>LEVEL GREEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> 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.</p> <p><b>LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST</b> Pastor Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle, 540-525-7662. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, &amp; 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.</p> <p><b>MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN</b> 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.</p> <p><b>NEW CASTLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> "WHERE YOUR HEART CAN FEEL THE DIFFERENCE" 282 Salem Ave., New Castle; 864-5212; Pastor Bill Frazier. Sunday Service: 10 A.M.; Wednesday night Bible study at 6:00 P.M. for K-5; if you need a ride to church, please contact Calvin Duncan by 8 P.M. on Saturday at 864-5321; www.nc-cc.org.</p>	<p><b>NEW CANTERBURY PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP</b> 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.</p> <p><b>PAXTON CHAPEL</b> 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.</p> <p><b>THE CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> 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.</p> <p><b>NEW CASTLE UNITED METHODIST</b> Rev. San Kang, 364 Main St., New Castle, Va. Sunday School 10AM, Worship 11AM; UMW 3rd Wednesday@1PM, Youth and other programs, Bible Studies.</p> <p><b>ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 99 2nd Street, New Castle. Rev. Stephen McNally. 540-473-3691. Mass is on Sunday at 11:15 AM.</p> <p><b>CRAIG COUNTY COMMUNITY CHURCH - 'WELCOME HOME!'</b> Sunday service 9-10:15am at the VFW building in New Castle. Casual dress if you desire and contemporary praise and worship. If you don't have a 'home' church, please join us at ours with Pastor Gary Burch. Check us out on facebook or contact us at: craigcountycommunity-church@gmail.com.</p> <p><b>ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH</b> Located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).</p>
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If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

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# LETTERS TO SANTA

*Editor's note: Local elementary school students share their holiday wishes with our readers in this year's edition of Letters to Santa.*

**Ms. Carper's K2 class**

Dear Santa,  
I have tried to be a good boy this year. What do the reindeer eat while you're delivering presents? I would really like more Legos for Christmas. I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. God Bless!

Love,  
Barrett

Dear Santa,  
I have been good this year. I have been doing good in school and at home. How are your reindeer doing? I would like a big monster truck RC car for Christmas, please. I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas.

Love,  
Brantlee

Dear Santa,  
I have been good this year. I help do a lot of work. Can I come to the North Pole? May I please have Legos? Merry Christmas!

Love,  
Aleena

Dear Santa,  
I want to tell you I have been good this year. I even donated my toys to other kids. I want to ask if you share cookies with the reindeer? I would like a new bike. Merry Christmas, Santa!

Love,  
Cash

Dear Santa,  
I have been a good girl. I helped mommy take care of sissy. Has my elf been good? I want a Barbie Dreamhouse and play-doh set. Merry Christmas, Santa!

Love,  
Abby

Dear Santa,  
I think I have been super good this year. I have been a very good big sister. Can I ride in your sleigh? I would really love to get a real ballerina costume for Christmas. Merry Christmas because you do love Christmas!

Love,  
Lauren

Dear Santa Claus,  
I have been very good this year. I made all "E's" on my report card! Do your reindeer eat hay? I would like Magic Mixies for Christmas. Merry Christmas, Santa Claus!

Love,  
Aleigha

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. I helped Mckinleigh when her throat hurt. How do elves hide so good? I would like magnets for

Christmas. Thank you for coming! Merry Christmas, Santa!

Love,  
Charlotte

Dear Santa,  
I have been a good boy. I help take care of my cats. Do the reindeer eat cookies? Santa, I would like a real T-Rex dinosaur. Merry Christmas!

Love,  
Riley

Dear Santa,  
I've tried to be really good this year. This is my baby brothers first Christmas, so please don't forget about him. If you could bring me a LOL Dreamhouse, the Chelsea Carnival set, the Chelsea bounce house set, the Barbie Chicken Farm set, and the Chelsea bedroom set. For my brother, I think he would like things for tum-my time and some bath toys. Thank you!! You're the best! Tell Bubbles and Cuddles I'll see them next year!!

Love,  
Sophie

Dear Santa,  
I have been a very good boy this year! I love to help mommy and daddy around the house and play with my brother and sister. How have things been at the North Pole, Santa? Are the reindeer and elves ready for Christmas Eve? I know you have a lot of kids to give to Santa but I would really love more Lego sets and color by numbers this year. I hope you have a Merry Christmas, Santa! I'll be sure to leave you milk and cookies as well as special reindeer food for your reindeer.

Love always,  
Jacob

**Mrs. Persinger's class**

Dear Santa,  
I'm Ivy, I'm 6 years old. I am good. I'd like to have a Nintendo Switch.

From,  
Ivy

Dear Santa,  
I want a lego set for Christmas this year

Love,  
Colten

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. I want a magic mixie, a barbie, camper, a mystery fidget box, and a DNA ball. I will leave you milk and cookies and carrots.

Love,  
Joanna

Dear Santa,  
I want a rainbow unicorn. I want my two front teeth. I want to get a ring for mom. Can you say hi to Miss Claus?

Love,  
Aniah

Dear Santa,  
I want a ginnie pig and a

Love,  
Ryne

hoverboard.

Love,  
Liana

Dear Santa,  
I want a fake puppy and a four wheeler. I am trying to be a good girl. We will have carrots for the reindeer, cookies, and milk for you.

From,  
Adilynne

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. What I would like for Christmas is a color reveal Barbie doll and a stuffed animal reindeer. I would also like an American Girl doll with clothes. Thank you Santa!

Love,  
Maia

Dear Santa,  
I want a snow globe. I want a Nintendo Switch. I think you can tell that I will be good next year.

Love,  
Cooper

Dear Santa,  
I have been a very good girl this year. For Christmas I would like a unicorn.

Love,  
Pearl

Dear Santa,  
I want a big stuffy unicorn and a little penguin from the North Pole. I'll give you cookies and milk for the reindeer and some carrots.

Love,  
Zoe

Dear Santa,  
I would want a toy dog. I would want a little live pet dog. I want a rainbow corn.

Love,  
Cora

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Barbie set with a doctor and two babies, a barbie doll play set with a playground, and kid pretty cool too.

Love,  
Abby

Dear Santa,  
I want xbox cards.

Love,  
Brantley

Dear Santa,  
I want a shark monster truck. I want some boots with camo on them. I have been good this year. I help my mom with my little brother.

Love,  
Daison

Dear Santa,  
I want a set of fairy tales.

Love,  
Bonnie

Dear Santa,  
I want an Xbox. I have been a good boy this year. I will leave carrots for the reindeer. I will leave milk and cookies. I love Santa.

Love,  
Ryne

Dear Santa,  
I want a panda and an xbox and a phone and a kitchen set. I will leave cookies for you and carrots for the reindeer and leave milk for you.

Love,  
Addyson

Dear Santa,  
I want a kitten for Christmas. Next year I get to go to the parade.

Love,  
Peyton

**Mrs. Wente's K-1 class**

Dear Santa,  
I have been good this year. I have cleaned my room. Santa, how do your reindeer fly? I would like an elf on the shelf. Merry Christmas, Santa.

Love,  
Elizabeth

Dear Santa,  
I have been a good boy this year. I helped take care of my Maw-Maw this year. Have the reindeer been practicing their flying skills? I would like a new race car for Christmas. I hope you have a Merry Christmas!

Love,  
Jordan

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. I gave my friend Gigi her favorite drink when she was hurt. Santa, where do you get your magic from? I would like a transformer. Merry Christmas!

Love,  
Judd

Dear Santa,  
I have been a very good girl this year. I have been so good I cleaned my room for my mom. Santa, I was curious, does Rudolph's nose really shine? I would like art supplies and paint, please. Merry Christmas, Santa!

Love,  
Tessa

Dear Santa,  
I have been good this year. I have started doing better in school. How do you and your reindeer have magic? I would really love a tablet for Christmas. I hope you have a Merry Christmas.

Love,  
Carson

Dear Santa,  
This year I have been so good. I helped Mommy fold laundry, I helped Daddy at work, and I helped clean our house this year, too. I also have been very good in school. I'm so excited for Christmas! How do you make all of the presents? For Christmas this year, I'd like a dirtbike and a derby car! I hope you have a Merry Christmas this year, Santa! Thank you!

Love,

Dalton "Dot-Dot"

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good. I've helped my friends. How much do reindeer like carrots? I would like a Peppa Pig camper. Merry Christmas, Santa!

Love,  
Alydia

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. I am nice to friends. How do the reindeer fly? I want a big Paw Patrol look out, please.

Love,  
Thomas

Dear Santa,  
I've been good the whole year. I cleaned my room and made my mom's bed. Can I give carrots to your reindeer? I really want a kitty cat for Christmas. I love you, Santa!

Love,  
Eden

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. I have done all my chores. How are your reindeer? I would like a squishmallow. I wish you and Mrs. Claus a Merry Christmas.

Love,  
Raelynn

Dear Santa,  
I have been a good girl this year. Mommy tells me that you are always watching, so I make sure I'm extra good. What is your favorite cookies? Can Rudolph and the other reindeer have cookies, too? For Christmas this year I would really like a new soccer ball and net, so I can practice for next year. I hope you and Mrs. Claus have a very Merry Christmas.

Love,  
Alexis

Dear Santa,

I have been good. I want games and boots.

Love you,  
Kenzlee

**Mrs. Hart's first grade class**

Dear Santa,  
I would like a stuffed animal mommy dog and an Encanto doll house. I hope you have a good Christmas. I love you.

Love,  
Emerson

Dear Santa,  
Ho Ho Ho! Merry Christmas! How are you? I've been a good boy. How are the reindeer? I want a Benson and Gabby from Toy Story. I also would like BoPeep and Forky. I also want a tablet. I love you.

Love,  
James Michael

Dear Santa,  
I want a unicorn stuffed animal. Do you know my elf Belle? Please bring me a Hello Kitty Party Set.

Love,  
Harper

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I would like a pet mama surprise toy and a toy elf with a pink dress. I think I have been very good this year.

Love,  
Adalie

Dear Santa,  
I have been good this year. Can I ride your reindeer? I would like a LOL doll and a barbie with a pink dress.

Love,  
Imaly

Dear Santa,  
I hope you, Mrs. Claus, the elves, and reindeer are doing well. I have been a good girl. I would like barbie toys, earrings, and

Love,

See **Letters To Santa**, page 7

*Merry Christmas  
and  
a  
Happy New Year!*

Craig County Treasurer's Office  
*Jackie Parsons, Crystal Dudding,  
Janet Alls*

Commissioner of the Revenue  
*Elizabeth Huffman, Danielle Snider  
Kathy Callahan*

Craig County Circuit Court  
Clerks Office  
*Sharon Oliver, Kathy Martin  
Rita Stebar, Holly Brown*


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HOLLY, JOLLY  
CHRISTMAS!**

Our sincere wishes for a glorious holiday that gladdens your heart and leaves you with wonderful memories to last a lifetime.

Members like you have given us so much to be thankful for, and we greatly appreciate your patronage.

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EMPLOYEES OF  
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& Goodwill to All

*As we celebrate this holy season, let's remember to treat one another with kindness, love and understanding. We hope you'll join us in the true spirit of the season with prayers of peace and goodwill toward all mankind.*

*Best wishes for a blessed Christmas  
and a happy New Year.*

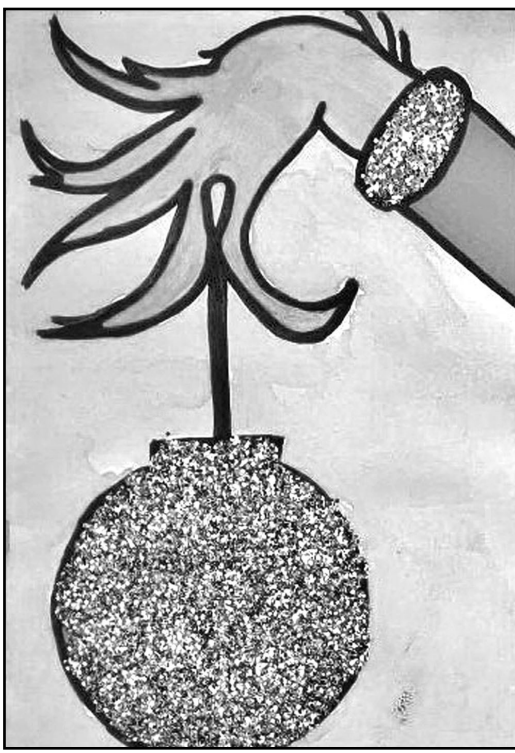
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# Christmas card winners announced

Craig County Public Schools hosted a contest to design Christmas cards, and these are the three winners who received a \$10 gift certificate from Subway.



**Ninth grader Cheyenne drew a snow globe and decorated Craig County High School in it with the school's colors.**



**Eighth grader Dixie caught the theme of the Grinch.**



**Eighth grader Elena chose to draw the beautiful northern lights as her winter picture.**

PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING

All is calm, all is bright. The packages have been all quickly unwrapped, and everything seems just, so right!

For many, this is a time of year that brings belly laughs a plenty, hugs beyond expressions and smiles so deep that they leave a memorable imprint on one's heart.

Most everyone finds it easy to say, "Merry Christmas" and life just seems to be a little brighter for all.

The 'funnnest' part, (as some kids say), is waking up on Christmas morn to find their 'wish list' under the tree. "It's here!" most exclaim. Wrapping paper fills the air as parents and family members video the elation of the special moments.

Regardless, it seems to be the love of the season that makes Christmas what it truly is....a day of love to share with others.

Some kids unwrap one gift at a time while others can't finish one until their eyes are set on the next one! "My child is one of those!" one lady said with a heartfelt smile. "She will run around to everyone else's laps as well, willingly ready to shred their paper for them too!"

There are many adults that seem to enjoy the unwrapping as much, if not more than the kids. "My husband will tear a package open in less than a second!" one wife shared with a giggle.

Still, in Craig, we find that other families recent and at Christmastime in the past have had a more difficult time.

There have been many deaths that have brought much sadness to their homes, yet the community seems to stick together to help one another, especially during this season.

A lady took a beautiful Christmas basket filled with goodies to every one of the residents at The Commons.

The Upper Craigs Creek Fire Department took Santa to the doorsteps of many kids to only be greeting with glee

and big smiles.

The Craig County Rescue Squad sponsored a "Light Up Craig" decorating contest and of course the town sponsored the annual Christmas parade which was great this year.

Food Country helped by putting up an Angel tree which had names hanging on it of needs for community members, and within only days, they were all spoken for.

Many churches planned specials for the kids, along with cantata's and Christmas plays.

Though Christmas music plays in one home, and sirens ring at another, Craig County still seems to hold true to the saying, "There's no place like home... in a small-town community."

Still, the joy seems to immediately emerge and is shared by all, when anyone watches a child open a gift, and their eyes get so big, their mouth opens with that big 'O' shape and their eyes twinkle like Santa's. "It's a moment that can't be substituted for anything else!" one family member shared.

Some more 'techie' families will take a picture of their living room and through today's technology, download a picture of Santa standing there in the middle of it, waving! Oh, how that excites the kids, to SEE Santa in their home!

One gentleman said, "My mom has always told me that Christmas isn't about how many gifts you receive, but about creating memories with friends and loved ones that you can cherish for a lifetime."

Inside, the traditional Christmas trees gleefully light up the living rooms with twinkle lights, decorations and angels and stars atop them. Some explained that their trees had nothing on the bottom of their trees, due to their cats, dogs and little children grabbing them off!

Outside of many homes, the decorations

# It's Christmastime in Craig

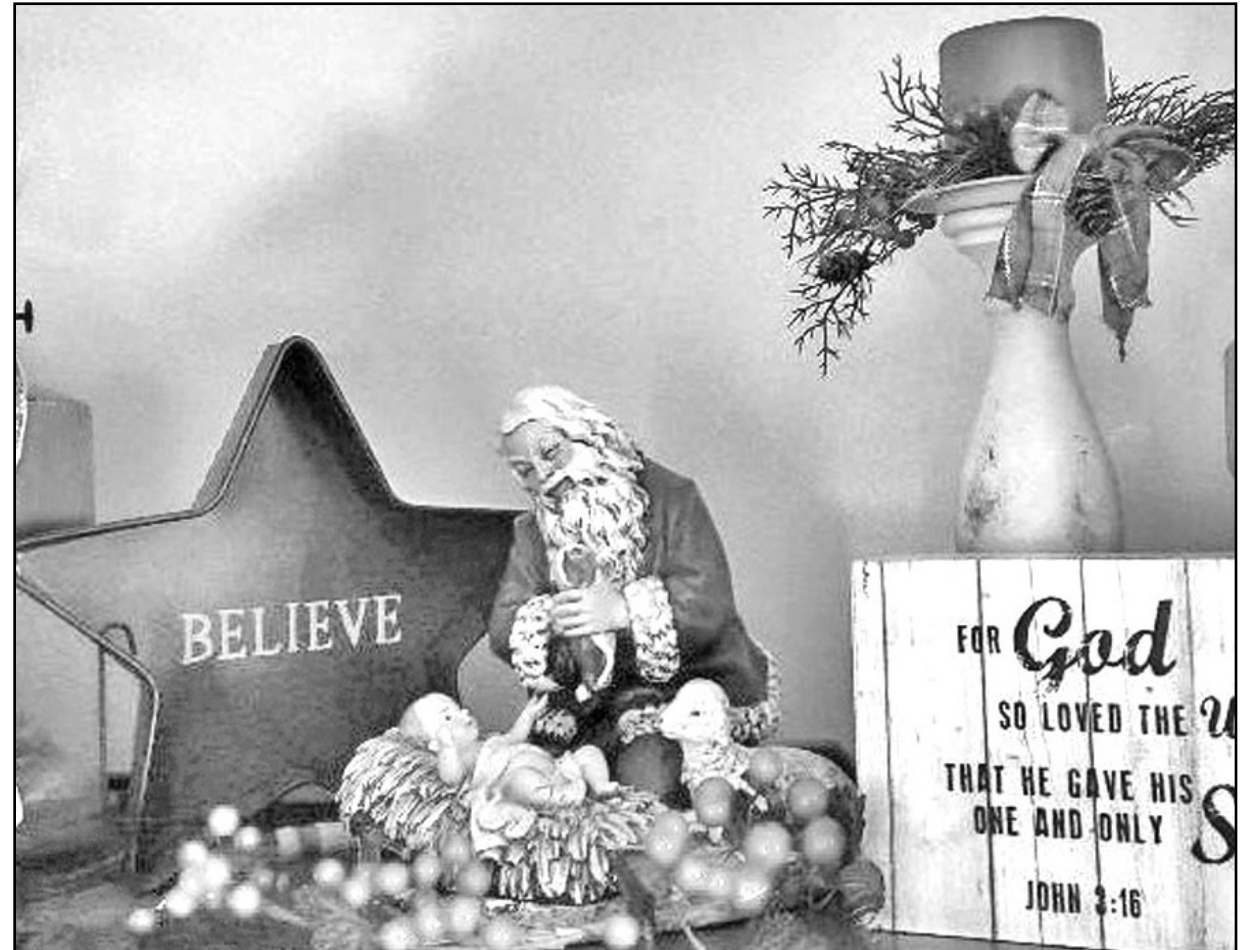


PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

**During this special Christmas season, ending the 2022 year, may love and joy enter every home with an extra helping of peace within.**

glow on fences, in trees and displayed in yards to celebrate the season.

Carrying on the tradition of gifts, eating meals together and creating an atmosphere of joy and cheer is one that raises the bar of a happy life in a home.

At many homes, 'feasts' will be served and only elbow room available. Foot stools, piano benches, and any kind of apparatus one could sit on was brought up to the table, even if an extra knee, so everyone could be there together.

Several family members add their annual 'CHRIST-mas Eve Service' to their agenda, celebrating the real meaning behind Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ. "You can't leave out Baby Jesus!" one child exclaimed.

Here in America, it is

the reason for the season that comes first and foremost, and that is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior, the baby born to a virgin in a manger, the true spirit of "CHRIST-mas".

Christmas. A time of year where people seem to be a little nicer and most look at the glass as half full instead of half empty, even when it's not.

Christmas in Craig, a time where citizens continue to look out for their neighbors while also enjoying the meaningful season with their loving families.

The delight of the season seems to be abundant in Craig County.

The Lord Jesus Christ shares in His Word in 1 Peter 5:7, that He understands hard times, and He encourages everyone to "cast your cares upon

Him", for he can carry them and most importantly, "He cares for you".

The CHRIST-mas season brings a lot of joy to many. Still, there are the lonely and hurt that need an extra touch, so be attentive to those around you for that need. You may be the only Jesus they get to meet.

The Bible also shares in Philippians 4:6-7, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Jesus Christ was born for purpose. He lived for purpose, died for purpose, and will come back again for his final purpose.

But for this season, and always, He extends His arms and His Word to all who will ask and seek Him.

For on CHRIST-mas day, we celebrate the birth of a child. But more than that, a Savior, one who chose to come to earth, leave heaven and join us, a fallen world of people who need "saving".

This CHRIST-mas, seek Him. Talk to Him and tell Him your cares. Then listen. He still speaks. He loves.

And may you have a joyous CHRIST-mas holiday, regardless of your circumstances. May He add to your laughter, celebrations, and holiday cheer as many share, "Merry CHRIST-mas and Shalom to everyone!"

-Pam Dudding

# Letters To Santa

from page 6

a Little Live Pets hamster. Enjoy the milk and cookies!

Love, Paul

with long purple hair. I want 17 surprises. I want a barbie with 5 dresses.

Dear Santa, What I want for Christmas is a unicorn, a Barbie house, barbies, a pink bike with a basket, an Xbox, and a Nintendo Switch.

love a Hulk Buster. Love, Brayden

P.S. Please tell Jesus Happy Bday.

From, Rheagan

Dear Santa, I want first grade books, a kid camera, play dog food, play water, and a phone.

Love, Finley

Love, Layla

Dear Santa, I had a picture with you. I forgot to tell another thing I would also love a drone XL. I would also

Dear Santa, I would like to have an Xbox, a new Sonic game, princess wigs for my sister Aileen, a real elf, \$100, \$1000, a pet snake, a tree house, a dirt bike, and legos.

Love, Paige

Dear Santa, I want a bendy plushie, a giant zebra, a fox plushie, and an outfit for a cat.

Love, Layla

Dear Santa, I had a picture with you. I forgot to tell another thing I would also love a drone XL. I would also

Dear Santa, I want slime. Do you make it? I want a mermaid

Love, Delaney

Love, Delaney

Dear Santa, I had a picture with you. I forgot to tell another thing I would also love a drone XL. I would also

Dear Santa, I had a picture with you. I forgot to tell another thing I would also love a drone XL. I would also

Dear Santa, I had a picture with you. I forgot to tell another thing I would also love a drone XL. I would also



*The stockings are hung,  
The tree's glowing bright,  
It's going to be a  
wonderful night!*

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*Merry Christmas*  
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Jimmy & Sheila DeHart  
Susan Stroup

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**Legals - City of Salem**

**COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM**

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, January 9, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA: The request of Friendship Salem Terrace, LLC, contract purchaser, and White Whale Two, LLC, property owner of 1871 Harrogate Drive (Tax Map # 128-1-5), and Friendship Salem Terrace, LLC, contract purchaser, and White Whale Two, LLC, property owner of 1871 Harrogate Drive (Tax Map # 128-1-13) for rezoning the properties from RMF Residential Multifamily District, with conditions to HBD Highway Business District, with conditions. Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY: H. Robert Light Clerk of Council



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**Legals - Craig County**

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF CRAIG**

THE COUNTY OF CRAIG, VIRGINIA (a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Plaintiff, v. UNKNOWN HEIRS OF WILLIAM TABOR, BRUCE DONALD KING, DOUGLAS MARK KING, BRYANT C. FISHER, KIMBERLY FISHER, FREDERICK BROWN, PAMELA BROWN, and PARTIES UNKNOWN, Defendant(s). **Case No. CL22-234** The object of this suit is to enforce a lien for delinquent real estate taxes against the property known as Parcel No. 113-A-19 (property on Giles County/Craig County line). An Affidavit having been filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the location of the named Defendant(s), that the Defendant(s) may be non-residents of Virginia and maintain no domicile within the borders of the Commonwealth, or are deceased, or that there may be parties who have an interest in the property but are unknown, namely, the heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the named Defendant(s), made Defendants by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that the named Defendant(s) and all Parties Unknown appear on or before January 17, 2023, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause. I Ask For This: N. Reid Broughton (VSB No. 38899) Katie M. DeCoster, Esq. (VSB No. 82696) Sands Anderson PC P.O. Box 2009 Christiansburg, Virginia 24068-2009 (540) 260-9011 (540) 260-0022 (facsimile) Entered: 12/08/2022 by Sharon P. Oliver (Deputy) Clerk, County of Craig, Virginia

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**ABC NOTICE**

SA 19 LLC, trading as G2s 145 College Ave. Blacksburg, county of Montgomery, Virginia 24060-7401 The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Wine and Beer On and Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. GEORGE Abboud, Owner. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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# SPORTS

Send story ideas & announcements to bhoffman@ourvalley.org

## ROCKETS ON ALL-PIONEER FOOTBALL TEAM



Alex Drake is a second team selection on both sides of the ball.



Zach Peters(#13) is first team All-Pioneer District

PHOTOS BY CHELSEA LOUTHEN

The Virginia High School League football season is finally over, with Riverheads defeating George Wythe to take a seventh straight Class 1 championship. With all games now concluded the various post-season honors can be announced and Craig

County was well-represented on the All-Pioneer District team.

Rocket senior Zach Peters was selected on both sides of the ball. Zach was named to the first team defense at linebacker and he also made the second team offense as "all-purpose,"

and Peters could indeed do it all.

Alex Drake, another senior, was also named to both units. Alex is a second team selection on the all-district offensive line and a second teamer on defense at "all-purpose."

The Rockets had five boys deemed Honorable Mention, and the good news that four of them will be back for at least two more years. The only senior of the five is Bryce Drake, named at defensive back.

Three sophomores were

named Honorable Mention, Josh Craft at linebacker, Jacob Wolfe at wide receiver and Isaac Lucas on the offensive line. Carter Calfee, who is just a freshman, was named to the all-Pioneer team as a defensive back.

## ROCKET BASKETBALL TEAMS FALL TO PARRY McCLUER

The Craig County basketball teams will take a break this week and enjoy the Christmas holiday. The boys won't play again until December 28 at Brookville and the girls are off until after New Year's.

Last Tuesday both teams dropped games to Parry McCluer. The boys played at home and dropped a 71-43 decision to the Blues. Parry McCluer jumped to a 27-7 lead in the first quarter and never looked back.

Junior Matthew Lucas led Craig with 21 points. Drew Duncan had eight points and Hayden Reynolds scored sev-

en, including a couple threes.

The girls played in Buena Vista and dropped a 47-19 final. The Blues held Craig scoreless in the first quarter, jumping to an 18-0 lead. Annabelle Gregory and Madison Underwood had six points each to lead the Rockets.

The girls were scheduled to host Covington on Friday but results were too late for publication with early Christmas sports deadlines. The boys had their game with Covington weathered out last Thursday, and no make up date had been announced at press time.



Junior Matthew Lucas has been Craig's leading scorer



Annabelle Gregory runs the offense for the girls.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

## A CHRISTMAS I'LL NEVER FORGET

Merry Christmas everyone.

As you know, this is the most wonderful time of the year. We have early sports deadlines this week so your sportswriter can have Christmas with family, so if something is missing from the sports section we'll catch you up next week.

Like many of you, I've always loved Christmas. There's nothing like the joy of a child on Christmas Eve, anticipating the arrival of Santa. It's great when you're a child, and when you get older it's just as great to watch the children, maybe even better.

I can remember one particular present when I was a child, and it's right up there with my first bike. I wanted one of those electric football games that were so popular in the 50s, 60s and 70s, way before the EA Sports folks put out the John Madden game. That Madden game is about as close to real football as you can get without putting on a helmet.

When I was a kid my neighbor down the street had one of those electric football games and we spent hours sitting on the floor playing. If you've never played, it's a simple premise. Each team has 11 little players and a football field hooked up to something that makes the field vibrate. One player arranges his men in an offensive formation and the other does the same on defense.

The play starts when you flip the switch that makes the

field vibrate, and the players move around on the gridiron. The play ends when a defensive player bumps the man with the ball, resulting in a tackle.

There's a lot of strategy to the game. First of all, you have to know your little players. Some of them will go straight and some of them will just go around in circles. Usually the guys that go straight are the backs and the ones who just go around in circles are linemen.

Most of the time you're going to run the ball in electric football, as passing is very difficult. You have one "pass-kicker" who is shared by both teams. It's a two-dimensional metal player, and to pass you put the magnetic football in his raised hand, pull it back, and try to hit a receiver with the ball when you let go. It's almost impossible to complete a pass, sort of like Russell Wilson this season.

As for the kicker, it's somewhat the same concept. You put the magnetic football on his foot and when you push down on a lever it kicks the ball. You can easily kick the ball the entire length of the field, but it's tough to put it through the goal posts, so normally you would go for it on fourth down and go for two on extra points. In other words, "just run the ball." I expect offensive line coaches love this game.

Anyway, my neighbor had the game and I wanted one for myself for Christmas. I



Brian Hoffman  
Sports Editor

let my desires be known and was hoping to open a package on Christmas morning and be playing by noon when my mom was cooking our Christmas dinner. Only thing is, Santa didn't bring one.

I don't remember what was under the tree that year but it wasn't an electric football game. I'm sure it was something nice, as my very middle class parents always made sure my sister and I had a good Christmas. However, I have to admit I was a little disappointed.

Then my grandparents showed up for dinner. I looked out the window as they walked up the snow-lined sidewalk to our front door and what, to my surprise, did I see? My grandfather was holding a large, rectangular package that was just about the right size for electric football. As I ripped off the paper I was not only thrilled to see it was, indeed, the game, but it was the high end of the line model.

Apparently, that was par for the course for my grandparents. My mother often said her dad was frugal with his money, but when he bought something he bought the best. For an example she always mentioned how she



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didn't get a bike until she was 14 years old, but when she got one it was the best you could buy. In fact, our family still has that bike.

The football game was a sight to behold. It had three dimensional characters, posed in different positions like linemen, linebackers and running backs. The playing field was larger than my friend down the street's game and instead of a metal field it was cork board with cool graphics surrounded by a metal base. It even came with a grandstand that could be attached around one side of the field and a large scoreboard behind the end zone. I played that game many, many times, sometimes with friends but often just by myself.

I don't know what happened to that football game. I also had one of those hockey games and I know what

happened to it. I took it to college one year and it was played 24 hours around the clock at my fraternity house before someone broke it beyond repair.

Upon "googling" electric football I was surprised to see that they still make the game. The Tudor company has a site where you can purchase a game customized to your favorite NFL team. The field has the name of your team in the end zone and the logo on the 50 yard line, and you can even order the players in NFL uniforms. It will set you back over \$300 and I imagine some of the figures still go around in circles.

Why you would buy that game today when you can play NFL Madden, I have no idea. However, I do know back in 1962 one little boy got a present he still remembers fondly 60 years later.