

Supervisors discussed a range of topics at April 4 meeting

Bonnie Cranmer Contributing writer

The Craig County Board of Supervisors met to continue the meeting from March 21 on Thursday, April 4 at 4:30 p.m. The work session on the budget was held to hear from members of the school board and their request for funding for the next school year.

At 6 p.m. the regular meeting was opened with an invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of March 7 and March 21 meetings were approved. Briefings were received from Brian Blevins of VDOT on current projects and board members noted areas of concern. Woody Lipes presented a status update of the Craig been several logistical challenges with notice of equipment and activity surprising several landowners. The primary activity is currently a cleanup project. Planning for the trail needs to include landowners, engineers and planners, with attention to funding for long

term maintenance. In old business, the board considered the Emergency Radio Communications Project, which was later highly recommended by Woody Lipes in the Hear the Public section of the meeting. Lipes stressed how important the updated system would be to emergency services in Craig County.

The board also discussed the Craig New Castle PSA request.

Valley Railbed Trail. There have Finding a replacement for the potential retirement of Donnie

Wayne Jones, administrator/ operator of the PSA, has proved challenging. Jones has agreed to continue in his role with a raise in pay.

New business included budget changes and resolution to become a participating member in the Lexington VJCCCA, the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act.

The ordinance repealing Section 30-2 of the Craig County code relating to discharge of firearms within residential districts of the County of Craig was passed without further comment.

The public meeting for the Craig County Six-Year Plan has been rescheduled for May 2.



The Craig Courthouse Court Room.

COURTESY IMAGE

Record number of books donated during Agriculture Literacy Week on March18-22

RICHMOND—This year's annual Agriculture Literacy Week broke records while enriching children's agricultural awareness and helping them make connections with farming.

More than 1,500 volunteers read to over 70,000 students during Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom's annual Agriculture Literacy Week, March 18-22. Participants in the event read AITC's 2024 Book of the Year, Logan's Greenhouse by JaNay Brown-Wood, and donated more than 3,100 copies of the book to public and private schools, community clubs and local libraries.

"This was a record-breaking year, with the most books donated so far," said Tammy Maxey, AITC executive director. "Thanks to volunteers who dedicated their time to share agriculture's story and donate books, thousands of children had an opportunity to connect with farming and learn why it's so important to their communities."

In addition to reading books during Agriculture Literacy Week, volunteers engaged children with the sources of their food and fiber through hands-on educational activities, demonstrations and Q&A sessions.

In Isle of Wight County, Virginia Cooperative Extension agents Tabatha Davis and Livvy Preisser and program assistant Brandy Compton, along with partnering agricultural organizations, read to students at local elementary schools. During the readings, they led energetic discussions about students' favorite fruits and vegetables, how agriculture impacts their daily lives, and the role farmers play in getting food from fields to forks. "Ag Literacy Week helps bridge the gap between farming and youth," Compton said."A lot of youth will never step foot on a farm. It's incredibly important that children and future generations know that food just doesn't appear at the grocery store—a lot of faith, stewardship and man hours are behind it all." Now in its 14th year, Agriculture Literacy Week is AITC's largest educational event and provides a fun, interactive way to increase children's knowledge of farming and the importance of where their food comes from. Volunteer readers also included Virginia's first lady, Suzanne Youngkin; Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Matthew Lohr; Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Joseph Guthrie; members of Virginia's legislature; county Farm Bureau leaders; employees of VDACS and Farm Credit; and FFA and 4-H club members and other agricultural organizations. -The New Castle Record



Sierra Rock Frazier recently captured this photo of a rainbow.

PHOTO BY SIERRA ROCK FRAZIER

Rainbow spotted over New Castle



New sign.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE CRANMER

New sign goes up at Lemon and Vale

A new sign recently went up in front of Lemon and Vale Cakery. Business hours are Monday and Friday from 6 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The business held its grand opening roughly a year ago.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

McCleary first-graders given books with personalized stories to read

From the 1994 edition of the New Castle Record

Friday was an exciting day for the first graders at McCleary Elementary School. Thanks to several local businesses, each child received a personalized book that features them as the main character. Names of relatives were also included in the book.

Just Computer Services owned and operated by Rhonda H. Garst of New Castle, has developed a literacy program called "Learn to Read." The program utilizes personalized books for beginning readers. The purpose of the program is to motivate children to read by presenting them with their very own book that is fun to read because they are the star. The books are professionally illustrated and have plastic protective hard covers. Each book also has a photo sticker for the inside front cover for the child's photo.

One of the sponsors, Hettie Farley of State Farm Insurance, entertained the children by reading the story before distributing the books.

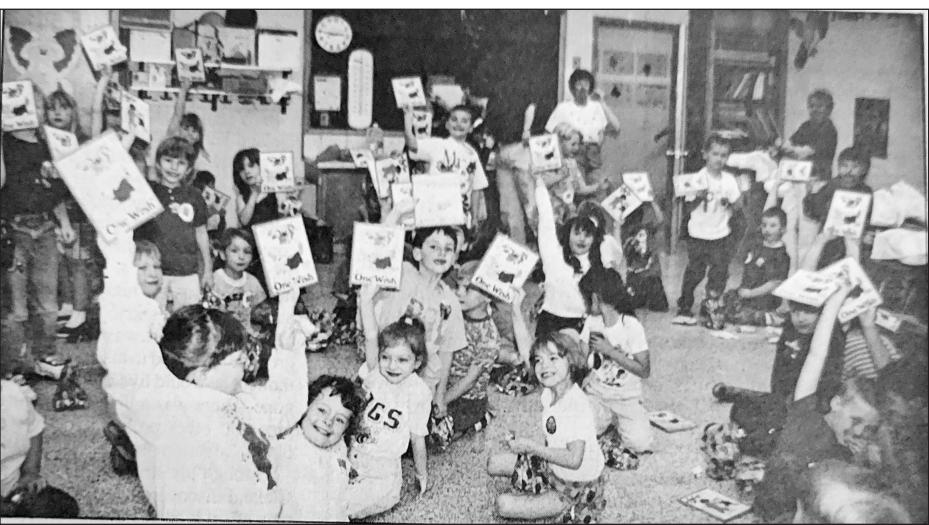
A personalized book, titled" One Wish," was distributed to the following first graders; Kris Abbott, Kyle Caldwell, Brandon Christian, Daniel Davis, Erica Davis, Jessie Falls, Michaela Fisher, Joe Francisco, Joe Hutchison, Tyler Lucas, Jesse Mabes, Adam Sixbey, Leon Smith, Lydia Stebar, Paul Welch, Jr., Jason Williams, Ruth hoover, Amy Crane, Mark Osborne, Brian McAllister, Charles Cranmer, Adam Shires, Ashley Cantrell, Lauren Kessinger, Linsey Fletcher, Max Crush, Samantha Craft, Greg Christian, Jr., Ben Flinchum, Rocky Spitzer, Alisha Hutchison, Mindy Hutchinson, Nikki Brookman, Travis Hall, Felicia Hixenbaugh, Alex Helems, Anna Keffer, Chris Nelson, Brandon Ruble, Steven Shires, Anna Baer, Christopher

DeWease, Melissa Hodges, Philip Webb, Amber Sarver, Casey Garman, Stephanie Huddleston, Trista Belcher, Andrew Gentry, and Westly Kessinger.

"Learning to read is one of the first steps in a child's development," Garst said. "Once reading is conquered, the whole world of education opens up to the child. Children's interest in reading is enhanced when they are interested in the subject, and what is more interesting than a book about themselves? You cannot encourage children enough to read because it is the foundation for everything they do in life." Early responses to the books suggest that because the books are personalized the children are more interested in reading the book and parents or grandparents are also more interested in reading to the children because their names are in the books.

There was no cost involved for the children, parents or the local school system. By involving local sponsors,

Garst thinks a bond will be created between the community and the children, as well as encouraging the children to continue reading on their own. Sponsors fro the "Learn to Read" program at McCleary Elementary include: The Farmers and Merchants Bank of Craig County, Boitnott Funeral home, Wal-Mart (Salem), Castle ands, Dominion Dodge (Salem), Oakwood Homes (Roanoke), Shelor Chevrolet (Christiansburg), Appalachian Power Company, Sison and Ryan Quarry, C & M Grocery, Hunter's Den, Pinkerton Chevrolet, Danny Lineberry, Harvey's Chevrolet (Radford), Shepherd's Auto Supply, State Farm Insurance (Hettie Farley), Rebecca Price, Peggy B. Gilmore, Becker's Clinic, Craig Printing, New Castle Telephone, Highland Propane, Craig Botetourt, Joe's Trees, Frank Rhudy, Craig Manufacturing, Twin Oaks Store and Sandra Reynolds. -Prepared by Shelly Koon



FROM THE NRC ARCHIVES

Plant Swap Day planned

about plants. Let the library help Plant Sale on April 25th at the New Spring Cleaning at your house.



Spring is finally here. New life is emerging all around us with budding trees and green carpets. It is time to step outside and start thinking

with that. The library is having Plant Swap Day on Saturday, April 20 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Come out and see what plants want to go home with you. Bring plants to give away and take some home for free. If you don't have plants, come anyway. There is plenty to go around. Our overflow is donated to the New Castle Garden Club

Castle Christian Church at 6 p.m. Both events offer indoor or outdoor plants.

On Plant Swap Day, the library Book Barns will be open, offering free books. It is a good time to stock up on your summer reading for you and your family. Donated books are also welcomed. This may be an opportunity to do some

The library loves stocking new inventory. You never know what you will discover.

This year we are sharing the date with the Grand Opening of the Farmer's Market downtown. There will be food trucks and music as a celebratory kick-off. Join the Saturday party downtown, rain or shine. Plants don't care.

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Email letters to the editor to aboyd@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Recipe of the Week



This week is my birthday. I am not going to share how old I am, but I am GenX who grew up with a mom who made my birthday cake each year. A store-bought cake was not a choice for my family even with my dad working for Kroger. The fact that my mom did not use a box mix for my birthday cake proved she loved me; she hated baking. I was the only one who really liked this cake so most of it was frozen, and I got a piece every so often until it was gone. Many cultures in the world celebrate birthdays with a sweet treat to make the guest of honor feel special and cared for. Candles on a cake symbolize longevity, one candle for each year lived and one to grow on. Blowing out the candles is supposed to make your wish come true. Some people only use 3 candles on the cake, one each



for past, present, and future. I rarely had candles because I was afraid of blowing them out and refused each year. Yes, I am weird.

This recipe calls for oleo, which is the same as margarine. It also specifies a brand name, Wesson oil, which is a vegetable oil. I left these in because if my mom wrote this on her recipe card then it means that she tried another type, and it did not work for her. I have not had this cake for a long time, over 15 years. This cake is a sweet, chocolate cake. If I made it today, I do not think it would live up to my memories of it. (And I would try the peanut butter icing recipe from February with it). Buttermilk chocolate

- Ingredients 2 cups flour
- 2 cups sugar

1 stick oleo 4 tablespoons cocoa 1 cup water 1/2 cup Wesson oil 1/2 cup buttermilk 2 eggs 1/2 teaspoon soda 1 teaspoon vanilla

Sift flour and sugar togetherheat water, oleo, oil and cocoa until it boils, then pour flour and sugar- add milk with soda in it. Add eggs and vanilla. Mix all by hand. Bake in 9 13 pan for 30 minutes at 350°F.

Chocolate icing

1 stick oleo

3 tablespoons cocoa

6 tablespoons buttermilk

1 box powdered sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla

Mix oleo, cocoa, and buttermilk in saucepan and bring to a boil. Then remove and add sugar and vanilla. Ice cake while still hot. Let cool and the icing set up before serving.

Serve the best chocolate cake with a glass of cold milk or with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

How to store and freeze Store this chocolate cake



with buttermilk in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 3-4 days or in the fridge for about one week.

Freeze the buttermilk cake: Make, bake and cool the cake to room temperature. Store

the unfrosted chocolate cake wrapped tightly, in an airtight and freezer proof container for up to 2 months. Thaw the moist chocolate cake at room temperature for a few hours or in the fridge overnight.

BITUARIES Montoya, Patricia "Emma"

'EMMA' Patricia born on Montoya, 3, 1960, November passed away on November 26, 2023. Emma was a cherished adventurer, camper, hiker, nature collector, and passionate advocate of homeopathy. She loved sharing her knowledge of home remedies with those eager to listen, showcasing her nurturing spirit and desire to help others. In addition to her love for nature and holistic healing, she had a creative flair for crafts and was known for her artistic talents.

Emma had a huge heart for children, always finding joy in their presence and creating memorable experiences for them. She prevailed over her personal struggles and dedicated herself to protecting and nurturing youth. Her unwavering commitment to safeguarding the innocence of young ones touched the hearts of many. Emma was a brave and resilient individual. Despite facing violence and health challenges, she overcame them with grace, courage and determination, never letting them change her loving and giving nature. Emma was versatile.

She worked in various fields from dental hygienist to real estate sales, and embarked on craft and art businesses. She also lived in several states, enjoying the outdoor activities each had to offer. Her diverse experiences and dedication to her passions made her truly remarkable.

Emmawas blessed with



gentle love for Pops, who now knows the true meaning of invisible touch. She never met a stranger, was kind to all, and leaves behind other special friends in New Ĉastle.

Emma dearly loved New Castle, having found her way here via the Appalachian Trail. Through her eyes, we experienced the wonders she found, no longer taking them for granted. In her diary, she penned poetic descriptions of country roads, majestic mountains, and the serene beauty of creeks and rivers that captured her heart. Her affinity for the phases of the moon was evident in her life. She spent many a night star gazing with friends, sharing her knowledge, hopes and dreams. In honor of this connection, her ashes will be scattered locally during the full moon phase in April, 2024. Friends are invited to attend the celebration of her life. For those who wish to pay their respects and share memories, please call or text (540) 598-0536 for further details. Emma's legacy of love and peace, and love for God ("Father") will be cherished by those whose lives she touched. Emma, you were loved!

Stebar, Karla Paige

Stebar, Karla Paige March 29, 1956 March 31, 2024

Karla went to her new glorious home in heaven on March 31, 2024. She was preceded in death by her parents, Garland and Marilyn Stebar and brother, David Stebar.

Karla was a loyal loving sister to her family and mama to her dogs. She attended and was a member of Crossroads Church.

She is survived by



brothers, Michael and Robert "Bob" Stebar; sister-in-law, Rita;

Lydia; niece, and nephew, Reece.

services Funeral will be held 2:00 PM Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at Paitsel Funeral Home with Crossroads Church Elder Steve officiating. Minnix The family will receive friends 1-2 PM before the service. Interment will follow at Huffman Memorial Park.

Arrangements by Paitsel Funeral Home. www.paitselfh. com

Upcoming public meetings scheduled in Craig County

April 15 Town of New Castle Town Council Meeting

County Courthouse at 6 p.m. May 15

Ongoing Toding Southwest Feeding Southwest Virgnia will be offering CPMT MEETING food twice a month on CPMT - Department of the second and third

a loving reconnection to her family, and is survived by many who will celebrate her with a special service in the spring in Montana. She shared a special bond and keenness for journaling with her sister, Pam, whom she loved profoundly. She greatly valued her friendship with Luda and Jason, with whom she spent amazing years in Florida. Emma also had a deep affection and

at New Castle Town Hall at 7– 8 p.m

April 16

Congressman Morgan Griffith citizen comment period 9–10:30 a.m at Craig County Courthouse Breakroom.

Planning Commission meeting at Planning Commission at 7:00-8:00p.m.

April 17 CPMT MEETING CPMT - Department of Social Services at 1 p.m.

May 2 Board of Supervisors Meeting Monthly will meet at the Craig Social Services at 1 p.m. May 20

Town of New Castle Town Council Meeting at New Castle Town Hall

at 7-8 p.m May 21

Congressman Morgan Griffith citizen comment period 9–10:30 a.m at Craig comment County Courthouse Breakroom.

June 6

Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting will meet at the Craig County Courthouse at 6 p.m.

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 and boxed canned 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.

Castle -The New Record



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: craigcountycommunitychurch@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

cake

www.ourvalley.org

UPINION News from the 9th: Government bureacrat's royalties



While I travel throughout Virginia's Ninth Congressional District, one of the opportunities afforded to me is visiting our local schools.

The Ninth District is big, comprised of twenty-eight cities and counties.

It is home to more than sixty high schools.

School visits allow me to talk directly with students and listen to their questions and feedback.

Recent school visits included several in Wise and Buchanan.

One student was interested to hear about the influence of stock ownership on Members of Congress and conflicts of interest.

Shortly after entering Congress, I sold my entire stock portfolio.

As I have often joked, I don't know what my wife did with the \$6,000. The money is gone and so is any conflict.

While this isn't the course of action that every Member needs to take, I decided that the best course of action for me was to sell.

In recent years, Members from both sides of the aisle have faced pressure to sell their stocks or place them in a blind trust.

I would like to see this same pressure applied to government bureaucrats and regulators.

That is

why I introduced the Royalty Transparency Act, a bill that requires an officer or employee in the executive branch of the U.S. Government to file financial disclosure reports and report royalty payments that they receive.

This legislation will empower Congressional oversight efforts of the financial disclosure filing system for executive branch employees.

Ú.S. Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) has introduced a Senate companion bill.

One of the reasons for this bill is that it requires researchers in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other agencies to disclose royalties they receive.

An article from Reason Magazine cites that some working at NIH over the last decade earned an estimated \$400 million in royalties from third-party companies for medical treatments and innovations they have helped produce.

However, information pertaining to how much the agency's employees were paid, who they were being paid by, or what they were being paid for has been concealed from the public.

This raises the question whether the agency and/ or employees place a greater interest on profiting off of innovative medicines rather than studying and analyzing these treatments for the benefit of American science and patient health.

Last summer, NIH selected Dr. Jeanne Marrazzo to serve as the new director for the National Institute of Allergy Infectious Diseases and (NIAID).

This position had to be filled due to the retirement of NIAID's well-known former director, Dr. Anthony Fauci.

Dr. Fauci's career in government spans back to the 60s, when he joined NIAID as a clinical associate in 1968.

Dr. Fauci worked fifty-four years at the agency. In 1984, he became the director of NIAID, serving in that role until his retirement in December of 2022.

A whopping thirty-eight years as head of one of our leading institutions, an institution which gives out thousands of grants! In a recent transcribed

See **The Ninth**, page 5

TERS TO THE EDITOR

I can already hear the tired responses. 'Why don't you support our children?" "It's an investment in our collective future." "If only we funded the schools better, they wouldn't be failing." Honestly it has gotten all so predictable and tiring to attempt to even have an opposing conversation against the human shield of children that the public education complex uses each time they are questioned.

At issue in our community specifically is the proposed budget for the county and a massive increase in property taxes that is suggested to fund it, nearly 10%. Looming large at the center of the budget are increases in spending for the school system. A school system that has lost around 150 enrolled children over the last six years claims to need more money to operate. I'm not sure how that works exactly. Perhaps if you view the school boards wish list items including a three hundredthousand-dollar improvement to the running track or a 1.2-million-dollar

new bus depot it starts to become clearer. Stick to the basics of reading, writing, math, science and history. If you want your child to play a sport or be involved in extra curriculars than as a parent, pony up. It shouldn't be the taxpayer's burden to make sure the football field is flat or the track is round. I of course understand that the state is increasing the RLE (Required Local Effort) which is unavoidable in the current tax and spend structure. However, what is avoidable is the "Optional" 200 thousand extra dollars the local is being asked to shell out to get more state funding. Why is that even a thing? Why is the state dangling a carrot made of taxpayer money in front of the taxpayer that they can receive if only they spend more taxpayer money? If the state has that money available, it shouldn't be tied to spending more. That's madness. While the school and county are facing rising costs due to inflation, which is another tax in and of itself, so

are we all. It hardly seems appropriate or even fair to demand the struggling local populace to cough up more cash when a trip to the grocery store or gas pump have become financial burdens. A school system that has dropping enrollment has other questions to answer as well. Why are people not trusting government employees to shape the minds of their children at an increasing rate? If you look at current trends this decline in enrollment will continue. Is the school going to need more money in six more years when they have even less students? Anyone paying attention knows the answer to that question. Schools will always need more funding. That's the nature of the beast when you spend other people's money. It's easy to determine something as a need when you aren't paying for it.

How did we even get to this point honestly? As someone who doesn't use the public school system at all because I choose to take an active

role in my children's education and avoid the biased system of political indoctrination that is rampant in the classroom, why am I responsible to pay for the education of others? Why is the retiree who hasn't had a child in the system for 30 years still propping up a school, how about the bachelor or the childless couples? How about those in our very community that felt so strongly against using the public school system that they even created their own school? Why did the mechanism for funding an arguably laudable goal of education get leveraged against the most important asset a human animal can own, their home and shelter? Something is very wrong with threatening to forcibly remove someone from their homestead for failing to pay for someone else's kids education.

That being said, we should support our community and the children in

2022.

See Letter page 5

National Public Health Week 2024

During the week of April 1-7, the Roanoke City and Alleghany Health Districts observed National Public Health Week. The national theme, "Protecting, Connecting and Thriving: We Are All Public Health," emphasizes what we know is true: the community's health improves when we work together to build safe, interconnected, healthy communities for everyone. Every day, public health workers across our districts, the state, and the country strive to make sure that our water, air, and food

to efforts to assure conditions for the Roanoke Valley all people to be and



activities undertaken RCAHD staff over Alleghany the past year have included:

working with numerous community partners to respond to increases in reported cases of and rabies case

by

increasing outreach for sexually transmitted infections (STI) testing with community partners.

improving lead managem ent

Michael Showell, Publisher Aila Boyd, Executive Editor aboyd@mainstreetnewspapers.com Brian Hoffman, Sports Editor bhoffman@ourvalley.org Debbie Nixon, Graphic Designer dnixon@ourvalley.com Edmee CR Hasler, Graphic Designer edmee@mainstreetnewspapers.com

are safe. In addition Health Assessment processes in both

Wendi Craig, Advertising Consultant advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view: aboyd@mainstreetnewspapers.com

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

USPS 378-080

(540) 389-9355

1633 W. Main St.

Salem, VA 24153

www.ourvalley.org

To subscribe: 540-389-9355

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 post-age 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.

healthy, the public health workforce responsible is for assessing the community's health; developing policies and programs to address needs; and assuring that those programs are effective, efficient, and available to all. Locally, RCAHD staff efforts have recently focused Community on

Highlands to gather input about health priorities directly from community members. These activities will allow us to both examine the complex issues that underlie community health and join partners to build a common agenda with shared resources.

Additional public health

ommunicable diseases, particularly tuberculosis and syphilis. In 2023, we worked with medical providers to manage eight active cases of tuberculosis, а concerning rise over the typical baseline of one-totwo cases per year. monitoring an ongoing increase of invasive group

A streptococcus

(iGAS) cases since

workflows. partnering

with local fire departments to provide more efficient joint inspections of mobile food units during temporary events.

the completion of over 1900 food service inspections to help ensure the proper handling of food served to the

See **Health** page 5



The Ninth page 4

interview, Dr. Fauci told us he could not keep track of all the grants and had other people to do that.

Of note, Ecohealth Alliance subawarded \$598,500 in NIH grant funds to the Wuhan Institute of Virology during 2014-2019 for bat coronavirus research.

I believe the COVID-19 virus originated from bat research at

Letter page 4

it but in a voluntary way. A society that doesn't involve coercion to accomplish goals is a freer society. A society that has a product that people believe in will have no problem funding it. Volunteerism isn't given half the chance it should be. We simply choose, whether out of conditioning or laziness that if we just pay our fair share, whatever that is, someone else

Wuhan's Institute of Virology. From 2019-2022, Dr. Fauci made headlines for various things. One of those storylines highlighted his salary, as he earned the title of highest-paid federal government employee. In 2022, he received \$481,000, more than the president of the U.S. who receives \$400,000.

Also Dr. Fauci is set to receive the largest federal retirement package in history, with a reported first-year pension payout of \$414,000.

Additionally, Dr. Fauci and his wife, Dr. Christine Grady, saw their net worth increase from around \$7.6 million in 2019 to \$11.5 million in late 2022.

This net worth increase can be attributed in part to gifts and royalties.

Such gifts and royalties raise eyebrows.

I am not saying he did anything illegal or unethical, but as a public servant, there should be transparency regarding the money you receive directly or indirectly from government service.

Ι committed am to transparency and bringing potential conflicts of interest

of executive branch bureaucrats and regulators to light.

At a time when Americans are losing faith and trust in their institutions, we need more sunlight on why some of our public servants are receiving large amounts of compensation. I am trying to fix that

problem with the Royalty Transparency Act.

before public education and for many

families that time has never left. If we

don't find a way to separate our homes

from the guilt we are told to feel for

daring to question the public school

system then we might as well just get

used to our tax bills only going one

will handle it. Well at some point just throwing other peoples money at a problem is not cutting it and that time is now. The school system should make do with what it has and order the priorities of their budget just like we all have to do.

Maybe this is a good time to have that larger conversation about the

methodology and necessity of public education funding. While that seems like an impossible task and one that most people just accept as settled as gravity, I assure you it doesn't have to be. We can decide to accept more personal responsibility for our children and find a fair way to fund schools that doesn't use our homes as collateral in a tax slavery scheme. There was a time

Health page 4

public.

providing more educational opportunities and resources for families to keep their children safe through the car seat and infant safe sleep programs.

increasing outreach to ramp up overdose education and availability of naloxone (Narcan) to the public and increasing partnership outreach opportunities with local harm reduction and peer recovery

programs.

fülfilling over 27,000 vital records document requests, such as birth, death, marriage, and divorce certificates.

Residents can learn more about these and other public health efforts on our website, including in our most recent 2023 Annual Report. While Public Health Week celebrates

the public health workforce, we recognize that no individual, organization, or initiative can change the health of our community alone. We look forward to increasing opportunities to partner with others, especially our residents, because it takes all of us working together to improve our community's health.

way, up.

- Jason Sarine

Peaceful Valley Rd.

Roadwatch

Interstate 81

Beginning Monday, April 8 through Thursday, April 11, I-81 southbound will have lane closures in place, reducing I-81 to one lane of travel, from mile marker 139 to 137 for paving operations from 7 p.m. through 6 a.m. the following morning. Message boards will be in place to provide information for the traveling public and drivers are reminded that the speed limit through the work zone is 60 mph. Drivers may experience delays in the area and should use caution in the work zone.

UPCOMING I-81 NB & SB BRIDGE REHAB OVER ROUTE 100 AT EXIT 98 - Beginning on April 9, 2024, work will begin on I-81 rehabbing the northbound and southbound bridges over Route 100 at Exit 98. Lane and shoulder closures may be in place on Route 100 north and on I-81 northbound and southbound, 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Flagging operations may also be in place on Route 100 north for up to eight-minute slow rolls. Both northbound and southbound on and off ramps at exit 98 for I-81 traffic will remain fully operational for the duration of this project. Estimated completion date is summer 2024. I-81 NB & SB DECK OVERLAY AT PEAK CREEK MILE MARKER 95.7 -On April 22, 2024, repair work will begin on the northbound and southbound bridges on I-81 over Peak Creek near mile marker 95.7. This repair work will require nighttime single lane closures for the duration of the project. Lane closures may occur nightly from Sunday night through Friday mornings between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. For the deck overlay process, lane closures may be in place between Sunday nights through Friday mornings. For the southbound lanes these will occur between the hours of 7pm and 10am, and for the northbound lanes between the hours of 6pm through 9am. Details on these closures will be listed below on a weekly basis. This project

date of December 6, 2024. INTERSTATE 81 WIDENING LANE 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

has a contract completion

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:

TRAFFIC IMPACTS:

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 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.



540-626-6000

The purpose and intent of this notice is to establish tax rates for Tax Year 2024, (Fiscal Year 2024-25), to support and fund the budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25.

TAX YEAR 2024

(FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025)

CURRENT FY 2023-2024

PROPOSED FY 2024-2025

ADDITIONAL

WORK ZONE

PUBLIC HEARING The Craig County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing (which may be continued or adjourned) in the County Courthouse in New Castle, Virginia at 6:00 p.m. on April 18th, 2024 (or as soon thereafter as the matter is heard during the Board of

Supervisors meeting) to receive comments on a proposed resolution entitled:

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-	Personal Property	\$ 3.50 per \$100 assessed value	\$ 3.50 per \$100 assessed value
	Machinery & Tools	\$ 3.50 per \$100 assessed value	\$ 3.50 per \$100 assessed value
-	Merchants Capital	\$ 3.50 per \$100 assessed value	\$ 3.50 per \$100 assessed value
•	Real Estate	\$ 0.63 per \$100 assessed value	\$ 0.52 per \$100 assessed value

By Order of the Craig County Board of Supervisors

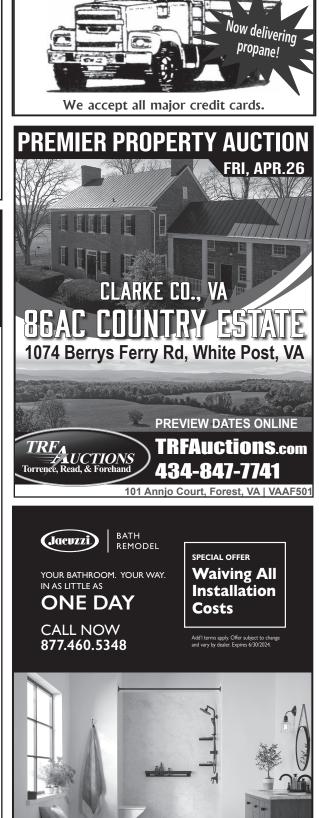
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING COUNTY OF CRAIG, VIRGINIA PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2024-25

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2506 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the Craig County Board of Supervisors on the proposed County Budget amendment for Fiscal Year 2024-25 (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025). The Public Hearing, which may be continued or adjourned, will be held April 18th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter is heard during the Board of Supervisors meeting at the Craig County Courthouse in New Castle, Virginia. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public review at the County Administrator's Office and can be requested by email or phoning the office.

GENERAL COUNTY FUND – REVENUES

	-	
Local including State and Federal funds for local purposes	\$	8,667,023
State - School	\$	5,280,184
Federal - School	\$	814,308
Local Contribution to School	\$	2,195,668
School Generated Revenue	<u>\$</u>	<u>131,951</u>
TOTAL	\$	17,089,134
TOTAL REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25\$	17,08	9,134
GENERAL COUNTY FUND – EXPENDITURE	<u>S</u>	
GENERAL COUNTY FUND – EXPENDITURE General County Fund	<u>s</u> \$	8,667,023
		8,667,023 <u>8,422,111</u>
General County Fund	\$ <u>\$</u>	
General County Fund Component Unit-School Board	\$ <u>\$</u> \$	8,422,111

By Order of the Craig County Board of Supervisors





and more particularly described as follows, to-wit: All that certain tract or parcel of land containing 6.9

the names and location of all of the heirs, devisees and successors in title of Ora Faye Cunnigham, Phyllis Davis, and Anna Maye D. Bannerman; that there are or may be other persons having an interest in the real estate forming the subject matter of this suit whose names and last post office addresses are unknown namely the unknown heirs, devisees and successors in title of Ora Fave Cunnigham. Phyllis Davis, and Anna Maye D. Bannerman; that Harry M. Bannerman, Jr. is a nonresident of the state of Virginia, whose last known post office address is 2010 NW 106th Avenue, Pembroke Pines, FL 33026; that David Huggins is a nonresident of the state of Virginia, whose last known post office address is 3 Center Street, Glen Cove, NY, 11542.

has been used to ascertain

A public comment meeting will be held on Monday, April 22, 2024 at 7:00pm in the City Council

To view plans for the project, visit the web at https://www.salemva.gov/76 7/Projects or go by the City of Salem's Community Development Office, located at 21 S. Bruffey Street. Please call (540) 375-3032 or email Will Śimpson (wsimpson@salemva.gov) or Josh Pratt (ipratt@salemva.gov) to schedule a time to view the plans or if you have any additional questions

Craig County Circuit Court, 182 Main Street,

Suite 4, New Castle, VA 24127.

PLACE OF SALE: FRONT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LOCATED AT 55 EAST MAIN STREET CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA 24073 DATE OF SALE: APRIL 22, 2024 TIME OF SALE:10:00 AM Daniel D. Hamrick, PC Substitute Trustee By: Daniel D. Hamrick, Agent FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel D. Hamrick, Agent for Daniel D. Hamrick, P.C., Substitute Trustee 104 South Franklin Street Christiansburg, VA 24073 (540) 382-0131

ADDITIONAL TERMS MAY

acres more or less designated as Lot No. 4, as shown on plat entitled "Plat of the john A. Orange

Tract", dated August 1941, made by S.S. Lynn, S.C.S.,

of record in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, in Plat Book 2, at Page 82. Together with a perpetual right of way and easement for the purpose of ingress and egress from the land herein described to the public road.

And being the same property conveyed to William H. Smith from Hubert J. Orange and Mary Frances Orange, his wife, by deed dated January 10,

1978, and recorded February 2, 1978, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, in Deed Book 241 at Page 257

This description is made subject to all easements conditions, agreements,

restrictions, and reservations of record which affect the property herein described including but not limited to those recorded in Deed Book 186, at Page 355 and Deed Book 242, at Page 30.

IT APPEARING that an affidavit has been made and filed stating that the due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the identity and location of certain parties to be served that the last known addresses for the Respondents herein are as follows:

William H. Smith, who is believed to be deceased and whose last address is unknown; Emily M. Smith, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; and that any officers, heirs, devisees, and successors in

title of the Respondent named herein are made parties Respondent to this action individually and/or by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties herein and all Parties

Unknown and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before May 6, 2024 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of

It is ORDERED that this order be published once a week for two successive weeks in the Radford News Journal and that the parties named herein appear on or before May 27, 2024, at 9:30 am in the clerk's office of the Circuit Court for the City of Radford, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interest in this suit

Enter: this 25th day of March, 2024 Angel Turpin DC Clerk I ask for this: James W. Elliot p.q. Attorney at Law P.O. Box 1410 Yorktown, VA 23692 (757) 898-7000

City of Radford 2024 Annual Action Plan

Community **Development Block Grant Programs** Notice of Public **Comment Period**

In accordance with quidelines established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the City of Radford seek public comment on the proposed draft of the 2024 Annual Action Plan for the City of Radford's

Chamber's, at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA. Comments may also be given via e-mail to: Melissa.Skelton@radfordva. gov, by phone at (540) 267-3188 or by mail to Community Development, 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA 24141. Comments must be received by 5:00pm May 13, 2024 Accommodations for persons with disabilities and

non-English speaking residents will be provided upon request. For additional information, please call (540) 267-3188.

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, April 22, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 114 North 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

1. Consider the request of PHC of Virginia, LLC/Acadia Healthcare, Mt Regis Center, property owner, for the amendment of the Use Not Provided For permit to allow additions to the outpatient mental health and substance abuse

SALEM. VIRGINIA:

treatment center on the property located at 125 Knotbreak Road (Tax Map # 148-1-5).

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,

If your questions or concerns cannot be addressed through discussions with staff, the City is willing to hold a public hearing. You can request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to: William L. Simpson, Jr., PE City Engineer P.O. Box 869 Salem. VA 24153

Requests for a public hearing must be received on or prior to April 26, 2024. If any requests for a public hearing are received prior to this date, a notice will be posted on the City's website detailing the date, time, and location of the public hearing. Project Number: UPC 113566; FHWA # RSTP 5128 (431, 505, 506)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Board of Zoning Appeals of the City of Salem, Virginia will hold a public hearing, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2309 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, on April 24, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, to consider the following applications.

The request of Donna L. Musgrave, property owner, for a variance from Section 106-202.3(B)(1) of the City of Salem Zoning Ordinance pertaining to site development regulations, for the property located at 805 Honeysuckle Road. Tax Map # 45-2-1. Section 106-202.3(B)(1) requires the front yard setback to be

Terms: CASH: a deposit in the form of certified funds in the amount of \$10,000 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower Settlement within thirty (30) days of date of sale. Time is of the essence.

OPTIONS 1. All costs of conveyance, examination of title, recording charges, etc. will be at cost of purchaser with the exception of the grantor's tax. Neither the Substitute Trustee nor any other party guarantees or covenants to deliver or in any way to obtain possession of the premises for any third party purchaser.

2. The Substitute Trustee reserves the right to reject all bids, extend the time to receive bids or withdraw the property from sale at any time. In addition, should the Substitute Trustee be unable, for any reason, in its sole discretion, to convey title, the successful bidder's sole remedy in law or equity shall be the return of his deposit. Upon refund of the deposit, the sale shall be void and of no effect.

Additional terms may be announced at the time of the sale. The Substitute Trustee will convey the above-described property to the purchaser(s) by Special Warrantv deed at settlement and makes no additional representations or warranties of any kind regarding the title to said property.

John K. Prillaman, Esq. Substitute Trustee For Information Contact: John K. Prillaman, Esq. **OPN LAW** 3140 Chaparral Drive Roanoke, Virginia 24018 (540) 725-8194

Legals -Montgomery County

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE OF IMPROVED REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT: 4916 Pilot Road, Pilot,

FEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE SALES PRICE, WITH FULL SETTLEMENT TO **BE MADE WITHIN** FIFTEEN (15) DAYS FROM DATE OF SALE ADDITIONAL TERMS MAY BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME OF SALE THIS NOTICE IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE PLACE OF SALE: FRONT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 55 EAST MAIN STREET CHRISTIANSBURG VIRGINIA 24073DATE OF SALE: APRIL 22, 2024 TIME OF SALE: 10:30 AM Daniel D. Hamrick, PC,

CERTIFIED FUNDS OR

CASHIER'S CHECK A

BIDDER'S DEPOSIT OF

By: Daniel D. Hamrick, Agent FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel D. Hamrick, Agent for Daniel D. Hamrick, P.C., Trustee 104 South Franklin Street Christiansburg, VA 24073 (540) 382-0131

Trustee

NOTICE OF **TRUSTEE'S SALE** OF IMPROVED REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT: 167 Penny Royal Road, Pilot, VA 24134 COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY Parcel ID: 012692/Tax Map# 131-A-26

IN EXECUTION OF A DEED OF TRUST IN THE **ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL** AMOUNT OF \$39,920.00, DATED THE 25th DAY OF JUNE, 2021, RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AS INSTRUMENT NO. 2021 6796, DATED JUNE 25, 2021, DEFAULT HAVING OCCURRED IN THE PAYMENT OF THE NOTE SECURED THEREBY, AND AT THE REQUEST OF THE HOLDER OF THE NOTE, THE UNDERSIGNED SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE,

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104 Case No. CL23001822-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re BRENDA MARIE BRIDGES v. SCOTT THOMAS BRIDGES The object of this suit is to: DIVORCE. It is ORDERED that SCOTT THOMAS BRIDGES appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before MAY 8TH, 2024.

Signed March 5, 2024 Robert M.D. Turk, Judge

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,20-104 Case No CL24000402-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re JOHANNA RENEE PHILLIPS v MICHAEL DWAYNE PHILLIPS. The object of this suit is to: DIVORCE. It is ORDERED that MICHAEL DWAYNE PHILLIPS appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before MAY 15, 2024. MARCH 13, 2024 Robert M.D. Turk, Judge

www.ourvalley.org

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Sports

Send story ideas & announcements to bhoffman@ourvalley.org

Rocket baseball team looking for a win this week

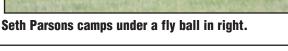
The Craig County baseball team will be looking for their first win this week when the Rockets play two Pioneer District opponents. Eastern Montgomery was scheduled to visit New Castle on Tuesday and Craig is at Parry McCluer on Thursday.

The Rockets dropped to 0-5 last week with a 17-4 loss to the host Green Wave in Narrows. Jaycob Wolfe, Hayden Reynold and Potter had

Craig's three hits and Wolfe scored three times. Reynolds smacked a double and Wolfe, Luke Potter, Matthew Lucas and Cam Huffman all had a stolen base.

"Luke Potter had a good day on the mound in his first ever game pitching," said Craig coach Corey Smith. "We hit the ball decent, just couldn't string runs and hits together to stay in the game." Reynolds started on the mound and struggled before Potter relieved with one out. The Green Wave plated 10 first inning runs to turn a 2-0 deficit into a 10-2 lead. Lucas pitched a scoreless fourth inning in relief but by that time the Rockets trailed 17-3.

Craig was scheduled to host Giles last Thursday but that game was postponed by inclement weather.



CHELSEA LOUDEN PHOTOS

Craig's Josphe Charette reaches for a hard smash at the hot corner.

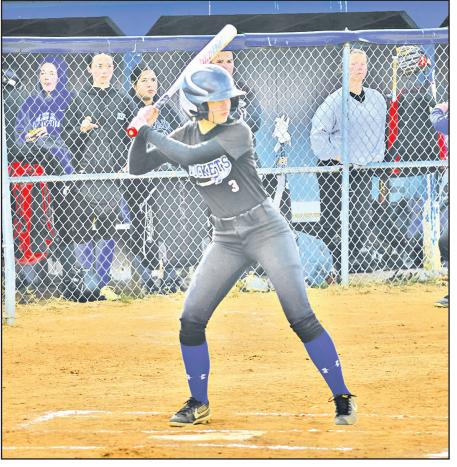
Softball game stopped due to darkness with Craig in the lead

The Craig County softball team was on the verge of a win last week in Narrows when a game against Narrows was called due to darkness. Craig led 6-2 in the top of the fifth inning when the umpire halted the game.

"We wound up getting a late start at Narrows because of a field trip delaying players," said Craig coach Elaina Wolfe-Carper. "I think the plan right now is to finish that game when Narrows comes to us.

Kammie Fisher was having a big day on the mound when the game was interrupted. She faced 21 batters and only gave up two hits and no earned runs while striking out 11 batters.

The Green Wave pitcher kept the Rockets at bay until Nevaeh Hypes



broke things open with the bases loaded in the fourth inning, driving in two runs to tie the game. Daileigh Donithan scored on a passed ball to give Craig the lead and the Rockets scored three more times before there wasn't enough light to see the ball. Hayleigh Flowers and Kammie Fisher also had an RBI each.

"It took us a bit to make adjustments to their pitcher, but once we did I was very pleased with how the girls put the ball in play," said Wolfe-Carper.

The Rockets were scheduled to host Eastern Montgomery on Tuesday, and on Thursday they head to Parry McCluer for a Pioneer District game.



Hayleigh Flowers bats for the Rockets.

CHELSEA LOUDEN PHOTOS

Karly Potter takes her position at first base

Craig home opening soccer game now scheduled for next Tuesday

The Craig County soccer team was scheduled to host Buffalo Gap for their home opener last Friday but poor field conditions and predicted bad weather forced the game to be postponed. The first home game is now scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, against the Covington Boys' Home.

The Rockets fell to 0-2 last week when they dropped a 9-0 game at Narrows. Craig has yet to score and has been "mercy ruled" in both games.

"We had to start the game with 10 players so it was difficult to overcome that," said coach Joel Peterson. "Our keeper, Austin Fowler, made some great saves and the team played hard."

The Rockets were scheduled to play at Eastern Montgomery on Tuesday of this week but results were too late for publication.

Track team opens with meet at Giles

The Craig County track team took the oval for the first time this spring with a meet at Giles High School last week. The Rockets joined Auburn, Eastern Montgomery, Glenvar, Narrows and the host Spartans.

A highlight of the meet was when Rocket senior Tyler Fitzpatrick broke his previous school record in the discus with a throw of 146'11" to win the event. Freshman Kailyn Jones also had an impressive day, placing fourth in the 200m and sixth in the 400m. The sprinters were all brand new to track this year with Craig's oldest full time member being just a sophomore.

"We do have two part time members that play baseball and soccer that had scheduling conflicts this past Wednesday," said coach Jayke Dowdy. "Every male and female sprinter on both the high school and middle school teams, and most of our throwers, are regular attendees of football's morning weights program which starts at 6:45 am sharp three times a week. They did well getting their feet wet, and getting a feel for this style of competition."

The Rockets are scheduled to return to Giles for a meet this Friday. They plan to have the full sprint team for the "New River Invitational."

"Considering we have had to practice in

a parking lot most days due to the state of our track I'd say they have overcome some adversities already and are right in the thick of things," said Peterson. "The kids affectionately refer to themselves as the 'Trail Team' due to the conditions they run in when we do have to use our track. We are excited that our new superintendent has proposed future renovations to our track facilities that should give physical education classes and the track team a safe place to run and facilities to be proud of. The kids will continue to improve over the next few months of the season, and will be a force in the next few years."