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WE SELL KEROSENE



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING
 Patriots Pen was Natalie Fisher pictured with Superintendent Jeanette Warwick. Both were also honored at the January meeting of the Craig County School Board.

VFW recognizes local students for their penmanship

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

Each year, the local VFW joins the National Veterans of the Foreign Wars in conducting contests for students within the school systems, in

writing their viewpoints on specific topics.
 Craig Valley VFW Post 4491 hosted its annual honor ceremony to give appreciation to these students for their writings;
 See **VFW**, page 2



COURTESY IMAGE
 Sierra Frazier, a Craig County Public Schools art teacher, has started a new “Art Spotlight” on her talented students. This month, eighth grader Elena Sizer was honored for her exceptional artwork she creates using different techniques.

Art teacher ‘spotlights’ her students’ artwork

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

Art is a form of expression that can touch many souls, from only one person.
 Craig County Public Schools has an art teacher who sees this in her students and wishes to encourage them in their individuality.
 Sierra Frazier, a Craig County High School art teacher, has begun her new “Artist Spotlight” for her students.
 Eighth grader Elena Sizer is the first student Frazier is recognizing for her artwork.
 “Elena has created many beautiful works of art during the school year using a variety of techniques!” Frazier shared

on the school’s Facebook page. “Keep up the good work!”
 Frazier decided to start her new “Artist Spotlight” in January.
 “I pick a student who has exceptional artwork from art class and hang their artwork in the hallway to be highlighted,” she shared.
 When Elena heard of this, Frazier shared, “She was super excited, and I think students are excited to be featured in the future.”
 Frazier will be continuing her new “Artist Spotlight” throughout the remainder of the school year.
 She added, “I wish to thank our community for always being so supportive of the arts at school!”

Hound dog competition, showcase Feb. 11 in Craig



COURTESY PHOTOS
 The Hound competitions show the extreme measures owners take to train their dogs to pose and to stay healthy. From Champion to Best of Show, these hounds prove their worth, not only in heart but in awards.

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

Some people think that a hound dog is only good for hunting, but many owners prove this philosophy wrong by showing how teachable and competitive these dogs really are.
 Therefore, a Little World Qualifier ACH&BGA competition and showcase will be held Feb. 11 with the Bench Show starting at 6 p.m. and the Hunts starting at 7:30 p.m. at 184 Hill Top Trail in New Castle by the Southwest Virginia Hills and Hounds Association.
 “We started our association about two years ago to give local houndsmen an opportunity to compete and showcase their hounds outside of the local UKC club which is limited to seven events per year by that registry,” Jonathan Huffman shared.
 He added that the ACH&BGA recognizes the following breeds of sporting hounds, Black and Tan Coonhound, American Leopard Hound, Bluetick Coonhound, English Coonhound, Plott Coonhound, Redbone Coonhound, Treeing Cur and the Treeing Walker Coonhound.
 “All of these dogs can compete and earn titles in a wide range of raccoon and bear challenges licensed by ACH&BGA including bench shows, field trials, tree contests, dash races, water races as well as competition hunts held by clubs like ours across the country,” Huffman said. “Hounds can compete from the age of six months and are



placed in classes by their age from puppy class to senior class and by title class per each event.”
 He noted that there are no weight limits however in bench shows, each hound is judged on its confirmation to breed standards specific to that breed.
 “Hound owners must join ACH&BGA which has a \$25 per year membership fee to register their hounds and compete in sanctioned competitions,” Huffman shared. “Hounds must be permanently registered with ACH&BGA to compete which costs a one-time fee of \$25.”
 He also added, “As with any organized competition there are rules regarding sportsmanship, conduct and specific guidelines per each activity which are set by ACH&BGA. No alcohol, drugs or firearms are allowed at any sanctioned event.”
 All cast winners will qualify for The Little World Event in Georgia. Membership, hound registration, upcoming event calendar and a wide range of other information including rules can be found on the ACH&BGA website.
 Also, their club has a Facebook page where they can be contacted, information on ACH&BGA can be obtained from their website which is worldhunt.org and Huffman

See **DOGS**, page 2

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Volunteers are needed at upcoming basketball games



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

The Craig County Rocket Basketball team needs volunteers to help the Craig County Booster Club with the snack booth at the games for Friday, Feb. 3 at 5:30 p.m. and Saturday Feb. 4 at 3:30 p.m. The group can be reached on the Craig County Booster Club Facebook page for donations or to be a volunteer.

VFW from page 1

the Voice of Democracy winner was Makenzie Lucas and Patriots Pen was Natalie Fisher.

For the Patriots Pen contest, Fisher wrote, “My Pledge to the Veterans.”

“To our Veterans, I pledge to honor you and your service and sacrifice by doing all that I can to see that our country remains a strong and free nation and that we cherish and honor your sacrifices. As my token of appreciation, I wrote this pledge to show our duties and to show our Veterans that we still care and highly respect them. I give my word of honor that I will help the Veterans in any way possible so that they may live a healthier, safe, and more respected life. We need to stop our tongues and lend our ears to Veterans in need so that they still feel loved, cared, and appreciated. I promise, as I get older, that I will donate, volunteer, and help give out Veteran bonuses on paychecks, health care, and insurance. Knowing that Veterans are warriors and they made enormous sacrifices such as choosing to serve in the wars, leaving their home and families, and serving no matter the cost even after the war was over. They still help and obey our country, and they represent our country, so we need to honor them for all they have done and all they will do. We will always remember the ones who have fallen, they are always in our memory, because they are also Veterans. To help the homeless Veterans we can buy them a meal or drink, put a little money in their pocket, or go the extra mile and offer them a place to stay. I promise that I will encourage



COURTESY PHOTO

The Craig Valley VFW Post 4491 recognized the winners of the annual penmanship contest. The Voice of Democracy was Makenzie Lucas pictured with Commander Billy Lee.

friends and family to pray, reflect, and observe the Veterans and their actions as they fought for our freedom. We never need to forget the Veterans especially after serving us and giving us freedom. We need to give them the care that they need. I make that promise and a devotion.”

“Writing this made me feel really proud of myself,” Fisher added. “I feel our military is growing and developing rapidly, making me feel safe.”

Lucas responded to the Voice of Democracy

question, “Why is the Veteran Important?”

“According to Merriam Webster dictionary, a Veteran is “a former member of the armed forces”. Realistically, it’s deeper than that. As they say, “Once a soldier, always a soldier”. These valiant men and women put their lives on the line, risking everything for the freedom of our country. For that reason, it breaks my heart to see citizens of this very country talk down to Veterans and even villainize them. America would not be

where it is today without Veterans. Without the soldiers from the Revolutionary War, we may still be under English control period without the brave men who fought in the world wars. World Peace may never have been established. Without the Civil War our country may still be divided. Veterans are unreservedly crucial to the safety, freedom, and overall well-being of our country. Without Veterans we would not have the fascinating stories of war that have been passed down.

DOGS from page 1

can be reached by calling (540)864-5842 (please leave message with contact information).

He stated that membership and hound registration can be completed prior to the event online as well as at any sanctioned event or by contacting him.

“During any sanctioned event each entry for each competition must be made prior to the posted start time for that competition,” Huffman shared. “For example, this particular event’s bench show starts at 6 p.m., entries must be made prior to 6 p.m. that day.”

Huffman was introduced to coon hunting and coonhound competitions as a child by a gentleman from Bristol, Virginia named Charlie Wright.

“He was a diehard Treeing Walker enthusiast and had a cabin about a mile from my house,” he shared. “I spent many nights hunting with him and we went to coonhound competitions all around the area. After his passing I hunted with several other folks until I finally got my own hounds and hunted un-

til I was in my early 20s when work and life got in the way, and I sold my hounds.”

He added, “I hunted with friends periodically over the years but it wasn’t until a stray English Coonhound showed up at our house about four years ago that my passion for it got reignited.”

He now has close to 20 fine bred, registered Treeing Walker Coonhounds.

“We have traveled across several states competing with our hounds due to the lack of opportunities locally which motivated us to start this club,” Huffman shared. “I think Charlie would be proud.”


Also, ACH&BGA does a lot to promote youth involvement in hound sports. They offer free membership until the age of 18 and register the child’s hound for free,” He added. “All ACH&BGA clubs hold youth events as well and every year there is a ACH&BGA Youth World Championship.”

They look forward to seeing all of Craig County and hounds from neighboring counties at the show and hunts.

played in their time of service, we should still acknowledge their work and willingness to serve our country and fight for freedom if needed. The years of training away from friends and family should not go unrecognized. Though many Americans never realized, Veterans give up aspects of their freedom to give us hours. Because the Veteran is so important, organizations such as the Wounded Warrior Project, Homes for our Troops, Canines for Warriors, the Fisher House Foundation, and many more need support and donations. These organizations work endlessly to help Veterans wounded physically or mentally in combat. When soldiers return home from deployment, they are often haunted by the emotional trauma and tragedy experienced in the field. That is what it is advised for American citizens to take civic responsibility and help these organizations thrive in any way possible for the benefit of Veterans. Veterans keep America on its feet. Without the Veteran, our country would no longer stand strong. That is why the Veteran is essential. The veteran is brave, and the veteran is hard working. That is why the Veteran is important.”

“I enter this competition every year and feel that it helps me to have a better understanding of how important our Veterans are and how I can better myself as an American,” Lucas added. “I’ve always loved to write stories and essays and it is an honor to be a part of this competition so I plan on entering for as long as I can!”

Each received a \$75 gift from Craig Valley VFW Post 4491 and appreciation from many of the local veterans who attended the ceremony.



CRAIG COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FY 2023-2024 BUDGET SCHEDULE

Date	Meeting Information	Purpose
January 17, 2023	4:30 PM: Facilities Walk-Through 5:30 PM: Regular School Board Meeting Location: CCHS Room 170	Preliminary Budget Presentation Budget Public Hearing
February 21, 2023	5:30 PM: Regular School Board Meeting Location: CCHS Room 170	Budget Work Session
March 14, 2023	5:30 PM: Regular School Board Meeting Location: CCHS Auditorium	Budget Public Hearing
March 16, 2023	5:30 PM: Board of Supervisors Meeting Location: Craig County Courthouse	Joint Budget Work Session with the Board of Supervisors
April 6, 2023	6:30 PM: Board of Supervisors Meeting Location: Craig County Courthouse	Joint Budget Work Session with the Board of Supervisors (if needed)
April 11, 2023	5:30 PM: Regular School Board Meeting Location: CCHS Auditorium	Adoption of FY 2023-2024 Budget

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Barn Cat Buddies cat of the month

COURTESY PHOTO

Barn Cat Buddies adoption is hoping someone will take 2-year-old Tink home. She is spayed and her shots are up to date. "She is a sweet-sweet girl," the group shared. Their website is www.barncatbuddies.org or check them out on Facebook. The president is Judy Zeimer who can be reached at (540) 238-5549. Their mailing address is PO Box 111, Salem, VA 24153. Jean Bradley may also be contacted at (540) 330-9828.

Disability studies concentration now offered at Roanoke College

Program seeks to expand student understanding, career possibilities

Roanoke College announced last week that it's now offering a concentration in disability studies. The curriculum, the college said, is designed to blend interdisciplinary coursework and experiential learning to give students a deeper understanding of the growing population of people with disabilities.

According to the college's announcement, the creation of a dedicated concentration puts Roanoke College at the forefront of the disability studies movement. Students in

the concentration include future health and human services professionals, research students, education majors and others.

"The rates at which people are being diagnosed with a disability increases every year; especially autism and dementia," said Andréa Burchfield, assistant professor of psychology. "As numbers rise, students entering many career fields are more likely to encounter clients, patients and employees who live with a disability. Understanding the wide-ranging

nature of disabilities will enable future professionals to provide better services."

The concentration requires five courses, including two foundational courses focusing on disability theory and lived experience. It culminates in a final capstone project. The opportunities for disability-related classes and real-world internships span departments and disciplines across campus. The initiative was led by a multi-department faculty team, including Burchfield (psychology), Frances McCutcheon (biology) and Teresa Milbrodt (English and communication Studies).

"Interdisciplinary is the

Column: Glaucoma and cervical cancer awareness

The new year presents a new opportunity to attend to those routines that help to keep us healthy. Just as adequate exercise and nutritious food contribute to healthful daily routines, staying up-to-date on recommended preventive screenings is an important way to protect your health!

Throughout the year, we will highlight some of the recommended screenings for routine preventive health care. Regular check-ups with your primary healthcare professional can give you confidence that you are taking care of yourself and can prompt you to ask about any changes in your body. This month, we'll focus on glaucoma and cervical cancer awareness.

Glaucoma, a group of diseases that can damage the eye's optic nerve, is a leading cause of vision loss and blindness, affecting almost three million Americans. It is sometimes called "the sneak thief of sight" because it is common and can go unnoticed for a long time.

There is no cure for glaucoma, but if it is caught early, treatment can prevent further vision loss. While anyone can get glaucoma, certain people are at higher risk including African Americans over 40 years of age, as well as anyone who is older than 60 years of age, who has a family history of glaucoma, or who has diabetes.

If you are in a high-risk group, a comprehensive dilated eye exam can help you find glaucoma early and start treatment. Prescription eye drops

can stop glaucoma from progressing. The number of blind and visually impaired people is expected to double by 2030 and triple by 2050 given the aging population, but routine screenings could significantly reduce that number, improving the quality of life for those who are at risk of the disease.

This month, we are also spotlighting cervical cancer, which affects 13,000 women in the United States every year. Anyone with a cervix is at risk for cervical cancer although it is most frequently detected in people over age 30.

Most cases of cervical cancers are caused by certain types of human papillomavirus (HPV), the most common sexually transmitted infection. HPV also cause other cancers in both women and men.

Fortunately, we have a vaccine that the HPV vaccine can help prevent cervical cancer. In addition, we can screen for cervical cancer. When cervical cancer is found early, it is highly treatable and associated with long survival and good quality of life.

To reduce the risk of cervical cancer:

Ask your doctor about the HPV vaccine. Receiving a vaccination to prevent HPV infection can reduce your risk of cervical cancer and other HPV-related cancers if you are younger than 26 years. HPV vaccine is recommended for all children to reduce their risk of cancers related to HPV.

Ask your doctor about

a Pap test. Routine Pap tests are recommended for women, starting at age 21.

Practice safe sex. Reduce your risk of cervical cancer by taking measures to prevent sexually transmitted infections, such as using a condom every time you have sex and limiting the number of sexual partners you have.

Don't smoke. If you don't smoke, don't start. If you do smoke, talk to your doctor about strategies to help you quit.

The Roanoke City and Alleghany Health Districts local offices offer HPV vaccinations, on a sliding scale, and can provide cervical cancer screenings. We accept most insurances, but these life-saving tests are available for free to individuals who qualify. Call to make an appointment. People can also call the American Cancer Society at 866-951-9355 for help finding a clinic that offers free or low-cost cancer screenings as part of the Women's Wellness Connection program near them.

As we start the New Year, we encourage all Roanoke City and Alleghany Health District residents to take charge of their health. Staying up-to-date with all recommended vaccines and recommended preventive health screenings is a great way to do so. Prevention, screening and early detection of diseases such as cervical cancer improve treatment options, improve quality of life, and reduce death.

-Christie Willis
Roanoke City and Alleghany Health Districts

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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40								41	
42									43

CLUES ACROSS

1. Tax collector

4. Fishes without the line touching water

8. Brooklyn hoopsters

10. Actress Lathan

11. A metric for athletes

12. Food storage location

13. Colossus

15. Desolations

16. Accustom to something unpleasant

17. ___ Kubrick, filmmaker

18. You might ask this at Thanksgiving

21. Arkansas city

22. Gave food to

23. Request

24. V-shaped open trough

25. Make lively

26. It accompanies feather

27. Blonde bombshell

34. One who revolves

35. Bluish greens

36. Charity

37. Having the shape of a cube

38. Unwind

39. Believed by some to be the supreme being

40. Checks or guides

41. Leak slowly through

42. Top-quality

43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. Part of your foot

2. It's at the back of the eyeball

3. Where things stand

4. Offered

5. Contains pollen

6. Boisterous get-together

7. Asserts out loud

9. They're in the sky

10. Canonized

12. A politician's official stances

14. It can catch fish

15. British thermal unit

17. Helps little firms

19. Where patients go for treatment

20. Large red deer

23. Pokes holes in

24. "Star Wars" hero Solo

25. One in a hospital

26. Scandinavian god of battle

27. Famous cat

28. ___ Angeles: City of Angels

29. Type of drug (abbr.)

30. City along the Rhine

31. Animal disease

32. Martini ingredients

33. Get away

34. Rare species of rodent

36. Suppress

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OPINION

Craig County Public Library offers numerous volunteer opportunities

Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community
By Marge Lewter

Participation in clubs, scholarships, and academic programs often require volunteer hours. Community College Access Program (CCAP) requires stu-

dents to complete hours with a community service project each semester. Participation in academic clubs such as BETA, National Junior Honor Society and FFA often require volunteer hours. Colleges commonly look at community service projects and volunteer hours to assist in acceptance determination as well.

Finding opportunities to volunteer locally can

be a challenge, especially out here in Craig. Your local library is a great place to start your search. There are several ways to volunteer with Craig County Public Library. Volunteering at the library does not have to be a long-term commitment. Volunteers complete a range of tasks from simple packet creation when needed to spending the day helping your neigh-

bors at a seasonal event or at the library for a set schedule. Any time that you can volunteer is a win for you and your favorite little library.

Volunteering for a local community project is also a great way to enhance your resume. For job seekers just starting out, hoping to try a new career, or re-entering the employment scene, volunteering can help you net-

work by meeting people you may not normally interact with and giving you an opportunity to learn new skills.

If you are a Craig County group or business looking for volunteers, please let us know and we may be able to help you make a connection.

We hope you will consider Craig County Public Library for your next volunteer service

project or as a place to spend some time engaging your community. We are currently seeking volunteers for the next SWAP Day which will be in the spring, more information to come. To find out how you can earn your volunteer hours locally, stop in or call the Craig County Public Library at 303 Main Street in New Castle or call (540) 864-8978.

News from the 9th



Morgan Griffith
Representative

On January 18th, the Federal Register officially published the Biden Administration's final Waters of the United States, or WOTUS, rule. The rule was immediately met with heavy pushback from Republicans, like me. States and industry groups everywhere who saw the harm this new policy will have on Americans wasted no

time filing lawsuits to stop the implementation of the rule. Texas filed a lawsuit on the same day the rule was published.

A variety of agriculture groups, such as the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association have also filed lawsuits attempting to overturn the rule.

I know this issue is a top priority for constituents in agriculture and related industries. Everyone from the newly added to the 9th Bedford County, to Washington County has brought concerns to my attention. One of the first meetings I had in Bedford was about agricultural issues, including WOTUS. As soon as the Cattlemen

announced their lawsuit, I heard from Gene Copenhaver of Washington County, who serves as their Policy Division Vice Chair.

With the passage of the Clean Water Act of 1972, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Army Corps) were given authority to define what constitutes the "waters of the United States." Due to the 2006 U.S. Supreme Court case Rapanos v. United States, which challenged federal jurisdiction to regulate isolated wetlands under the Clean Water Act, the "significant nexus" test was created. The test used vague and expansive language that encouraged regulators to interpret the definition of WOTUS as increasingly broad.

In 2015, under the Obama Administration, the EPA and Army Corps issued their Clean Water Rule, incorporating the "significant nexus" test from Rapanos. The two agencies took a sweeping approach to determine which waters fell

within the definition. I criticized the rule at the time because it created regulatory uncertainty for too many folks – farmers, ranchers, small businesses, landowners, including homeowners, etc. – whose private land was unnecessarily burdened by this federal overreach.

Criticism of the Clean Water Rule was bipartisan. In May 2015, just after the Obama Administration announced their WOTUS rule, I joined 230 Members of Congress, from both sides of the aisle, in urging the EPA and the Army Corps to withdraw their rule. I also supported the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act, as did 24 House Democrats, requiring the EPA to withdraw the rule.

In 2020, the Trump Administration thankfully replaced the 2015 rule, issuing the Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR), removing unneeded red tape for millions of Americans across the country. The rule did away with the "significant nexus" test and provided more clar-

ity for property owners. Unfortunately, this victory was short lived. With the new Biden Administration, came new regulations.

In December of 2021, the EPA and the Army Corps issued their proposed WOTUS rule, repealing the NWPR, and replacing it with what they characterized as a "pre-2015 rule definition". Many immediately voiced their criticism of the Administration's new proposal – it stripped provisions of the NWPR, removing needed certainty for many individuals and businesses.

It also established significant criminal and civil penalties for violations to the Clean Water Act, which were extremely concerning. These new penalties meant jail time and thousands of dollars in fines a day, once again placing an undue burden on Americans who have had to keep up with ever-changing rules.

Further, just after the proposed rule was released, the Supreme Court agreed to take up Sackett v. EPA, a case challenging the "signifi-

cant nexus" test used in WOTUS.

I, along with 200 other Members of the House of Representatives, urged the EPA and Army Corps to wait until the Supreme Court issued their opinion before releasing another final WOTUS rule.

Unfortunately, the EPA and Army Corps ignored this common-sense request, issuing their final rule on December 30th.

By doing so, the EPA and Army Corps discounted the Supreme Court's pending decision, which will likely impact their action.

Throughout this process, I've listened closely to the concerns of constituents and I am looking for opportunities in Congress to oppose this flawed policy.

Also, before writing this column, I agreed to join a letter with other Members of Congress to urge the EPA and Army Corps to rescind the rule and postpone any subsequent agency action until the Sackett decision is announced by the Supreme Court.

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Upcoming public meetings in Craig County

Feb. 11

Little World Qualifier ACH&BGA Hound Competition and Showcase will be held Feb. 11 with the Bench Show starting at 6 p.m. and the Hunts starting at 7:30 p.m. at 184 Hill Top Trail in New Castle by the Southwest Virginia Hills and Hounds Association. Those interested must register before event at world-hunt.org or contact Jonathan Huffman at (540)864-5842.

Feb. 15

A CPMT meeting at CPMT – Department of Social Services will be at 1 p.m.

Feb. 18

A rabies drive-through clinic will be on Feb. 18 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Craig County Fairgrounds. The cost will be \$15 per dog or cat. It will be administered by Dr. Marge Lewter and hosted by the Craig County Rescue Squad. Call 540-864-5115 for

more info.

Feb. 20

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

Feb. 21

Rep. Morgan Griffith will hold a citizen comment period from 9-10:30 a.m. in the courthouse breakroom.

Feb. 25

A wild game dinner will be Feb. 25 at 5:30 p.m. at Roanoke Moose Lodge #284. It will be hosted by Catawba Valley Baptist Church for their youth. The evening includes a dinner, giveaways, raffles, a silent auction and the infamous live auction. Purchase tickets at CATAWBAVALLEYBC.ORG.

March 15

A CPMT meeting at CPMT – Department of Social Services will be at 1 p.m.

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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:

UPCOMING LANE CLOSURES: 24-hour lane closures northbound are being scheduled for upcoming bridge repairs. Dates and times are still being determined.
WORK ZONE SPEED: With narrow spacing in lanes due to barrier walls, lack of shoulders and lane shifts in various locations, drivers should adhere to posted 60 mph speed limits in the work zone and allow space when following a vehicle.
RAMP CLOSURES: Ramp closures are possible during nighttime hours, 12 a.m. to 5 a.m. Drivers should watch for message boards dates and times the ramp will be closed.
LANE CLOSURES: Alternating left and right lane

and shoulder closures during nighttime hours between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, are possible. Lane widths will be reduced to 11 feet. Northbound lane closures from I-81 mile marker 136 to 141. Southbound Lane closures from I-81 mile marker 141 to 136.
Nightly lane closures may be in place along the right lane with possible nightly ramp narrows as needed for guardrail and shoulder strengthening.
Northbound I-81 lane closures from mile marker 138 to 142
Northbound I-81 exit and entrance ramp narrows possible at Route 311.
The project also includes replacing six bridges, widening two bridges, installing approximately 2.6 miles of sound barrier walls along northbound I-81, improving the southbound exit 137 off-ramp intersection at Wildwood Road and adding interchange lighting at exits 137, 140 and 141 are also included in the project. Expected completion in early 2026.

I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY – Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the Montgomery/Pulaski County line. The old bridge is being demolished. Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 98 to 109. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the duration of the

project. Project completion is estimated by summer 2023.
SLOW ROLLS: A slow roll operation may be in place daily, Monday through Friday, between mile marker 101 and 105 northbound and between mile marker 109 and 105 southbound, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.
ROUTE 605: Intermittent flagging operations will be present on Route 605, located under the New River Bridge, for work overhead on the bridge.
LANE CLOSURES: Nighttime alternating lane closures will be in place on I-81 northbound between mile markers 104-106 from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.
SLOW ROLLS: Slow rolls may be utilized periodically on both the northbound and southbound lanes from mile marker 98-109 for structural steel deliveries and setting beams.

I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS – Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 138 to 152, right and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.
INTERSTATE 581
ROUTE 581 BRIDGE WORK OVER WILLIAMSON ROAD – Bridge work is underway on Route 11 (Williamson Road). Intermittent and alternating lane closures between the intersections with Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue are still possible. Intermittent daytime and nighttime lane closures between the intersections above may still be required utilizing flagging operations. Any impacts to I-581 will be minimal. Expected completion Spring 2023.

I-581/220 EXPRESSWAY PAVING OPERATIONS – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.
I-581/220 LANE & RAMP CLOSURES FOR PAVING AND MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS IN ROANOKE COUNTY – Weather permitting, crews will be milling and paving along Interstate 81. Right and left lane closures will be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours. Drivers should expect possible delays.
ROANOKE CITY
13th STREET SE IMPROVEMENTS WITH DETOUR – A project to improve a portion of 13th Street SE in Roanoke is underway. Located in a residential neighborhood just east of downtown Roanoke, this project will improve traffic flow and connectivity along 13th Street SE from Tazewell Avenue to Norfolk Avenue. The project entails reconstructing about 0.2-mile of 13th Street as an improved, two-lane roadway with 10.5-foot-wide travel lane and a raised median. A new roadway will extend 13th Street to Norfolk Avenue and the intersection at 13th Street and Wise Avenue will be reconfigured to include a roundabout. Bike lanes, sidewalks, crosswalks and curb and gutter will also be added. Southbound 13th Street traffic has a detour in place using Norfolk Avenue onto 12th Street to Tazewell Avenue. This detour will be in place throughout the duration of this project. Signs will be posted to

designate the detour route. Northbound 13th Street will remain open to traffic. Flaggers may be possible and the speed limit through the work zone is 25 mph. The project is expected to be completed in summer 2023.
TRAFFIC PATTERN CHANGE: Northbound traffic will be switched to the northbound lane of 13th Street. Southbound traffic will still be detoured around the work zone.

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

BOTETOURT COUNTY
DALEVILLE INTERSECTION PROJECT FOR FIELDSTONE DEVELOPMENT ACCESS – Lane closures northbound and southbound on Route 220 in Daleville will be in place for construction of a median with crossover, a right turn lane and a new traffic signal. This work is associated with construction of the Fieldstone Development. Lane closures will be set up on various days in early 2023.

ROUTE 11 BUCHANAN BRIDGE PROJECT - A construction project on the Route 11 Bridge in the Town of Buchanan is under-

way. Water Street is closed for the duration of the project and drivers should expect periodic lane closures with flagging operations to be in place during daytime hours. Message boards are present to alert and update drivers. Expected completion in summer 2023.

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

CRAIG COUNTY
ROUTE 311 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER MEADOW CREEK – Temporary signals control traffic across the bridge and will be in place throughout the project. Construction will begin on the northbound side of the bridge and once completed, work will switch to the southbound side. In addition, a section of Route 646 (Allen Street) between Route 650 and Route 311 will be closed during construction and a signed detour will be in place. All traffic will be detoured to Marshall Street and Kanawha Street to access either 311 or the homes located off Allen Street. Speed limit will be reduced to 35 mph in the work zone with a width restriction of 9 feet. Drivers should expect delays and allow extra travel time through the work zone. Weather permitting, the bridge is expected to be open to traffic by the late spring 2023.
TRAFFIC SWITCH: Traffic is using the southbound lane to the northbound lane while work continues. Southbound lanes are closed. Temporary traffic signals will continue to direct traffic and message boards will notify drivers.

OBITUARY

Huffman, Jr., Richard Lee

After fighting a hard battle with cancer, Richard Lee Huffman, Jr. surrendered his life to the Lord on Jan. 15, 2023. He was born Jan. 25, 1954, to the late Lucille and Richard Huffman. His paternal grandparents were the late Minor and Maude Huffman and his maternal grandparents were the late Ed and Alva Paitsel.

He is leaving behind, but for a short time, his wife and beloved soulmate Karen A. Huffman; his loving daughter, Adrienne (Brandy) Rock and husband, Brandon; his devoted grandsons, Noah LaPrad and Cayden Zysk;

his special extended family of step-grandchildren, Kristin Greene, Dakota Rock, and Jadyen Rock; including four great-grandchildren, Adeline, Bentley, Brycen, and Bransyn.
He is also survived by three precious sisters, Patsy VanDyke, Louella Patton, & Barbara Ross; and a wonderful brother, Gary Huffman; several aunts, uncles, numerous nieces & nephews, and a multitude of cousins and friends, all of which were very special to him in so many ways.
Junior as he was known to most, never met a stranger. He enjoyed meeting and getting to

know people and he had friends of all ages, young and old. He would do anything to help a friend and worked jobs alongside many who soon became special friends. He enjoyed many unforgettable hunting, fishing, and trapping adventures with his friends and family members.
Junior was a unique kind of man with deep family values, hard work ethics, and was loyal and true to both. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him but let us take solace and rejoice in the knowing that he is now in the Kingdom of Heaven.
Graveside Services were held 2 p.m. Wednesday,

Jan. 18, 2023, at Brickey Cemetery with Jim Looney officiating.
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Junior's memory to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN

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11599 Cumberland Gap Road/Rt. 42, New Castle, 864-5242; church phone:544-7040 Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m., Sunday School 10:30 a.m., Choir Tuesday 7:30p.m., Youth Outreach and Missions Program. Rev. Charles Stacy.
CHESTNUT GROVE CHURCH
Duane Wentle, Minister, Rt. 42, New Castle, 540-864-5692. Sunday: Worship 10:00 a.m.
CORNERSTONE CHURCH
Pastor Don Brown, Corner of Salem and Wagner, New Castle, 580-3228. Sunday Worship 10:30am (Children meet separately, Nursery provided). Bible Study - Wednesday 6p Teens - Wednesday 6p. Ministries: Men, Ladies, Young Adult, and Seniors. Times vary, call for details.
CRAIG HEALING SPRINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)
Pastor - Kenneth W. Davis, Jr., 6 Grannys Branch Road (Johns Creek), New Castle, Phone: 864-6102. Sunday School at 10 am. Sunday Worship at 11 am every Sunday. Fellowship meal after Sunday Worship on second Sundays. Everyone is welcome!
CRAIG VALLEY BAPTIST
171 Salem Avenue, New Castle, 864-5667; Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m., Wednesday: Prayer Service and Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Youth Group 6:30-8:00PM, Bible Buddies at 6:30-8:00PM. Transportation provided - call the church. Hearing devices also available. www.craigvalleybaptist.com
CRAIG VALLEY GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP
HWY 621, Pastor Roy Lee Law Jr., "Jay", 864-8984. Sunday School 10:00am; Worship 11:00am., Wednesday night Bible study 7pm, from HWY 311, up HWY 621, 8 miles on left.
CROSSROADS CHURCH
21892 Craigs Creek Road, New Castle. Pastor Gary Burch. 864-7520. Sunday School- 10-10:45AM, Sunday Worship - 11AM-Noon.
FIRST BAPTIST
Pastor Kevin Altizer, Corner of Main Street & Boyd Ave., New Castle. Church phone 864-5919. Sunday School 10:00AM, Sunday Worship 11:00AM and 6PM. Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7PM, Youth Group 7:00PM, Reformers Unanimous Addiction Recovery every Friday evening at 7PM.
GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
5530 Catawba Valley Drive, Catawba, VA, 540-384-7075. Pastor 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) & Super Church (ages 4-12) Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. You can also watch on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m. www.graceassemblycatawaba.org
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
159 Old Railroad Ave, New Castle, 540-864-PRAY, Sunday School 9:30AM, Sunday Worship Service 10:00AM, Wednesday Night Services 7:00PM.
HEBRON UNITED METHODIST
Pastor Rodney Longmire, Rt. 606, 1981 Caldwell Mt. Rd., New Castle, 540- 400-3419. Worship 11:15AM. LIGHHOUSE BAPTIST
Rev. Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, & 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.
LEVEL GREEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH
3388 Cumberland Gap Rd. Newport, Duane Wentle, 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.
LIGHHOUSE BAPTIST
Pastor Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle, 540-525-7662. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, & 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.
MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN
4199 Craig Valley Drive, New Castle, 864-6622. Sunday: Worship Service 9:00 a.m., Children's Church 9:15 a.m., Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
NEW CASTLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
"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.
NEW CANTERBURY PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP
Pastor John D. Abbott, Hwy 621 (10 miles), phone: 864-8242, Sunday Prayer 10:00-10:30 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday Service 6:00 pm.
PAXTON CHAPEL
Pastor Kenny Davis, 17 Sage Brush Lane, New Castle; "Presenting God's Word Faithfully"; Sunday School 10:00 AM; Sunday Worship Service 11:15 AM; visit us on the web at www.paxtonchapelchurch.com; email at paxtonchapel@yahoo.com.
THE CHURCH OF CHRIST
118 Main Street, New Castle. Service Times: Sunday, Bible classes-10 a.m., Worship-11:00 a.m., Evening Worship-6 p.m.; Wednesday, Bible classes - 7 p.m.
NEW CASTLE UNITED METHODIST
Rev. San Kang, 364 Main St., New Castle, Va. Sunday School 10AM, Worship 11AM; UMW 3rd Wednesday@1PM, Youth and other programs, Bible Studies.
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH
99 2nd Street, New Castle. Rev. Stephen McNally. 540-473-3691. Mass is on Sunday at 11:15 AM.
CRAIG COUNTY COMMUNITY CHURCH - 'WELCOME HOME!'
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.
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Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration



PHOTOS BY AILA BOYD

Roanoke College held a number of simulated Civil Rights marches on Friday as part of its Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebrations.

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ROCKET BOYS HOST EAST MONT FRIDAY

The Craig County boys will play host to Eastern Montgomery Friday night at Craig County High School in a big Pioneer District basketball game. The Rockets beat the Mustangs in the first meeting and look to make a clean sweep of the season series.

Craig comes into the week at 2-11 overall and 2-5 in the district after dropping three games last week, starting with a 77-41 loss to Parry McCluer. Matthew Lucas led the Rockets with 16 points and Zach Peters had 10.

“Drew Duncan did a good job defending the post and rebounding against them,” said Craig coach Ryan Frazier. “Parry McCluer’s hot shooting was too much for us down the stretch.”

On Thursday the Rockets played host to Staunton River, a Class 3 team from the tough Blue Ridge District. The Rockets hung tough before falling, 57-37.

“I was really proud of our performance against Staunton River,” said Frazier. “We handled the press well and had a good team performance.”

Lucas finished with 27 points and was able to find gaps in the middle of the zone. Peters was able to find Lucas and other teammates and finished with 10 assists. Duncan, who has been playing very well lately, played great interior defense and finished with 10 rebounds for the game.

“It was a game that we were competitive throughout, being down five at the half and about an eight point game with five minutes remaining,”



Matthew Lucas drives to the hoop for the Rockets.

said Frazier. “They had a stretch where they hit three three-pointers in a minute and a half and we had a couple costly turnovers in the span that put it out of reach for us.”

The Rockets finished a busy week with a home game with Covington on Friday and dropped a 65-46 decision to the Cougars on the second night of a back-to-back.

“This again was another game that we played well enough to win, but could not pull it out,” said Frazier.

Lucas led the team again with 23 points while Peters finished with 14 points with four threes. Duncan again played well in the post and chipped in with seven rebounds.

This was a game of two halves. Craig was up 26-

24 at halftime but was outscored by 14 in the third quarter.

“We hit a wall in the third quarter and ran out of gas,” said Frazier. “We’ve struggled in back to back games all year. All three games this week had several positives for us to build on. We have played well in stretches, but really need to put it together for a full game. We are working on that daily and we can still achieve goals we set out for this season. This week is a huge week for us with Bath County away on Tuesday followed by East Mont on Friday. These are two games we need to win the keep the pace in the district for the tournament.”

After this week’s games the Rockets are back home Monday to host Giles.



PHOTOS BY CHELSEA LOUTHEN

Talon Ritter (#10) grabs a rebound against the Eagles.



Seth Parsons(#3) handles the ball.

ROCKET GIRLS ARE AT EAST MONT FRIDAY

The young Craig County girls will have their work cut out for them when they visit Elliston Friday to take on host Eastern Montgomery in a Pioneer District basketball game. The Mustangs are the second ranked team in Region 1C and 15-2 overall.

Craig County comes into the week at 1-11 and they’re still looking for their first district win after dropping two games last week. On Tuesday at home they fell to Parry McCluer, 60-29. The Blues improved to 13-2 with the win.

“Our youth continues to hurt us on the offensive end,” said coach Brock Jones. “We got off to a slow start.”

Parry McCluer led 20-4 after the first quarter and 37-9 at the half. Annabelle Gregory led the Rockets with 13 points and six steals while Kallie and Kammie Fisher had four points each. Anna Clay-

tor, Parry McCluer’s 6’1” center, was high for the game with 24 points.

“She’s a bad match-up for us,” said Jones. “She’s a tough matchup for anyone in our region and probably makes a strong case for Pioneer District Player of the Year this year.”

On Friday the Rockets dropped a 50-37 decision in Covington. The Rockets lost it at the foul line, hitting just eight of 18 while the Cougars nailed 16 of their 24 free throw attempts.

“A team I think we should have beaten,” said Jones. “We missed over 11 fast break layups during this game. Offensively we have struggled all season, but we usually do a fair job at open layups, but luck just wasn’t for us today. We shot 17 percent from the field.”

Gregory led Craig with 11 points and nine steals. Kallie Fisher added seven points, three assists, five rebounds and four steals



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Kallie Fisher(#12) and Annabelle Gregory bring the ball up the floor.

while Kammie Fisher scored eight points and had 13 rebounds. Hannah Ratliff added six points, six rebounds, seven steals and two as-

sists and sophomore Brooklyn Cayton, pulled up from the jayvee team, added five points and eight rebounds.

“We are such a young

team, and these things should work themselves out as we move forward in the years to come,” said Jones. “All the off season workouts

and camps to get the fundamentals down will be our key. The group of girls from eighth through 10th grade are a group of workers and I’m excited for the future of this team. If the group pans out as is and no one else decides to come out for basketball next year we will have one freshman, Kailyn Jones, and one senior, Ashely Cayton, for next year. Really young and that’s what we need for rebuilding. This off season will be loaded with camps and gym time for us.”

The Rocket jayvees were scheduled to host Bath County on Tuesday of this week and it was “jayvee only” as the Chargers do not have a varsity team this winter. Friday will be jayvee and varsity at East Mont and Saturday the Rockets are home at 2 pm for a varsity only game with Alleghany. Next Monday, January 30, the girls are at Giles.

MAROONS WIN FIRST EVER VARSITY VOLLEYBALL GAME

The Roanoke College men’s volleyball team faced off against Penn State-Altoona in their first-ever home match and came away with a thrilling five-set win over the Lions in front of over 500 fans at the C. Homer Bast Center

last Saturday evening. This is the inaugural year for men’s volleyball at RC.

After dropping the first set, 24-26, the Maroons won the next two, 25-22 and 25-16. The Lions tied things up with a 25-23 win in the fourth set but

RC put it was in the fifth and deciding set to 15, 15-10. Three Maroons reached double-digit kills, led by Michael Cummins with 17.

Roanoke is at Marymount College this Friday.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Jackson Rutkowski(#1) goes up for a spike for the Maroons.