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THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



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VFW gives students awards for writing

Pam Dudding
 Contributing writer

The local Craig Valley VFW Post 4491 annually invites students of Craig County Public Schools to participate in their contests of writing. This year, the previous winners took the prizes again as Makenzie Lucas took first place for Voice of Democracy contest. She responded to this year's question, "What are the greatest attributes of our democracy?"

The United States of America was founded in 1776. Since the birth of our country, it has undergone change and developed into the beloved land that we know today. I firmly believe that the greatest attributes of our dear democracy are all of our freedoms, our

right to vote, and the unique resilience of our nation. As American citizens, we have so many freedoms that not every country is blessed to have. Thanks to the first amendment in the Bill of Rights, we have freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of assembly. The other amendments should not be overlooked, however this amendment in particular is distinctive because only around 45% of countries offer these freedoms. Our right to vote is what makes us a democracy. The sixteenth president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, defined our government in the Gettysburg Address as "of the people, by the people, for the people". The citizens get to vote on our legislative and executive branches, who make laws and

set forth policies concerning Americans. When voting, there are many safeguards put into effect to ensure voting is both fair and true. The United States of America has shown its undeniable resilience throughout its history. With utter determination, we claimed independence from England via the Revolutionary War. We fought for territory over time through the Indian American Wars. Foreign countries have attempted to take over America and her land, but have been unsuccessful, thanks to the bravery of our past and present soldiers and our inexhaustible perseverance. The greatest attributes

of our democracy are the unique freedoms our country holds, the fact that the government is run by the people, and the durability of our nation. America has stood strong for nearly 250 years. We are blessed to call this land ours and owe it all to the brave men and women that have fought to ensure our freedom. As our Pledge of Allegiance states, "...one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all".

Lucas won a gift card and the opportunity to compete in the next level of VFW writing competition. The VFW shared that they are always encouraged to hear the writings of our students in Craig County.



COURTESY PHOTO
The Craig Valley VFW Post 4491 recognized the winners of the annual penmanship contest.

How to cope with emotions that come during the holidays

Pam Dudding
 Contributing writer

Without a doubt, holidays can bring the best of joy but for some, the recall of loss or bad memories. There are many who wish to help those who struggle during these times. "As we approach the holiday season, many of us are looking forward to celebrations and interacting with friends and loved ones. Even as we celebrate, it is very common to feel added stress," shared Cynthia Morrow, the health director of Roanoke City and Alleghany Health Districts. "The "holiday blues" can stem from a variety of sources: current events, personal grief, loneliness, illness, financial concerns, relationship issues, even a lack of sunlight. Stress from the holiday blues can worsen symptoms of a mental health condition, such as depression, anxiety, or a substance use disorder."

Therefore, Morrow has written a few helpful hints:
 One place to start managing stress is

to manage expectations for the season. If you feel a disconnect emerge between your actual situation and a fantasy version of the holidays, keep an open mind about what the holidays are meant to represent, and consider focusing on what makes you feel grateful in the present moment. Studies have shown that feelings of gratitude, even for small things such as sunshine, a hug, or a warm bath, can reduce the risk of depression and increase feelings of well-being. Being constantly on the go can leave you feeling exhausted. Accept your limitations, manage your time and don't be afraid to say no to plans that don't fit into your schedule. Recognize that you are in control of your expectations and reactions, and that you can decide when to take a break from the busy season, with music, exercise, a hobby, or whatever else feels right for you. The holiday season can amplify feelings of loneliness, especially if friends or family live far away. Joining with others through avenues such as volunteering can help kindle feelings of

connection in your community. Acknowledge feelings of loss or grief, especially if they are recent, while trying to focus on celebrating happy memories, or creating new memories. Gently remind yourself that as circumstances change, traditions will change as well. With dinners, parties, and cookie trays at every turn, our eating habits are challenged during the holiday season. Eating a healthy diet through it all with plenty of whole grains, vegetables, and fresh fruit can help keep you on track. Try to get as much sunlight as possible. Eating and sleeping well can also help stabilize your mood. Avoid alcohol and drugs- it is a myth that they reduce stress; in fact, they often worsen it. "If you're feeling overwhelmed, find support," she added. "Whether with friends, family, a counselor, or a support group, talking can help. The 988 Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress by talk or text, and prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones." She also shared that understanding that

you are not alone may help to put things in perspective and help you to move to a place of acceptance. On an ongoing basis, the Roanoke chapter of the National Alliance of Mental Illness facilitates a monthly virtual peer support group on the first Mondays (<https://www.namiroanokevalley.us/>). Also, the Adult Care Center of Roanoke offers a monthly caregiver support group. Those who are interested may also visit the local community service boards (Blue Ridge Behavioral Health and Alleghany Highlands CSB) for community suicide prevention and behavioral health trainings. "Whether you feel excited, happy, anxious, or stressed about the coming holiday season- or a combination of them all- please know that you are not alone," said Morrow, "By taking small actions each day, you can make your mental wellbeing a priority."

2023: A year in Craig County in review



Editor's note: We have selected one article for each month of 2023 so that readers can look back on some of the big stories in Craig County over the past year. The articles are printed as they appeared in The New Castle Record. This is part one of two. -Aila Boyd

From Jan. 25: VFW recognizes students for penmanship for 2022

Each year, the local VFW joins the National Veterans of the Foreign Wars in conducting contests for students within the school systems, in writing their viewpoints on specific topics. Craig Valley VFW Post 4491 hosted its annual honor ceremony to give appreciation to these students for their writings; the Voice of Democracy winner was Makenzie Lucas and Patriots Pen was Natalie Fisher. For the Patriots Pen contest, Fisher wrote, "My Pledge to the Veterans." "To our Veterans, I pledge to honor you and your service and sacrifice by doing all that I can to see that our country remains a strong and free nation and that we cherish and honor your sacrifices. As my token of appreciation, I wrote this pledge to show our duties and to show our Veterans that we still care and highly respect them. I give my word of honor that I will help the Veterans in any way possible so that they may live a healthier, safe, and more respected life. We need to stop our tongues and lend our ears to Veterans in need so that they still feel loved, cared, and appreciated. I promise, as I get older, that I will donate, volunteer, and help give out Veteran bonuses on paychecks, health care, and insurance. Knowing that Veterans are warriors and they made enormous sacrifices such as choosing to serve in the

wars, leaving their home and families, and serving no matter the cost even after the war was over. They still help and obey our country, and they represent our country, so we need to honor them for all they have done and all they will do. We will always remember the ones who have fallen, they are always in our memory, because they are also Veterans. To help the homeless Veterans we can buy them a meal or drink, put a little money in their pocket, or go the extra mile and offer them a place to stay. I promise that I will encourage friends and family to pray, reflect, and observe the Veterans and their actions as they fought for our freedom. We never need to forget the Veterans especially after serving us and giving us freedom. We need to give them the care that they need. I make that promise and a devotion." "Writing this made me feel really proud of myself," Fisher added. "I feel our military is growing and developing rapidly, making me feel safe." Lucas responded to the Voice of Democracy question, "Why is the Veteran Important?" "According to Merriam Webster dictionary, a Veteran is "a former member of the armed forces". Realistically, it's deeper than that. As they say, "Once a soldier, See Year in Review page 2

Patriots Pen was Natalie Fisher pictured with Superintendent Jeanette Warwick. Both were also honored at the January meeting of the Craig County School Board.



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Technology for Your Community

Year in Review page 1

always a soldier". These valiant men and women put their lives on the line, risking everything for the freedom of our country. For that reason, it breaks my heart to see citizens of this very country talk down to Veterans and even villainize them. America would not be where it is today without Veterans. Without the soldiers from the Revolutionary War, we may still be under English control period without the brave men who fought in the world wars. World Peace may never have been established. Without the Civil War our country may still be divided. Veterans are unreservedly crucial to the safety, freedom, and overall well-being of our country. Without Veterans we would not have the fascinating stories of war that have been passed down. These stories are from remarkable occurrences that Hollywood could never formulate. This adds tremendous credibility to the information of wars we know today, as Veterans experienced these events first hand. It is crucial for children to hear these stories from a young age, so that they will forever remember the sacrifices of American soldiers and know how truly blessed they are to live in the greatest country this world has ever seen, America. Although not all Veterans are deployed in their time of service, we should still acknowledge their work and willingness to serve our country and fight for freedom if needed. The years of training away from friends and family should not go unrecognized. Though many Americans never realized, Veterans give up aspects of their freedom to give us hours. Because the Veteran is so important, organizations such as the Wounded Warrior Project, Homes for our Troops, Canines for Warriors, the Fisher House Foundation, and many more need support and donations. These organizations work endlessly to help Veterans wounded physically or mentally in combat. When soldiers return home from deployment, they are often haunted by the emotional trauma and tragedy experienced in the field. That is what it is advised for American citizens to take civic responsibility and help these organizations thrive in any way possible for the benefit of Veterans. Veterans keep America on its feet. Without the

Veteran, our country would no longer stand strong. That is why the Veteran is essential. The veteran is brave, and the veteran is hard working. That is why the Veteran is important."

"I enter this competition every year and feel that it helps me to have a better understanding of how important our Veterans are and how I can better myself as an American," Lucas added. "I've always loved to write stories and essays and it is an honor to be a part of this competition so I plan on entering for as long as I can!"

Each received a \$75 gift from Craig Valley VFW Post 4491 and appreciation from many of the local veterans who attended the ceremony.



COURTESY PHOTO
The Craig Valley VFW Post 4491 recognized the winners of the annual penmanship contest.

From Feb. 8: Dolly Parton Imagination Library coming to Craig

The joy of reading a book seems to be entering homes again and the Craig County Library has been working diligently to bring the infamous Dolly Parton Imagination Library to Craig and they have finally succeeded.

"Lynda Harrell was really instrumental in getting the program implemented for us," Letha Hibbitts, director, shared.

Harrell connected with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library for Virginia and reached out for funds to outlets.

to handle the rest of the cost, sharing that Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative opened their arms for the project.

Children from birth to age 5 qualify for this free program.

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

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

Each month, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library mails a high quality, age-appropriate book to all registered children, addressed to them, at no cost to the child's family.

"Inspired by her father's inability to read and write, Dolly started her Imagination Library in 1995 for the children within her home county to foster a love of reading among her county's preschool children and their families by providing them with the gift of a specially selected book each month," her website shared. "Today, her program spans five countries and gifts over one million free books each month to children around the world."

They noted that countless parents have shared how excited their child is when their new book arrives each month and the children in Craig that have already signed up are excitedly awaiting their first book.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library goal is to inspire a love of reading by gifting books free of charge to children through funding by Parton herself and partnering with local community businesses.

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

Parton is known for an "always-keep-dreaming mindset" and wishes to instill that in kids.

By mailing high quality, age-appropriate

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

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

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

Those with a child who is 5 or younger can visit the Craig County Library or go online and sign up the child for their free book of the month from Dolly Parton.

From Mar. 15: One School - One Book big event at McCleary Elementary

When there is no electricity, no iPads, phones, televisions or other electronic device, a good book is always an avenue of enjoyment. And, for some kids who don't even have access to electronics, books have become their best friends.

McCleary Elementary School has been engaging in an annual event called One School - One Book for several years now.

Starting approximately March 6 and going until March 17, the students will be reading the book "The Enormous Egg" by Oliver Butterworth.

"It is an older book written in 1956 but an enjoyable read for students of all ages," Karen Jones, librarian and gifted resource teacher, shared.

"One School - One Book is a program designed to encourage families to read aloud with their children," she added. "When the students of McCleary are all reading the same book, it gives us a great deal to share and discuss and it promotes a community of readers."

Parents are asked to read a chapter each night to their children. The next day, when the students go to school, they are asked a trivia question each morning.



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

"This usually generates some discussion," Jones said. "If the students get the question correct their name goes into a drawing and will award a prize or treat to each classroom winner."

This is McCleary's 12th year participating in the One School - One Book experience. Other books they have recently read include, "The Mouse and the Motorcycle," "The One and Only Ivan" and "Charlotte's Web."

"We kicked off our book, by introducing students to young Nate Twitchell, his parents, and one very unusual looking egg that was found in the family's barn," Jones noted.

"Each year we hope to engage students with a great book that will create with them a love for reading," Jones shared. "Books provide students with an opportunity to see things, imagine places, and experience things they may only get to through a book."

Michelle Frazier, Title I reading teacher added, "We are hatching eggs at school to go along with the story. However, a dinosaur has hatched out of our young boy's chicken egg and so the adventure begins!"

The McCleary Elementary One School - One Book finale celebration will be on March the 17 from 6-8 p.m.

"We will serve dinner, have games and activities, and give away prizes," Jones said. "It will be a fun family event for all!"

This event is free for McCleary students and their families.

"We are excited about being able to do this family event again, after the covid shutdown," Jones added.

McCleary teachers shared, that they greatly "appreciate the many businesses and individuals in our community who

donated money and prices to make this event possible!"

Parents are encouraged to bring their children on March 17, to enjoy an evening of food, fun and also to see who wins all the prizes.



COURTESY PHOTO
McCleary Elementary School is entering its 12th year of having the One School - One Book reading at school. This year, the school is "hatching" eggs to find out it is a dinosaur.

From Apr. 19 FFA and Ag students planning annual Land Lab Ag Fair, staying busy

If there is one thing for certain, no students in Emily Nolen's class are bored. Her students have stayed very busy with their new Land Lab that they continue to build onto, animals, fundraisers and participate in animal competitions.

Currently they are planning their Annual Land Lab Ag Fair for May 6, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. which will include an old-fashioned cake walk and cake auction.

Year in Review, page 3

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Basics

4. Swiss river

7. Constrictor snake

8. Building occupied by monks

10. Discount

12. Deal a blow to

13. Relating to the ear

14. Thyrotropin

16. Loud, unpleasant noise

17. Large intestines

19. Move with a curving trajectory

20. Witnesses

21. You need both to live

25. Dash

26. Network

27. Dig

29. C. European river

30. Supplement with difficulty

31. Corporate executive

32. Carroll O'Connor's onscreen wife

39. No variation

41. Airborne (abbr.)

42. "Heidi" author

43. Affirmative

44. Pie ___ mode

45. W. Asian country

46. Grotesque or bizarre

48. Delicacy (archaic)

49. Textile

50. Denial

51. Electronic data processing

52. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

1. Engulf

2. Waterside hotel

3. Printed cotton fabric

4. Defensive nuclear weapon

5. One who follows the rules

6. Lace up once more

8. Fire byproduct

9. Hankerings

11. Outer

14. One-time aerospace firm

15. Seafood

18. Commercial

19. Epoxy hardener (abbr.)

20. Samoan monetary unit

22. Type of gland

23. Arrest

24. Check

27. Past participle of be

28. Alias

29. A major division of geological time

31. Kids programming channel (abbr.)

32. Joked

33. Helps little firms

34. Roman numeral 50

35. Impressive in size or scope

36. Domineering leader

37. A person who delivers a speech

38. One after 89

39. Young hawk

40. The scene of any event or action

44. A team's best pitcher

47. Integrated data processing

Year in Review page 2

Admission is free, as there will be crafters, vendors, live music, live animals, various demonstrations, games and they are adding an old-fashioned cake walk to the day. There will be food to eat and desserts to snack on or take home.

There is still space available for vendors and crafters to set up for the day's event. A 10x10 booth area is only a \$45 donation. For more information or a booth application email Mary at huntermd56@gmail.com.

"The FFA and Ag program students, in conjunction with the Craig County Farm Bureau Women's and Young Farmers Committees and the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service would like to invite you to attend the Land Lab Ag Fair to see the progress that has been made on our Land Lab as well as have a fun filled day of activities and shopping," shared Nolen. "We will have live music and various demos throughout the day with animals, drones, ATV safety, fire safety, and an area where you can play games too."

Over 40 vendors and crafters have already signed up to be there. "We will also have a Touch-A-Truck/Equipment area with lots of tractors, trucks, lawn mowers, and excavating equipment," Nolen explained. "We will have live animals for you to see and learn about, demos, live music all day, games to play as well as cake walks where you can win some wonderfully homemade desserts and to wrap it all up, at 2:30pm we'll hold a live auction of baked goods."

All of their proceeds from the games and auction will go to support the FFA and Land Lab. "Also, the Rocket softball team will be selling hotdogs as a fundraiser for their group so come hungry!" Nolen added. "Please share this with your friends and family!" Nolen has had her students active with their new Land Lab. They have worked with Appalachian Vet to learn about best management practices regarding beef cattle, as they got hands-on experience using their recently purchased steers. Currently, they are working towards phase poultry section of their Land Lab project, using a \$10,000 grant from Farm Credit that they recently received to expand their facilities. This includes the fence which will be made by Fence and Field, a 20-foot by 20-foot shale lot to put a barn on.

Their hopes are that they will be selling eggs in their current greenhouse or purchasing an additional "future" greenhouse as well.

Nolen explained that several middle school and high school FFA students attended a leadership conference at Virginia Tech to further develop skills that help them be successful student leaders.

They also attended a public speaking workshop at the Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex where they heard from Rhett Laubach.

They had a successful Pork Sausage Fundraiser, selling approximately 1,200 pounds of sausage this year and they extended their "thanks" to everyone for supporting the FFA through this fundraiser!

Before the yearend, they hosted a Christmas craft day at the school and invited elementary students.

"We had crafts, games, snacks, story time, and more which the kids really enjoyed!" Nolen added.

She was proud to share that they had a great competition in Front Royal.

"Our junior team consisting of Brooke Beers, Blake Hannah, Holley Givens, and Isaac Foster placed 4th overall and Brooke Beers finished 7th overall as a top individual," Nolen said. "We had a fantastic day in Abingdon also. Both A teams consisted of Brooke Beers, Isaac Foster, Blake Hannah (Juniors) and Carter Calfee, Makenzie Lucas, Emmie Radford, and Cheyanne Bell (Seniors) placed third overall. Brooke was second place overall in the junior division and Carter was third overall in the senior division."

Nolen continued, "We had a very busy, two-day competition at Virginia Tech. On the first day, our senior team placed 8th overall in judging. On the second day, the junior team placed 8th in the sheep and goat division, 10th in the cattle division, and 9th overall. We competed in a state meat judging competition and swept it away!"

The junior team consisted of Brooke Beers, Isaac Foster, Holley Givens, and Blake Hannah and the senior team consisted of Carter Calfee, Makenzie Lucas, Emmie Radford and Isaac Lucas.

The junior results, 2nd place individual in judging and questions from Brooke Beers, 2nd place overall team finish in judging and questions, 4th place overall team for the entire

competition, 5th place overall individual for the entire competition was Brooke Beers, 7th place individual in judging and questions from Blake Hannah, 8th place overall team finish in quiz and ID Senior results, 1st place individual in judging and questions from Emmie Radford, 1st place overall team finish in judging and questions, 5th place overall team finish in quiz and ID, 6th place overall in the entire competition.

Back at the school, they had a petting zoo for the One School One Book event at McCleary Elementary.

"We also visited the elementary school to talk about strawberries and had related crafts for Ag Literacy week. We read a book about strawberries, planted some seeds, made a strawberry craft, and served strawberry punch," Nolen explained. "Then during FFA week, we talked to the elementary students about FFA and the fun and important things we do. We gave them some agriculture fun facts, FFA color snacks, and more."

She added that they also served a baked potato lunch to their teachers to show their appreciation for all they do for them.

And now, they are preparing for the 2nd Annual Land Lab Fair.

"We are including an old-fashioned cake walk all throughout the day and an auction at 2:30," Nolen shared. "With this being said, we are looking for donations of any and all baked goods to help make these events a success."

If anyone can donate an item or two, contact Emily Nolen or CCHS Agriculture Program, 25239 Craigs Creek Road New Castle, VA 24127 or enolen@craig.k12.va.us.

They do ask that all items be delivered to the front of Craig County High School by 7 p.m. Friday, May 5 as to prepare

From May 15: After prom - 'This is How We Roll' deemed a success

Although exhausted, teachers, staff and volunteers shared that they thoroughly enjoyed seeing their students have a good time during their after prom event.

This year, their trek took them to the Lee-Hi Bowling Lanes before heading over to Thunder Valley for the rest of the evening.

After their prom in Salem, 57 students,

including Craig County High School juniors, seniors and their guests left the school at approximately 11:15 p.m. for a couple of hours of bowling.

After that, Thunder Valley was a hit, as the students played laser tag, drove the go-karts, played arcade games and putt-putt until after 4 a.m., so they could get back to the school at 5:15 a.m.

"There were lots of games and giveaways this year throughout the night," shared Karen Jones, a teacher. They played Minute to Win it and had the annual tug of war with the face off of the juniors versus the senior class.

Also, there were many gift certificates that were donated from businesses and gift cards.

At the end of the night, they had the grand prize drawings. Only juniors and seniors were eligible for these drawings and some prizes were for seniors only.

The grand prize winners were:

- Chase Matthew concert tickets - Stephanie Freese
- Gabby Barrett concert tickets - Emmie Radford
- Samsung watch - Colton Mabe
- Apple watch - Eliza Muncey
- \$250 Grand Furniture gift card - Katie Day
- Smart TV - Lily Hutchinson
- \$100 Visa gift cards (2) - Ava Greenway and Randalyn Taylor
- Camping gift set - Ava Greenway
- Air pods - Tyler Fitzpatrick
- PlayStation 5 - Tyler Huffman (this was the most-desired gift of the evening)
- Seniors only prizes: VR headset - Skyler Rodriguez
- \$300 cash prize - Lexxy Brookman
- iPad - Sara Jones
- iPhone - Isac Haga
- Kayak - Adam Charles

Jones added that all the students were given free shirts, as well as goody bags that contained gift cards, candy, Chapstick and other "cool" items.

To add to the fun, Jones said that their school buses were decorated according to the theme - checkered flags, bowling pins, streamers and etc.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS																	
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"NONE of this would have been possible without the generous donations of our sponsors, the individuals and businesses from our county, and surrounding areas," Jones said.

"We would like to thank these wonderful sponsors for making our After-Prom such a great success!" she added.

They were AEP, Amy Bryson, Anita Martindell Tax Services LLC, Angie Radford, Beamer World, Brittany Austin, Bethel UMC, Carol Rhodes, Buckle, Diane Smith, CCHS Sports, Don Charlton, Charlton Associates, George Foster, Chestnut Grove Church, Jackie Parsons, Chick-Fil-A, Jessie Gills, Coca-Cola, Joanna Hutchinson, Collins Entertainment, Lisa Hancock, Competition Cars & Classics, Lois Groseclose, Cornerstone Church Of God, Meghan All, Craig Botetourt Electric, Melissa Altizer, Craig County Community Church, Michele Bostic, Craig County Health Department, Michelle Young, Craig County Rural Healthcare Corporation, Robin Lipps, Craig Healing Springs Church, Russell And Wanita Caldwell, Craig Valley Baptist Church, Sharon Oliver, Crossroads Church, Sierra Frazier, Dick's Sporting Goods, Tim And Angie Huffman, Dr. Michael Hall - Dental Associates, Tommy and

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Year in Review, page 4



COURTESY PHOTO
Isac Haga won the grand prize of a new iPhone at the after prom drawings.

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BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
11599 Cumberland Gap Road/Rt. 42, New Castle, 864-5242; church phone:544-7040 Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m., Sunday School 10:30 a.m., Choir Tuesday 7:30p.m., Youth Outreach and Missions Program. Rev. 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 Loraine Taylor, agladypastor@msn.com. Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Evening service at 7:00 p.m.; Youth (ages 13-18) & Super Church (ages 4-12) Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. You can also watch on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m. www.graceassemblycatawaba.org

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
159 Old Railroad Ave, New Castle, 540-864-PRAY, Sunday School 9:30AM, Sunday Worship Service 10:00AM, Wednesday Night Services 7:00PM.

HEBRON UNITED METHODIST
Pastor 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).

If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Wendi Craig at 276-340-2445 or email advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

OPINION

Library volunteers

Library Corner

Have you ever met our part-time librarian Michaela Crawford? She is a powerhouse of ideas and contagious energy. We struggle to keep up with her. Even in our crowded library she resourcefully farms out children's programs to the Childcare Center, Take-and-Make kits for children to do at home, theme-based window displays with supporting books and DVDs, and that's the short list. We are amazingly fortunate

to have young volunteers stepping in and carrying out the many support tasks to put Michaela's ideas in motion.

Meet our three student volunteers: Austin Fowler (10th Grade), Callie Musselwhite (12th Grade), and Langley Crawford (11th Grade). Two of the girls, Austin and Callie, use their volunteer hours for SAE credits (formerly Future Farmers of America now called Supervised Agricultural Experience). A library may not be an Agricultural Experience, but in small communities we improvise. Their work clearly meets the intent of

placing students in structured workplaces under supervision, expanding the students experience to further successful projects. One of the girls recalls Michaela, formerly the school nurse, who inspired her to push through challenges. Not a bad mentor?

We see Langley at almost all our library events. Like her mom, she is in motion, helping from start to finish. She loves to decorate the library with the changing Themes her mom dreams up. This is what makes our library have a homespun welcoming feel as we step in the door.

All three have experienced the magic of libraries and its impact on members of their

community. Pooled resources allow books, internet access (not available in all homes) and other resources to be accessible for free and within their own community.

Our student volunteers watch parents carry out piles of their children's book selections to share reading time at home. "I give people a chance to read books or read them to their kids and learn from them", says Austin.

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community.

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Breakfast with Santa at Lasterday, an event shared with DSS and CHIP, was the favorite library event expressed by the girls. Experiencing joy on the face of children is hard to beat.

Youth volunteers give them a place in our community to learn from peers, elders, and themselves. The library offers a safe place to nurture these seeds of our future community.

Bennett promoted at Building Specialists, Inc.

ROANOKE—Building Specialists, Inc. (BSI) announced the leadership promotion of Michael R. Bennett as vice president week. Bennett will work in conjunction with President Robert H. Fetzer to lead the company in its 49th year in business.

"This promotion is very well deserved based on Michael's accomplishments and long-standing dedication to Building Specialists and our valued clients. I am excited to work with Michael in a

leadership role to move our company into our 50th year," Fetzer said.

Bennett has been with BSI for 7 years. In his most recent role with the company, he was senior project manager where he oversaw numerous fast-track commercial capital improvement projects ranging in size from minor renovations to multi-floor up-fits projects for Roanoke City Public Schools, Elizabeth Arden, Excel Truck Group, Pheasant Ridge, Vistar,

VWCC, Kroger Company, Bank of Botetourt, Freedom First Credit Union, Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, Roanoke College, VDOT, Craig County and Hidden Valley Country Club. With over 35 years of experience in the construction industry, he has also managed projects for Carilion Clinic, Allstate Insurance, Valley View Mall, Friendship Manor and more.

-The New Castle Record

Upcoming scheduled Craig County meetings

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.

-The New Castle Record

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

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The New Castle Record encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Record reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length content and style. News of public interest is solicited from all sections of the county.

Email letters to the editor to aboyd@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Craig-Botetourt outage report

Recently, Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative reported an outage with its service affecting: Botetourt, Craig, Monroe, and Roanoke.

They reminded the members that "if outages occur, our crews

will work as quickly and as safely as possible to restore service to all of our members."

However, they wish to remind members that if they do experience an outage, please call their office to report it at (540) 864-5121 as

they shared that this is the quickest and most effective way to report an outage to them and to always include your service address in any message.

-The New Castle Record

Year in Review page 3



COURTESY PHOTO

Thunder Valley was a big hit as students enjoyed several hours there playing games as well as the prizes the school administration had gotten for them.

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Year in Review page 4

From June 28: Day of Action drenched but not drowned

The heavens did not seem to want to give the United Way of Roanoke Valley's "Day of Action" community project a break as the rains continued to pour down during the event.

Though the outside projects had to be postponed until July 19, the food distribution proceeded as planned.

Volunteers were soaked to the bone, but continued to stack food boxes along with cat and dog food and toys in community members' vehicles as they lined up to receive the wonderful things that had been delivered for Craig County residents.

The United Way, Feeding Southwest Virginia and Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative teamed up to present this "Day of Action" in Craig, including distributing healthy food boxes. They also had Truist and The Roanoke Times join in as sponsors.

However, there was a surprise for those dog and cat owners. They also had pet food, litter, treats and toys for their animals as well.

Pat Franklin, director of the county's social services, handed out lots of community information to assist people including:

The cooling assistance program, which is open from June 15 until Aug. 15. Those interested should contact a benefits worker at (540) 864-5117 to see if they're eligible or to obtain more information. Or call (855) 635-4370 to connect with the Enterprise Customer Service Center or go online at [HTTPS://COMMONHELP.VIRGINIA.GOV/ACCESS](https://COMMONHELP.VIRGINIA.GOV/ACCESS).

Feeding Southwest Virginia is at the New Castle Christian Church the second Wednesday of each month, 3-5 p.m., with their Mobile Marketplace, selling produce and products. Those who use an EBT card will receive 50% off the produce. For more information, contact Molly Watkins at (540) 342-3011 Ext. 7046 or mwatkins@feedingswva.org.

United Way has family councils for caregivers of children up to 5 years of age, to learn about resources and address potential needs. Contact Alexandria Strickler at (540) 283-2776 or families@uwr.org.

Food pantries are in Craig County which residents can get food assistance at the Department of Social Services, 177 Court St., Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and at Craig Valley Baptist Church at 171 Salem Ave, Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Leslie Clark, director of family health strategies at the

United Way, shared that they also had a food drive and divided the food between the New Castle Christian Church and the Department of Social Services food pantries.

They provided pizza for the volunteers in between the set up and distribution. The time also allowed everyone to meet one another within the different sponsors.

"All of our food sector partners are reporting so many more people asking for assistance that they had not seen before," Clark said.

Maiya Ashby, marketing representative of Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative, thanked everyone for all their hard work, especially in the rainy weather.

"This really is what it is all about, giving back to one another," Ashby said. "I am really happy to see you all and hopefully we can partner on lots of community projects in the future."

"I would like to echo that same sentiment," said Abbey Hamilton, of the United Way.

"Thank you to our partners of Feeding Southwest Virginia for being here and serving alongside the community, the volunteers from the church and from DSS. We are all excited about serving with you and want to thank CBEC for their support, and Truist, and The Roanoke Times for sponsoring our activities today, spreading

some sunshine and joy today in the midst of cloudy skies."

The distribution started at 1 p.m., however the line started forming at 12:30 p.m. as drivers pulled in and cut their engines off to wait.

The rainy day didn't seem to dampen the spirits of all the volunteers as they each had "assignments" and were quick to set up and then later to be a part of loading up vehicles.

As people received their boxes and pet items, there was an abundance of "thank yous" from the residents of Craig County.

The volunteers all had smiles on their faces as they greeted the drivers, though raindrops were falling from their hats and their heads.

Residents drove away with smiles, food and a knowing that someone cared enough to help bring food assistance to their families.

Though there was no pet food or toys left, there were a few boxes left which was taken to The Commons, The Manor and the Craig Valley Baptist Church for their pantry.

"On behalf of Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative, I'd like to share our sincerest gratitude to the amazing team of volunteers who donated their time and kindness to today's food distribution event," Ashby said. "I'd also like to give a huge shout-out to the United Way of Roanoke Valley, Feeding

Southwest Virginia, Craig County DSS, and New Castle Christian Church for their continued support and positive impact on the communities they serve."

At the end of the day, 326 31 pounds boxes of food were distributed to Craig residents in need, along with a large amount of cat and dog supplies.

"This extremely successful Day of Action event couldn't have been possible without the help of each and every one of these individuals," Ashby shared. "We certainly didn't let today's weather rain on our parade."

The day was a great success and the volunteers and sponsors all hoped that it truly did add a little extra "sunshine" in each home.

Excited but also deeply committed to the mission of the Love Thy Neighbor Fund," Labiosa added. "The response highlights the shared belief in the power of community collaboration and the potential that CarePortal holds to create a lasting and positive impact on our county. We look forward to working hand in hand with our local churches, community groups, and volunteers to uplift vulnerable families and foster a network of support that goes beyond immediate assistance, providing lasting change and empowerment."

Governor announces continued labor market strength, moderate job growth in November

RICHMOND — Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced last week that, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Local Area Unemployment Statistics ("LAUS", or "the household survey"), the labor force in Virginia continued growing in November by 9,331 to 4,624,846, the number of employed Virginians increased by 47 to 4,492,761 while the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased 0.2% to 2.9%.

"While more Virginians are working than ever before and participation in the labor force continues to climb, this month's flat jobs report suggests the cautious approach we've taken in our economic outlook remains appropriate," said Youngkin. "Since day one our economic agenda has resulted in aggressive growth in labor participation and job creation, and we must take bolder steps, as my budget laid out this week, to unleash opportunity for all Virginians."

The labor force participation rate, which measures the proportion of the civilian population age 16 and older

that is employed or actively looking for work, increased to 66.9 percent in November, which is the highest labor force participation rate experienced in Virginia since March 2012.

According to BLS LAUS, Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in November increased by 0.2 percentage points to 2.9 percent, which is 0.3 percentage points below the rate from a year ago. The labor force increased by 9,331 to 4,624,846; and the number of employed Virginians increased by 47 to 4,492,761 as the number of unemployed residents increased by 9,284 to 132,085.

"Over the last year, all regions of the Commonwealth have seen employment growth," said Secretary of Labor Bryan Slater. "However, with 254,000 job openings in the Commonwealth, our commitment remains with providing the tools Virginians need to improve their job situation and our employers with employees to fill these jobs."

"Through our innovative framework, we are driving Virginia's economy for the jobs of today leading to the

future," said Secretary of Commerce Caren Merrick. "We are encouraged by the number of Virginians continuing to seek job opportunities and to be an active participant in strengthening the vitality of the Commonwealth."

BLS publishes an additional employment figure from its Current Employment Statistics Survey ("CES" or "establishment survey"). The CES survey uses payroll records of establishment employers and is designed to provide a count of jobs under which the employer pays unemployment insurance. The LAUS survey is based on household interviews conducted each month for the Bureau of Labor Statistics and provides comprehensive data on the labor force, including those who are employed and unemployed. Establishment survey data reflects changes for updated seasonal adjustment factors, and industry classification conversions (NAICS), as part of the annual benchmarking process.

The household survey only distinguishes between whether a person is employed or unemployed, whereas

CES counts each employee that is on an employer's payroll. CES excludes business owners, self-employed persons, unpaid volunteers and private household workers, and those on unpaid leave or not working because of a labor dispute.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is produced for eleven industry sectors. In November, eight experienced over-the-month job gains, one remained unchanged, and two experienced a decline. The largest job gain occurred in Government (+2,000) to 743,000. The second largest job gain occurred in Leisure and Hospitality (+1,300) to 409,700. The third largest job gain occurred in Education and Health Services (+1,100) to 584,900. The other gains were in Construction (+900) to 214,000; Information (+600) to 71,100; Financial Activities (+400) to 217,500; Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+400) to 671,100; and Manufacturing (+100) to 246,800. Miscellaneous Services remained unchanged.

-The New Castle Record

VDOT Roadwatch

HOLIDAY TRAVEL: VDOT will be suspending many highway work zones and lifting most lane closures on interstates and other major roads in Virginia from noon on Friday, Dec. 22 until noon on Tuesday, Dec. 26 and from noon on Friday, Dec. 29 until noon on Tuesday, Jan. 2.

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: Drivers may experience a periodic 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: Alternating lane closures and flagging operations may 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
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.

NIGHTTIME LANE AND RAMP CLOSURE ON NORTHBOUND INTERSTATE 81 IN WORK ZONE NEAR SALEM - As part of the Interstate 81 widening project in Roanoke County near Salem, a nighttime lane and ramp closure on northbound I-81 are scheduled for Friday, Dec. 8 and Saturday, Dec. 9, so barrier wall can be moved and a new traffic pattern put in place. If the traffic pattern change cannot be made because of weather, the lane and ramp closure will be rescheduled for the following week on Friday, Dec. 15 and Saturday, Dec. 16.

Weather permitting, starting at 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8, northbound I-81 will be reduced to one lane between mile markers 136 and 138 until 7 a.m. on Saturday morning. In addition, the exit 137 ramp from Wildwood Road onto northbound I-81 will be closed from 10 p.m. on Friday until 5 a.m. on Saturday morning. If work cannot be completed in single night, another lane and ramp closure will be scheduled during similar nighttime hours on Saturday night until the morning of Sunday.

Marketplace



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THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

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Part-time receptionist for Oakey's Funeral Service - Vinton Chapel.
Hours vary with some weekday evening and daytime shifts and every other daytime weekend available. Please contact Joshua Dama, Manager at (540) 982-2221 or email jdama@oakeys.com.

Help Wanted Part-time Administrative Assistant

Buchanan Presbyterian Church is searching for a part time Administrative Assistant.
Duties include working with the minister and music team to prepare weekly Sunday bulletin and monthly newsletter; prepare PowerPoint for Sunday worship and be there to operate it; assist with recording and uploading services to YouTube; performance of other administrative jobs to assist the minister.
To apply or obtain complete job description please contact Tricia at 540-589-3107 or send resume to the church at P.O. Box 517, Buchanan, VA 24066

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For Sale - Firewood

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Legals - Botetourt County

NOTICE OF SPECIAL COMMISSIONER SALE OF 101 DRY BRANCH ROAD, BUCHANAN, VIRGINIA, 24066

Pursuant to a Decree of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, made and entered into November 29, 2023 in Case No. 23CL23-0036100, styled Barrett (Plaintiff) v. Cherokee rose Eubank (Defendant), a Will, on Friday 26, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the front door of the Courthouse of Botetourt County, Virginia, located in its new temporary quarters, offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash, the following described real estate: 101 Dry Branch Road, Buchanan, Virginia, 24066, being 2.56 acres in the Buchanan Magisterial District, Tax Map #53-4, property ID#99013634. A more accurate description can be procured as shown on a plat attached to Deed Book 128 at page 123 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia.
Terms of Sale: Cash (10% on the day of sale with the remainder at closing within 60 days).
For further information, apply to:
Tommy Joe Williams, Special Commissioner, 2721 Brambleton Avenue, S.W., Roanoke, Virginia, 24015, office telephone number: (540)772-7848, cell phone number: (540) 797-4065.
I, Tommy Joe Williams, hereby certify that I have bond, with surety, as required by the decree.

Tommy Joe Williams
Special Commissioner

I, Tommy Moore, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, hereby certify the Tommy Joe Williams, Special Commissioner, has given bond, as required by the Decree with Surety approved by the Court.

Tommy Moore, Clerk
Botetourt County Circuit Court

Legals - City of Radford

ABC NOTICE
RADFORD COFFEE COMPANY INC., trading as RADFORD COFFEE COMPANY,
333 WEST MAIN ST, RADFORD, VA 24141.

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

Rachel Doyle-Owner.

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

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 6:30 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.

If approved, Salem City Council intends to adopt the ordinance(s) associated with the above item(s) on first reading, with a second reading of those ordinance(s) at a subsequent meeting.

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 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA
BY: H. Robert Light
Clerk of Council

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission,

at its regular meeting on January 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room, Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, 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 T J Real Properties, LLC, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 1236 West Main Street (Tax Map # 141 - 1 - 4) from HBD Highway Business District to CBD Community Business District.

2. Consider the request of Helm Building Enterprises, LTD, property owner, for the issuance of a Special

Legals - City of Salem

Exception Permit to allow a two family dwelling on the property located at 301 Carey Avenue, (Tax Map # 74-2-6.1).

3. Consider the request of Helm Building Enterprises, LTD, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 416 Electric Road (Tax Map # 150-3-1) from HBD Highway Business District to HM Heavy Manufacturing District.

4. Consider the request of Virginia Baptist Children's Home (dba HopeTree Family Services), property owner, for rezoning the properties located at 1000 block Red Lane and a portion of 860 Mount Vernon Lane (Tax Map #'s 41-1-1, 41-1-2, 41-1-3, 41-1-4, 41-1-5, 41-1-6, and a portion of 44-3-10) from RSF Residential Single Family to PUD Planned Unit 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, January 9, 2024

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 2045: An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2023/2024 Operating Budget to Appropriate \$927,000 of Bond Proceeds to the Water/Sewer Capital Improvement Fund and \$800,000 of Bond Proceeds to the Stormwater Capital Improvement Fund.

The proposed ordinance will allow the Town's two previously approved agreements with Glade Spring Crossing, LLC for the Glade Spring Crossing housing development. One will be used for the sewer cost sharing of \$927,000 and another for \$800,000 for a regional Stormwater project.

These projects will be funded by an upcoming bond offering.

Ordinance 2046: An Ordinance Granting a Lease of Office Space in Town Property Located at 141 Jackson Street, N.E.

Legals - Montgomery County

The proposed ordinance will grant space in the town owned property located at 141 Jackson Street NE to New River Land Trust for storage.

All persons affected by or interested in the proposed items 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).

Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority Summary Statement of Financial Condition For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Assets	\$5,942,205
Deferred Out Flows of Resources	\$33,031
Liabilities	\$1,993,477
Deferred Inflows of Resources	\$164,858
Net Position	\$3,816,901
Revenues	\$4,756,465
Expenses	\$5,207,667
Net Change in Net Position	\$(451,202)

Detailed financial statements may be obtained by writing to: MRSWA, P.O. Box 2130, Christiansburg, VA 24068

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SPORTS

Send story ideas & announcements to bhoffman@ourvalley.org

Rocket basketball teams back on the court Wednesday

The Craig County basketball teams return to the court today, January 3rd, with home-and-home non-district games against Giles. The girls will be at Pearisburg while the boys are home with a jayvee game at 5:30 pm and the varsity to follow.

The boys will be back in action Thursday with their second game of a back-to-back, and it's a home game

against Bath County. It will be a triple-header on Thursday as the jayvee girls will open the action with a game against Bath County at 5 pm. The boys' jayvee game is scheduled for 6:15 pm on Thursday with the boys' varsity to get underway around 7:30 pm.

Next Monday, January 8, the boys will head to Elliston for a Pioneer District game with Eastern

Montgomery. A night later, on January 9, the Mustang girls will come to New Castle.

Next Thursday, January 11, the girls will be in Vinton for a game with William Byrd that was postponed from December 18. Then, on Friday January 12, the girls are at Parry McCluer and the Rocket boys will host the Blues in New Castle.



JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY PHOTOS
Hayden Reynolds drives against Roanoke Valley Christian.



Coach Ryan Frazier goes over strategy during a time out.



Left to right, Jaycob Wolfe(#2), Hayden Reynolds(#33), Drew Duncan(#34) and Talon Ritter(#10) defend the paint for the Rockets.



Rocket reserves look on from the bench at Craig's game at Roanoke Valley Christian.



PHOTOS CHELSEA LOUTHEN
Hayleigh Flowers brings the ball up the court in a recent game.



Kailyn Jones is Craig's leading scorer as the Rockets head into the new year.

Roanoke College hires Giancola to be Def. Coordinator, Associate Head Coach

Newly named Roanoke College head football coach Bryan Stinespring has begun building his staff as he prepares for the Maroons to begin competition. Stinespring has announced the hiring of Mike Giancola as associate head coach and defensive coordinator for the Maroons.

"I'm very excited to announce Mike Giancola as our

Defensive Coordinator and Associate Head Coach," said Stinespring. "In pursuing this hire, Mike checked all the boxes. He is a terrific defensive minded coach whose defenses have consistently been a top tier unit. He has a wealth of knowledge in the ODAC conference, and is a tremendous recruiter. More importantly, he is a great person. He is detail oriented, and a great asset to me in many areas. I could not be happier to have Mike and his family joining us here at Roanoke College."

Before coming to Roanoke Giancola spent seven seasons at Bridgewater College serving as the Assistant Head Coach and Defensive Coordinator, while also coaching multiple position groups in his tenure. In his time at Bridgewater the defense was routinely ranked near or at the top of the conference each season, and was recognized nationally in multiple years in major defensive statistical categories. In the 2019 season Giancola helped lead Bridgewater to a 10-1 record and the ODAC championship. Before arriving at Bridgewater, Giancola spent

six seasons as an assistant coach at Westfield High School in Chantilly, VA. During that time he served as the Defensive Coordinator, Special Teams Coordinator, Defensive Backs Coach and Defensive Line Coach. He is a three-time Virginia 6A State Champion, winning the state championship twice as a coach (2015, 2016) and once as a player (2003).

"My family and I could not be more excited to join the Roanoke College community," said Giancola. "Helping to restart the football program at Roanoke was an opportunity we had a great desire to be a part of. My ties to the Roanoke Valley and Salem areas are strong. I graduated from Virginia Tech, and even did my student teaching here at both Northside High School and Andrew Lewis Middle School. Coming back here to contribute in such a substantial way is amazing. I want to thank Coach Stinespring, our Director of Athletics Curtis Campbell, and the entire community for welcoming us with open arms."

Giancola and his wife, Michelle, have a son, Jonathan, and a daughter, Ophelia.

