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THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



WE ACCEPT EBT

McCleary hosts holiday shopping for students

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

Many students look forward to the annual Penguin Patch Holiday shopping spree the school holds for their elementary students.

This year it is hosted by the PTA and will be open from Dec. 11 through the 15.

It is a holiday shop for all McCleary Elementary School students to come in and shop for their family and friends.

"Last year Mrs. Stevens ran the penguin patch, this year since we have a McCleary PTA, we are running it instead to take it off her plate!" Lauren Deel shared. "Each child can buy however many things they want and can afford, there are a lot of different things to buy."

"The prices are very reasonable and there are lots of little knick-knacks for the kids to choose from," she added. "Some are personalized for grandmas, grandpas, moms and dads, sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles and etc."

The students will shop similar to how they shop for the book fair. They will have a set time one day during that week that they will go to shop.

"A lot of kids buy for their moms, dads, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, teachers, and some buy things for themselves as well," Deel said.

Envelopes were sent home with each student for parents/guardians to help their children decide on how much they can spend and on who they want to spend money on. They keep their monies until the day they shop.

The things they can buy range from toys (like slime, small fidgets, etc.), keychains (things that say "#1 grandpa," for example), coffee mugs, little jewelry items such as necklaces and rings and lots of other items will be available.

"If there are family members wanting to come in to help shop, they would need to reach out to their child's teacher prior to see if that is okay," said Deel. "We have already had a lot of people sign up to help shop so students will have help shopping from volunteers on their set day to shop."

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"If there are family members wanting to come in to help shop, they would need to reach out to their child's teacher prior to see if that is okay," said Deel. "We have advertised needing volunteers, and we have already had a lot of people sign up to help shop so students will have help shopping from volunteers on their set day to shop."



COURTESY IMAGE

The Annual Penguin Patch Holiday shopping spree for students will be Dec. 11-15 for the students at CCPS. This is a fun time for students to be able to shop for their parents and loved ones.

Cash and checks are accepted. They will not be able to accept debit or credit cards.

Those who would like to volunteer may call the school or email ldeel@craig.K12.va



It doesn't seem like anything excites the kids more than seeing the EMS vehicles in the parade, as they know that Santa is on the last one.

Christmas parade was drenched but not drowned



The kids went wild over this Jeep that had the Grinch with a snow blowing machine on the back. There were no vehicles in sight behind it, so a couple of kids went out to see if it was real snow. "It's soap!" one boy announced with a big grin, as he put his fingers in the white stuff on the road and smelled it.



Main Street looked very lonely at first, but five minutes before the parade turned the corner, families were lined up on both sides, even in the rain.



Mountain View Church put much time into its float, Jesus - The Sweetest Name I Know.

PAM DIDDING PHOTOS

See Parade, page 2

Christmas events are scheduled

'Tis the season and many are already enjoying events that started Dec. 1, giving them a kickoff for the holiday month.

Several churches are having specials, the new Farmers Market will be opening, and the community is invited to join in them all.

- Farmers Market on Main Street: Dec 9 and 16, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Vendors cost is \$10 per date. Eight spots are available. Email craigcofarmkt@gmail.com

- Santa in front of Studio Reflections (Inside Food Country): Dec 9, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. - Pictures with Santa - \$5 - \$10 picture packages. Plus a free goody bag from Santa. (See LivAlivePhotography for more information.)

- Santa at Lasterday Market: Dec 9 3 p.m.-5 p.m. - Enjoy a hot cup of cocoa and a cookie and a Christmas story while you wait to sit on Santas lap. Register on EventBrite. (See Craig County Library website for more information.)

- New Castle Christian Church: Dec 10 at 5:30 p.m. - meals for seniors with children's program following at 7pm.

- Craig Valley Baptist Church: Dec 13 at 7 p.m. Bible Buddies Christmas program

- Crossroads Church: Dec 16 at 6:30 p.m. - Christmas play and Lighthouse Baptist Church: Dec 17 at 6 p.m. - Christmas play

- New Castle Christian Church: Dec 17 at 10 a.m. - Adult Choir Cantata

- Level Green Christian Church: Dec 17 at 6 p.m. - Candlelight Communion Service

See Events, page 2



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Parade page 1



The Craig County Future Farmers of America are very active in the community and in the parade this year as their motto says, "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Farming to Live, Living to Serve."



PAM DUDDING PHOTOS

Many Mud Fun vehicles and Jeeps were in the parade decorated with an array of ideas. This one threw out baby ducks to the kids.

See Parade, page 3

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Events page 1

with desserts following

- Cornerstone Church – New Castle: Dec 17 at 10:30 a.m. – a special Christmas program
- Mt View Church: Dec 24 at 6 p.m. – Candlelight service
- Lighthouse Baptist Church: Dec 24 at 5:30 p.m. – Candlelight service
- New Castle Christian Church: Dec 24 at 7 p.m. – Candlelight service
- Crossroads Church: Dec 24 at 5:30 p.m. - Candlelight service
- St. John's Catholic Church: Dec 24 at 7 p.m. - Mass

-Compiled by Pam Dudding

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Chop up
5. Ones who utilize
10. Sings with closed lips
14. South American hummingbird
15. Serves as a coxswain
16. Liquor distilled from coconut or rice
17. Spur
18. Senile
19. Tanzanian people
20. Cruel
22. Boxing's "GOAT"
23. Yokels
24. London soccer team
27. Chinese chess piece
30. Supervises flying
31. 007's creator
32. Shaft horsepower (abbr.)
35. A spider makes one
37. Liquefied natural gas
38. Opaque gem
39. Brazilian palm
40. Periodical (slang)
41. You might step on one
42. Marvin and Horsley are two
43. Partner to cheese
44. Unpleasant smell
45. Field force unit (abbr.)
46. Fashion accessory
47. Cool!
48. Time zone
49. Songs to one's lover
52. German river
55. Go bad
56. Sword
60. Very eager
61. Leaf bug
63. Italian seaport
64. Napoleon Dynamite's uncle
65. Member of Jamaican religion
66. Large wading bird
67. Carries out
68. Eternal rest
69. It holds up your head-words

CLUES DOWN

1. Not low
2. Small water buffalo
3. A mark left behind
4. Archaic form of have
5. Fiddler crabs
6. Popular Hyundai sedan
7. Deport
8. Making over
9. Midway between south and southeast
10. Arabic masculine name
11. Type of acid
12. Popular 1980s Cher film
13. Outdoor enthusiasts' tools
21. Chinese city
23. "Star Wars" character Solo
25. The bill in a restaurant
26. Old, ugly witch
27. Burn with a hot liquid
28. To claim or demand
29. "A Doll's House" playwright
32. Involuntary muscular contraction
33. Pea stems (British)
34. Double or multiple fold
36. No longer is
37. Lakers' crosstown rivals (abbr.)
38. S. American plant cultivated in Peru
40. Cloth or fabric
41. Flanks
43. Disfigure
44. Angry
46. Baltic coast peninsula
47. Large, flightless birds
49. Plants of the lily family
50. Medieval Norwegian language
51. Polio vaccine developer
52. Not soft
53. Exchange rate
54. Voice (Italian)
57. Baseball's Ruth
58. Famed guitarist
59. Take a chance
61. Wife
62. Elaborate handshake

Parade page 2

Upcoming public meetings scheduled 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.

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

Santa is always a big hit after the parade is complete, as the line forms before he is even off the vehicle from the parade. This little girl asked for her "two front teeth" for Christmas said one person as he helped with a light for the pictures



DW Towing always brings a happy float to the parade.



The Future Derby Drivers of Craig County were on a float, with their power wheels.



The local Craig Valley VFW Post #4491 faithfully leads the parade with the flags, as the members weathered the rain on foot from the Fairgrounds to Main Street.

God's House Is Always Open

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>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.</p> <p>CHESTNUT GROVE CHURCH Duane Wente, Minister, Rt. 42, New Castle, 540-864-5692. Sunday: Worship 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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!</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CROSSROADS CHURCH 21892 Craigs Creek Road, New Castle. Worship Gary Burch. 864-7520. Sunday School- 10-10:45AM, Sunday Worship - 11AM-Noon.</p> <p>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</p> | <p>7:00PM, Reformers Unanimous Addiction Recovery every Friday evening at 7PM.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>HEBRON UNITED METHODIST Pastor Chanmi Lee, 347-684-2607, Rt. 606, 1981 Caldwell Mt. Rd., New Castle, 540- 400-3419. Worship 11:15AM.</p> <p>LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST Rev. Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, & 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST Pastor Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle, 540-525-7662. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, & 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> |
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If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Wendi Craig at 276-340-2445 or email advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

OPINION

News from the 9th: Energy and inflation



Morgan Griffith
Representative

As December begins, Virginians have begun to experience cold winter weather once again. Lows so far have reached the teens in some areas and that means it's time to crank up the heat in our homes to stay warm.

Unfortunately, for many, turning on the heat comes with extra costs these days. Due to energy policies enacted in the Obama years and continued during the Biden Administration, the cost of energy has been driven up. These increased energy costs have in turn been one of the major contributors to the high inflation we've experienced in the past few years.

Republican members of the U.S. Senate Joint Economic Committee recently analyzed Consumer Price Index and Consumer Expenditure Survey data and announced that, due to inflation, the typical American household must now spend an additional \$11,434 annually in order to have the same standard of living as they had in January of 2021.

This is unacceptable! How many Americans have an extra \$11,000 to spend the same items they normally buy?

Americans all around the country are feeling the burn from inflation.

According to an October AP/NORC poll, 69% say their household expenses have risen over the last year, but only 23% have seen their income increase during the same period.

And it makes sense why Americans are feeling this way. According to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), since President Biden took office, the consumer price index (cost of goods and services) is up 17.1% percent, meanwhile average hourly earnings are only up 13.6%.

Now Americans head into another season of high costs.

In early November, the U.S. Energy Information Administration released their winter fuel outlook for the 2023-24 season. And as predicted, things aren't looking good.

According to the agency, southern states are projected to see their electricity bills increase by 2%, the cost of propane increase by 6%, and the price of heating oil increase by 8%. (Natural gas prices,

thankfully, are projected to decrease by 15%.)

That's not all, if winter is just 10% colder than predicted, these prices skyrocket.

With everyone's margins already so thin, these increases will be painful for many.

But wait, there's more. It was just announced that Virginia customers of Appalachia Power will see yet another cost increase. Virginia state regulators have just approved a rate hike of about 10%, or around \$16 a month, which will take effect on January 29th. This is after the average Appalachian customer saw their monthly bill increase by \$35 between July 2022 and July 2023.

Then there are gas prices. The Biden Administration is trying to tell Americans that the price of gas is in a good place. A recent tweet from President Biden reads, "Folks, no matter where you're headed this holiday season, you'll be heading there for less. Gas prices are down \$1.70 from their peak..."

Unfortunately, these talking points don't hold much water.

I'm sure many people remember how low gas prices were before President Biden took office. The national average in January 2021 was \$2.39 per gallon. In some parts of the Ninth

District, it was as low as \$1.99 per gallon.

Gas prices being down \$1.70 from their national peak of over \$5 in June of 2022 is nothing to write home about! In November, the Ninth District experienced gas prices of around \$3.20 per gallon - that's more than a \$1 more per gallon than before Biden took office.

Just another increased expense many can't afford.

As I mentioned in a recent Energy and Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing, Americans of lower income will be hit the hardest this winter.

Folks in the Ninth District, and around the country, may be faced with the decision of heating their homes, affording their medications, and/or feeding their children.

Additionally, some folks may turn to alternate unsafe ways to heat their home, like a kerosene heater, which can turn deadly. This is an avoidable tragedy if we are able to find ways to keep energy prices down.

It's time to get real about the inflation and the impact it is still having on Americans. We must work together to cut spending and enact commonsense energy and economic policies that will benefit everyone's pocketbook.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

My cousin from Greensboro, NC and I recently spent three days in Craig County exploring the land of our childhoods. Our Grandfather, Clay D. Huffman, and his family lived on Johns Creek Road very close to the Craig Healing Springs Christian Church. All of his grandchildren would spend wonderful Summers on Johns Creek.

My cousin and I stayed at the Depot Lodge in Paint Bank, had lovely meals at The Swinging Bridge Restaurant, the Lemon Hotel and the Pinetop Restaurant in New Castle. We had a delightful visit with Opal Caldwell and the charming staff at the

Craig County Historical Society in The Old Brick Hotel.

My other Grandfather, William B. Elmore, operated a general store on Main Street just across from The Old Brick Hotel until he died in 1948. Clifton Elmore was my Grandfather's uncle.

We are committed to arrange an annual reunion in Paint Bank for all of the surviving Huffman cousins. They will come from California, Florida, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. Afterwards, all of us will envy the full-time residents of Craig County.

-David C. Elmore
Ashtburn

Cocoa, cookies and Santa! Oh my!

Library Corner Michaela Crawford

Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas! 'Tis the season for all things Santa!

Craig County Public Library (CCPL), Lasterday Market, and CHIP of the Roanoke Valley are hosting a very special guest on Saturday, Dec. 9 beginning at 3 p.m. at Lasterday Market. Santa will be making his way from the North Pole! While you and your child wait for Santa to make his journey to Craig County, your child can enjoy a free cup of cocoa, a cookie, and a Christmas story.

Did I mention tickets are completely FREE? Register each child under the age of 12 with our Eventbrite registration. Event registration closes on December 7th and tickets are limited! With event registration, each child under the age of 12 will receive a free cookie, a cup of cocoa, and a picture with Santa. Photos will be available the same day and are Polaroid photos. If you would like additional photos, please plan to bring a personal camera or phone.

Craig County

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Public Library will also be collecting non-perishable (canned foods such as tuna, chicken, vegetables, and fruits, condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise), boxed pasta (rice, hamburger helper, various noodles), sauces and mixes (pizza/spaghetti sauce, gravy mixes, dressing mixes) food items to donate to the Craig County Department of Social Services food pantry. Items may be donated the day of the event (even if you are not attending the event) at Lasterday Market or before the event at the Craig County Public Library. Any help for our community is greatly appreciated, especially during the holiday season!

So grab your Christmas best, prepare your list for Santa, remember to be nice, not naughty, and practice your very best smile! We hope to see you at Cocoa with Santa. You can find registration information by using the following link or you can search and follow Craig County Public Library on Eventbrite.com to stay up-to-date on all of our events!

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/760813392337?aff=oddtcreator

**Please note, Lasterday will not be serving food during these hours, however, adults may order specialty beverages such as lattes and teas but are responsible for paying for their order. responsible for paying for their order. **

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1633 W. Main St.
Salem, VA 24153

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The New Castle Record (USPS 378-080) is published weekly for \$46 a year in Craig County, \$50 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$54 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., 1633 W Main St., Salem, VA 24153. Periodical postage paid at New Castle, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE NEW CASTLE RECORD 1633 W. Main St., Salem, Va. 24153

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.

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LewisGale Medical celebrates Level II NICU opening

Aila Boyd
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 newspapers.com

SALEM— Officials with LewisGale Medical Center held a ribbon-cutting ceremony last week to celebrate the opening of its new Level II Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), also called a special care nursery at the facility. The unit opened to patients on Wednesday, Nov. 29. Encompassing 3,000 square feet, the state-of-the-art NICU features six bassinets with the space to expand as needed. The NICU treats medically-fragile, premature infants and full-term newborns with infections, breathing difficulties, growth restrictions, and maternal health concerns. They will

be treated on-site by board-certified neonatologists and neonatal nurse practitioners 24/7. “Today’s long-awaited celebration is not only an incredible milestone, but a victory for moms and babies across southwest Virginia,” said Alan Fabian, LewisGale Regional Health System market president. “This underscores our commitment to providing care for our patients, especially women and children throughout their lives. The NICU is yet another example to our dedication to meet the growing needs of our community.”

Construction on the \$2.5 million project lasted about a year. The highly secured area features

security and constant monitoring of babies’ heart rates, respiratory rates, temperature, and blood pressure. Radiant warmers, incubators, and open cribs are also featured, as well as assistance in breathing including a ventilator or other oxygenation methods.

“We are excited to welcome a Level II NICU to the hospital’s services and are grateful for the overwhelming support we received from the public, patients, physicians, legislators, and local and state government to make this possible,” said Compton Biddle, Board of Trustees chair. “It’s a beautiful space that allows the hospital to provide the intensive level of care mothers and children in our region deserve.”



COURTESY PHOTO

The celebration was held on Tuesday, Nov. 28.

VDOT ROADWATCH

Interstate 81

I-81 SLOW ROLLS FOR UTILITY WORK ADJACENT TO INTERSTATE – On Tuesday morning, December 5, with an inclement weather date of Wednesday, December 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., drivers can expect a slow roll to be in place for up to 15 minutes on northbound and southbound I-81 for utility work being performed next to the interstate. The slow roll will be performed just north of the Ironto rest area at mile marker 130.1. In addition, the on-ramp at Ironto onto northbound I-81 will also be blocked during the same time.

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.

LANE CLOSURES: Beginning December 10, 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.

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.

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 close to completion. Signals will soon become active. The speed limit in this area has been permanently reduced to 45mph.

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.



Route 692 (Berties Bottom Lane) Bridge Replacement Craig County

Find out about a project to replace the Route 692 (Berties Bottom Lane) bridge over Craig Creek in Craig County. The bridge is located at the intersection with Route 311 (Craig Valley Drive). The bridge will be replaced with a wider structure with shoulders.

Review the project information at VDOT’s Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Avenue in Salem, 540-387-5353, 800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623), TTY/TDD 711. Please call ahead to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, VDOT is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Tyler Teer, Virginia Department of Transportation, 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, VA 24153 on or prior to **December 21, 2023**. If a request for a public hearing is received, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you have questions or concerns about your civil rights in regards to this project or need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Tyler Teer at the phone numbers listed above.

State Project: 0692-022-590, B631, M501, P101, R201
 Federal Project: STP-022-2(016) UPC: 117011
 From: Route 311 intersection
 To: 0.15 mile east of Route 311 intersection

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Help Wanted - Drivers

Part Time Newspaper Driver

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

Help Wanted - General

Part Time Newspaper Production Help

The Salem Times Register has openings for afternoon/evening shift work inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$12 per hour. Contact Christine, Circulation Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email customerservice@ourvalley.org

MECHANICS URGENTLY NEEDED:

Experienced Heavy Equip. Mechanic to work on mainly Komatsu, CAT Loaders, Dozers, and Excavators and Haul Trucks.

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Legals - Botetourt County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 50 BERRY RIDGE RD, BUCHANAN, VA 24066.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated January 17, 2020, in the original principal amount of \$173,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 200000244. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on January 12, 2024, at 12:30 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, LYING AND BEING SITUATE IN THE BUCHANAN MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA, CONTAINING 3.00 ACRES, BY SURVEY, WITH METES AND BOUNDS AS SHOWN ON PLAT OF SURVEY MADE BY CHRISTOPHER N. MCMURRY, L.S., DATED AUGUST 28, 2008, A COPY OF WHICH PLAT IS RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA IN PLAT BOOK 45, PAGE 35. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwvsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees,

Legals - Botetourt County

LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWV Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsales.com. VA-365831-1.

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.

Legals - Botetourt County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 50 BERRY RIDGE RD, BUCHANAN, VA 24066.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated January 17, 2020, in the original principal amount of \$173,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 200000244. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on January 12, 2024, at 12:30 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, LYING AND BEING SITUATE IN THE BUCHANAN MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA, CONTAINING 3.00 ACRES, BY SURVEY, WITH METES AND BOUNDS AS SHOWN ON PLAT OF SURVEY MADE BY CHRISTOPHER N. MCMURRY, L.S., DATED AUGUST 28, 2008, A COPY OF WHICH PLAT IS RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA IN PLAT BOOK 45, PAGE 35. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwvsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees,

Legals - City of Salem

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:

1. 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.

2. 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 Business District.

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

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

Legals - Montgomery County

TOWN OF BLACKSBURG - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS BLACKSBURG TOWN COUNCIL will hold public hearings on Tuesday, December 12, 2023

beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, regarding the following items: Ordinance 2032: An Ordinance Vacating a Public Utility Easement on Land Located at 215 Cork Drive. The proposed ordinance request is to release the Town's interest in a Public Utility easement located at 215 Cork Drive.

Ordinance 2034: An Ordinance to Amend Town Code Section 18-401 Pertaining to the Surcharge for Certain Industrial Wastes.

The proposed ordinance establishes a surcharge to be imposed on industrial sewers for discharges of BOD and TSS in excess of the levels contained in normal wastewater under the terms of an approved Discharge Permit.

Ordinance 2039: An Ordinance to Amend Town Code Sections 22-221 and 22-222 Pertaining to Tax Exemptions for Elderly and Disabled by Increasing Income and Asset Limits.

The proposed ordinance will increase the eligibility limits for income and net worth for elderly or disabled persons. This will align with recent changes to Montgomery County's income and net worth limits.

Ordinance 2042: An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2023/2024 Operating Budget to Accept and Appropriate an Additional \$194,000 of the Virginia Department of Health Lead Inventory Grant Funds to the Water/Sewer Capital Improvement Fund.

The Town has received an additional \$194,000 from the Virginia Department of Health Lead Inventory Project and these funds must be accepted and appropriated to the FY 2023/2024 Operating Budget of the Water/Sewer Capital Improvement Fund.

Legals - Montgomery County

Ordinance 2043: An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2023/2024 Operating Budget to Accept and Appropriate \$76,680 of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Funds from the Department of Energy to the General Capital Improvement Fund.

Ordinance 2043 will accept and appropriate \$76,680 of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funds from the Department of Energy to the General Capital Improvement Fund.

Ordinance 2044: An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2023/2024 Operating Budget to Accept and Appropriate \$406,038 in VDOT Primary Extension Paving Funding and \$168,750 in VDOT Primary Extension ADA Funding to the General Capital Improvement Fund.

Ordinance 2044 will appropriate \$406,038 in VDOT Primary Paving Fund and \$168,750 in VDOT Primary ADA Funding to the General Capital Improvement Fund.

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

Legals - Roanoke County

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

Dated: November 26, 2023 Deborah C. Jacks Chief Deputy Clerk to the Board

Legals - Town of Vinton

ABC NOTICE

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

Legals - Town of Vinton

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.

STATEWIDE ADS

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Kailyn Jones(#4) scores for the Rockets.



PHOTOS CHELEAN LOUTHEN

The Craig girls take the floor prior to last week's win over North Cross.



Kallie Fisher brings the ball up the floor.



Madison Underwood(#33) battles for position on the block.

Rocket girls beat North Cross after close loss to Giles

The Craig County girls opened the basketball season with two home games last week and picked up a win after losing their opener. The girls fell to Giles but bounced back to beat North Cross.

In the opener with Giles the visiting Spartans pulled out a hard-fought 49-45 win. It was a back-and-forth game for 32 minutes with Craig leading 14-11 after the first quarter before Giles pulled in front 26-23 at the half. Both teams scored 10 points in the third quarter before Giles held on for the win.

"I felt like we should have won this game," said Craig coach Brock Jones. "We had 47 turnovers in our first game while Giles ended up with 29. I'm hoping to blame it on the first game of the season and all the youth that we have."

The Spartans also had 36 foul shot attempts to just 24 for the Rockets, and that was a factor in the loss as well.

"We must do a better job of sliding our feet on defense and quit reaching and having what I like to call the 'lazy' fouls," said Jones. "We get frustrated and just

want to foul. With the new rule change we can't afford to just foul for no reason and give the other team an opportunity at the foul line for free points."

Freshman Kailyn Jones had an eye-opening debut with 31 points, 25 rebounds, eight blocks and five steals. Junior Morgan Underwood had six points and seven boards and Kallie Fisher had three assists, two blocks, two steals and three boards.

"Overall I was pleased to compete in our first game," said Jones. "We need to focus on boxing out and not standing and looking at the rim. They had a girl attempt 16 foul shots cause we didn't box out well and the ball fell in her lap and then we started to swat at the ball."

On Thursday against North Cross the Rockets bounced back with a 48-29 win. The Rockets had a nine point lead at the half, increased it to 11 after three quarters and won going away. Craig allowed just three points in the second quarter and four in the fourth. It was another busy day at the line as North Cross attempted 35 foul shots and Craig shot 28.

"We need to get the opponents' attempts down to

12 or less for the whole game," said Jones. "If we can eliminate sending the other team to the foul line so much for free attempts at points, I think our aggressive defense will force them into turning the ball over rather than us bailing them out and sending them to the line. We are capable of playing good man to man defense this year and that's our tempo."

Kailyn Jones had another big game with 26 points, 21 boards, seven steals and four blocks. Of the 13 girls on the team 10 scored, with five each for Dailigh Donithan and Madison Underwood. The latter also had six rebounds while Jenna Boitnotte had five steals and four assists. Kallie Fisher had four assists and Brookly Cayton had six steals and played great on the ball defense.

The Rockets were scheduled to return to the court Monday with a game at Meadow Bridge in West Virginia, and Tuesday they go to Roanoke Valley Christian. Next Tuesday, December 11, Highland is here for the first game of a doubleheader with the boys.

Craig County boys split first two basketball games

The Craig County boys split their first two basketball games of the season last week, winning at home against the Covington Boys Home before dropping a road contest at Giles.

A good crowd turned out on opening night as the boys played their first game on the new wooden floor in the Craig County High School gym. The Rockets found it to their liking as they posted a 78-45 win over the visitors from Covington.

"First game of the year and we had a great start," said coach Ryan Frazier. "It was a great team effort from everyone as they all played their part with seven players scoring in the contest."

Senior Matthew Lucas, coming off an all-district junior season, got off to a good start with 35 points and seven rebounds. Hayden Reynolds had 21 points, eight assists and four steals and Jaycob Wolfe hit double figures with 10 points while pulling down eight boards.

The Rockets were hitting on all cylinders on offense, making 22 of 30 two point tries while draining

eight of 15 threes. That's an overall percentage of 66 percent from the field.

"What I was most pleased with was our teamwork," said Frazier. "We stayed spaced and shared the ball. We had some good individual defensive efforts from Talon (Ritter) and Drew (Duncan), both stood out on D and securing the post. When we work on our offense this is what we want to see, it was an enjoyable first win in the first game."

A night later the Rockets played in Giles and dropped a 53-36 decision.

"We struggled in the second night of a back-to-back in our first away game against stronger opposition," said Frazier. "We were on our heels from the start of the game and struggled with the pressure that Giles was putting on us. We struggled with turnovers and that led to easy baskets in transition."

The Rockets trailed by just six points at the half, but were outscored by 11 after intermission.

"We never gave up and kept pushing," said Frazier. "We fell in the end as we were not able

to overcome the early deficit and continued to struggle with handling the pressure, and being mentally strong down the stretch. We did not keep our composure well in the second half and started to show our frustrations. I hope we will learn from this because we talk all the time that handling the ball and being strong with it, and having a strong mentality, will be key to not only our games but our season as a whole."

Reynolds led the Rockets in scoring with 12 points while Lucas had nine and Luke Potter had six. Drew Duncan had a great defensive game on Giles' big man, making things tough on him inside and playing a strong all-around game.

The Rockets were scheduled to return to the court Monday with a home game against Buffalo Gap, followed by a Tuesday game in New Castle with Roanoke Valley Christian. Then they're off until next Tuesday, December 12, when they play a varsity doubleheader with the girls against Highland County.



Drew Duncan rejects a shot.

PHOTOS BRIAN HOFFMAN



Matthew Lucas is open for a jumper.



Luke Potter drives to the hoop.



Hayden Reynolds lines up a three-pointer