



COURTESY PHOTO

Craig County Library Director Letha Hibbitts was treated to a tour to the Dolly headquarters in Sevierville, Tennessee as a welcome to Craig coming aboard Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Dolly Parton Imagination Library coming to Craig

Pam Dudding **Contributing writer**

The joy of reading a book seems to be entering homes again and the Craig County Library has been working diligently to bring the infamous Dolly Parton Imagination Library to Craig and they have finally succeeded. "Lynda Harrell was really instrumental in getting the program implemented for us," Letha Hibbitts, director, shared. Harrell connected

with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library for Virginia and reached out for funds to outlets to handle the rest of the cost, sharing that read and write, Dolly Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative opened their arms for the project. Children from birth county to foster a love to age 5 qualify for of reading among her this free program. county's preschool chil- up in the hills of East book of the month

program, parents can sign their kids up at the Craig County Library or go to the website at www. imaginationlibrary.com and follow the prompts.

The child will receive their first book in about six weeks and after that, a book a month. At age 5 they "graduate" from less parents have shared the program and receive their graduation book.

Each month, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library mails a high quality, age-appropriate book up are excitedly awaitto all registered children, ing their first book. addressed to them, at no

father's inability to started her Imagination Library in 1995 for the children within her home partnering with local To participate in the dren and their families by Tennessee, I knew my from Dolly Parton.

providing them with the gift of a specially selected book each month," her website shared. "Today, her program spans five countries and gifts over one million free books each month to children around the world."

They noted that counthow excited their child is when their new book arrives each month and the children in Craig that have already signed

Dolly Parton's cost to the child's family. Imagination Library goal "Inspired by her is to inspire a love of reading by gifting books free of charge to children through funding by Parton herself and community businesses.

dreams would come true. I know there are children in your community with their own dreams," Parton shared. "They dream of becoming a doctor or an inventor or a minister. Who knows, maybe there is a little girl whose dream is to be a writer and singer! The seeds of these dreams are often found in books and the seeds you help plant in your community can grow across the world." Parton is

known for an "alwayskeep-dreaming mindset" and wishes to instill that in kids.

By mailing high quality, age-appropriate books directly to their homes, Parton wanted children to be excited about books and to feel the magic that books can create. In creating her Imagination Library, Parton shares that it was important to her to ensure that every child would have books, regardless of their family's income.

Today, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library sends more than one million books per month to children around the world "inspiring them to Dream More, Learn More, Care More and Be More."

"We are so excited to have this available to our community," Hibbitts shared. "Every child can get a jump on reading and sent straight to their home."

Those with a child who is 5 or younger can visit the Craig County Library or go online and sign up "When I was growing the child for their free Annual Chili Cook-Off set for Feb. 25



Craig Valley Baptist Church will be hosting their 5th Annual Chili Cook-off on Feb. 25 at the church from 5-7 p.m. All churches are encouraged to bring up to five chili pots for the contest. Top three winners receive trophies, and the first-place winner church takes the big trophy to their church for a year. The community members are invited to attend, to judge and enjoy a free meal.

Pam Dudding **Contributing writer**

On a cold winter day, there is nothing more satisfying than a bowl of steaming hot chili with a side of homemade cornbread.

The Craig Valley Baptist Church is hosting in the tie (with new vote its 5th Annual Church tickets distributed). Community Chili Cook-Off to encourage people and start cooking.

The chili with the most tickets will be deemed the champion, and the next two in second and third place.

In the event of a tie, such as they had last year, a mini re-tasting will be held by those present, with the chilis involved

"The Championship Trophy Cup will go to to get their crockpots out the church of the winning chili cook-off chef, to The community is also be displayed until the next chili cook-off in 2024," organizer Richard Martindell shared. "There will also be individual trophies given to the top three chili cook-off chefs." The contest time will start at 5 p.m. and be completed by 7 p.m. Their hopes are to There will be free have many participants to enter this year in this fun and tasty event. The competition will be held at the church on 171 Salem Avenue (on Route 311 across from The Park), in New Castle. Those who are attending may enter the side door on the left side of the church. To enter the contest, or to ask questions, contact the church and leave a message at (540) 864-5667 or visit their website at http://www. craigvalleybaptist.com. "The real goal of the cook-off is to encourage churches in the area to do things together and have a good, spirited competition and Christian camaraderie," Martindell said. "As you know, there are some really good chili chefs in Craig County's churches."

Craig County locals share their thoughts about Valentine's Day

Pam Dudding **Contributing** writer

The stores in Craig County are decorated with hearts and have aisles of candies, decorations, cookies, cards and special gifts for that "someone" that each person wishes to touch on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. Valentine's Day is named after a saint, St. Valentine. It is said that he was persecuted and jailed and fell in love with his jailer's daughter who visited him in prison. Before he was put to death, on Feb. 14, he sent a letter to the girl and signed it, "from your Valentine." After that, the day was honored by people sending cards to their love. In asking around

to see what some "older" people shared about their feelings about Valentine's Day, here are some comments:



COURTESY PHOTO Brenda Lipes shared that she married her high school sweetheart, Brian and have been married for 34 years.

"I don't consider myself old, but I have been married for 34 years to one man. I consider this a special day to draw attention to people you love so you can express

See **Love**, page 3



COURTESY PHOTO

Those interested can connect with the team through Facebook or pick up a gram at the school offices.

CCHS football team is selling candygrams

Pam Dudding **Contributing writer**

Valentine's Day is a special holiday for Elementary many people; a day to display love for that special someone.

This year, the Craig County Rockets football team is helping their classmates show their love by offering "Candy and Kindness Candygrams" to the students at the three schools.

Anyone can purchase one for only \$1 each. Also, family members can go online and copy them, fill them out and ing on

send them to the school. The candygrams are also available for pickup at the McCleary School Craig County or High School offices. Those interested may send as many as they'd like. The football team will then deliver them on Feb. 14 to the students in their classes. All proceeds will sup-

port the Craig County High School varsity football program. They will be available for view-Facebook. invited to join in

"Besides the competition, there will be a great free meal for people to enjoy," organizer Rich Martindell shared. "Anyone can come and eat chili and participate in the voting. The only thing you need to bring is your appetite!"

hotdogs available, along with drinks and desserts. Also, cornbread and the usual chili accoutrements will be there.

The guidelines are:

- Each church may enter up to five chilis for the competition.
- Each chili will be presented for tasting on tables in the competition area.
- Upon entering the competition area, everyone will be given a voting ticket
- You will be able to taste the chilis at your own pace.
- Place your ticket in the container by the chili you judge as the best.



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2023 Tour Schedule Sunshine Tours

Let us show you America

DATE	TOUR PER PE	RSON PRICE	DATE	TOUR PER PE	ERSON PRICE
Mar 10 – 12	Philadelphia Flower Show	\$750	Aug 21	Bristol Casino/ Bristol, VA	\$50
Mar 11	Highland Maple Festival	\$90	Aug 24 -26	Strasburg Railroad/ Red Caboose Hotel	\$985
Mar 18	Highland Maple Festival	\$90	Aug 26	Mitchie Tavern/ Swannonoa Mansion	\$95
Mar 18	Asheville Outlets/ Spring Shopping\$85		Aug 27 – Sep 6	West Coast Baseball	\$4,750
Mar 18	"Ain't To Proud" / Stephen Tanger Center	\$195	Sept 2	North Carolina Zoo/ Asheboro, NC	\$90
Mar 20	Bristol Casino	\$50	Sept 3 – 5	Wind Creek Casino/ Bethlehem, PA	\$540
Mar 20 – 26	Spring Training/ Florida	\$1,965	Sept 6 – 9	Creation Museum/ Ark Encounter	\$865
Mar 25	Vintage Market Days/ Charlotte, NC	\$80	Sept 7 – 10	Myrtle Beach, SC	\$1,070
Apr 2 – 4	Wind Creek Casino/ Bethlehem , PA	\$540	Sept 8 -10	Washington , D.C / Mount Vernon	\$625
Apr 7 – 13	Charleston/ Savannah/ Jekyll Island	\$2,430	Sept 8 – 13	Las Vegas & Grand Canyon Fly / Land	\$2,805
Apr 7 – 8	"Moses"/ PA Dutch/ Lancaster, PA Biltmore House & Gardens / Festival of Flowe	\$490	Sept 9 - 16	Trains of New England	\$2,905
Apr 8 Apr 8	"Aladdin" / Belk Theatre / Charlotte, N.C	ers \$175 \$200	Sept 10 – 16 Sept 11 – 23	Best of Ozarks/ Branson/ Eurerka Springs Nova Scotia / New England in the Fall	\$1,690 \$3,065
Apr 13 – 29	Great Southwest California	\$200 \$4,045	Sept 14 – 16	"Moses" / Lancaster, PA / PA Dutch	\$735
Apr 14 – 16	Washington, D.C/ Cherry Blossom Festival	\$640	Sept 15 – 16	Gandy Dancer/Tygart Flyer	\$480
Apr 15	"Hamilton" / Altria Theatre/ Richmond, VA	\$255	Sept 16 – 22	New England in the Fall	\$1,685
Apr 17	Bristol Casino/ Bristol, VA	\$50	Sept 16 - 27	America's Southwest Land / Fly	\$4,350
Apr 22	Biltmore House & Gardens / Festival of Flowe	-	Sept 18	Bristol Casino/ Bristol, VA	\$50
Apr 23- 26	VA Military Tattoo/ Mermaid Bash	\$1,315	Sept 19 – 23	Vermont in The Fall/ Stoweflake Lodge	\$1,910
-	Texas "Lone Star State"	\$2,435	Sept 19 – 25	Mystery Tour	\$1,830
May 6	Billy Graham Library/ Stowe Bontanical Gard	ens \$90	Sept 23	Andy Griffith's "Mayberry Days"	\$85
May 6 – 16	Tennessee Music Pathways	\$4,840	Sept 23 – 24	Washington Nationals Baseball	\$585
May 9 – 12	Tulip Festival/ Holland, MI	\$940	Sept 29 – Oct 1	Neptune Festival/ Virginia Beach, VA	\$685
May 10	Andy Griffith "Mayberry" Mt. Airy , NC	\$85	Oct 1 – 5	Niagara Falls / Toronto	\$1,365
May 10 – 13	Creation Museum / Ark Encounter	\$865	Oct 2 – 8	New England in the Fall	\$1,685
May 11 – 13	"Moses" / Lancaster, PA / PA Dutch	\$735	Oct 3 – 6	Rockin' the Boardwalk/ Virginia Beach, VA	\$1,190
May 12 – 14	New York Springtime	\$1,200	Oct 5	Cass Railroad / Cass, WV	\$195
May 13	North Carolina Zoo/ Asheboro, NC	\$90	Oct 6 – 7	"Moses" / PA Dutch/ Lancaster , PA	\$490
May 15	Bristol Casino/ Bristol, VA	\$50	Oct 6 – 8	Nashville/ Music City USA	\$1,005
May 20 – 21	Tangier Island	\$470	Oct 7	Billy Graham Library / Stowe Botanical Gard	
May 21 – 26	Oklahoma Oil/ Osage Nation/ Pawhuska, Oł		Oct 7	Bushy Mountain Harvest Festival	\$75
May 26 – 28	Nashville/ Music City USA	\$1,005	Oct 9	Cass Railroad / Cass, WV	\$195
May 27	Mitchie Tavern / Swannanoa Mansion	\$95	Oct 10 – 14	Haunted Halloween/ Boston & Salem	\$1,370
Jun 4 – 7	Resorts Casino & Hotel / Atlantic City, NJ	\$765	Oct 11 – 17	Pioneer Women/ Magnolia Market	\$1,930
	I Love Lucy/ Pennsylvania Grand Canyon	\$1,165	Oct 14	New River Gorge Bridge Day/ Fayetteville, W	
Jun 6 – 10	Two Stadiums/ Philadelphia/ Baltimore	\$1,480 \$625	Oct 14	Carolina Balloon Festival / Statesville, NC	\$85 ¢1 200
Jun 9 – 11 Jun 9 – 19	Washington D.C / Mount Vernon Nova Scotia/ Atlantic Provinces of Canada	\$625 \$2,650	Oct 17 – 20 Oct 23	Oktoberfest in Helen, GA Bristol Casino/ Bristol, VA	\$1,290 \$50
Jun 15 – 20	White Mountians/ Purple Moose	\$2,050	Nov 3 – 5	Sunshine Tours/ Family Reunion	\$900
Jun 15 – 20 Jun 15 – 21	Mackinac Island / Michigan	\$1,825	Nov 9	Southern Christmas Show/ Charlotte, NC	\$900 \$90
Jun 18 – 24	Best of the Ozarks/ Branson/ Eureka Spring		Nov 9 – 12	Biltmore House / Smoky Mountain Christma	
Jun 18 – 24	Niagara Falls/ Montreal/ Toronto/ Quebec	\$1,755	Nov 10	Southern Christmas Show/ Charlotte, NC	\$90
Jun 19	Bristol Casino/ Bristol, VA	\$50	Nov 11	Southern Christmas Show/ Charlotte, NC	\$90
	Hitching a Ride on Route 66	\$4,905	Nov 11	Concord Mills / Bass Pro Shop/ Charlotte,	
Jun 26 – 29	Gilded Age of New York	\$2,035	Nov 12 – 18	Florida Keys/ Sunset Celebration	\$3,235
Jun 29 – July 2	Grandkids of Country Music/ Clarksville, Th		Nov 13	Bristol Casino / Bristol , VA	\$50
July 1 – 8	Summer in New England/ Martha's Vineya	rd \$1,990	Nov 22 – 25	Macy's Thanksgiving Parade/ New York	\$1,580
July 1 – 10	Hawaii Honolulu/ Waikiki / Aloha	\$5,050	Nov 26 – 29	Wind Creek/ Bethelehem/ New York	\$900
July 2 – 6	Niagara Falls USA / Erie Canal	\$1,470	Nov 29 – Dec 4	Currier & Ives Christmas/ Burlington, VT	\$1,910
July 2 – 16	Canyonlands / Scenic Tour	\$3,655	Dec 1 – 3	Christmas at Myrtle Beach	\$660
July 2 – 30	Alaska/ Canada's Yukon/ Motorcoach	\$7,700	Dec 1 – 3	Radio City Christmas / New York	\$1,365
July 7 – 10	Atlanta Motor Speedway	\$1,020	Dec 1 – 3	Christmas Opryland Hotel	\$1,215
July 10 – 26	Yellowstone T.V Series Tour	\$6,425	Dec 2	Christmastown USA / McAdenville , NC	\$75
July 16 – 19	Wind Creek/ Bethlehem/ New York City	\$900	Dec 2	Premium Outlets / Charlotte, NC	\$85
July 17 – 20	Red Neckin' Toe Tappin/ Pigeon Forge, TN	\$1,490	Dec 2	Grove Park/ Gingerbread House	\$165
•	Nashville/ Music City USA	\$1,005	Dec 3 -7	Bavarian Holidays / Frankenmuth	\$1,090
July 24	Bristol Casino/ Bristol, VA	\$50	Dec 4 – 8	Christmas Mystery Adventure	\$1,345
July 24 – 27	New York Baseball/ Yankees vs. Mets	\$1,160	Dec 5	Tanglewood Park/ Christmas Lights	\$85
Aug 1 – 20	San Fransisco/ California / Pacific NW	\$5,050	Dec 5 – 7	Blue Christmas at Graceland	\$1,460
Aug 3 – 5	"Moses" / Lancaster, PA / PA Dutch	\$735	Dec 6 – 10	Boston's Gingerbread Christmas	\$1,295
Aug 5 – 6	Tangier Island	\$470	Dec 7 – 8	"Miracles of Christmas" / Lancaster, PA	\$490
Aug 8 – 12	Wind Creek/ Encore / Maryland Live Casing		Dec 8 – 10	Radio City Christmas/ New York	\$1,365
Aug 13 – 17	Elvis	\$1,375	Dec 8 – 10	Christmas Opryland Hotel	\$1,215
•		\$765	Dec 9	Biltmore House & Gardens Christmas	\$230
Aug 13 – 16	Resorts Casino & Hotel/ Atlantic City, NJ				
Aug 13 – 16 Aug 13 – 24	Resorts Casino & Hotel/ Atlantic City, NJ America's Northwest Land/ Fly Choo Choo Ch' Boogie / Rocky Gap Resort	\$4,895	Dec 10 – 16 Dec 16	Joyeux Noel/ Louisiana Biltmore House & Gardens Christmas	\$1,870 \$230

All pricing is for double occupancy. Please call our office for additional pricing/ information All tours listed will pickup at the locations below.

Pick Up Points For All Tours Listed: Roanoke, Blacksburg/Christiansburg, Dublin, Wytheville & Hillsville

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BITUARY Viers, Hubert

Hubert Viers, 91 of New Castle, VA, (formally of Oakwood, VA) passed away Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023. He retired from Norfolk and Western with over 38 years of service. Hubert was an avid beekeeper, gardener and outdoorsman. His love for God and the Church span over 60 years. He is preceded in death by his daughter, Terry Lynn Viers; parents, Ance and Clementine Viers; and brothers, Lucien and Mason Viers. He is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Beatrice Viers; son, Charles Alderson (Kathy) Viers; daughter, Sherry Robin (Wendell) Crowder; grandchildren, Jamey Charles Viers, Charles Jackson "CJ" (Stacey) Crowder, Christopher Lucas (Kara) Viers, Matthew Thomas Holden, Jesse Alan Crowder; great granddaughters, Aubree, Emmy and Ada Viers; Allie and Cora Crowder, Brother, Ralph Viers; and many nieces, nephews, brothers and sisters in Christ. Hubert served in the Army from 1952 1954. to The family would like to thank the caregivers from Lewis Gale Hospital and Amedysis Home Health Care for their kindness and compassion. Funeral services were held at 2 p.m.



Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023 at Paitsel Funeral Home with Minister Pat McPeek officiating. Interment will follow at Crossroads Church Cemetery with Military Rites performed by VFW Post # 4491. The family received friends 6-8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 6, 2023, at Paitsel Funeral Home. Arrangements by Paitsel Funeral Home: www.paitselfh.com.



yourself when you may not say I love you ever day throughout the year. Some people have a hard time expressing themselves and this is a way they can because of a day created solely to express love for not just your partner but to everyone. Yes, it was a day created by the card company and some guys think just a scam to make them spend money, but in the end this simple day is a day of love. I married my high school sweetheart, Brian. He was the class of 1983, and I was 1986." - Brenda Lipes "Robert and I will be married 33 years this coming Valentine's Day. We also dated for six years beforehand. This day means everything to





Lisa Gibson and her husband Robert have been sweetly married for 33 years and dated six years before they got married. "I couldn't think of a more perfect day to express my love for this man, he is my everything!" she shared.

me. This is the day of LOVE, and I couldn't think of a more perfect day to express my love for this man. He is my everything! He turned 63 in January. I will be 63 in April. I don't feel old!" - Lisa Gibson "It is a time to renew our love for each other and exchange our cards and box of candy. I have known my husband, James, for 67 years and married for 65. We have two wonderful children, including you, Miss Pam. Have a beautiful granddaughter, Olivia, who has blessed us with four great grands. We love our family time and get together as much as we can. We will be celebrating our son, Rick's birthday on February 14 as well. Togetherness is our way of showing love." - Betty Dudding "To be determined." – Marion Bo Trumbo

Upcoming public meetings scheduled 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 worldhunt. 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.

March 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.

-The New Castle Record

Governor releases human trafficking prevention report

Human in ing

the "During human trafficking month, my administration is expanding our efforts

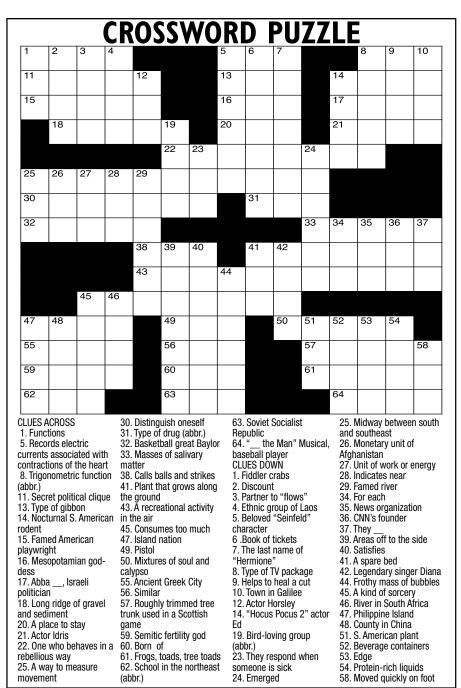
RICHMOND - During time, in Virginia once to victims, the com-Trafficking and for all. The critical mission was chartered Month, Gov. Glenn collaboration between to take a broad look at Youngkin announced the commission and my historic trends and prolast week that the administration has fos- vide recommendations Commission on Human tered new state roles to to combat this heinous Trafficking Prevention address human traffickand Survivor Support ing and legislation born released their report of commission recomon human traffick- mendations. Thank you Virginia. to the commission for On his first day your important work and in office, Youngkin reports, we are one step reaffirmed Virginia's closer to removing this commitment to com- evil from the commonbat human traffick- wealth," said Youngkin. ing by creating the "Eradicating human Human Trafficking trafficking in the com-Commission through monwealth remains at Executive Order 7. the center of our ser-The commission's vice, and we laud the recommendations many dedicated parfocus on reducing ties working tirelessly the number of human on this most important wealth," said Director trafficking incidents, issue," said First Lady of as well as identify- Suzanne S. Youngkin. of Criminal Justice ing solutions to fight "The commission was Services, Jackson Miller.

crime. Human trafficking remains a priority amongst the unfinished work in society to ensure the respect and inalienable rights of all people throughout the world," said Commission Chairman Michael K. Lamonea. "I applaud all the work that has been done by our sex trafficking coordinator. We must take every action to make resources about trafficking are available in the commonthe Department human trafficking in established following On Dec. 15, Youngkin proposed over \$1 million annually to create 10 new full-time positions at the Virginia State Police, including two human trafficking analysts.

COURTESY PHOTO

"I have known my husband James for 67 years and we have been married for 65!" Betty Dudding shared. "Togetherness is our way of showing love."

commonwealth. the continued increase of human trafficking cases both nationally and in Virginia. Comprised of survivors, law enforceto eradicate human ment professionals, and trafficking, the mod- practitioners who deliver ern-day slavery of our services and resources -The New Castle Record





PINION **BCH Eastern Divide Chap**ter: 2022 Annual Report

We began the year by partnering with another Virginia chapter at an educational Booth at the Great American Trail Horse Sale in Lexington, Virginia. In late April, we hosted a statewide camporee weekend near the Jefferson National Forest for 3 days of riding and the 1st annual Chili cook-off. Between riding and the campfire, we picked up a dozen bags of trash in a hunters parking area in Lignite.

We continue to do trail maintenance at our adopted White Cedar Horse Camp in Jefferson National Forest. The Carvins Cove Trail system is heavily used by bikers but several BCH members clear large trees from the trail whenever needed. We had our annual summer picnic and trail ride at the New Castle Gliderport where we had e-bike and glider training for the horses. They all passed with flying colors! A statewide fundraising opportunity drew a large group of volunteers to assist with the Horse and Hound Festival at Peaks of Otter Winery. The proceeds are donated to several animal organizations including Bach Country Horsemen of Virginia. Late summer brought us to our sister chapter at Virginia Highlands to volunteer for the Iron Mountain Jubilee Endurance ride. There, we were support team for the event and had time to spend with each other out of the saddle! Except, that is, for some of our members who were entered in the ride. Those received cheers as they passed us in the trail. Our chapter continues to be active in local projects including the completed McDonald Hollow trail system. We have been asked to represent equestrians on the New Castle Botetourt Scenic Rail Trail committee. We took a horse and calves to the Newport Tree farm for their October Pumpkin patch event for educating children about horses and bicycles. At the Christmas party, everyone received blaze orange vests to stay safe since Virginia now allows hunting on Sundays. In conclusion, the Eastern Divide Chapter continues to be proactive in maintaining and creating trail systems that have the interests of equestrians included. We advocate for educating the public on sharing the trail with safety in mind. -Marge Lewter



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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.





Three ways to give back

Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community

There are many ways to give back to your community. Some take very little effort and can make a big impact on a small organization. Joining forces where many pitch in to help makes larger goals seem attainable keeps your library financially solvent. Here are some ways you help that will allow the library to continue to serve the community with free media, computers, assistance, tourism information, and entertainment. The first way is to become a Friend of the Library. For only \$5 you can become a voting member, and have input on out future. It is a way to show your support year after year in the importance of libraries in the world. You can join by filling out a donation form at the library. Thanks! Secondly, you can link your Kroger card to Kroger Community Rewards. Just go to the Kroger Community rewards website and select CCPL as your charity of choice! A portion of your purchase goes to us and it does not impact your fuel points or other benefits. Thirdly, you can list us as a charity on Amazon Smile website. Here you have the same process and same items as the Regular Amazon website, but a portion of your purchase price goes to charity. We know you shop on Amazon, so get some of that money back into the community where you live! There are lots of other ways to participate in library activities from volunteering at events, donating books, and passing along your great ideas. Brainstorming with us to create fun children's programs, running for a board position, and becoming a trained desk volunteer are all ways people keep the library going. Thank you to all those who have helped in the past and continue to pitch in when you are called upon.

News from the 9th Morgan Griffith

Representative

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, we saw a sharp rise in remote work, or telework. We were living through unprecedented times. Telework became an option for many, allowing workers to do their jobs, to the best of their ability, from home.

That was then. It's been three years since the start of the pandemic, and it is largely behind us. Most Americans

have returned to work in person as they had done before COVID-19. Unfortunately, the federal workforce in large measure hasn't followed suit.

During President Biden's State of the Union address last March, he said, "People working from home can feel safe and begin to return to their offices. We're doing that here in the federal government. The vast majority of federal workers will once again work in person."

the case. According to a Federal Times report from October, just 1 in 3 federal workers had returned to work inperson full time in 2022. Before the pan-

demic, only about 3% of federal employees teleworked daily. In their most recent report on telework, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) said that nearly half, or 47%, of federal workers currently teleworked routinely or situationally in Fiscal Year 2021, which ended Sept. 30, 2022. Too many people around the country, those in the 9th District included, have seen the real-world effects of federal workers not being in their offices. Seniors have

waited on the phone for hours to talk to someone from the Social Security Administration about receiving their benefits as they have been unable to talk to someone in person. In part because the agency has kept their offices largely closed to the public.

Many veterans have waited for months to get their medical records from the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), part of the National Archives. At one point, the center had a backlog of approximately 500,000 requests for records. One constituent request-But this hasn't ed medals and records from the Navy in August backlogged. In May of 2021, he died. We received

year later in May of 2022. Because of closures to passport offices around the country, in-person appointments have mostly disappeared, leaving people with the inability to get a new passport in a timely manner.

In one case we had a constituent reach out for help after realizing his passport was expired. Because of staffing issues and backlogs, the regional passport agency could not provide an appointment due to limited appointments. After reaching out to all the passport agency acceptance centers in the country, the only available appointment was in Aurora, Colorado.

Obviously, federal workers aren't supposed to take home your tax return, passport application, or Social Security records. It's time for federal

workers to actually return to work so that they can more adequately serve the needs of the American people. When

Republicans took control of Congress, we ended proxy voting, which allowed Members of Congress to phone in their votes. More discussions to improve legislation occur in hallways, stairwells, and elevators than ever occurred on a zoom meeting with must do what we can to 30 people. The same of 2020 through our office. is true for federal work- our fellow Americans by Despite numerous follow- ers. More collaboration ups, the response from the on solving problems will NPRC was that they were occur when they actually our federal workforce. work together in the office.

the medals and records a while Republicans have tried for months to get information from the Biden Administration on how telework has decreased federal agencies' ability to perform their duties, the Administration has not responded. We can no longer

wait on the Administration. We have to push them. Accordingly, just a few days ago I voted in favor of the Stopping Home Office Work's Unproductive Problems Act, or the SHOW UP Act. The SHOW Up

Act, which passed the House largely along party lines, requires federal agencies to return to pre-pandemic levels by reinstating telework policies that were in place on Dec. 31, 2019. The bill would

also require federal agencies to submit a study to Congress looking at the effects of telework, whether it improved or harmed agency effectiveness.

If an agency can demonstrate to Congress that they are able to perform better with telework, while also lowering agency costs and ensuring agency network security, increased telework can be considered as an option. Bottomline, we

best serve the needs of promoting productivity and effectiveness in I believe that is

Unfortunately, returning to work in person.



V dot roadwatch

INTERSTATE 81

INTERSTATE 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 the southbound exit 137 along a five mile section of both northbound and at Wildwood Road and southbound Interstate 81 in Roanoke County and the city of Salem. The 141 are also included in shoulders will be built up the project. Expected before barrier wall can be completion in early 2026. installed for road crews to work behind. Barrier I-81 wall will be installed AT EXIT along the shoulders in RIVER the spring and summer. REPLACEMENT Two lanes of I-81 traf-IN fic in each direction will remain open during the project with periodic lane closures scheduled during nighttime hours or outside of peak travel times the Montgomery/Pulaski as needed. Drivers can expect the following lane bridge is being demolclosures and upcoming

SHIFT TRAFFIC WILDWOOD ON ROAD: Expect a traffic shift with narrow width on Wildwood road after exiting I-81 southbound heading towards Salem. Southbound and northbound I-81 exit and entrance ramp narrows possible at Route 311.

impacts on northbound

and southbound I-81:

WORK ZONE SPEED: With narrow 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 dur-

Nightly lane closures 81 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 The project also includes replacing six bridges, widening two bridges, installing approximately 2.6 miles of sound barrier walls along northbound I-81, improving off-ramp intersection adding interchange lighting at exits 137, 140 and

NORTHBOUND 105 NEW BRIDGE MONTGOMERY COUNTY - Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at County line. The old ished. 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. spacing in lanes due to 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: Alternating ing nighttime hours, 12 lane closures and flaga.m., to 5 a.m. Drivers ging operations will be should watch for message present on Route 605, 13th boards dates and times located under the New IMPROVEMENTS the ramp will be closed. River Bridge, for work WITH DETOUR overhead on the bridge.

structural steel deliver- travel lane and a raised Route 460 and 0.55 miles ies 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 O P E R A T I O N S ROANOKE IN 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

STREET А median. A new roadway will extend 13th Street to Norfolk Avenue and the The bridge is scheduled intersection at 13th Street to reopen by the end of 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 is switched to the northbound lane of 13th Street. Southbound traffic will still be detoured around the work zone.

ROANOKE COUNTY

RIDGE BLUE PARKWAY CLOSURE The Blue Ridge Parkway will be repairing slope failures and a culvert failure at mile marker 127.9. A 15-mile tion of Route 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

ROUTE 616 CLOSURE - On Feb. 27 at 8 a,m,, Route 616 (Blue Ridge Springs Road) will be SE closed to traffic to for a bridge replacement over the Branch of Glade

from the dead end. A detour will be in place. the day on March 2, 2023.

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

ROUTE 611 (GREYLEDGE ROAD) – A 1.5 mile sec-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 com-

pleted, 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.

T R A F F I C 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.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

ROUTE 8 PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

- Work will soon begin to construct Pedestrian Improvements on Route 8 in Riner. The work zone will begin at the intersection with Route 669 (Union Valley Road) and will end at the current site of the Atlantic Union Bank. Drivers should expect lane closures with flagging operations between the hours of 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. through the start of the project until May 24, end of the school year. Once the school year is complete, lane closures will expand in hours to 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Expected completion is late summer 2023.

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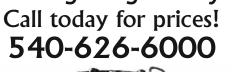
CLOSURES: Alternating LANE 141 to marker

left and right lane and CLOSURES: Nighttime way. Located in a residenshoulder closures during alternating lane closures tial neighborhood just east nighttime hours between will be in place on I-81 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday northbound between this project will improve through Thursday, are mile markers 104-106 possible. Lane widths from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. will be reduced to 11 feet. the following morning. Northbound lane clo- SLOW ROLLS: Slow sures from I-81 mile rolls may be utilized project entails reconmarker 136 to 141. periodically on both structing about 0.2-mile Southbound Lane clo- the northbound and of 13th Street as an sures from I-81 mile southbound lanes from improved, two-lane road-136. mile marker 98-109 for

tion of 13th Street SE located 1.05 mile from in Roanoke is underof downtown Roanoke, traffic flow and connectivity along 13th Street SE from Tazewell Avenue to Norfolk Avenue. The way with 10.5-foot-wide

project to improve a por- Creek. The bridge is

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BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

CHESTNUT GROVE CHURCH

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

CORNERSTONE CHURCH

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

CRAIG HEALING SPRINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

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

CRAIG VALLEY BAPTIST

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

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.

LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST

Rev. Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, & 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.

LEVEL GREEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

3388 Cumberland Gap Rd. Newport, Duane Wente, Minister, 540-544-7179. Sunday School 10:00am, Sunday Morning Worship 11:00am, Children's Church 11:00am. Choir Practice, bi-weekly 7:00pm, Ladies meeting first Monday of each month at 7:00pm.

LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST

Pastor Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle, 540-525-7662. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, & 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.

MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN

4199 Craig Valley Drive, New Castle, Jonathan Lee, pastor, 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: craigcountycommunitychurch@gmail.com

ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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).

> 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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deposit. Upon refund of the deposit, the sale shall be void and of no effect. Additional terms may be announced at the time of the sale. The Substitute Trustee will convey the above-described property to the purchaser(s) by Special Warranty deed at settlement and makes no additional representations or warranties of any kind regarding the title to said property. John K. Prillaman, Esq.Substitute Trustee For Information Contact: John K. Prillaman, Esq. **OPN LAW 3140 Chaparral** Drive Roanoke Virginia 24018 (540) 725-8194

Legals - City of

H. Robert Light Clerk of Salem City Council (703) 449-5800.

ORDER OF

from the treatment process septic tank will be disposed by transfer and further treatment at the Roanoke

Salem, Va. 24153 February 17, 2023 at 10 am

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Emergency food and shelter funds available for Montgomery County and Radford City

Montgomery County has been awarded \$26,684 in federal funds through the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program for Phase 40. The state-set-aside fund award for Radford City is \$12,303. A local board will determine how the funds awarded will be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in the area. Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must 1) be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive federal funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4)practicenondiscrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board Qualifying agencies are urged to apply.Public or private agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact the United Way of the New River Valley at 540-381-2066 for an application. The deadline for applications to be received is February 22, 2023



ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA CODE §§ 1-211.1;8.01-316,-317,20-104 CASE No.CWF210000261 **BOTETORT Circuit Court 1** W.Main Street, Fincastle VA 24090 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re ARTHUR BERNHARDT HENSLEY, JR., DECEASED. The

object of this suit is to: authorize the Administer of the Estate of Arthur Bernhardt Hensley, Jr. to distribute the entire estate to the descendants of the decedent's mother. It is ORDERED that any unknown heirs, devisees, successors and assigns of Arthur Bernhardt Hensley, Jr. appear at the above named court and protect his/her interests on or before MARCH 6, 2023. January 13, 2023 TOMMY L. MOORE; CLERK

Legals - City of Radford

Order of Publication

VA Code Ann. §§8.01-316, -317 Commonwealth of Virginia City of Radford Circuit Court located at 619 2nd Street # 149 Radford. VA 24141 Case no. CL22-6839 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Estate of **Charles Preston Hall,** DECEASED. The object of this suit is to: Establish a copy of a will as the true Last Will of Charles Preston Hall. It is ORDERED that any interested children/

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA VA CODE§§1 211.1; 8.01-316, 20-104 Case No. CL23-40 ROANOKE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT 305 F MAIN STREET. SALEM. VA 24153 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re CHLOE GRACE DUNN v. The object of this suit is to: change the minor's name. It is ORDERED that MICHAEL MATTHEW DUNN appear at the abovenamed court and protect his/her interests on or before March 14, 2023 @2:30pm. JANUARY 11, 2023 STEVEN A MCGRAW, clerk

NOTICE OF BOARD **OF EQUALIZATION MEETING TO: CITY OF SALEM REAL ESTATE OWNERS** The Board of Equalization

for Real Estate Assessments in the City of Salem will meet on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Salem Civic Center located at 1001 Roanoke Blvd, Salem, Virginia. The Board will continue its meeting from time to time thereafter, by adjournments, at and for such time or times, at the same place or such other place or places, as may be designated and deemed necessary by the Board to accomplish and complete its task of equalization of real estate assessments and to discharge the duties imposed by law upon the Board. Said meeting will be adjourned on April 25, 2023 unless the powers of the Board are extended by order of the Circuit Court for the City of Salem. The purpose of the Board meeting is to equalize property assessments in the City and to hear and give consideration to all complaints of any inequalities in such assessment so that the

Zoning Administration NOTICE OF **PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Board of Zoning Appeals of the City of Salem, Virginia will hold a public hearing, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2309 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, on February 23, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, to consider the following applications. Request of the City of Salem, property owner, and Roanoke County. project administrator, for a variance from Section 106-226.7 of the Code of the City of Salem, to allow construction of the greenway trail, extending from the existing trail on Salem City owned property (Tax Map # 178-4-1) near Kingsmill Drive to the Roanoke County owned property (Parcel ID # 056.01-01-17.00-0000)near Riverside Nurserv, Section 106-226.7(A) states that no new construction shall be permitted, except where the effect of such development on flood heights is fully offset.

Request of the City of Salem, property owner, for a variance from Section 106-226.7 of the Code of the City of Salem, to allow the bridge widening of Apperson Drive Bridge along with incidental greenway trail work on and near the 1600 block East Riverside Drive (Tax Map # 259-2-1). Section 106—226.7(A) states that no new construction shall be permitted, except where the effect of such development on flood heights is fully offset. At this hearing, all parties in interest will be given an opportunity to be heard, present evidence, and show cause why such requests should or should not be

PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 CRAIG COMBINED COURT- JUVENILE Case No JJ002185-16-00 Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re EVANS, JACOB LUCAS The object of this suit scheduled to be heard on February 17, 2023 in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for Craig County located at 182 Main Street, New Castle Virginia 24127 is to terminate the residual parental Rights of the father of Jacob Lucas Evans thought to be either Ryan Quinlin, Mark Evans, Kevin Scott Minnix, or Unknown Father pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 16.1-283 B and C, and which child is five (5) years of age and was born to Katlin Daniel Evans. Residual parental rights are defined in Section 16.1-228 of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended) as the rights and responsibilities remaining with a parent after the parent loses custody of a child, including but not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition. The ties between you and your child are severed forever and you become a legal stranger to the child. It is ORDERED that UNKNOWN FATHER appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 02/17/2023 10:30AM signed by Patty Taylor, Clerk 12/19/2022

Public Notice Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a

Control Plant. The facility proposes to release the treated wastewaters in Masons Creek in Roanoke County in the Roanoke River watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. The permit will limit the following pollutants to amounts that protect water quality: physical and chemical properties, nutrients, organic matter, solids, and bacteria. HOW TO

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THE NEW CASTLE RECORD • WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023 • PAGE 7



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CRAIG GIRLS **OPEN PIONEER** HOOPS AT COVINGTON

The Craig County girls finished winless in Pioneer District basketball games so they'll go to Covington for the first round of the district tournament. The Rockets will play at Covington next Monday, February 13.

"Covington is a team that we most certainly can play with, and we have a great chance to win," said Craig coach Brock Jones. "We will focus all



Hannah Ratliff pushes the ball for Craig.

week on stopping their best player, Laureen Bragg. We will create a game plan and try to take her out of the game and force someone else to beat us. She had 21 the first game and 16 in the second. The main thing is we must box her out. If we box her out and hold her to under 10 points I believe we win the game.'

If the Rockets win they would play in the district semifinals on February 16 at the sites of the higher seeds. That would put Craig against either Eastern Montgomery or Parry McCluer, who come into the week tied at the top of the standings with 7-1 records each in Pioneer District games. They will play at James River next Monday to determine the regular season champion and top seed for the tournament. The semifinal winners get an automatic bid to the region tournament. The Rockets finished the regular sea-

son at 1-15 after dropping their last two games



Brooklyn Cayton studies a foul shot.

last week. Last Monday at Giles they gave the host Spartans all they could handle before falling, 53-49. Craig trailed by just two at the half, 3, and the game was close to the final buzzer "We should have won," said Jones. 'We played extremely well as a team." Freshman Kallie Fisher led the Rockets with a full stat line. Kallie had 15 points, seven rebounds, six steals and four assists. "I told Kallie this is the expectation from here on out and into the future," said Jones. "She has to be a 'score first' person looking to attack the rim like she did. She played really well and I am super excited for her to have a breakout game to build her confidence moving forward." Senior Annabelle Gregory had 12 points, 12 steals, four assists and seven rebounds. "Annie is our energizer bunny," said Jones. "She plays at 100 miles per hour every game and she sets the tone for us offensively when we can get out in transition and look to attack before the defense gets set up." Madison Underwood chipped in eight points and 10 rebounds. Hannah Ratliff had nine points, four steals and six boards. "We continue to not shoot very well from the field as a team," said Jones. "We shot 24 percent from the field compared to their 36 percent. We got more shots on the PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN rim that didn't fall, but we Madison Underwood looks did score twice as much to throw an outlet pass. against them as what we average for the year. The girls played extremely hard and pushed the ball and ran, as we wanted too."



John Stafford is the new baseball coach at Craig County.

The ground hog predicted six more weeks of winter but that won't stop the Craig County baseball team from getting out the gloves and bats to prepare for the coming season. The Rockets have a new coach this year, as John Stafford year's interim coach, Zachary Peters. Stafford is a 1995

graduate of Northside High School and a middle school English and Social Studies teacher at Craig County. He graduated from Mary Baldwin College and his first teaching job was at Franklin County High School where he was teacher and was on the football staff.

STAFFORD IS NEW CRAIG COUNTY BASEBALL COACH

college in Georgetown, instruction and academ-Delaware. His sopho- ics in the classroom." more year Del Tech went the 1998 Division II World Series. Del Teach won the World Series in 2001 and coach Curtis Brock, who mentored Stafford, has been inducted into numerous Delaware and Maryland takes over from last Halls of Fame after retiring from over 30 years of coaching in 2018.

coaching experience, Stafford was an assistant at Mount Airy High School in North Carolina.

late well to baseball,"

Stafford played base- provide a structured and who played extensiveball at Delaware Tech, a organized baseball pronationally ranked junior gram while supporting

to Millington, Tennessee a team that went to and finished fourth in the Region 1C tournament last spring after finishing fourth in the Pioneer District under Peters, who stepped in to somewhat "save" the program. The Rockets missed the entire 2020 and 2021 seasons due to a combination of COVID and lack of boys coming out for the team. Peters, As far as baseball who is not a teacher at the school, stepped up to coach last year and took the Rockets to the region tournament, where they "I have quite a bit lost to defending state more football coach- champion Auburn. Craig ing experience and I has a good nucleus and teams we will be feel like it will trans- returning from that team.

he said. "I know the off- of experience coming ence to lean on. I am the-field and organiza- back from last year's a special education tional principles are the team," said Stafford. istration and the comsame in any successful "We have a few seniors munity and alumni to high school sports pro- we plan to build around fill out our staff with a Before Mary Baldwin gram. Our goal is to and a core of juniors couple more coaches."

ly last season that I'm already counting on to be impact players for us this year. We also have Stafford takes over a group of sophomores with game experience and a couple freshmen competing to fill out the lineup, so we definitely should have some depth from top to bottom coming into the season."

Jason Lucas, who assisted Peters last year, will return in an assistant coaching role.

"Coach Lucas has extensive experience with these particular players and that is a huge help for me coming into the season," said Stafford. "He has been through our league and knows the players playing. We are blessed "We have quite a bit to have his experiworking with admin-

ROCKET BOYS PLAYING FOR 4th SEED IN DISTRICT

The Craig County boys' basketball team will wrap up the regular season this week needing a win or two to grab the fourth seed in the coming Pioneer Tournament.

Craig comes into the week with a 3-7 Pioneer record and two games left, at Covington Monday and at Highland tonight, Wednesday. Bath County is also 3-7 and has split two games with Craig. The Chargers play 8-2 Parry McCluer and 1-10 Eastern Montgomery this week.

Highland is 3-8 and the Rams have one game left, against the Rockets tonight in Monterey. Highland beat Craig the first time around, in New Castle, by two points, 62-60, and the Rockets felt like they should have won that game. They'll need to turn that score around tonight to have a shot at fourth place in the district.





On Friday the girls wrapped up the regular season with a 55-23 loss at Narrows. Craig shot just 14 percent in this one and that makes it tough to win.

"Nothing went our way," said Jones. "At one point in the game we had five straight offensive rebounds on one possession, and we couldn't finish it off. We shot extremely bad in this game; the girls were aggravated at half time because shots weren't falling. We talked about playing hard on defense and how some games that's the bad luck you draw, and it surely was this day."

Sophomore Gracie Huffman was pulled up from the jayvee team as Craig had to cancel the jayvee game due to a sick player who couldn't make the trip. That left the Rockets with only four jayvee girls and, after getting pulled up to the varsity, Huffman led the Rockets with five points while Brooklyn Cayton, another sophomore, had four.

"We still have control of our seeding but need to be ready to go this week, as it is a make or break week for us," said Craig coach Ryan Frazier.

The district tournament begins next Monday, February 13, and if the Rockets can grab the fourth seed they'll host the fifth seed in the opening round. The second and third seeds also get home games while top-seeded Narrows, who has yet to lose a Pioneer game, gets a first round bye. Covington and Parry McCluer were battling for the second seed coming into the week while East Mont will be the seventh seed with just one district win to date.

The district semifinals are February 16 at the higher seeds, and the championship is February 17 at the higher seed. There is also a third-place consolation game that night.

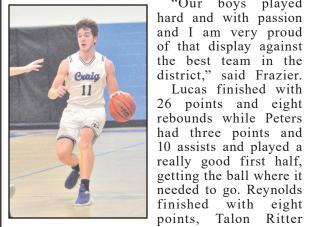
The Rockets dropped to 3-15 overall when they lost three home games last week, beginning with a 64-38 loss to Giles on January 30. Matthew Lucas had 20 points, Hayden Reynolds had eight and Zach Peters scored six. Craig fell behind by 16 at the half and never recovered.

On Friday first place Narrows came to New Castle and took a 74-48 win over the Rockets.

'We came out timid against Narrows and didn't make them work for anything," said Frazier. "We had a goal this time to make sure that they knew they were in a game and that we would fight hard until the end, even if the final score didn't show it. Narrows has one of the better players in the area in Kolier Pruett and we knew we would have trouble slowing him down and we did as he scored 37 points."

While Craig lost by 26, the score doesn't show the whole story. The Rockets led by three after the first quarter and trailed by just three at the half before Narrows pulled away after intermission. "Our boys played

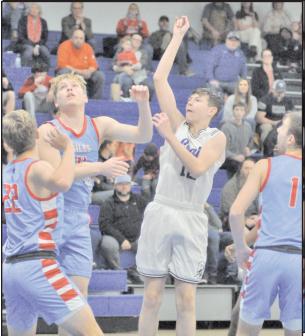
Lucas finished with



Jaycob Wolfe brings the ball up for the Rockets.

Talon Ritter is open for a short shot.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



hard and with passion Hayden Reynolds puts up a shot against Giles.

On Saturday after- quarter," said Frazier. the best team in the noon the Rockets played host to Montcalm in a non-district game and lost 59-49. The game was tied after one quarhad three points and ter before Montcalm points and six assists 10 assists and played a opened an really good first half, point lead at the half. came up with nine

needed to go. Reynolds game the boys showed ing with some sickness. finished with eight a lot of heart, being points, Talon Ritter down by as many as Craighonored the team's had five and Drew 20 before cutting lead two seniors, Peters Duncan scored four. to seven in the fourth and Austin Hickson.

Lucas had 27 points while Reynolds had 14, 12 of which came on four three-pointers. Peters had five eight while Jaycob Wolfe "This was another rebounds despite deal-

Prior to the game