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# THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



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## Lamb was a teacher, mentor, friend to many

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

When someone touches the lives of others in a meaningful way, their passing creates a void that is difficult to fill.

Craig County lost one of its finest men on May 20, William David Lamb, at his own home at Oakland Heights Farm in Gordonsville.

Lamb grew up in Craig County and rode his pony to school.

His family shared that he often told the story of organizing a trail ride for his senior class – a foreshadowing of his life to come.

"David was both teacher and mentor to countless individuals who rode or trained at his farm or were among the many young people he and his wife Sally reached through 4-H programs," they added. "He was one of those unique individuals who was able to turn his passion, in this case the horse, into his life's work. He was one of the rare individuals in the equine world who could be truly called a horseman."

Lamb held membership in the American Quarter Horse Association, Virginia Quarter Horse Association, East Coast Cutting Horse Association, Virginia Horse Council and the New Castle Historical Society. He was a tireless advocate for the equine industry in Virginia, both promoting programs

and developments, and interacting with Virginia legislators to ensure that any legislation passed was favorable to everyone in the business.

It was well known that Lamb loved cutting horse competitions and was a competitor for many years. He found his true niche in life, however, when he began offering trail rides to the public at Oakland Heights.

"He enjoyed meeting people, dispensing history lessons, educating people about the rural lifestyle and handing out his own version of homespun wisdom," the family said. "His large personality and wit drew riders back time and time again to enjoy his company as much as the ride. David was a loving, caring person who was not above pulling off the occasional practical joke or teasing a tenderfoot."

Lamb was proud of the fact that he was of native American ancestry, was unabashed patriotic and served his country in the Army Reserves.

His family added, "He never met a piece of carrot cake or pecan pie that he did not love. He told everyone that his favorite time of year to ride on the mountain was when the fall leaves showered down with their myriad of colors. When you left the farm, he always told you to come back, saying, 'We ride every

day.' At the root of it all, Lamb was a horseman."

He began his public equine career by working for North Wales Quarter Horses in Northern Virginia. There he developed his love of the cutting horse sport. In the 1970s, he managed a farm for Jim Lewis, in Albemarle County, which ran 500 head of cattle and managing that farm garnered Lamb the 1973

Farmer of the Year award for Albemarle County.

During his time there he trained and showed cutting horses, as well as western pleasure horses.

Lamb also garnered numerous Jim Reno trophies to attest to his success in the sport of cutting.

In 1979 Lamb acquired Oakland Heights Farm in Gordonsville, and he

See Lamb, page 2



COURTESY PHOTO  
**David Lamb was both teacher and mentor to countless individuals who rode or trained at his farm or were among the many young people he and his wife, Sally, reached through 4-H programs. He was one of those unique individuals who was able to turn his passion with horses into his life's work, a rare individual in the equine world who could be truly called a horseman and will be greatly missed.**



**On Aug. 3, lifelong Craig County resident Shaun VanDyke was pinned by his wife, Gerri VanDyke, who is director of student services at Craig County Public Schools, as being promoted to the Rank of command sergeant major in the U.S Army.**

## VanDyke has been promoted to rank of command sergeant major in the U.S Army

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

Today's military is faced with many issues that previously never existed. For one to continue in the field is a true testament of their heart for the United States of America.

On Aug. 3, lifelong Craig County resident Shaun VanDyke, son of Clay and Marlene VanDyke and husband to Gerri VanDyke, who is director of student services at Craig County Public Schools, was promoted to the rank of command sergeant major in the U.S Army.

This is a prestigious and honorable achievement obtained by less than 1% of the total U.S. Army enlisted force, sergeant major is the highest rank any enlisted military service member can hold.

"I enlisted into the U.S. Army Military Police Corp in June of 2002 at the age of 20 years old," VanDyke shared. "I was always interested in hearing my Grandfather Coy Shupe, tell stories about his adventures in the U.S. Navy, and I wanted to be able to have stories of my own to tell. Therefore, following the 9/11 attacks, I figured that was as good a time as any to start my own adventure, and so I did."

VanDyke admitted that over the last 21 years of service in both the Active Army and Reserve components, he has had plenty of adventures.

"I had two tours in Iraq, a tour as a Drill Sergeant in Ft Jackson, South Carolina, and a deployment to Guantanamo Bay, a place my grandfather frequented while in the Navy," VanDyke said.

"As a Private First Class (E3) back in 2003, I remember thinking that the Battalion Command



COURTESY PHOTO  
**Shaun VanDyke was accompanied by his wife and family as he was promoted to the rank of command sergeant major in the U.S. Army, a prestigious and honorable achievement obtained by less than 1% of the total U.S. Army enlisted force. Sergeant major is the highest rank any enlisted military service member can hold.**

See Lamb, page 2

## First practice for Craig Co. Soccer Club is coming up



**Craig County Soccer Club**  
Starts 1 September

Rockets Ages 7-18  
Tiny Rockets & Little Rockets Ages 3-7

**TO REGISTER**  
Text/Email your player info to Robin Nobles @ NCKsoccer@yahoo.com (540)765-7805

Player Name:..... Player DOB:.....  
Phone #:..... OR EMAIL:.....

COURTESY IMAGE  
The Craig County Soccer Club first practice and sign-up day was Aug. 28, however new players are welcome to come to the practices and see if they enjoy the sport before they sign up. Teams will be divided into: Tiny & Little Rockets (ages 3-7), U-10, U-14 and U-19. Participants are encouraged to bring their own water. Contact Craig Rockets on Facebook, Robin Nobles at NCKsoxxer@yahoo.com or (540) 765-7805.



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# Lamb from page 1

and wife, Sally, began pursuing their dream of building a horse operation and began green breaking young and troubled horses.

"He green broke horses for notables in the horse world such as Rodney Jenkins and Jimmie Lee," they added.

In the 1980s, he exported horses to South America to be used for military and ranch work. It was then that Lamb began to specialize in ranch horses and trail riding horses for the East Coast market.

He bought, trained and sold quiet trail horses (many imported from states such as Oklahoma) to the East Coast market and became the "go to" man for those who were looking for a quality trail horse.

Oakland Heights became a center of education for future members of the equine industry.

"Both David and Sally were local 4-H leaders for more than 25 years, traveling up and down the East Coast to competitions," the family said. "Oakland Heights is also the site of an annual 'Cowboy Camp.' The camp exposes the youth to horse knowledge, history, and the cowboy way of life."

In addition, Oakland Heights was known for always maintaining a "robust lesson program," teaching horsemanship skills to youth and adults alike.

Then, in the mid-80s, Oakland Heights began offering trail rides to the public.

"David loved his job as trail boss, leading the rides, and meeting people from all walks of life. Riders not only experienced the joy of riding a horse, but got a history lesson, were educated about rural lifestyles and agriculture in general," they shared. "David also dispensed wisdom, Will Rogers style with a Southern twist. Riders would come back time and again just for the experience of riding with Lamb."

Some of Lamb's accomplishments included:

- He was a lifetime member of the American Quarter Horse Association and the Virginia Quarter Horse Association.
- In 2022, he was inducted into the VQHA Board of Directors Hall of Fame.
- He held memberships in the National Cutting Horse Association and the East Coast Cutting Horse Association and the New Castle Historical Society
- He was instrumental in the founding of the Virginia Horse Council and was a member for more than 40 years.
- One of Lamb's legacies will be his work with Virginia legislators to ensure that equine interests are promoted, protected and preserved.
- He was involved in legislative initiatives including the creation and updating of Virginia's equine liability law, the creation of the Virginia Horse Center, establishing the definition of a legal fence in Virginia, agritourism laws and the founding of the Virginia Horse Industry Board.
- He assisted in producing the

council's annual legislative trail ride, which gives Virginia legislators the opportunity to bring their families, enjoy a weekend in the country and educate themselves about the Virginia Horse Industry. He also furnished horses for the ride and hosted the rides on numerous occasions.

- He furnished horses for a Congressional trail ride, hosted by AQHA.
- He provided horses and participated in several inaugural parades at the national level and in 2022 carried the American flag in the Virginia Inaugural Parade.

"David was very proud of the fact that Oakland Heights, under his son's supervision, raises rodeo bulls and hosts a rodeo from May to September of each year," his family shared. "His life was touched by movie stars, politicians and even an astronaut, yet the proximity of fame neither awed him nor changed his perceptions of life. He was the epitome of the expression 'What you see is what you get.' He was a man of integrity, strong opinions, and an abiding passion for horses. If you spent any time riding with him, you know he could be tough but fair and many say he engendered such loyalty that you never wanted to disappoint Lamb."

Several have said that Lamb was a traditionalist who believed in the values of loving one's God, family and country in that order.

Lamb is survived by his son, Matthew Lamb, brother, Jerry Lamb, and sister, Catherine Ponton (Dickie), and nephew, Richie. He was preceded in death by his wife of 52 years, Sally G. Lamb, and his parents, Elbert and Hazel Lamb.

"I am so proud of him and his accomplishments," his sister, Cathy, shared. "He shared his love of horses to all who came and told history of the farm and area. It is hard to believe a small-town guy ended up buying horses for another country and meeting dignitaries. He also took care of our parents and Sally's at the farm when they were unable to live alone. He is missed!"

A celebration of Lamb's life will be held at Oakland Heights Farm, Gordonsville, on Sept. 10 at 3 p.m., followed by a potluck supper. Attendees are requested to bring a side dish or dessert and the beverage of their choice.

The family requested that memorial contributions may be made to the Four Horseshoes Youth Foundation, 17110 James Madison Highway, Gordonsville, VA 22942.

"He was a Southern gentleman, with the manners and respect that are expected from a Virginian. He believed in the value of hard work and that none of us is 'owed a living' and his success was based on that philosophy," his family added. "David espoused the western lifestyle and dressed for it every day in his trademark hat, boots and jeans and mounted on an American Quarter Horse. He believed not only in working hard but also in taking pride in your work and the life that you were creating."



# 40th Craig County Fall Festival set for Oct. 14

Craig County Historical Society is pleased to announce plans for the fortieth Craig County Fall Festival on Oct. 14, 2023. Held on the second Saturday of October since 1983, the festival is a major fundraiser for the Society as well as a popular community event.

Registration forms have been mailed to over 100 vendors who participated in the 2022 Fall Festival. Fee for a 10x10 space will be \$75.00. Forms can also be found in the brochure rack on the porch of the Old Brick Hotel on Court Street or contact

See Festival, page 3



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

# VanDyke from page 1

Sergeant Major (E9) was like a celebrity. I thought how great it would be if I could be a Sergeant Major one day," he added. "It wasn't until my promotion to Master Sergeant (E8) in 2017, that I realized that my dream of being a Sergeant Major could maybe be a reality. I knew I would have to put in a lot of work to set myself apart from my peers, since less than one percent of enlisted Soldiers are authorized a Sergeant Major promotion."

VanDyke shared that in his effort to make it to the top 1%, he volunteered for every school he could, asking for the difficult assignments and completed his master's degree.

"In December 2021, I earned a seat in the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, a two year online academic program intended to prepare Master Sergeants for promotion to Sergeant Major," he said.

On Aug. 3, VanDyke finally reached the top of that mountain and achieved his heart desired goal.

"I was promoted to Command Sergeant Major in the U.S. Army Reserve component, the top one percent of Army Enlisted Soldiers," he said. "Of course, I did not do it alone. I had a wealth of support from my wife Gerri, my family, and numerous mentors leading the way."

He added, "Getting

here has been a wonderful adventure, one I can't wait to tell my future grandchildren. I am truly honored to be where so many great leaders have come before me, and I can't wait to see what happens next."

"I am extremely proud of my husband's accomplishments. His work ethic, commitment, and dedication are his driving force," Gerri shared. "He tells our children that they can accomplish anything that they put their mind to, nothing is out of reach with hard work and dedication. He lives his mantra out every day. I am very blessed to have him in my life as my husband, father of my children's best friend, and mentor."

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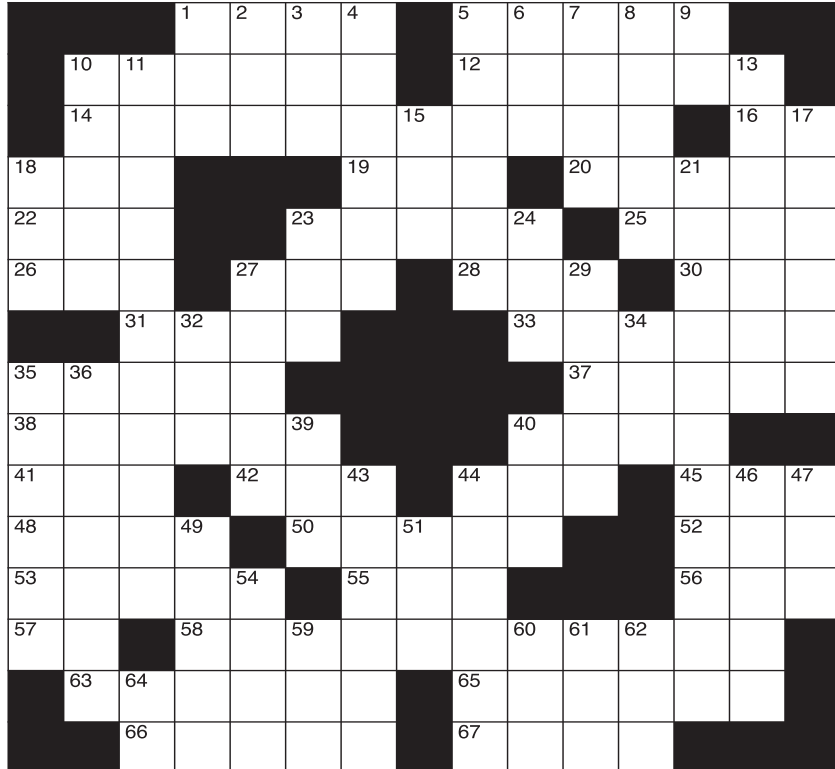
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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- |   |  |                                  |                               |
|---|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| CLUES ACROSS                                | 30. Indicates near                     | 65. National capital of Zambia   | 24. Snitch                    |
| 1. Currency of Guinea                       | 31. Spiritual leader                   | 66. Tantalizes                   | 27. Trimmed                   |
| 5. Avert something bad                      | 33. Soup dish                          | 67. Dark brown or black          | 29. Greek god of desire       |
| 10. Sounds                                  | 35. Philippine island                  | CLUES DOWN                       | 32. Take to the limit         |
| 12. Immediate dangers                       | 37. No longer fashionable              | 1. Not naturally outgoing        | 34. Cool!                     |
| 14. Legendary Tar Heels coach               | 38. Peaks                              | 2. Exclamation of pain           | 35. Sound mental health       |
| 16. Californium                             | 40. Alabama football team              | 3. Polynesian garland of flowers | 36. Native American group     |
| 18. Work standards government dept. (abbr.) | 41. ___ King Cole                      | 4. Surrounded by water           | 39. Test for high schoolers   |
| 19. Coastal Scottish town                   | 42. Digital audiotape                  | 5. Church towers                 | 40. Rocky peak                |
| 20. Triangular lower back bones             | 44. Open trough                        | 6. Hot beverage                  | 43. Preferences               |
| 22. Trouble                                 | 45. The woman                          | 7. Body parts                    | 44. Bother                    |
| 23. A way to smile                          | 48. Cools down                         | 8. Travel documents              | 46. Call attention to (slang) |
| 25. Something that is not what it seems     | 50. Turkic language                    | 9. Railway                       | 47. Snake-like fish           |
| 26. Of she                                  | 52. Body part                          | 10. Gradually wear away          | 49. Bulgarian capital         |
| 27. Temporary living quarters               | 53. Pulse steadily                     | 11. Measuring instrument         | 51. Don't know when yet       |
| 28. Bag-like structure in a plant or animal | 55. Embedded computer hardware company | 13. Minor dust-ups               | 54. Italian Seaport           |
|   | 56. Indicates shape                    | 15. Strongly alkaline solution   | 59. Brooklyn hoopster         |
|   | 57. Thou (plural)                      | 17. Extreme scarcity of food     | 60. Where to bathe            |
|   | 58. Odd and remarkable                 | 18. Dash                         | 61. Equal, prefix             |
|   | 63. An evening party                   | 21. Philly culinary specialty    | 62. Beverage container        |
|   |  | 23. Popular lager ___ Adams      | 64. Denotes openness          |

# Music, snacks will be at old Clifton's Cash Store



SUBMITTED BY DIANE GIVENS

The early 1900s building once known as Clifton's Cash Store is being renovated by the Craig County Historical Society. Come see the progress and enjoy old time music played by local musicians. Snacks and cheese will be available, since Clifton was famous for his cheese. Music will begin around 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 5. Attendees are encouraged to bring their instruments and join in. It is located on Main Street across from Katie's Pet Grooming.

## Festival from page 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

S	Y	L	I	S	T	A	V	E				
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H	E	R	P	A	D	S	A	C	E	P	I	
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The Society appreciates the continued support received to date from Craig Botetourt Electric Coop, Shelor Motor Mile and Food County.

Self-guided tours will be available of the hotel museum, including the gift store where Hometown Collectibles of local county landmarks and all editions of "In and Around Craig" local history books are on sale. The Genealogy Library and cabins will be open.

Entertainment this year will be from the Gopher Market Stage loaned by Zimmerman's Equipment. Musicians already booked include Merchant Copy, Eastern Divide, and Phatt Boys Band. Students from

Craig County High School music program will also perform. The popular flatfoot contest will once again be held, with prizes for adults and children.

The Marshall Reynolds Memorial Antique Car show will be on Middle Street and is sponsored by South Main Auto in Blacksburg. All participants will receive a commemorative plaque and a goodie bag. For information contact Jackie Taylor, 540-520-5555. Car Show forms may also be found in the brochure rack on the Hotel porch.

Save the date of Oct. 14 and plan to attend this unique hometown event. Wear your vintage clothing in honor of our founding fathers. Everyone welcome!

-Diane Givens

# God's House Is Always Open

**BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
11599 Cumberland Gap Road/Rt. 42, New Castle, 864-5242; church phone: 544-7040 Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m., Sunday School 10:30 a.m., Choir Tueday 7:30p.m., Youth Outreach and Missions Program. Rev. San Kang.

**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 Services 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. Tel: 540-473-3691. Email: StJohnnewcastle@gmail.com. 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.

**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 Hersherberger, 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

# OPINION

## News from the 9th: Casework



**Morgan Griffith**  
Representative

One role I have as a Member of Congress is to serve as a liaison for constituents with the federal government, including providing help with problems related to the federal government.

To help me serve you, I have a team of people in the district who specialize in assisting constituents, overlapping with my D.C. staff who coordinate on a variety of requests.

My casework team can intercede on a constituent's behalf to answer questions and find solutions.

The district staff is based in my one of my two Ninth District offices, located in Abingdon and Christiansburg and are at multiple locations around the district.

Given the district is larger than the land mass of nine separate states, and to make it

easier for you, we have traveling staff office hours, where someone from the Griffith office team is in every county and city at least once a month.

You can conveniently find the location and timing of our traveling staff office hours on my website. I encourage constituents to reach out to my staff via email, phone, through our website, or by scheduling appointments.

My team and I can assist on a variety of issues, whether it be claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs, problems receiving Social Security benefits, or tax related issues with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

We were recently contacted by a constituent regarding the IRS' refusal to waive penalties and interest fees for her mom who had missed the filing deadline due to dementia. My team worked with the Taxpayer Advocate Service, who asked the IRS to drop the penalties due to the mom's dementia. The IRS agreed to do so.

We also help constituents request or renew passports, asking for the expedited processing of these documents, or deal with issues involving travel visas.

A women and her son were about to board

a plane to Italy when she realized her son's passport expired in four months (six months is needed to travel). The airline changed her flight and sent her to get help from the passport agency office, but the agency wouldn't help because they didn't have an appointment. After our team made a few phone calls, we were able to get them into the agency and the son was able to get an extension on his passport.

We are still seeing delays with passport processing, which first arose during the pandemic, so please reach out as early as you can for help.

Additionally, my staff can help navigate the process of applying for grants from the federal government or with requests pending with the Department of Education, the Department of Labor, the U.S. Postal Service, etc.

We also help students seeking a nomination from me to the U.S. Service Academies. Each year, I host an in-person Service Academy Day where students and parents can learn more about their options.

Please know that

See 9th, page 7

## The secret lives of animals - Part two

### Library Corner

Marge Lewter

Now that my female Peahen had lost her soul sister, I still had the broken heart issue to deal with and she looked so lost on the following day. After a little research, I found a peacock farm several hours drive away. We hopped in the car and drove there right away. They had a beautiful young male peacock about 1 year old. He still had his "girl feathers" the brown ones, but had a turquoise blue neck. I kept him in the henhouse for a week to acclimate and realize he was staying here in a new home.

On the day I finally set him free, he flew onto the roof of my two-story farmhouse and from there he glided off the side of this mountain farm far into the valley. I thought I would never see him again. Sadly, I thought I made a big mistake. Two days later he was back and hasn't left since. Soon I once again had an inseparable pair but this time a male and female. She showed him the ropes and they gather at my kitchen

window every morning for a scoop of sunflower seed. They are still careful to stay out of catching distance. As time went on the male would fan out his short brown feathers and wiggle his rump at the female. He would comically strut around showing his fluffy behind to anybody cared to that to look. Where were the long beautiful peacock feathers I hoped to see? The man I bought him from said they take two years to mature so I will have to wait another year for the full display. But no matter... his obvious conceited joy in looking at himself in the shiny bumper of my truck is entertainment enough. When he lost sight of his female, he would call for her. People always ask me, "are peacocks noisy?" No, they're only noisy when they're separated from their beloved.

I have now learned half dozen calls in peafowl language and what they mean. This spring the female peahen disappeared and every night the male cried and called for her and cried and called for her. I watched him roosting alone knowing she may have come to a tragic end. I knew that when hens and guineas disappeared on my farm, it was always a bad sign. That is, until one day I caught a glimpse of my female peahen and then she was gone again. My daughter informed me that maybe they were having relationship troubles! I knew that the peahen might've been sitting on a nest and hoped so. I thought possibly the male was too young to father chicks and she would be sitting on infertile eggs for who knows how long?

I counted the days from the last time I had seen her doing her normal peahen thing. I searched at night with a flashlight looking and looking for her. I read about where peahens like to nest. In India peacocks are the national bird so something must be known about their habits. References said hens choose a shallow nest of leaves on the ground or under shrubbery so I searched and searched. I

scanned in the trees. I searched in my garage I searched up the mountain in a pretty large diameter from my house and never found a nest.

More time went by and surely the eggs had hatched by now! She was probably hunkered down somewhere patiently sitting on the nest, making herself vulnerable to predators. One day long after the prescribed 28 day incubation period had passed, I saw the female bird and was determined to follow her and not let her out of my sight for one second. Sure enough, she disappeared! The place she disappeared to was on top of the open garage door in my garage. It was a flat surface about 2 feet from the ceiling where she sat guarding four large white eggs. Shockingly, there was no nest material, no feathers, no soft beautiful nest, just four huge eggs sitting on top of the garage door. I had to laugh at myself for searching for six weeks for this bird and she was right over my head all the time! Still, I thought, "Those eggs have to be rotten." I was going on vacation and told myself as soon as I get back, I'm going to throw those eggs away.

As soon as I got home from our flight, I immediately climbed up on the ladder to look on top of that garage door and there were four shells laid open, having hatched while I was gone. Soon enough, I found my mama bird with four little fluff balls following her through the grass. How on earth did she get them down off that garage door safely? I still have no idea but after seeing her devotion to them and her amazing maternal instinct knowing exactly how to take care of them has made me confident that she did something miraculous when we weren't looking. It was such fun to watch her with her four little chicks following her around the yard. One evening it was almost dark and she was on a low branch of a tree making a terrible fuss. My assessment was that some predator was

See Library, page 7

## THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

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

www.ourvalley.org

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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.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Craig County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing **September 7th, 2023 at 6 pm**, or soon thereafter at the Craig County Courthouse in New Castle, Virginia, to consider the application of Corie Trivette/Country Campground for a "Use Not Provided For" permit. An approved permit will allow the property owners to conduct a Mud Run Event with camping, on September 30th, 2023, noon to 10pm. Mr. Trivette is also asking for an extension of 3 years. This parcel is zoned RR, Rural Residential and is located at 202 Country Campground Road, New Castle, VA 24127, Tax map #87-A-5. The property contains 62.3 acres and is located in the Craig Creek District on the left side of State Route 311 approximately 4 miles south of the Town of New Castle in Craig County.

Public comment on the application may be submitted in writing to the County Administration Office, P.O. Box 308, New Castle, Virginia 24127, by calling 540-864-5010, or in person at the public hearing.

**By Order of the Craig County Board of Supervisors, in accordance with Code of Virginia, §15.2-2204**

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# Marketplace



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**Meetings**

**Trail Information Exhibit: Craig Botetourt Scenic Trail**

September 9, 11 am to 1:30 pm  
September 11, 4 pm to 7 pm  
Fincastle Public Library meeting room  
11 Academy St.  
Fincastle, VA 24090  
Sponsored by DeRail the Trail

**Legals - Botetourt County**

**TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 3465 WEBSTER ROAD, BLUE RIDGE, VA 24064.**

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated December 26, 2006, in the original principal amount of \$105,539.12 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 070000271. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090 or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court on October 2, 2023, at 9:45 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: BEING THAT CERTAIN 0.713 ACRE, AS SHOWN ON HTAT CERTAIN PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY JACK G. BESS, C.L.S., FOR GERALDINE B. CARTER, DATED APRIL 3, 1980. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwvsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees,

**Legals - Botetourt County**

LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsales.com. VA-359323-1.

**Legals - City of Salem**

**NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SALE 740 Elizabeth Avenue, Salem, VA 24153**

By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust dated July 31, 2002 and recorded at Instrument Number 020003402 in the Clerk's Office for the City of Salem Virginia Circuit Court, Virginia, securing a loan which was originally \$87,400.00. The appointed SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, Commonwealth Trustees, LLC will offer for sale at public auction at the front steps for the Circuit Court for the City of Salem located at 2 E Calhoun Street, Salem, VA 24153-7933. September 28, 2023 at 10:00 AM improved real property, with an abbreviated legal description of the following described property, to wit: BEGINNING at a point on the south side of Elizabeth Avenue, said point being N. 82 degs. 58' E. 339.50 feet from the intersection of Arch Street and Elizabeth Avenue; thence N. 82 degs. 58' E. 62.50 feet to an iron; thence S. 7 degs. 02' E. 158.05 feet to an iron; thence S. 87 degs. 37' W. 62.71 feet to an iron; thence N. 7 degs. 02' W. 152.96 feet to the place of BEGINNING, and being part of Lots 7 and 8, Section 3, Map of Puckett Addition; and BEING the same property conveyed unto the Grantor herein by deed dated July 30, 2002 from James M. George and Buddy D. Mason and recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office immediately prior hereto. AND as more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. TERMS OF SALE: The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust to be announced at the time of sale. A deposit of \$20,000 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required at the time of sale, in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price, with interest at the rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date said funds are received in the office of the SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale. In the event of default by the successful bidder, the entire deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs and expenses of sale and Substitute Trustee's fee. All other public charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, whether incurred prior to or after the sale, and all other costs incident to settlement to be paid by the purchaser. In the event taxes, any other public charges have been advanced, a credit will be due to the seller, to be adjusted from the date of sale at the time of settlement. Purchaser agrees to pay the seller's attorneys at settlement, a fee of \$470.00 for review of the settlement documents. Additional terms will be announced at the time of sale and the successful bidder will be required to execute and deliver to the Substitute Trustees a memorandum or contract of the sale at the conclusion of bidding. FOR INFORMATION CONTACT Rosenberg & Associates, LLC (Attorney for the Secured Party) 4340 East West Highway, Suite 600 Bethesda, MD 20814 301-907-8000 www.rosenberg-assoc.com

**Legals - City of Salem**

**Trustee's Sale 1442 Filson St, Salem, VA 24153**

**(Parcel ID: 239-6-1)**

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated October 18, 2004, in the original principal amount of \$74,000.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the City of Salem, Virginia on November 15, 2004, as Instrument Number 040004736, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction on September 29, 2023 at 10:00 AM, in front of the building housing the City of Salem Circuit Court, 2 East Calhoun Street, Salem, VA 24153, the property designated as Lot 10, Block 6, according to the Map of Section 3, South Side Hills, made by Raymond E. Robertson, SCE, February 26, 1955, of record in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Roanoke County, Virginia, in Plat Book 6, page 43. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$7,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review upon request before the sale, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector. Tromberg, Morris & Poulin, PLLC on behalf of Southeast Equity Trustees, LLC and/or Auction.com-VA, LLC, Substitute Trustee(s), 413 Stuart Circle, Suite 314, Richmond, VA 23220, File No. 22-001096, Tel: 804-525-1570.

**Notice**

is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on September 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Hold public hearing to consider the request of David A. Thompson, property owner, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a 1,500 square foot detached garage on the property located at 640 Joan Circle, (Tax Map # 243 -2 -16). Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA  
BY: James E. Taliaferro, II Executive Secretary

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**Order of Publication**

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316  
Case No. JJ00376703-03 RADOFRD CITY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Miranda Sue Simpkins. Toney Lee Martin, Christopher and Christa Simpkins, Tammy Sue Davidson /v. Karen Sue Webb The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY AND VISITATION OF THE MINOR CHILD. It is ORDERED that TONY LEE MARTIN appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before September 22, 2023.  
July 21, 2023  
Sally Davis, CLERK

**TRUSTEE'S SALE OF PROPERTY 201 S. Main Street and 105 Lee Street, Blacksburg, VA 24060**

Tax Map Nos. 257-A 47 and 257-A 48  
Parcel ID Nos. 002611 and 002612  
In execution of a Credit Line Deed of Trust dated February 20, 2020, in the principal amount of \$2,109,000.00, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, of record as Instrument Number 2020001260, Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black PLC, Substitute Trustee, will offer for sale at public auction outside the main entrance of the Montgomery County Circuit Court, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, on September 8, 2023 at 12:00 noon, the property described in said Deed of Trust lying in Montgomery County, Virginia, and more particularly described as follows: All of the following tract or parcel of land lying and being in the Town of Blacksburg, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District, County of Montgomery, State of Virginia, and more particularly described as follows: Two parcels of adjacent real estate in the Town of Blacksburg, County of Montgomery, Virginia bounded in part by South Main, Lee, and Church Streets, Blacksburg, Virginia, Tax Map Numbers 257-A 47 (PID 002611) and 257-A 48 (PID 002612), beginning at the corner of Main and Lee Street and running with the south line of Lee Street in an easterly direction 268 feet to the corner of Lee and Church Street in a southerly direction 100 feet to a point on said line; thence in a westerly direction parallel to Lee Street 268 feet to a point on the east line of Main Street; and thence with the east line of Main Street in a northerly direction 100 feet to the place of Beginning.

TERMS: Cash - Bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sales price by cashier's or certified check may be required. Balance of purchase price shall be due and payable not later than ten (10) days after sale.  
WOODS ROGERS VANDEVENTER BLACK PLC, Substitute Trustee

For Information Contact: Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black PLC, P.O. Box 14125, Roanoke, VA 24038-4125, Telephone: 540-983-7729

**Order of Publication**

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,20-104  
Case No. CL23000992-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* NANNIE FAY LONG, THOMAS LONG AND EDWARD LONG v. NONE  
It is ORDERED that GAIL LONG, BETHANY LONG, SABRINA LONG, SCOTTY W. LONG, BILLY W. LONG appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before OCTOBER 20, 2023 AT 8:30 AM..  
AUGUST 9, 2023  
TIFFANY M. COUCH, CLERK

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**Notice of Public Hearing**

**Town of Blacksburg Planning Commission**

**Tuesday, September 5, 2023.**

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Town of Blacksburg will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 during its meeting beginning at 6:30 PM in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Council Chamber, 300 South Main St, Blacksburg, VA on the following item: ROW 23-0001/ORD 2036-Request to vacate approximately 20,439 square feet of Town-owned Right-of-Way known as Rimrock Drive (adjacent to Tax Parcel 347-8 1) at 2600 Research Center Drive by Snyder- Hunt Company, LLP (owner). A request to vacate approximately 20,439 square feet (0.47 acres) of Town-owned Right-of-Way known as Rimrock Drive from Research Center Drive to its termination at Route 460 Bypass. The application states that the vacated property will be absorbed into Tax Parcel 347-8 1 and used as a private driveway to access the Blue Ridge Cancer Center. Rimrock Drive ROW is a built street and includes sidewalk and utilities. RZN 23-0002/ORD 2035-Request to rezone approximately 1.1 acres from R-4 Low Density Residential to PR Planned Residential in the 1200 block of Airport Road (Tax Map Number 317-2 31, 32, 34A & 317-2 32A, 33, 34) by Habitat for Humanity of the New River Valley (contract purchaser) for Blacksburg Fire Safety Foundation (owner). A request to rezone approximately 1.1 acres of land from R-4 Low Density Residential to PR Planned Residential for the development of 11 income-restricted townhomes with 33 bedrooms total in the 1200-block of Airport Road. Townhomes will be sold to buyers earning between 30%-80% of Area Median Income (AMI). The Future Land Use Designation for this parcel is Medium-Density Residential. This development request represents an increase in the allowable bedroom density above the Future Land Use density of 20 bedrooms per acre. ROW 23-0002/ORD 2032-Request to vacate approximately 0.13 and 0.09 acres (total of 0.22 acres) of Town-owned Right-of-Way in the 1200 block of Airport Road by Habitat for Humanity of the New River Valley (contract purchaser). This is a request accompanying RZN 23-0002 to vacate approximately 0.22 acres of unbuilt Town-owned Right-of-Way adjacent to Tax Map Number 317-2 31, 32, 34A and Tax Map Number 317-2 32A, 33, 34 known as unbuilt Airport Drive and unbuilt Virginia Street. The land to be vacated would be incorporated in the proposed Habitat for Humanity townhome development as driveway and rear yard space. Persons affected by or interested in the rezoning request and right-of-way vacation requests may appear and present their views. After the hearing, the Planning Commission will take action. Copies of the request and all related items may be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/public hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. You may also call the office at (540) 443-1300 for more information. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in the public hearing on the above should contact the Planning & Building Department at (540) 443-1300, or (540)-443-1000-TDD.

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**TOWN OF BLACKSBURG - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**BLACKSBURG TOWN COUNCIL will hold public hearings on**

**Tuesday, September 12, 2023**

beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, regarding the following items:  
Ordinance 2023: An Ordinance Authorizing the Lease of Space on the North Main Street Water Tank to New River Valley Unwired Ventures, LLC. The proposed ordinance request is to provide New River Valley Unwired Ventures, LLC the opportunity for a one year lease term to place wireless equipment on the Town's water tank with an option to extend for an additional year.

All persons affected by or interested in the proposed item above may appear and present their views. After each public hearing, Town Council will consider action on the item. Copies of materials related to the above items are on file and can be obtained in the Office of the Town Clerk, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. For land use matters, copies of applications and all related items may also be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/public hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in this meeting should contact Lorraine Spaulding, Town Clerk at (540) 443-1025 or 443-1000 (voice or TDD).

**Services Needed Salem Area**



**ADVERTISEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT SERVICES WITH OPERATOR SIGNUP**

The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy equipment owners to sign up for the rental of their equipment with operators for SNOW & ICE REMOVAL purposes in Salem Residency which includes the counties of Roanoke, Botetourt and Craig during the winter of 2023-2024. Price per hour shall include operators, fuel, tire chains, supplies and required insurance. VDOT will need dump trucks, pickups with plows, motorgraders, backhoes, dozers, track loaders, tractors, rubber-tire loaders and farm tractors. All equipment shall be equipped for night work and be in good mechanical condition to ensure a safe and dependable 24/7 operation. VDOT reserves the right to determine acceptability of equipment size and condition for the task. Contractors submitting prices meeting the requirements of the Agreement may be contracted with and may be eligible to receive a mobilization payment and a minimum guaranteed payment for the season.

Contractors must submit their application on the electronic M7B bidding site at https://plov4va.com/. All new and returning Contractors must be active in the Virginia eProcurement Portal (eVA) in order to do business with the Commonwealth of Virginia (https://eva.virginia.gov ).

Applications received by 7:00 PM on Monday October 2, 2023 may be eligible for a mobilization bonus. See the EVA posting for additional information, including contract requirements. Questions can be directed

**Services Needed Salem Area**

to the Salem Residency from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday – Friday. Phone: 540-387-5497.

Email: SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov  
EEO/AA Employer

**Services Needed Christiansburg Area**



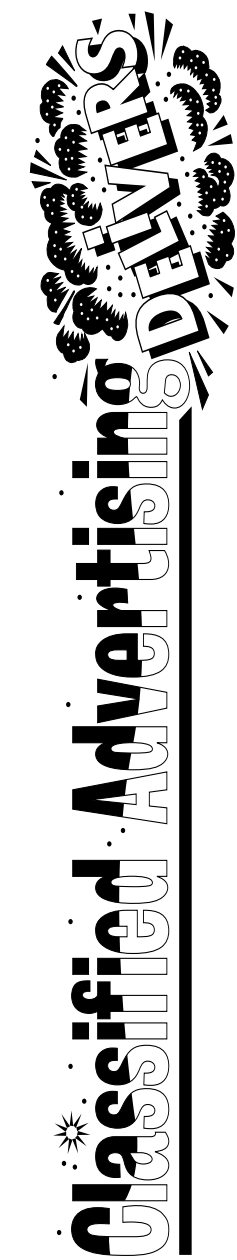
**ADVERTISEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT SERVICES WITH OPERATOR SIGNUP**

The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy equipment owners to sign up for the rental of their equipment with operators for SNOW & ICE REMOVAL purposes in Christiansburg Residency which includes the counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski during the winter of 2023-2024. Price per hour shall include operators, fuel, tire chains, supplies and required insurance. VDOT will need dump trucks, pickups with plows, motorgraders, backhoes, dozers, track loaders, tractors, rubber-tire loaders and farm tractors. All equipment shall be equipped for night work and be in good mechanical condition to ensure a safe and dependable 24/7 operation. VDOT reserves the right to determine acceptability of equipment size and condition for the task. Contractors submitting prices meeting the requirements of the Agreement may be contracted with and may be eligible to receive a mobilization payment and a minimum guaranteed payment for the season.

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## ROCKETS DEBUT VOLLEYBALL TEAM AT EAST MONT



**The Craig County 2023 varsity volleyball team. Front row, left to right; Brooklyn Cayton, Nevaeh Hypes, Erin Snider, Jenna Boitnotte, Daileigh Bonithan and Maggie Mays. Back row, left to right: Assistant Coach Ashley Peters, Riley Phelps, Ashley Cayton, Gracie Huffman, Kailyn Jones, Cheyanne Bell, Randalyn Taylor and coach Suzanne Crawford.**



**The Craig County 2023 junior varsity volleyball team. Front row, left to right; Holley Givens, Laken May, Zoie Vandyke, Dixie Wyrick and Brooke Wright. Back row; Coach Ashley Peters, Makenzie Lucas, Kallie Fisher, Addison Higgins, Kammie Fisher, Natalie Fisher, Makenna All and coach Suzanne Crawford.**

The Craig County football team got the season off to a rousing start with a 32-6 win over the Bears at Bland County last Friday night. The Rockets will make their home debut this Friday when they host Auburn.

"It was a great opening night to the season," said Craig coach Jimmy Fisher. "It was a great team effort. We were dominant in every phase of the game... offense, defense and special teams."

The Rockets rolled up 257 yards of offense while holding Bland to minus 21 yards for the game, not counting penalty yards. Craig took control early, going up 26-0 in the first quarter and never being threatened thereafter.

"Bland's quarterback was injured in the first quarter and they didn't have a backup," said Fisher. "The officials and head coaches decided to shorten the remaining three quarters to eight minutes each. They're normally 12 minutes long, so essentially we only played three quarters."

Offensively, four different players scored for the Rockets. Junior running back Josh Craft had four carries for 72 yards and a touchdown and he also had two receptions for 38 yards and another TD. Sophomore wide receiver Carter Calfee had one carry for 29 yards and a TD and he had a reception for 20 yards. Freshman running back Noah Paxton had four carries for 17 yards and a touchdown and junior tight end Isaac Lucas had a reception for 18 yards.

Junior quarterback Jaycob Wolfe had a big opening night. He had six carries

for 66 yards and a touchdown and was four for 10 passing for 76 yards and another score. Two of his incompletions were drops by normally sure-handed receivers.

"We're chalking it up to first game jitters," said Fisher. "We have a more balanced offense this year and are excited to keep improving."

Defensively, the Rockets were tough all night. Craig held Bland to negative total yardage and only one first down as the Bears scored their lone touchdown on a fumble recovery.

Junior linebacker Josh Craft led the defense with 11 tackles. Senior nose guard Isaiah Will had a phenomenal night with 10 tackles from the nose guard spot.

"Three or four tackles is normally a great night for a nose tackle," said Fisher. "Isaiah had 10 tackles and was double-teamed for much of the second half."

Sophomore linebacker, and first time football player, Tristan Dooley also had a stellar night with nine tackles. Carter Calfee was a force for Craig on both sides of the ball.

"Great kid," said Fisher. "Quick, smart, and loves to hit."

While everyone was pleased with the opening night win, Fisher sees plenty of things the team can still work on.

"We had a great night but we do have a lot of mistakes to correct," he said. "We have a lot of room for improvement... wrong alignments, wrong techniques, playing too high, etc. I am most proud of the energy and of the effort that we

gave on every play. Everyone played extremely hard. We are a very young team, however, and this is an amazing group of kids. They work very hard to get better. We had zero seniors starting on offense and we started four freshmen, three sophomores and four juniors.

"Defensively, we had one senior starter, four juniors, three sophomores and three freshmen. We have a great core group of young men but overall turnout was not what we expected or hoped for. We only dressed 19 kids on Friday. We actually had two starters quit on Wednesday of last week, really leaving us in a bind

depth-wise. Our 2023 motto is 'No Excuses.' Those guys are gone but we didn't let it get us down. We just keep moving forward...next man up."

This Friday the Rockets will make their home debut against Auburn. The Eagles opened the season with a 46-12 loss to Narrows last week.

"Auburn is a much tougher test than Bland," said Fisher. "They're a more physical and athletic opponent. They have a new coach and their numbers are up from what they have been the last few years. It should be a great high school football game."



**Maggie Mays sets one up at East Mont Saturday.**

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

## CRAIG OPENS FOOTBALL SEASON WITH 32-6 WIN AT BLAND

The Craig County girls opened the volleyball season with a tournament at Eastern Montgomery in Elliston last Saturday. The girls competed against Alleghany, Roanoke Catholic and host East Mont in the tournament and finished third.

Coach Suzanne Crawford has some talented girls returning from last year's team. Senior Randalyn Taylor will be returning at middle hitter and she'll be a team leader.

"Randalyn will be a strong asset to the team with experience and her positive attitude," said Crawford.

Junior Maggie Mays

will be the setter.

"Maggie is such a diverse player," said Crawford. "I can place her anywhere and she will execute. Maggie is a great leader for our team. She is aggressive, a team leader and an all-around great asset to the team."

Jenna Boitnot also returns after playing varsity as a sophomore. Another sophomore, Cheyanne Bell, is an outside hitter.

"Cheyanne has been working on her hitting and passing skills and has put in a lot of hours working on improving her technique for more aggressive ball placement," said Crawford.

Junior Erin Snider is a strong defensive player and sophomore Dalieigh Donithan is an outside hitter.

Several girls new to the varsity are expected to help. Freshman Kailyn Jones will be a middle and she had a big day at East Mont.

"Kailyn is going to bring so much to this team," said Crawford. "She is aggressive, consistent and focused. Her defensive game on the net is going to be something people are going to want to watch. She is also very aggressive when it comes to attacking the ball."

Layla Dooley is a junior and she will also

be contributing to the team playing opposite.

"We will be using her aggressive skills when playing defense," said Crawford. "Layla has great technique and drive that will be such an asset to the team."

Junior Gracie Huffman came out this year and will be playing middle. She is young but has a good technique and a positive attitude that is great for the team.

Other newcomers include Nevaeh Hypes, Brooklyn and Ashley Cayton and Rylee Phills.

Ashley Peters is coaching the jayvee team this year. She was a setter for Craig County High and has a lot to

offer the girls. Ashley has been working with the girls to help improve their technique and fundamentals when setting.

Athletic Director Carrie Hutton is also an assistant.

"I cannot say enough about Carrie," said Crawford. "She is a huge asset to this program. Her love for the volleyball program shows in her dedication to these athletes."

Former Craig coach Geoff Boyer is also a help to the program.

"He works with my girls and gets them pumped and excited," said Crawford. "He too will also forever

be a huge part of our successful program."

The Rockets will play their first seven games, at the minimum, on the road as the new wooden floor is finished in the Craig County gym.

"This year should be a great season for us," said Crawford. "Hopefully the new gym floor will be ready so the community can watch these girls and see the hard work and effort they have put in. We have a lot of talent and a strong team. My expectations are pretty high. If we can execute in games and be consistent with passing and finishing we are going to be a very strong team."



PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

**SANDLOT:** Craig County participated in a sandlot jamboree at William Byrd High School on October 19 to prepare for the coming football season. The schedule is still being assembled but the games are expected to start around the second week of September.