

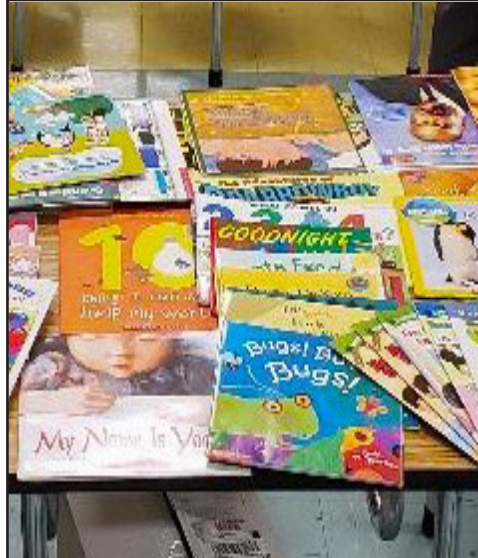
McCleary Elementary School offers bingo during a Nov. 16 book event



McCleary Elementary hosted a unique bingo night on Nov. 16, where students played to win books. The turnout was great, and the atmosphere was electric, hearing kids yell out their "bingo" and run to the book tables.



Many students won more than one book and picked out books for other classmates that were unable to attend, as Mae did.



The fun part of the evening was getting to use M&M's and Skittles as the bingo card cover ups. Several had to get more "bingo pieces" as they went fast.

Student Feelings of Support/Recognition

Percentage of Students Who Agree That There Are People in Their Community That Encourage Them To Do Their Best

	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
Craig Co. MS	82.5%	77.8%	88.4%	71.6%	78.9%	84.9%	66.7%
Craig Co. HS	85.8%	78.7%	78.1%	75.3%	74.3%	65.9%	65.1%

CCPS Youth Risk Behavior survey was presented to public

Pam Dudding
 Contributing writer

For many people, there have been incidents of children they know that has brought tears to their eyes or caused them to kneel in sincere prayer, hoping for the best outcome. Students of any county experience different difficulties, challenges and have strengths to win or some find themselves in weaknesses that defeat them at that moment.

behaviors, etc. Some core measure examples: During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke a cigarette? How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) If they use marijuana once or twice a week? How do your parents or friends feel it would be for you to have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day? Many areas of questions include: Depression & Suicide (feelings of depression, thoughts of suicide and attempts of suicide) Student Feelings of Support/Recognition from friends, community, and family

Since 2005, Craig County Public Schools has participated in surveys which help to reveal truths about the students in CCPS which then assists the school in being proactive to their student's needs.

- Sleep habits
 - Cigarette, tobacco and vape use
 - Alcohol use
 - Marijuana use
 - Other drug use
- Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare has recommendations to assist schools and their communities to help students; initiate a student recognition program

See Survey, page 2



In October the department served 29 families, and midway through November, it was already at 13 families.

DSS appreciative of community donations

Pam Dudding
 Contributing writer

The phrase many have heard in Craig County is, "we take care of our own." The Craig County Department of Social Services recently experienced just that kindness. DSS Director Pat Franklin had shared that the department has had more people in need of food and personal supplies than usual in the last several months, therefore depleting their pantries. However, the community heard their plea and answered swiftly. "Craig County Social Services would like to thank everyone for the enormous community support we have received since the article was published in the paper asking for donations the community food pantry," Franklin shared. "It warms my heart to see the pantry full again." The department also received \$1,425.00 in cash donations that will be used to purchase frozen foods such as hamburger, bologna, slice cheese and bread. "As soon as the article was run, we started receiving food and hygiene donations from local churches, organizations, and individuals," Franklin added. "Our pantry is stocked!" CCDSS serves clients every day. In October the department served 29 families, and midway through November, it was already at 13 families. "As a reminder if you need food, please stop by our office Monday through Friday between 9am and 4 p.m.," she said. "You can call the office at (540) 864-5117.

"We appreciate the support!" Franklin said. "The staff at Social Services sent thank you cards to each of the groups and individuals that has donated to the pantry, but the DSS Board and staff thought the entire community should know how generous people of Craig County have been with their donations."



The community heard their plea and answered swiftly.

NCCC hosted a Thanksgiving eve community service with Pastor Bill Frazier



The New Castle Christian Church hosted a Thanksgiving Eve service for the community to attend. Many enjoyed the music by local citizens as well as a message from Pastor Bill Frazier.



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Survey page 1

at schools and in the community (community collaboration), provide suicide awareness education for students, provide mental health education to all faculty and staff and schedule prevention programs as they have an impact.

They also suggest continuing to grow programming in health classes that educates youth on wellness beyond traditional health topics (e.g. impact of sleep), continue support of grant applications with community partners to bring programs to Craig County and continue to support administration of the VRBS every two years.

The main objection they shared it to “keep the focus on the fact that this is community data and therefore needs a community response.”

They ask that everyone

please remember that too often, data like this is looked at by communities as a school challenge.

“In every community, and Craig is no exception, the reality is that youth struggling with their mental health requires community action far beyond the walls of any school,” Carlin said.

“These surveys are to be used to guide students, schools, families, citizens, and communities as a whole to better serve the youth of Craig County and do our best to help give them what the numbers tell us they are needing most at that time,” they added.

It is suggested that these are numbers that Craig County can use to inform planning, action, and ultimately create positive change based on the trends being seen.

30-Day Use (Marijuana)

Percentage of Students Who Used Marijuana or Hashish At Least Once in the Past 30 Days

	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
Craig Co. MS	4.7%	12.0%	7.0%	7.4%	8.1%	4.1%	0.0%
Craig Co. HS	12.4%	13.7%	13.9%	19.6%	17.5%	5.9%	12.2%
National HS YRBS	23.1%	23.4%	21.7%	19.8%	21.7%	15.8%	N/A

30-Day Use (Alcohol)

Percentage of Students Who Had At Least 1 Drink of Alcohol in the Past 30 Days

	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
Craig Co. MS	20.2%	17.0%	21.2%	11.9%	13.8%	8.2%	1.6%
Craig Co. HS	31.5%	39.8%	42.1%	33.0%	32.5%	31.7%	27.5%
National HS YRBS	38.7%	34.9%	32.8%	29.8%	29.2%	22.7%	N/A

Four Salem churches to present ‘Visions of the Nativity’



COURTESY PHOTO

“Visions of the Nativity” will be available for viewing from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, Nativity sets are a popular—and meaningful—decoration in many homes. Nativity sets depict the story of Jesus’ birth. The sets typically include the people, angels, and animals who were there, but some sets also include others who could not have been there, but who would have been welcomed nonetheless.

On Sunday, Dec. 3, from 2-4 p.m., four downtown Salem churches are joining together to present “Visions of the Nativity.” A wide variety of Nativity sets will be on display, designed and crafted by artists from various cultures and in a range of sizes and media. These sets are on loan from personal collections, and displayed at each church as a gift to the community.

- View “Visions of the Nativity” at these locations:
- Salem Presbyterian Church, at the corner of Main and Market
- St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, at the corner of Main and Market
- College Lutheran Church, 210 S College Ave.
- Salem Baptist Church, 103 N Broad St.

The displays at each church will be different. The public is invited to visit all of the churches and enjoy the array of Nativity sets at each location.

-New Castle Record

Depression & Suicide

Percentage of Students Who, During the Past 12 Months, Felt so Sad or Hopeless Almost Everyday for 2 Weeks or More in a Row, They Stopped Doing Some Usual Activities

	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
Craig Co. MS	20.2%	23.3%	23.1%	28.0%	28.7%	34.7%	22.2%
Craig Co. HS	18.9%	23.0%	27.7%	34.8%	42.5%	40.2%	38.6%
National HS YRBS	28.5%	27.1%	29.9%	31.5%	36.7%	42.3%	N/A

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CLUES ACROSS

- Single Lens Reflex
- People of southern Benin
- One who is learned (abbr.)
- Neckwear
- Solid water
- A way to work the soil
- Inspiring
- Pick up
- It wakes you up
- Parcel
- Popular dog breed
- Lets out a sigh
- Embedded into the surface
- Hard liquors
- One from Scotland
- Satisfy
- Used to introduce a contrasting statement
- Antidepressant drug type (abbr.)
- Similar
- Winged horse
- Soft drink maker
- One who doesn't live up to expectations
- Nursemaid
- Inheritor
- Hot, often dusty wind
- Serves as an introduction
- Earned top billing
- Mansion
- A partner to a carrot
- War-horse
- Midway between northeast and east
- It checks the heartbeat
- Aquatic salamander
- CNN's founder
- Being precisely suitable and right
- Strongly alkaline solution

CLUES DOWN

- Pinochle trick
- A system of connections
- Emblems of royalty
- Work with a soft hand
- Plant cultivated in Peru
- A timid man
- Lacking intellectual depth
- A way to order
- Intoxicating
- Mimic
- Surfers use it
- Small Eurasian deer
- Popular Miller beer
- Finds out about
- Unusual
- Small European viper
- Indicates before
- Birth swine
- 7
- Useful keyboard key
- Letter of the Greek alphabet
- Edible mollusk
- Stitched up
- Utilized
- ___ in tradition
- A way to get through
- Let off
- Fashionable source of shade
- In due time
- Printing speed
- A major division of geological time
- Nocturnal, cat-like mammal
- ___ de la ___
- After B
- Unusual
- Former money of the EU

Upcoming public meetings in Craig County

Dec. 7

The Craig County Board of Supervisors will hold its monthly meeting at the Craig County Courthouse at 6 p.m.

Dec. 18

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

Dec. 19

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

Dec. 20

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

Jan. 4

The Craig County Board of Supervisors will hold its monthly meeting at the Craig County Courthouse at 6 p.m.

Jan. 15

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

The Craig County Board of Supervisors will hold its monthly meeting at the Craig County Courthouse at 6 p.m.

Community events:

Dec. 2

The Craig County Christmas

Parade will be on Saturday, Dec. 2. It will leave from the Fairgrounds at 6 p.m. Music and shopping will be on Main Street.

Ongoing

Feeding Southwest Virginia will be offering food twice a month on the second and third Wednesday of the month from 3-5 p.m. and 4-5 p.m., respectively. All community members are welcome to purchase fresh produce and other canned and boxed items. EBT recipients receive 50% off their fruits and vegetables.

Booster Club of Craig Schools meet on the third Monday of each month in the school cafeteria at 6 p.m. Community members are encouraged to attend and to join to support the kids of Craig County as they need the participation of more people.

Every Friday, Craig County Genealogy Library is open 1-4 p.m. 152 Main Street. High school annuals, family histories and genealogy resources. Contact 540-864-7023.

The New Castle Record p.m. 152 Main Street. High school annuals, family histories and genealogy resources. Contact 540-864-7023.

-The New Castle Record

Santa at Lasterday with CHIP



COURTESY PHOTO

Santa is coming! He will be at Lasterday Market on Dec. 9, 3-5 p.m. The Craig County Public Library, CHIP and Lasterday invites children young and old-er for a warm cup of cocoa, a delicious cookie and a Christmas story while waiting to see Santa. When the child is registered with this event, they will receive a free cup of cocoa, a cookie, and a picture with Santa. Only 60 slots are available for registration. Register for free on EventBrite: [http://www.eventbrite.com/e/cocoa-with-santa-tickets-760813392337?aff=oddtcreator

Shawna Franklin named new head of Children's Trust

ROANOKE— Children's Trust, an advocate for the welfare of children and families in the Roanoke Valley, is thrilled to announce the appointment of Shawna Franklin as the organization's new executive director, effective Nov. 1.

As a cornerstone in the community, Children's Trust is committed to coordinating services that enhance the lives of area children and families. Children's Trust is one agency that is comprised of five programs: Children First, Healthy Families Roanoke Valley, Roanoke Valley Trauma Informed Community Network, Children's Advocacy Center, and CASA: Court Appointed Special Advocates. Through these programs the organization focuses on raising awareness about child abuse, providing educational support for families, creating a safe environment for abuse investigations and tirelessly advocating for the best interests of abused and neglected children.

Shawna joined Children's Trust in 2015, as a forensic interviewer and has been serving as the Interim Executive Director since May 2023. With a deep commitment to community welfare and a history of successful leadership, Shawna is poised to lead Children's Trust into its next chapter of growth and impact.

"We are delighted to appoint Shawna Franklin to this position. Her experience and dedication to our mission make her the ideal leader to guide us in our ongoing efforts to create a safer and healthier environment for children and families," said Janet Crawford, chair of the Children's Trust Board of Directors.

Children's Trust has a longstanding tradition of making a positive impact in the community. The organization's multifaceted approach to child welfare involves collaboration with various stakeholders, including local agencies, law enforcement and educational institutions.

"I am honored to be a part of Children's Trust, an organization that plays a crucial role in fostering a supportive and safe community for our children. I am excited about the opportunity to work alongside our dedicated team and community partners to further our mission," said Shawna Franklin, Children's Trust executive director.

For more information about Children's Trust and its mission, please visit www.roact.org. Please see the headshot below for use.

-New Castle Record



Franklin

COURTESY PHOTO

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 Tuesday 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 Service and Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Youth Group 6:30-8:00PM, Bible Buddies at 6:30-8:00PM. Transportation provided - call the church. Hearing devices also available. www.craigvalleybaptist.com

CRAIG VALLEY GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP

HWY 621, Pastor Roy Lee Law Jr., "Jay", 864-8984. Sunday School 10:00am; Worship 11:00am., Wednesday night Bible study 7pm, from HWY 311, up HWY 621, 8 miles on left.

CROSSROADS CHURCH

21892 Craigs Creek Road, New Castle. Pastor Gary Burch. 864-7520. Sunday School- 10-10:45AM, Sunday Worship - 11AM-Noon.

FIRST BAPTIST

Pastor Kevin Altizer, Corner of Main Street & Boyd Ave., New Castle. Church phone 864-5919. Sunday School 10:00AM, Sunday Worship 11:00AM and 6PM. Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7PM, Youth Group

7:00PM, Reformers Unanimous Addiction Recovery every Friday evening at 7PM.

GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

5530 Catawba Valley Drive, Catawba, VA, 540-384-7075. Pastor Lorraine 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 Chanmi Lee, 347-684-2607, 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: 540-580-5837, 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 Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

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OPINION

News from the 9th: Fire investigation



Morgan Griffith
Representative

This fall, forest fires have been significant in the 9th District and causes are yet to be determined.

In September, I held a hearing in the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee, to discuss the devastating Maui fires that occurred this past August. Our focus was investigating what role Maui's electric infrastructure might have played in the events leading up to the fires.

As I said after the hearing, I was disappointed the Committee could not get answers on the timeline leading up to the deenergizing of the power lines on Maui from our witness, Hawaiian Electric President and CEO Shelee Kimura. The disappointment stemmed from the fact that notice was given to Hawaiian Electric that we were specifically

looking at the timeline and Ms. Kimura was not prepared with the answers. Notwithstanding that, in the aftermath of a crisis sometimes it takes leaders time to gather all the appropriate answers.

Accordingly, I followed up with a series of written questions in order to get a better picture of the sequence of events and more information on Hawaiian Electric's fire protocols and procedures. Ms. Kimura has since submitted detailed responses for the record.

I was particularly interested when on August 8th Hawaiian Electric deenergized their power lines. According to Ms. Kimura, Hawaiian Electric was aware of the Red Flag Warning issued by the National Weather Service, meaning there was an increased risk of fire. She said because of this, Hawaiian Electric implemented their Reclose Blocking Procedure. Under this protocol, if a fault causes a line to trip offline (or deenergize), the circuit breaker or recloser cannot

automatically attempt to reenergize the circuit. It must be done manually after the line has been inspected and determined to be found "clear and intact".

According to Ms. Kimura's written answers, a power line tripped early the morning of August 8th and, following the protocol, was inspected, and deemed clear and intact. The company reenergized the line at 6 a.m. The same line was then tripped offline again at 6:39 a.m.

What is most concerning about this sequence of events is that the morning fire in Lahaina was reported at 6:37 a.m. Further, the fire was reported in the same area as the tripped line. It is reported that the morning fire was contained by 9 a.m. but, there is speculation that the morning fire might not have been completely extinguished, thus reigniting, and causing the deadly afternoon fire.

This leads many to wonder what would have happened if the line hadn't been turned back on. Was it improper for the company to have reenergized the lines at 6 a.m., despite high winds continuing?

The Committee will continue to investigate and will hold more hearings to learn as much as possible about these fires and how to prevent such fires in the future.

One of the other things during the

hearing was the use of a "public safety power shutoff" program. This program, created due to fires in western states, including California, uses modern technology to quickly deenergize the power system in areas of high risk. This allows utility companies to cut electricity to specific areas before dangerous weather in order to limit the risk of fires. The program was not used in Hawaii.

My hope is that other power companies in the United States, including those in Virginia, will consider adopting this technology.

This was particularly pressing on my mind the last several weeks because in early November, Cardinal News reported that Virginia had five fires that had consumed more than 1,000 acres each. Of those, four were located in the 9th District. At that time, the Yocum Creek fire in Lee County covered 1,500 acres, the Rocklick Fire in Buchanan County covered 1,200 acres, the Rachel's Chapel fire in Dickenson County covered 1,100 acres, and the Tuggle's Gap in Patrick County covered 1,050 acres.

And as I write this column, the Matt's Creek fire in Bedford County has already consumed over 11,000 acres. I hope to be with the forest service soon and see the damage.

While there is no indication at this time that any of these fires were caused by electric power lines, and while we did not experience high winds prior to these fires as occurred out west and in Hawaii, I believe this technology deserves due consideration.

Craig County announces partnership

Library Corner Craig County

The Craig County Public Library is ecstatic to announce Jasmine Brown and the staff of Lasterday Market has received an Honorable Mention from our nomination for the I Partner with my Local Library 2023 Award!

Letha Hibbitts, (Craig Co. Public Library director) and Michaela Crawford (Craig Co. Public Library program coordinator) nominated Lasterday Market for the award due to their continued participation and assistance with multiple library events and projects. "We want to deliver the love of reading to everyone in our community. However, limited space is a major dilemma we face often," said Hibbitts and Crawford.

Jasmine Brown, owner of Lasterday Market, has offered her space to the library on multiple occasions. Lasterday and Craig Library, CHIP of the Roanoke

Valley, and Craig Co. DSS hosted Mr. and Mrs. Claus last Christmas so children could enjoy a free pancake and hot cocoa breakfast before meeting the Claus family. The Community Christmas Store of the Roanoke Valley was recently hosted by both Lasterday and Craig Library. This is the first year the Community Christmas Store travelled to New Castle for local families to sign up for assistance during the holiday season. Jasmine also has an area in the restaurant for the library to leave books for people to read while they are waiting for their piping hot, tasty breakfast or to take home with them.

The library and Lasterday Market plan to continue a successful working relationship in the future. Michaela and Letha say, "We are beyond grateful to Jasmine and her employees not only for the use of their space but for their assistance with events, going above and beyond to ensure each event is memorable and helping share of love of books and reading to as many as possible."

Congratulations Jasmine and Lasterday Market!

Be sure to 'Like' the New Castle Record on Facebook.

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Craig County Health Center
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Marketplace

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Auctions



Horse Farm Downsizing Online Only Auction

163 Dale Road, Troutville, Virginia
Tractors, Trailers, Wood Chipper and More!
Bidding Begins to close Thursday, December 7th at 7:30 pm

Preview will be Thursday December 7th from 3:30-5:30 PM

Pick-up will be Friday, December 8th from 3:30-5:30 PM

Visit www.CircleCAuction.com
Contact Cody Manspile, Auctioneer (VAAL 2907004430) @ (540) 784-9254 with any questions.

VA AF# 2908001046

Help Wanted - General

MECHANICS URGENTLY NEEDED:

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Serious inquiries only! Competitive Pay and Benefits.

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Legals - Botetourt County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 366 Bridge Street N, Buchanan, VA 24066

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$53,680.00 dated December 1, 2015 recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for Botetourt County on December 14, 2015 as Instrument Number: 1504503, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction, at the Main entrance of the courthouse for the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, 1 W Main St, Fincastle, VA 24090 on January 2, 2024 at 10:00 AM the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and briefly described as: ALL OF THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: LOT 3, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF SURVEY OF HEARTHLAND SUBDIVISION, PREPARED BY CHARLES R. MCMURRY, C.L.S., DAIED JULY 3, 1991, OF RECORD IN THE CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 14, AT PAGE 73. Tax ID: 22559. TERMS OF SALE: A bidder's deposit of \$5,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required in the form of a certified or cashier's check. Cash will not be accepted as a deposit. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustee may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. This is a communication from a debt collector. This notice is an attempt to collect on a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. (Trustee # 23-008417) Substitute Trustee: ALG Trustee, LLC C/O Orleans PC PO Box 2548, Leesburg, VA 20177 (703) 777-7101 website: www.Orleans.com The Vendor auction.com will be used in conjunction with this Sale. Potential Bidders: For sale information, please visit www.Auction.com or call (800) 280-2832.

Help Wanted - Clerical

TOWN OF TROUTVILLE IS SEEKING FULL TIME TOWN CLERK

The Town of Troutville is looking for an experienced business professional to support the Town with an array of clerical functions. The ideal candidate will have a degree in business or 5 years of accounts payable/receivable experience. Candidate must have excellent communication, organizational and interpersonal skills and be able to work with Microsoft Office Tools as well as financial software applications. Duties include the answering of phones, general secretarial duties, water billing, collections, bank deposits, and other duties as assigned or needed. Candidate must have the ability to work in a self-directed environment. Selected applicants will be called for an interview. Hourly rate is negotiable. Retirement and health benefits are available. All resumes must be received by December 5, 2023, 3:00 PM. Send resume to: Town of Troutville, Resume, P.O. Box 276, Troutville VA 24175 or laura.bumgarner@gmail.com

Help Wanted - Drivers

Part Time Newspaper Driver

Salem Times Register has openings for afternoon/evening drivingshift for newspaper delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$12 per hour. Contact Christine, Circulation Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355

Help Wanted - General

Help Wanted Carpenter

\$16 to \$20 plus hour, based on experience. Vacation after one year. For Details call 540-598-7100 or 304-667-7531

Legals - City of Salem

ABC NOTICE

SAPPHIRE HOSPITALITY LLC., trading as FAIRFIELD INN AND SUITES, 121 SHERATON DRIVE, ROANOKE COUNTY, SALEM, VA. 24153-0121.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Beer and Wine license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Vishnu Patel, Sole Member

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Legals - City of Salem

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY: H. Robert Light Deputy Executive Secretary

Legals - Montgomery County

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, 20-104
Case No. CA23000019-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073

Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re*: The Adoption of a Minor Child Under Eighteen Years of Age, to be known as SERITA DANIELLE TICKLE
By: MILDRED ANNE TICKLE, FRED LEE TICKLE, JR.

PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Salem School Board will hold a public hearing for comment on the FY 2024-25 budget on Tuesday, December 12th The hearing will begin at 7:00 PM at the School Administrative Office, 510 South College Avenue, Salem.

Any citizen of Salem who wishes to address the Board should contact Susan E. Young, Clerk of the Board, at 540-389-0130 by Friday, December 8, in order to be placed on the agenda. Individuals who plan to address the Board are requested to bring a copy of their remarks for the record.

In accordance with Board Policy KD, Public Participation in Board Meetings, individuals who plan to address the Board are requested to:

- provide their name and address,
- address their remarks to the Board,
- be brief,
- provide a copy of their remarks for the record, and
- be prepared to answer questions from the Board,
- In unusual cases or cases of emergency, the Board, by consensus, may allow an individual or organization to speak if not on the agenda.

DIVORCE NOTICE

Granville County Civil Court in Granville County, NC will be hearing a plea for the decree of divorce for which suit is pending and as filed by Larissa L. Peluso-Fleming of 4010 Pastor Lane, Wake Forest, NC 27587 (petitioner/wife) versus Andrew Taylor McDonald of 1619 Valhalla Court, Salem, VA 24513 (defendant/husband) The defendant must enter a defense to such pleading within 30 days after the date of receipt of divorce filing as delivered by the Roanoke County Sheriff's Department. Should the defendant fail to make a defense within that time period, the plaintiff shall apply to the court for relief.

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on December 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:

- Consider the request of E2ST John, LLC, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 68 St. John Road (Tax Map # 155-2-2.1) from HBD Highway Business District to HM Heavy Manufacturing District.
- Consider the request of Poindexter SW Florida, LLC, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 2105-2121 Apperson Drive (Tax Map # 281-1-2.2) from BCD Business Commerce District to HBD Highway

Legals - Town of Vinton

ABC NOTICE

Maa Vedai 6 LLC, trading as JENNIFER GROCERY, 1312 Patterson Ave SW, Roanoke, Roanoke City, VA. 24016.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Retail Specialty Establishment Application-Convenience Grocery Store, Wine, Beer, Consumed Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Haresh Chaudhari, Only Member.

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

LEGAL NOTICE

Roanoke County Board of Supervisors Seeking Applicants to Fill Vinton District Vacancy

The Board of Supervisors of Roanoke County is searching for candidates to fill the vacancy in the Vinton Magisterial District as the result of P. Jason Peters' election to the Roanoke County Commissioner of the Revenue.

The person appointed shall be a qualified voter of the Vinton Magisterial District and hold office until a special election in November of 2024.

The person elected at the special election will serve the remainder of Mr. Peters' term, which expires December 31, 2025.

If any qualified voter in the Vinton Magisterial District would like to be considered for the vacancy, please mail or email a 300-word essay on why you want to be the Supervisor for the Vinton Magisterial District and why you feel you are qualified to serve to the Chief Deputy Clerk at the following address or email by January 1, 2024.

Deborah C. Jacks
Chief Deputy Clerk to the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors
5204 Bernard Drive
Roanoke, Virginia 24018
Telephone: 540-772-2003
Email: djacks@roanokecountyva.gov
or
Dated: November 26, 2023
Deborah C. Jacks
Chief Deputy Clerk to the Board

Legals - Botetourt County

Branch Civil, Inc. (VA License # 2701-029434A) is currently soliciting quotes for the following project located in Franklin County, VA:

Summit View Connector Road
IFB: 092301 (UPC No. 111362)
VDOT Project No.: 0697-033-827, P101, C501
U.S. EDA Award No. 01-79-15051

We are soliciting quotes for the following selected items of work: Clearing and Grubbing, E&S Measures, Hauling and Disposal, Drainage Piping/Structures, Water and Sanitary Sewer Relocations, Sidewalks, Curbs and Gutters, Underdrains, Asphalt Pavement, Pavement Marking, Landscaping, Plantings, Topsoil and Seeding, Roadway Signs, Electrical and Traffic Signalization.

All quotes must be received by: December 11, 2023 @ 4:30 p.m. EST

We encourage Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Businesses to participate. Contact our Estimating Department at 703-486-6575 for further information. Quotes maybe submitted by email to BClestimating@branchcivil.com or US Mail to P.O. Box 40004, Roanoke, VA 24022. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER M/F/H/V

Legals - Botetourt County

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY IN RE: ESTATE OF CHARLES MATTHEW BARTON, DECEASED

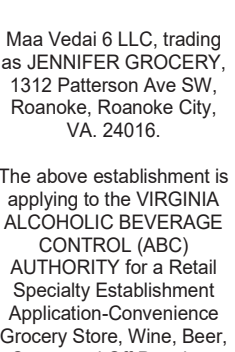
NOTICE
Having been requested to do so by Lenden Eakin, attorney for James McClure, administrator of the estate of Charles Matthew Barton, Deceased, and in accordance with Section 64.2-550 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, all creditors of Charles Matthew Barton, and all persons in any way interested in his estate, are hereby notified that I have fixed the 4th day of January, 2024 at 10 o'clock a.m., at my office at 13 South Roanoke Street, Fincastle, Virginia as the time and place for determining an account of the debts and demands against said Charles Matthew Barton or his estate, the priorities among them, and the names of the persons to whom they are due. All creditors of Charles Matthew Barton, deceased, and persons interested in his estate should appear at the time and place named, or any other time or place to which the proceedings may be adjourned, and protect their interest. Given under my hand his the 27th day of November, 2023.

Malcolm McL. Doubles
Commissioner of Accounts

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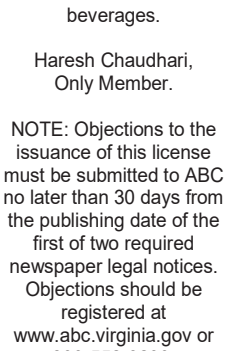
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STATEWIDE ADS

9, Noon, Culpeper Agricultural Enterprise, Culpeper, VA. Selling 80 Angus, Charolais, Gelbvieh, Hereford, Simmental and SimAngus bulls. Catalog 540-231-9159. Sale information available at www.virginiabcia.com. Sale available online at https://www.liveauctions.tv/

TOTAL PERFORMANCE BULL SALE. Friday, December 1, 2023 at Noon. Featuring 175 Angus, Polled Hereford, Gelbvieh and Balancer bulls. Knoll Crest Farm, Red House, VA. Pre-register before sale day by calling 434-376-3567

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OBITUARIES

Helms, Reba F.



Taylor Francisco; sister, Muriel Persinger; brothers, Paul, Clay and Gary Francisco. Left to cherish her memory are her daughter's, Tammy Dillon (Randy) and Vickie Moore (Vince); grandchildren, Josie

Flinchum (Ben) and Chad Carper (Elaina); great-grandchildren, Eli and Caroline Flinchum, and Genevieve Carper.

The family would like to thank the caregivers and Intrepid Hospice.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023, at the New Castle Christian Church with Bill Frazier officiating. Interment will follow at Crawford Memorial Cemetery/Paxton's Chapel. The family will receive friends two hours prior to the service.

Arrangements by Paitzel Funeral Home.

Gallimore, Donna Roxanne McDaniel

Donna Roxanne McDaniel Gallimore, aged 65, of New Castle Va. passed away on Nov. 18, 2023, after a brave struggle with cancer.

Donna was born in 1958 in Roanoke, Virginia. She was preceded in death by her parents, Alvis Buell McDaniel and Thelma Irene Abbott McDaniel.

She is survived by her daughter Jessica Gallimore and her sons, Dakota Henderson and Dalton Henderson; her daughter and

son-in-law, Angela and Jimi Hutchings, their sons, Cedric, Owen, and Roran; her brother, Timothy Carl McDaniel, his wife, Dr. Lori Heldreth McDaniel, and their family; as well as her long-time partner and companion in life, Larry McDonald; her special friend, Nellie Gallimore.

Donna was employed at Rowe Furniture for many years and enjoyed the simple pleasures in life. Her favorite pastimes included time with family, reading

novels, and tending her extensive flower and vegetable gardens. She found great solace in nature and loved time outdoors, especially walks with her dogs along the creek near her home in Craig County.

She will be deeply missed by all who knew her. A private celebration of life in honor of Donna will be held at a future date. Arrangements by Simpson Funeral Home Peters Creek Road Chapel. (540)366-0707.

VDOT ROADWATCH

Interstate 81

I-81 & ROUTE 11 BORING - Mountain Valley Pipeline is currently performing boring operations of 329 feet across Route 11 near Apgar Drive. Expected completion in late 2023/early 2024. There are no impacts to traffic.

INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXIT 137 TO EXIT 141 - The \$179 million design-build project to widen both directions of I-81 between mile markers 136.6 and 141.8 from two to three lanes is underway. Work is being performed along a five-mile section of both northbound and southbound Interstate 81 in Roanoke County and the city of Salem. Barrier wall is in place along the shoulders. Two lanes of I-81 traffic in each direction are expected to remain open during the project with periodic lane closures scheduled during nighttime hours or outside of peak travel times as needed. Drivers can expect the following lane closures and upcoming traffic impacts in this area on northbound and southbound I-81:

ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC IMPACTS:

WORK ZONE SPEED: Drivers should adhere to posted 60 mph speed limits in the work zone and allow space when following a vehicle. Narrow spacing in lanes due to barrier walls, lack of shoulders and lane shifts in various locations, are present.

TRAFFIC SHIFTS ON WILDWOOD ROAD: Expect a work zone with traffic shifts and narrow width on Wildwood road after exiting I-81 southbound on exit 137 heading towards Salem. Southbound and northbound I-81 exit and entrance ramp narrows are possible at Route 311.

TRAFFIC SHIFT ON EXIT 140: Expect a quick merge into traffic onto Thompson Memorial from the southbound exit ramp of exit 140. Work zone located at bottom of the ramp for work on the I-81 bridge at the underpass.

RAMP CLOSURES: Ramp closures are possible during nighttime hours, 12 a.m., to 5 a.m. Drivers should watch for message boards dates and times the ramp will be closed.

LANE CLOSURES: Alternating left and right lane and shoulder closures during nighttime hours between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, are possible. Lane widths will be reduced to 11 feet. Nightly lane closures may be in place along the right lane with possible nightly ramp narrows as needed for guardrail and shoulder strengthening.

The project also includes replacing six bridges, widening two bridges, installing approximately 2.6 miles of sound barrier walls along northbound I-81, improving the southbound exit 137 off-ramp intersection at Wildwood Road and adding interchange lighting at exits 137, 140 and 141. Expected completion in early 2026.

I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY - Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the Montgomery/Pulaski County line. Lane and shoulder closures may be in

place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 98 to 109. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated for Summer 2024.

ROUTE 605: From November 27 through December 1, alternating lane closures and flagging operations will be present on Route 605, located under the New River Bridge, for paving operations and work overhead on the bridge.

LANE CLOSURES: Beginning December 3, nighttime alternating lane closures are possible on I-81 northbound between mile markers 104-106 from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

SLOW ROLLS: A slow roll operation may be in place daily, Monday through Friday, between mile marker 101 and 105 northbound and between mile marker 109 and 105 southbound, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Slow rolls may be utilized periodically on both the northbound and southbound lanes from mile marker 98-109 for structural steel deliveries and setting beams.

I-81 PAVING OPERATIONS - Weather permitting, crews will be performing paving operations along Interstate 81. Right and left lane closures may be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS - Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 170 to 89, right and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

Interstate 581

I-581/220 EXPRESSWAY PAVING OPERATIONS - Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

I-581/220 LANE & RAMP CLOSURES FOR PAVING AND MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS IN ROANOKE COUNTY - Weather permitting, crews will be milling and paving along Interstate 81. Right and left lane closures will be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours. Drivers should expect possible delays.

Roanoke County

SIDEWALK PROJECT ON SOUTHBOUND WILLIAMSON ROAD IN HOLLINS AREA - Work is underway on a project to construct new sidewalk along the section of southbound Route 11 (Williamson Road) between Plantation Road and Peters

Creek Road. Drivers in the Hollins area can expect periodic right lane closures on southbound Williamson Road between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. As work progresses, occasional nighttime lane closures also will be scheduled. The sidewalk project is expected to be completed in summer 2024.

STARKEY ROAD AND BUCK MOUNTAIN ROAD ROUNDABOUT - A road project to construct a single-lane roundabout at the intersection of Route 904 (Starkey Road) and Route 679 (Buck Mountain Road) is in progress. The new roundabout is now open to traffic and drivers should be aware of the new roundabout configuration. There will be occasional flagging operations in place between the 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the intersection of Starkey Road and Buck Mountain Road, drivers should still expect lane closures with flaggers controlling traffic for final paving, additional concrete pouring and pavement marking until the project is finished. Final completion is expected in late spring 2024.

LANE CLOSURES WITH FLAGGING OPERATIONS: Lane closure times of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. have resumed due to school now being in session.

ROUNDABOUT: The roundabout configuration has been set up. This means drivers should continue around the circle without turning left and that drivers in the circle have the right of way.

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY CLOSURES IN ROANOKE AREA - Blue Ridge Parkway will be repairing slope failures and road closures with detours may be in place. Visit their website at www.nps.gov/blri/planyourvisit/roadclosures.htm for more information.

MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE - Mountain Valley Pipeline is expected to begin full construction again by mid-July. Temporary intermittent flagging operations will be in place in the county throughout the remainder of the project (with a tentative completion date of February 2024) to load/unload equipment at crossings and construction entrances. Scheduled completion is February 2024.

PAVING OPERATIONS - Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place and flaggers may control traffic at times during daylight or nighttime hours. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

Botetourt County

DALEVILLE INTERSECTION PROJECT FOR FIELDSTONE DEVELOPMENT ACCESS - Work to install a new traffic signal, a right turn lane, a media crossover, and additional signage being added at the entrance into the Fieldstone Development off of Route 220 in Daleville through a permit is underway. The speed limit in this area has been permanently reduced to 45mph. There is no estimated time for when these will become active as work continues. Lane closures northbound and southbound on Route 220 in Daleville may be set up on various days and noise disturbances may occur through January 2024.

Email letters to the editor to aboyd@mainstreetnewspapers.com

SPORTS

Send story ideas & announcements to bhoffman@ourvalley.org

Rockets named to All-Pioneer football team

The All-Pioneer District football team was recently announced and Craig County was well-represented. The Rockets had four spots on offense and four on defense.

On offense, sophomore Carter Calfee was named first team at runningback. Craig also had three second team selections with freshman Carter Price on the offensive line, junior Issac Lucas at kicker and junior Jaycob Wolfe was the "All-Purpose" selection.

Calfee was also named first team on defense at defensive back. Price and

Wolfe were second team choices at defensive line and defensive back and Josh Craft, a junior, was second team at linebacker. All selections from Craig are underclassmen.

The Rockets also had a few players deemed "Honorable Mention," including junior Blake Wright, sophomores Tristan Dooley, Mason Huffman and Caleb Fields and freshmen Wyatt Huffman, Marcus Donithan and Noah Paxton. Again, all are underclassmen and slated to return to the gridiron next season.

Kolier Pruett of Narrows was named the Pioneer District Offensive Player of the Year, Braiden Mabe of Bath County was named Defensive Player of the Year and Jake Phillips of Bath County was named the district Coach of the Year.

Also, Craig County coach Jimmy Fisher has announced the Rockets will be involved in a Punt, Pass, and Kick competition on April 13th, 2024. Craig is register with PPKUSA.

"We want to develop kids that can throw, punt and kick," said Fisher.



Carter Calfee is first team all-district on both sides of the ball.



Jaycob Wolfe is second team All-Pioneer on both offense and defense.



Carter Price, left #64 a freshman, was second team All-Pioneer on both sides of the line.

PHOTOS BY
BRIAN HOFFMAN



Issac Lucas is second team all-district at placekicker.



Josh Craft is a second team all-district linebacker.

ROCKETS OPEN BASKETBALL SEASON WITH HIGH HOPES

The Craig County boys were scheduled to open the basketball season this week with back-to-back games. Craig had a Monday home game with the Covington Boys' Home followed by an away game at Giles Tuesday.

"We are looking forward to this season," said coach Ryan Frazier. "We return four starters and five guys that played a lot of minutes for us last year."

Returning starters from last year's team include first team All-Pioneer District swing man Matthew Lucas, a senior. Senior Hayden Reynolds was honorable mention last year and senior Drew Duncan and junior Jaycob Wolfe are also returning starters as only point guard Zachary Peters was lost to graduation. Junior Talon Ritter started a handful of games last year and played a big role even when he was not starting. Other seniors are Seth Parsons, Will Johnson and Martin Campbell and juniors are Isaiah Wenthe and Cameron Huffman.

Frazier is looking forward to the addition of Luke Potter and Tristan Dooley, who

have moved up to the varsity. Both are sophomores and Luke will be in the rotation and pushing the starters in practice and in the games while Tristan is also looking to find some time on the new Craig County High wooden floor.

Frazier has been pleased with the off-season work of this team.

"This is the most commitment we have shown in the off season," he said. "We had seven or eight guys show up for open gyms throughout the summer and fall. We were able to get into a couple team camps against larger schools, that I think that really helped us grow. Just having that consistency throughout the year should help us during the season."

Ryan has seen marked improvement among the Rockets right down the line.

"Returning a first team all-district player is always nice, but Hayden Reynolds has worked hard to put himself in a position where the district will have to take notice. We have had several players work hard on their skills and buy into their role

like Talon, Jaycob, and Will, who look to make a big impact this year."

Craig will be looking to improve on the boards this year with a year's growth from last year's young team.

"Size and depth in the post has always been a struggle for us, but we have Drew Duncan returning for his senior year and he will help us on the boards and scoring in the post. Along with Jaycob, Tristan and Isaiah we are able to push each other in practice and have some depth for the games. All in all we are looking forward to where we can finish this year.

"Our goal is to finish as high in the district as possible and make it back to regionals, then anything can happen. This is the most committed group we have had from open gyms and fundraising all summer. This is a group you just want to do well because they have put the time in to make it happen."

After the two games this week the Rockets will host Buffalo Gap and Roanoke Valley Christian on Monday and Tuesday of next week.

Girls open the season with two home games

The Craig County girls will open the basketball season with two home games this week. The Rockets were scheduled to play Giles on Tuesday and have North Cross on Thursday, both in New Castle.

Coach Brock Jones will be entering his third year as head coach and he's finally seeing some light at the end of the tunnel. Craig had a very young team the past two years, and this year some experience returns and a good group of young girls have arrived at the varsity level.

"I want to be able to compete," said Jones. "I think we are finally at the level of competition for our schedule and a full team roster of all different sort of kids that we will be about to compete and be in most all of the games this year."

"All the kids that I started AAU with 4 years ago are finally on Varsity. They know the game plan, the style of play and the get after it attitude. They work hard in practice. They know what they are capable of. We won a couple tournaments in Tennessee playing AAU with these kids, so they know what they are capable of doing. And the competition level is greater there, so we just got to believe and buy in and know we can win together."

Among the returnees, sophomore Daileigh Donithan was an all-district second team player last year and the best shooter on the team.

"She has good shot form and finished last year seventh in Timesland for most threes made by the freshman class," said Jones. "She can really be a knock down shooter once she gets her feet set."

Twins Kallie and Kammie Fisher saw lots of time as freshmen last year and are a year older and better. Kallie was Honorable Mention All-Pioneer and she'll be the point guard. Kammie has

a smart basketball IQ and knows how to run all five positions, knows her role as the key player and does all the dirty work.

Junior Madison Underwood is a solid post player at the center spot.

"Strong Girl, if not the strongest in the entire district," said Jones. "Holds her ground and doesn't get boxed out or pushed out under the paint. Worked these first three weeks hard in practice and the off season on developing a drop step move. Most improved player from last year to this year from the returning class by far."

Ashley Cayton is the only senior on the team. She has good shot form and will be counted on to knock down some shots.

Brock's daughter, Kailyn Jones, is a freshman who will make an impact on the varsity team.

"Fastest kid on the team, can play the whole game without being tired," said dad. "Physical in the post both offense and defense. One of the best shot blockers in the district, rebounders, and overall scorers. Plays hard the whole game, has worked hard on her game from AAU in the off season to her first three weeks of Varsity practice this year."

"Being Left-handed and physical at 5'10", Kailyn is expected to deliver immediate results. Huge expectations from her for the next 4 years."

Others expected to contribute include Jenna Boitnotte, Gracie Huffman, Morgan Underwood, Hayleigh Flowers, Brooklyn Cayton, Maddie Kendall and Brooke Wright. The Rockets have more depth this season and are still a young team on the rise.

"Scouting the district teams and watching their scrimmages so far, we are in a position that we can compete for the district this year," said Jones. "Most importantly, we are going to have fun."