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THE NEW CASTLE RECORD




Author from Craig County coming to the Fall Festival

Jim Zimmerman is the author of 'Love or Lust'

Pam Dudding
 Contributing writer



COURTESY PHOTO
A native of Craig County, Jim Zimmerman will be at the Fall Festival with his book, "Love or Lust," and will be located in front of his brother's home at the end of Main Street.

When one thinks about reading a love story, most believe it will be a woman who sits down to engross herself in that book. Jim Zimmerman has turned the tables of the "women's generation" and written a book for men to read as well. He titled it, "Love or Lust."
 "Love or Lust is about an 18-year-old male who has just graduated from high school and is about to go to college. He is inexperienced with women and was the nerd in school," Zimmerman explained. "It is about the next five years of his life and the situations that a young man can find himself in until he meets the girl that he immediately falls

See Author, page 3



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING
Wanda Stull, a landowner whose property is beside the new trail, is concerned about her safety and the increase of people traveling it. "I have a cabin and already have had people to break into it, I feel this could increase," she stated.

New trail proposition brings many questions from the Craig and Botetourt communities

Pam Dudding
 Contributing writer

For many people, to drive, bike or hike a beautiful trail is like a vacation getaway that relaxes and rejuvenates the soul. Though Craig County and Botetourt County residents agree, many still

disagree on the new Craig Botetourt Scenic Trail that is being propositioned. The turnout of protestors at a recent meeting highlighted the discontent. Several people wore the green shirt that had "DeRail the Trail" on it, while others carried theirs in their hands.

See Trail, page 2

DeRail the Trail attends Craig County VDOT meeting

Pam Dudding
 Contributing writer

The group organized called, DeRail the Trail, has accumulated many facts and information to share with people about how the proposed new scenic trail in Craig and Botetourt counties will truly affect the land, people, and taxes. They stated in their brochure, "When someone hears "trail" they don't envision being in the very same place that vehicles are driving on. In this proposal, bicycles, hikers, equestrians, cars, trucks, and farm equipment will all share the same road! It has never been abandoned in its everyday use. Over 16 miles are used for some form of vehicular traffic, 11 miles are actually declared state roads. It has been used this way for over 60 years and calling it abandoned is very misleading." Their questions of the growing cost of \$35 million, the concerns about how it will be funded and probably by landowners taxes and also who will continue with the maintenance as

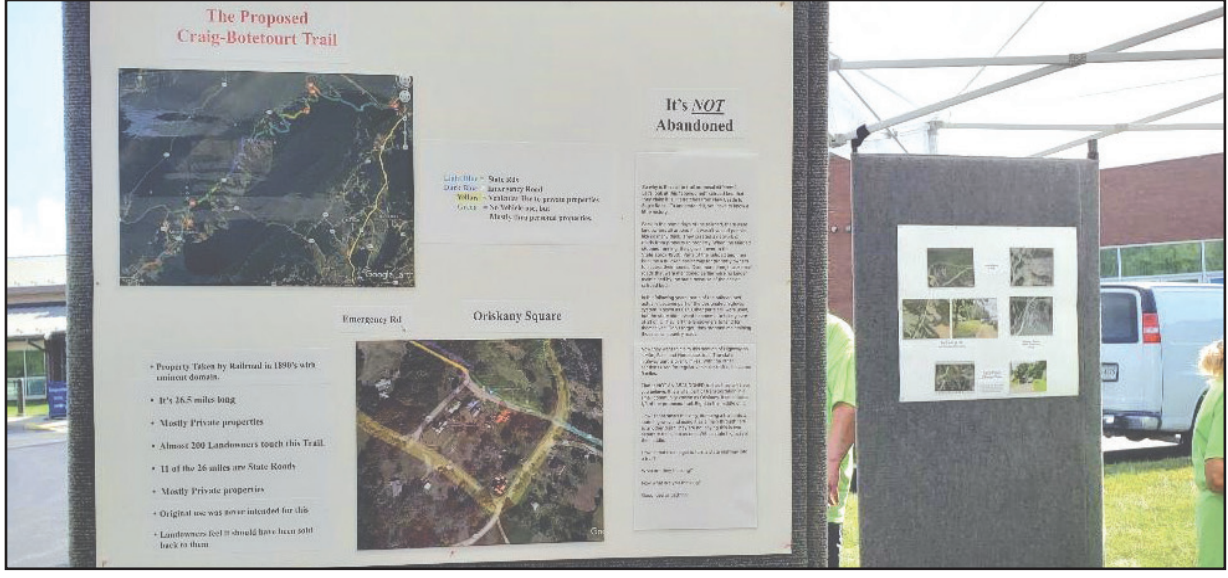


PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING
The group DeRail the Trail attended the VDOT meeting in Craig County on Thursday, Sept. 21 to share their knowledge and facts concerning the proposed new 26-mile Scenic Trail to traverse Craig and Botetourt counties.

Baseball reunion changed to Waiteville Community Center Oct. 7



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING
The Annual "Old-Timers Baseball Reunion" will be held on Oct. 7, at 12 p.m. at the Waiteville Community Center (the old Schoolhouse), instead of the lake this year. Everyone is welcome. It is a potluck so bring a dish or two and enjoy the comfort of inside fellowship and old friends and baseball companions. Those planning to attend should bring pictures to share with others or make copies they can keep and continue to put in an album or post on the boards.



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Trail from page 1



At the VDOT information meeting about the new trail that has been proposed, people from both sides attended. VDOT representatives were there to share where the trail will go.

The Virginia Department of Transportation stated that the meeting it scheduled in New Castle on Thursday, Sept. 21, from 4 until 6 p.m., was “to share information about the proposed trail and to provide opportunities for interested citizens to provide input and information to VDOT.”

Adding, “VDOT strives to ensure that all members of the community have the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation projects and programs affecting them. VDOT representatives are present to discuss the project and answer your questions.”

Still, when many questions were asked about the future upkeep of the trail, the safety of the current landowners and the access available to current landowners in case of flooding, the comments were that they were only the middlemen and those needed to be addressed to others higher than themselves to answer.

When various landowners asked the repetitive question about current trails that have not been kept up by VDOT, again, they could not answer.

These responses seemed to frustrate many landowners and community members.

Some people present that are looking forward to the scenic trail shared that the landowners “just need to build fences” if they don’t want someone on their property.

While others are just looking forward to biking the beautiful area that many in Craig call “God’s country.”

Several comments were made by both sides that, “if VDOT truly wanted to hear from the communities that they should have had a question-and-answer session, allowing each other to learn about both sides of the arguments that were for and against.”

“This type of “meeting” is not one that seemed caring or concerned, wanting to truly learn about the communities,” many attendees shared. “This seems very political, and they are not even wanting to listen to us.”

Approximately 200 people attended though some said there were more as people came and went during the two-hour time limit.

Some comments and conversations from the attendees were:

Wanda Stull: “I am elderly and a widow and concerned about my safety and others on the trail. It is coming between my land and my brother’s land. We have our home, the trail and then our cabin. Our cabin has already been broken into three times and we have had to deal with that. My concern is that the usage of this money is a want and not a need. VDOT could use the money to maintain the roads that need maintenance we need now. My ditches have not been cleaned out for five years. When my husband was living, he would burn them off every spring. Now I have leaves piled up and the water flows over into my neighbor’s driveway. My neighbors, who are hard workers, will have the trail right in front of their door. To me, especially in this time of economy where people don’t have enough money for food and medicine, to take \$35 million to build a trail, makes me totally against it,” she said.

A lady who preferred not to use her name: “I am for the trail and feel it will bring a lot of good opportunities to the county, such as tourism, opportunities for families to get out and hike and walk on a trail that is not difficult, horseback riding, new businesses like bike

rental or ice cream shops and things like that,” she said.

Vanessa Rutter: “I am not from here originally and this does not affect our home here now, but we have four children and I think of their future, not only tax purposes. I don’t think they are fully thinking this out and some people will be losing their homes, there is the possible crime especially for elderly people and the question of who will maintain this trail. I just feel you are opening the door for people to walk the trail and case out the area and then come back at night. We live in a different world today,” she said.

Jason Rutter: “I think it is wrong because we moved into this little town to stay away from things like this. If we wanted a trail, we would go visit one and see it, but when you open a trail up to the ones that will walk that trail today, I’m concerned, as our world is really changing. You could bring in dangerous people from different communities. Look on the news today about those kids that are walking those trails and kids are getting kidnapped, murdered, and stopped on the trail. For the government to come in and say we are just going to do this is just wrong. It should be a vote,” he said.

Ronnie Dudding: “Look at what has happened to the Fenwick Mines with no upkeep, and it being taken apart. My biggest concern is that no one will maintain it. They need to get industry in Craig County. The majority of our county is national forest, and they don’t pay taxes,” he said.

Kevin Peters: “I have not seen anything redeeming in this project to begin with therefore I am not for it, as there is no redeeming value in it,” he said.

Diane Hartell: “Well, we are against. There are so many reasons to be against it. I love bike riding and I ride 46 miles at a time when I have a chance, but I don’t want to ride through a cow pasture and get chased by cows who get nervous about their calves, I don’t want to ride and be able to reach out and hit somebody’s porch railing, I don’t want to ride over someone’s driveway between their home and septic tank and there are literally those situations and more,” she said.

Lee Looney: “I would like to make a really good comment as I am against it. It is a waste of money; they will not take care of it and it will bring a lot of unwanted into this county and it will create a lot of rifraf and a lot of trash. I believe it will create a lot of drugs and maybe prostitution. I worked for the parks department for 17 and a half years, I know what it does. They told us to get the answers that we need, we need to take them to the politicians. Those are the last people that will take care of it. Also, what is it going to cost the county? In this county, 35 million dollars could make a lot of improvements without a walking trail, and I just do not think we need it at all,” he said.

Steve McGonavall: “I am not from Craig but come out here a lot just to ride my bike up and down that trail even though it is not a legitimate trail. I was on the New River Trail yesterday and only saw three bicyclists and three people walking and it is very similar to this but less beautiful. This will be ok, and I see that we will be driving through peoples yards, and they don’t want that,” he said.

VDOT representative Alex Price shared with Jackie Scruggs Taylor that the road would only be 10 feet in width. When asked about the road going by Wanda Stull’s porch, he stated, “She has concerns about safety and I understand that. It is good to hear comments and concerns as we debate whether to move forward with it. There are people who are against it and I’m sure others that are for it. As we continue to further the design and how we are going to maintain it and also make sure it is safe for owners. There has been no decisions about how to maintain it. The bridges are something VDOT may maintain. Now who is going to pick up trash or to mow would probably be a county thing.” Scruggs assured him that Craig has no funds for that and that other trails had not been maintained and partially closed down. “VDOT could maintain it, but do they have time to? I do not

See Trail, page 3



Jackie Scruggs Taylor asked several questions to the VDOT representative, and he admitted he appreciated the concern for the community and the people’s rights and land, but that it was still the property of the commonwealth to do with it as it pleases.

PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Fall down
5. Gas usage measurement
8. Golf score
11. A superior grade of black tea
13. Wrath
14. Eating house
15. Delay leaving a place
16. People now inhabiting Myanmar
17. Canadian flyers
18. Walks back and forth
20. Frequently
21. Humans have two
22. Surrounds with armed forces
25. Made proper
30. Medical buildings
31. Patty Hearst’s captors
32. Hits with a drop shot
33. Italy’s PM 1919-20
38. Promotions

41. En __: incidentally
43. Queens baseball team
45. Commoner
47. Expenses in insurance world (abbr.)
49. Payroll firm
50. Broadway actress
55. Skipper butterflies
56. Hint
57. Daniel __, French composer
59. English children’s author Blyton
60. Midway between east and southeast
61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
62. Patriotic women’s group
63. The woman
64. Tall, slender-leaved plant

CLUES DOWN

1. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
2. Jump
3. Eaten as a vegetable
4. Residual paresis after anesthesia
5. Brunchtime staple
6. Makes money off of
7. Refined
8. Nocturnal S. American rodents
9. From a distance
10. Officials
12. It helps you see
14. Central Canadian indigenous person
19. Invests in little enterprises
23. They help in tough situations
24. Industrial port in Poland
25. Type of screen
26. Peyton’s little brother
27. Alcoholic beverage

28. Newspapers need it
29. Herbal tea
34. Distinctive practice
35. Exercise system __-bo
36. Explosive
37. Belonging to a thing
39. Presidential candidates engage in them
40. Of the Swedes
41. Meadow-grass
42. “Rule, Britannia” composer
44. Hooray!
45. Greek city
46. One way to do it by example
47. Imitated
48. “Game of Thrones” actress
49. Headed
51. Swiss river
52. Drought-resistant plant
53. A French abbot
54. One point east of northeast
58. Get free of

OPINION

News from the 9th: Danke Schoen



Morgan Griffith
Representative

In the House of Representatives, Republicans are working hard to come up with a government spending agreement that makes sense for the American people. For too long government spending has been out of control and we are working on strategies to rein in the spending before we pass legislation to fund the government.

As Otto Von Bismarck, Chancellor of Germany in the 19th Century, is reported to have said, "Laws are like sausages. It's better not to see them being made." It is a messy process, but hopefully we will come out with a good product Americans can be proud of.

That aside, during the sausage making I saw a Virginia Mercury article about a recently introduced bill,

the Patowomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia Federal Recognition Act. I asked for the bill to be brought to me so I could read it. I remembered some of their history and believe their claim for recognition is long overdue. After confirming the bill prohibited them from casino gaming on tribal lands, I signed onto the bill.

The Patowomeck Indians are a Virginia Indian tribe whose 2,600 members live mostly in Stafford and King George Counties. Their presence in Virginia can be traced back to at least the 1300s.

Unfortunately, like all Native American tribes in the Americas, their history within the United States has been a difficult one and up until 2010, the tribe was neither officially recognized on the state nor federal level.

When I was Majority Leader in the Virginia House of Delegates in 2010, the tribe petitioned Richmond for state recognition.

To support their cause, they brought in "Mr. Las

Vegas," Wayne Newton, famous for his many years of performing in Vegas casinos during the 1970s.

His biggest hit was "Danke Schoen", a song of German origin. Mr. Newton recorded an American version in 1963, which became an international hit.

What many of you probably don't know is that Mr. Newton is of Indian ancestry (his mother was of Cherokee descent and his father of Patowomeck descent). Because of this, he cared deeply about getting his Indian tribe the recognition they deserved.

I have known since I was a kid that he had lived in my hometown, Salem, Virginia, for a period of time in his youth. When he came to my office, after we shook hands, I told him:

"I grew up on Broad Street in Salem, Virginia."

He responded back: "Ridenhour Music! That's where I learned to play the guitar."

That was a music store in Salem, at the intersection of Broad and Main streets.

It was an honor to meet the music legend. I've always appreciated Mr. Newton for remembering his roots in Virginia.

Accordingly, I voted in favor of recognition. And thanks to his, and others' efforts, a politically divided Virginia General Assembly officially recognized the Patowomecks in 2010. Since then, the tribe has been working to gain federal recognition – a difficult task.

According to the U.S. Department of Interior, in order for a tribe to receive federal recognition, they must meet seven different criteria. This includes demonstrating "that it has been identified as an American Indian entity on a substantially continuous basis since 1900," and showing "that a predominant portion of the petitioning group comprises a distinct community and has existed as a community from historical times until the present."

And that definition has been a problem for many Virginia tribes in seeking federal recognition.

The problem arises because in an effort to erase the identity of Native Americans within the state, the Democratic-controlled Virginia General Assembly passed the Racial Integrity Act of 1924 stating that a person could either be classified as Black or White. There was no classification for

See 9th, page 7

Planning for Christmas

Library Corner Marge Lewter

Craig County Public Library and Lasterday Market are ecstatic to announce our partnership with the Community Christmas Store of the Roanoke Valley!

For the very first time since the beginning of the Community of the Christmas Store in 1993, Craig County residents in need of Christmas assistance can complete the application process locally on Oct. 7 from 12-1:30 p.m. at Lasterday Market (390 Market Street New Castle, VA 24127).

What is the Community Christmas Store?

The Community Christmas Store is completely free to qualifying families (if you qualify for food stamps you automatically qualify). Qualifying families receive food, toiletries, new clothing, and new toys for their children birth through high school. Households without children such

as adults 62+ that meet the income requirements also qualify as well as disabled adults 18+.

What do I need to bring to registration?

- Picture ID with current address
- Proof of income (pay stubs)
- Social Security card for all individuals listed on the application
- Proof of current residency (most recent utility bill, copy of lease, etc.)
- Clothing sizes at Christmas for all eligible applicants
- Reliable phone number for DSS and Community Christmas Store to contact

Other dates of application:

- Saturday Oct. 14 at Salem Senior Center, Parks & Rec Activities Hall, Salem (9 a.m.- 12 p.m.)
- Saturday Oct. 28 at Vinton Senior Center, 820 E. Washington Ave., Vinton (9-11 a.m.)
- Wednesday Nov. 1 at Taylor Masonic Lodge, 1200 Texas Street., Salem (4-6 p.m.)
- Saturday Nov. 11 at Brambleton Center, 3738 Brambleton Ave., Roanoke (9-11:30 a.m.)

If you will need assistance with transportation to attend your assigned shopping day, please notify DSS. DSS will be on-site at the Community Christmas Store applications on Oct. 7.

If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering or donating, please contact Michaela Crawford at the Craig County Public Library at (540) 864-8978 or via e-mail at craiglibrary@swva.net.

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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
COUNTY OF CRAIG, VIRGINIA
PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2506 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the Craig County Board of Supervisors on the proposed County Budget amendment for Fiscal Year 2023-24 (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024). The Public Hearing, which may be continued or adjourned, will be held **October 5th, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** or as soon thereafter as the matter is heard during the Board of Supervisors meeting at the Craig County Courthouse in New Castle, Virginia.

A copy of the proposed Budget Amendment is available for public review at the County Administrator's Office in the County Administration Building, New Castle, Virginia.

**PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENT FY 2023-2024
TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR:**

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| County of Craig | |
| Local Assist & Tribal Consistency (LATCF-ARPA) payment # 2 | \$ 188,545 |
| Opioid Funds National Settlement | \$ 2,991 |
| Craig Co Public Schools | |
| CARES Act ESSERF | \$1,110,672 |
| Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery | \$ 61,590 |
| Total | \$1,363,798 |

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The 40th Craig County Fall Festival will be Saturday, Oct. 14

A special display with festival history is being prepared, including a video of photographs showing scenes from the last forty years. The festival was begun as a fundraiser of the Craig County Historical Society to pay for the Old Brick Hotel. It has become a community wide fundraising event, heritage celebration and tourism attraction.

For the third year, a flatfoot contest will be held at 1 p.m. and will be accompanied by the popular Eastern Divide Bluegrass band. Prizes will be awarded to adults and children under 12. Judging will be by audience applause.

The Historical Society has three prizes in its 2023 Raffle. First drawing is an 1850-era Kentucky Rifle donated by Life Member Sam Canode. Second drawing is a \$500 gift card donated to the Society by Grand Home Furnishings. Third drawing is a homemade quilt made and donated by Life Member Ruth Lazott of Oregon. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased before the Festival from Society members. They will be available on Festival Day, Oct. 14, until 4:30 p.m. when emcee Trena Boudreaux will oversee raffle drawings.

There are still vendor spaces available. Contact Nancy Sasser 540-544-7708 for information.

-Submitted by Diane Givens



One of the prizes of this year's Historical Society Raffle is this "Garden Twist" quilt done in pink florals with black accents.

COURTESY PHOTO

New Scenic Trail affecting a family that predates the railroad

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

During the transportation meeting held by the Virginia Department of Transportation on Thursday, Sept. 21, many landowners talked to the VDOT representatives about the effects it would have on their personal properties.

Jeremy Parr was present. His family predates the railroad.

He shared with other attendees that, "This trail traverses one and a half miles of my family's land. My family cemetery that dates back to the civil war that we still use, we will have to deal with that."

He pointed to his properties and the areas he was speaking of, "There are two gates that were put in in the 80s to keep vandalism out of our cemetery and seven other landowners' cabins there were getting vandalized. Those folks, with us got the state to put gates in."

He shared about the two bridges that are close to him.

"There is a bridge that was totally overgrown but four weeks ago VDOT came in and sprayed four kinds of herbicides on it, right over top of Craigs Creek waters.

There are gaps in the boards so wide that you cannot cross it. I'm not an engineer but I can only imagine what it is going to cost to fix these bridges as the foundations were built in the 1880s. The tracks were torn out in the 1950s and nobody has maintained it since. You can imagine what mother nature has done to it since. There are even trees growing through them."

There are a total of seven bridges on the scenic trail that will need lots of work.

"I have been a horseman my whole life and there is not a horse alive that will cross either of these bridges as they are," he added. "For horses, it will have to be built up, covered, and fenced off and gated plus the sounding boards for the horses to be able to cross."

His family is against the trail. "Right now, it is public right of way, you can walk, bike, ride a horse and on a lot of places you can even drive on it," Parr shared. "I don't care as you have a right of way, but if you open it up to a lot of other people, I am against that."

Parr added that he is concerned about the schools and maybe the monies should be appropriated there instead.

"Lord Botetourt currently has two leaks and there is mold in it. Central Academy where my son works in the wood shop, the roof leaks over top of the electrical equipment that they have to dry off before they can even use it. Also, my daughter caught a snake going down the hall of Lord Botetourt last year and took it outside," he continued. "Eagle Rock Elementary water supply to the school is contaminated and has issues, and I have heard that James River is the exact same way."

He added, "Plus you have Patterson Creek Trail which is well maintained and the Hoop Hole Trailhead plus the Grapevine and Lignite Trails that are already there for hiking, biking and horseback. My question is why spend millions of dollars for this trail when you have other trails that people aren't even using plus the main factor that you will be affecting other people's lives that go through their front yard or major land owners such as my family?"

"Nobody that I have talked to yet has convinced me that this is a good idea, especially when our schools are falling apart," he finished as he shook his head.

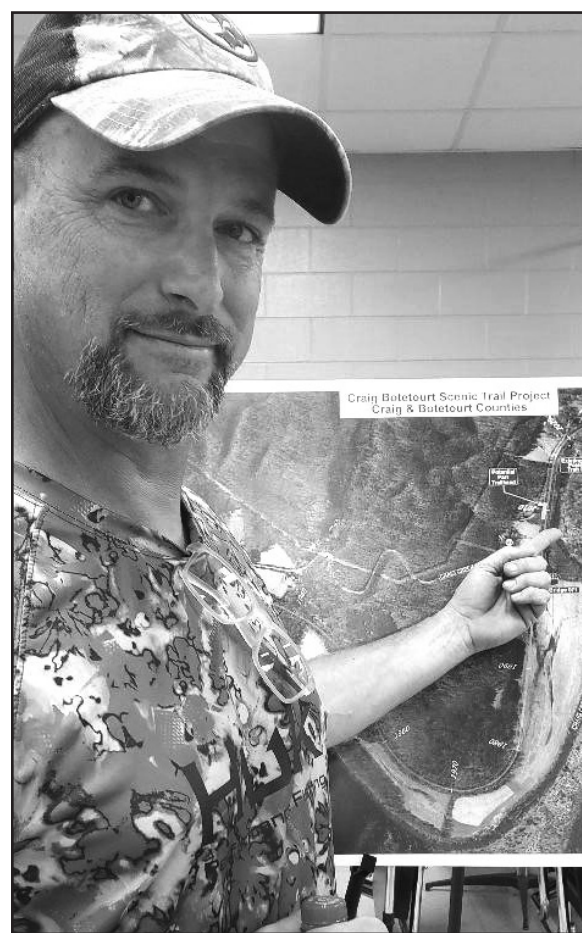


PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

Jeremy Parr opposes the new 26-mile scenic trail that goes through his family's property that predates the railroad.

DeRail from page 1

the other five trails have not been kept up to date.

They included their concerns:

- no official study has been one on how many will use it
- will raise taxes for all
- limits prime hunting areas
- unsafe for visitors and residents
- drain on emergency services and response times
- wasteful spending, it is a want not a need - surplus of trails now
- reducing quality of life for residents
- minimal benefit for towns it's supposed to help
- opportunities for crime stop lights will likely be required to handle traffic increase
- increased threat to environment

DeRail the Trail representative, Lewis Hopkins from Oriskany opposes the Scenic Trail. His driveway goes down to the rail bed and he has to drive on the rail bed to get to the paved road.

"What bothers me mainly is that the

taxpayers are not getting a chance to vote to decide how their monies will be spent," he said. "That almost bothers me more than putting the trail in."

Hopkins shared that he was recently at a meeting in Clifton Forge and Terry Austin shared that he represented 85,000 people.

Hopkins spoke personally to Delegate Terry Austin who personally said to him, "No, the public does not have a right to vote on this. It is state property."

He added, "I was thinking that if you represent 85,000 voters, then why don't you send them all emails and ask them how they want their money spent?"

Hopkins also spoke to the Board of Supervisors in Botetourt County.

"I said that we the people should have a right to vote and if the people voted yes, I wouldn't like it but it is our democratic way and the way our country is supposed to operate," he said. "We are losing our democracy."

"When I spoke to the BOS there were probably 80 people in the audience and I asked them, "If you would like for your tax dollars to be spent on this trail, please raise your hand." Not one person raised their hand."

Hopkins shared that the railroad was deserted by them 60 years ago.

"I think it should have gone back to the landowners. If the government needed this rail bed for a small emergency, they can take it any time they want it, but to spend this kind of money, 35 million," he said. "And, when we ask who is going to maintain it and pay for it, no one can answer that."

Hopkins said that he was in Fincastle the other day and they had three broken down fire trucks out of five, with no money to fix them.

"So, I am thinking, who is going to come to Botetourt for emergency services?" he added.

"I even asked them how many people they feel will use the trail and they told me they didn't know," Hopkins

continued." We have been compared to the Virginia Creeper Trail in Abington, which has over 200,000 visitors a year, but there are a whole lot of people that live in that area. Another trail in Covington called the Jackson River Scenic Trail that get about 28,000 a year which turns out 60-70 people per day."

Hopkins said, "This is proposed as economic development, yet they are exploiting our community for the benefit of others under the guise of economic development and when they are already free to bike, hike and ride horses now."

They can be contacted on Facebook public group: "DeRailtheTrail//Oriskany,VA", or email DerailTheTrailOriskany@gmail.com, or website www.DerailTheTrail.org.

Their group has public meetings at King Memorial Church, 12704-12998 Craigs Creek Rd, Eagle Rock, VA 24085. Their dates and times are on the Facebook page.

Trail from page 3

behind our work to gather information of what would be needed to deliver this project. I think you should ask the legislator what their rationale was in putting this in. That's what I would do," he said.

King reiterated the "beauty of the trail and that it would benefit the commonwealth." When asked why the other trails haven't been kept up in Craig and Botetourt, as they are just as beautiful if not more so for some as they go through more country, there was no response.

Bond added that they are "seeking people to come to them to help them to start developing a cost estimate and what will be required to deliver this project. We are here tonight to tell us what we may not know, get information about the trail heads. The \$32-35 million is an estimate. We are still working on that, as we just need to bring the bridges to a standard that bicyclists, horses and people can use them. This land is owned by the Commonwealth, and they would like to see it used by more people."

Many attendees were concerned about the flooding that happens and landowners must have access to the railbed as they do now, hunting will be affected in the area for landowners which will inadvertently increase the bear, deer and other animal populations which affect crop owners and landowners.

A survey paper was available for attendees to obtain.

Those who would like to comment can do so by sending them to CBST@vdot.virginia.gov, reference Craig Botetourt Scenic Trail in the subject heading.

There is also a comment sheet online at <https://www.virginiadot.org.cbst>, however navigating to find it is not easy at all.

Project manager Kelly Dunn can be contacted by phone (540) 387-5353 and it was strongly suggested that owners contact Del. Terry Austin with their concerns immediately.

A major concern is that VDOT stated that 10 days after the second meeting the public comments period will close which will be on Oct. 1.

9th from page 4

American Indians. Therefore, for decades Virginia Indians were identified as Black by the state on their birth and death records.

Additionally, during the Civil War, many Virginia state and local records were destroyed, which would have proven to be useful for tribes in the present day as evidence of their history and status within the state.

Further, Virginia also attempted to erase the cultural identities of Virginia Indians, by discouraging

traditional ways and forcing tribes to speak English.

Despite everything, the Patowomeck Indians continue to persevere. They have worked to restore their identity, over the past 30 years teaching their members their many historical traditions and their native language.

I am proud to co-sponsor this legislation to finally give the Patowomeck people the recognition they deserve from the federal government.

SHORTHANDED ROCKETS BEAT TWIN VALLEY, HOST MOUNTAIN VIEW FOR HOMECOMING



Coach Jim Fisher surveys the action at a recent game.



Rockets take a break during a time out.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

The Craig County Rockets will have their first real “home” game this Friday when they play host to Mountain View High of Quicksburg for Homecoming. The Rockets will take a 2-1 record into that game after defeating Twin Valley last Friday in Pilgrims Knob, 34-14.

The Rockets played half a home game against Auburn on September 7-11. That’s not a convenience store, but a game that began in Riner on September 7, was stopped by lightning and then completed in New Castle on September 11. Since then the Rockets had a home game with Montcalm rescheduled due to injuries, then a trip to Twin Valley last week where the Rockets pulled out an impressive win. This week’s game will be the first full game on the refurbished gridiron at Mitchell Field.

Last week’s win was a big one for the Rockets, who were still somewhat shorthanded. Craig County never trailed as they put up 464 yards of total offense, including 439 rushing yards.

“Great win on Friday,” said coach Jim Fisher. “We still have several players out and we had to convert some receivers to play offensive line. We are already small, compared to the teams we play, and we got a little smaller last Friday. But our kids were eager to get back on the field and we played with a lot of energy.”

Craig built a 20-6 halftime lead and never looked back. The Rockets were run-heavy with 30 running plays and just nine passing plays with only two

completions. “We have to give our quarterbacks more time,” said Fisher. “They were under a lot of pressure. This is an area that we have to improve upon. Our running game gives us plenty of play action pass opportunities but we could not connect on Friday.”

Statistically, Jaycob Wolfe had nine carries for 113 yards and two touchdowns. He also caught a 23 TD pass from Carter Calfee.

Calfee ran for 210 yards on 12 carries and scored a TD. Carter also scored a pair of two-point conversions and threw a touchdown pass to Wolfe. Noah Paxton had five carries for 85 yards and a touchdown and Isaiah Nichols ran three times for 30 yards.

Defensively, Craig gave up just 135 yards. “We struggled a little against the run early but got it figured out in the third quarter,” said Fisher. “Mason Huffman started his first game at inside linebacker and finished up at nose guard when defensive stalwart Isaiah Will went down with an ankle injury.”

Mason led the team with 13.5 tackles. “Isaiah will be out a few weeks,” said Fisher. “It’s a big loss for our defensive front. He isn’t big but he plays big. He requires a double team or he disrupts everything.”

Josh Craft is still hurting from a shoulder injury but he played a little over a quarter and a half and totaled 13 tackles. Tristan Dooley had a big game at inside linebacker with 12 and a half tackles and

freshman outside linebacker Noah Paxton also had 12.5 tackles. Freshman Carter Price had a big game from his defensive tackle spot with 8.5 tackles, and Calfee added eight tackles.

“Twin Valley had some open receivers at times, and we have to do a better job in coverage, but we did intercept three passes,” said Fisher. “Trevyn Francisco played in his first game since 2021 and gave us a boost right away by making several plays, including our first interception. Freshman Wyatt Huffman picked off two passes in his first day back from concussion protocol, and junior defensive end and linebacker Isaac Lucas had an interception and returned it 78 yards for a TD, but it was called back for a roughing the passer penalty.

“We bent at times but didn’t break much. We need to keep improving on both sides of the ball, especially on the line.”

This Friday is Homecoming against a Mountain View team that comes in at 1-4. The Generals have a win over Thomas Jefferson of Alexandria and have lost to Bath County, Nelson County, Parry McCluer and Page County.

“We have a big Mountain View team coming to town on Friday for our Homecoming Game,” said Fisher. “Hopefully, we can keep the effort and energy going. It’s been a long time since Craig was 3-1 and it’s been a while since we won a Homecoming game. We hope to give a great effort and maybe do both Friday.”

CARILION CLINIC vs LEWIS-GALE CHARITY SOFTBALL GAME SCHEDULED FOR OCT. 1

The Salem Red Sox will host the 6th Annual Carilion Clinic vs. Lewis Gale Charity Softball Game at Carilion Clinic Field, the home of the Salem Red Sox, this Sunday, October 1st.

Admission is five dollars at the gate, cash only, and kids under 10 are free. Gates will open at 1 pm and

the game will start at 2 pm.

Physicians, nurses and administrators will suit up for each hospital during the nine-inning contest. Proceeds from the “Homers for Hearts” game between the area’s two largest health care providers will benefit the American Heart Association.

PICKLEBALL

The Salem High School tennis teams are partnering with the Roanoke Valley Pickleball Club to sponsor the 2023 Spartan Pickleball Fall Classic. The tournament will be held on October 21st and 22nd at the Oakey Complex courts on East Main Street in Salem.

There are doubles events in ages ranging from 14 years old up to 60 and older in men’s, women’s, and mixed divisions. Proceeds will benefit the teams, which are enjoying increased interest and competitive success. Registration for Saturday and Sunday is now open at <http://www.pickleballbrackets.com>.

In addition, there will be a round-robin pickleball social on Friday night from 6 to 9 pm. Local enthusiasm has exploded recently, indicated by the new pickleball club at the school garnering 85 registrants.

This is expected to become an annual event. Salem High athletic director Drew Barrett, the Salem Recreation Department and the Pickleball Club are working on this with Salem tennis coach Steve Lilly and Elisha Baba along with Jill Perez and Don Stafford.

ROCKETS FALL TO MUSTANGS IN VOLLEYBALL



PHOTOS BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY

The Craig County girls had a volleyball game in Elliston against Eastern Montgomery last Thursday. The host Mustangs beat the Rockets in three close games, 25-20, 25-22 and 25-18. Here Erin Snider(top right) sets one up, Kailyn Jones(top center) receives a serve, Layla Dooley(bottom left) gets a dig, Maggie Mays(bottom right) saves a tough shot and Cheyanne Bell(top left) goes up for a spike. The Rockets were scheduled to play at Roanoke Valley Christian on Monday of this week and at Parry McCluer on Thursday.