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"The Voice of Craig County"

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Highway marker to note Craig County Poor Farm Program

Anita Firebaugh

Special to The Record

A new highway marker noting the location of the first Craig County Poor Farm should be visible in the near future on Virginia Rte 42, about 13 miles outside of New Castle in the Sinking Creek area.

Virginia The Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) announced in July that it had approved the new highway marker.

The marker will read: "After Revolutionary War, care for people facing poverty in Virginia ceased to be the responsibility of Anglican parishes and instead was managed by county-appointed "overseers of the poor." Craig County, formed in 1851, initially assisted the poor outside of institutions but in 1892 established a 250-acre working farm here as a residence for those unable to support themselves, often because of age or disability. Residents provided labor as they were able. The property, listed on the National Register

of Historic Places,

included three cottages,

a superintendent's house,

outbuildings, and a

sold the property in 1921, opening a new poor farm north of New Castle."

Members of the local historical society are excited about the new marker. "We are always pleased when the history of Craig County is acknowledged and shared with the public. This marker is a welcome addition," said Diane Givens of the Craig County Historical Society.

The Poor Farm was created in 1892 when Craig County purchased the property for \$9,000, according to the VDHR nomination form.

It appears that the county may have constructed the poor farm superintendent's two-story house, a simple dwelling of frame construction with vernacular Greek Revival elements. Next to the house stands an 1892 poorhouse cottage, one of three residential cottages that stood on the grounds in 1909. The two-bay, two-room cottage is reminiscent of servants' quarters of the 19th-century era and conforms to the standard poorhouse lodging form in Virginia at the turn of the 20th century.

The property also

farm period a stone cellar structure, a frame granary-corncrib, the County Farm Cemetery where poor residents were buried, and a frame barn. In 1921 the county sold the farm to a family who used the superintendent's house as their farmhouse and converted the surviving poorhouse cottage to a chicken house.

The poor farm's superintendent's house from 1892 still remains. It served as the home of the overseer of the poor and his wife, who together operated the farm and cared for the residents. At the Craig County Poor Farm, the first overseer husband and wife team was Josh and Rebecca Looney.

The superintendent's house is a fairly simple dwelling for its era and is much plainer than some of the elaborate Queen Anne houses built in New Castle around the same time. However, it is larger than the onestory worker houses that populated many of the region's industrial and mining communities. An overly elaborate dwelling would not have been justified for a county facility, built with taxpayer money,

See Farm, page 2



The Poor Farm was created in 1892 when Craig County purchased the property for \$9,000, according to the VDHR nomination form.



COURTESY PHOTOS It sits about 13 miles outside of New Castle in the Sinking Creek area.

2024 Year in Review

Jan.: Program to educate Program to educate families about mental health

Robert Freis

robert(a)mountainmedianews.com

Craig County schools are offering a unique program early next month to help educate families about the mental health and well-being of their children.

Your Child's Anxiety' is the name of the Feb. 7 program, which begins at 6:30 p.m. at Čraig County High School. Participation is free.

It will be the first workshop planned during what the school system is calling a 'Mental Health Series.

Of the workshop, the school system says parents can "learn simple strategies that will help parents respond to their children's anxiety. When applied, these

skills will help the child and parent

bond, allowing the child to identify

and work through their anxiety more effectively."

The program is being conducted cooperatively by Craig County Public Schools and a national mental health organization called parentguidance.org. It is affiliated with a Utah-based nonprofit called the Center for Human Connection.

"Parenting hard," parentguidance.org on its website. It also quotes statistics stating 50% of parents worry that their child is struggling but don't know what to do; 32% of parent feel their child is unhappy; and an estimated 10-20% of adolescents experience mental health

conditions. "The mission of the Cook Center for Human Connection is to bring together the best organizations, programs, and products to prevent suicide, provide mental health support, and enhance human connections essential for people to thrive," according to the center's

"The foundation's current focus is on supporting children, families, and schools in eradicating suicide, as well as offering resources and support for those with mental health issues and their caregivers. This is done through a variety of grants to schools, programs for parents, and global resources to bring greater awareness to the support needed for those affected by suicide," according to the center's mission

statement. We are proud to partner with this organization to help provide important information and support to our parents and community. We hope to see you

there as we continue to strengthen the ties between school and home to be the best we can be for our children,' according to a statement from Craig

County schools. The school system says everyone is invited to attend the event, either in

person or remotely via Zoom. Also, a dinner will be held at the high school at 6 p.m. on Feb. 7 before the event. There is no cost to attend this meal and attendees will be entered into

County schools are asking any interested attendees to register for the event online at https://cookcenter.info

and to complete a survey. More information is available at the Craig County Public Schools website or Facebook page.

Feb.: School Board discussed budget during February meeting

Anita Firebaugh

Special to The Record

Cutting expenses and crossing fingers for a little more money in the budget in fiscal year 2024 was one of the many topics at the Craig County School Board meeting on Feb. 13. The meeting was held at the school campus auditorium and is available to view online.

The School Board held a public hearing on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, but no one from the public spoke. The amount of the new school budget was not discussed during the meeting.

The school system last year had a \$7.8 million budget, with the county paying approximately \$1.8 million of that, Superintendent Dwayne Huff said at the school board meeting. The county has funded only basic needs for the last five years, and Huff said that an additional \$270,000 in local funding would bring in about \$600,000 more in state dollars.

As part of the budget discussion, the school board heard a presentation from Schneider Electric in Richmond. A company representative stated that Craig County Schools spend approximately \$200,000 annually on water, electricity, and fuel oil.

The company proposed an energy savings program and forecast savings of between 15 and 30 percent of the amount the schools currently spend on energy

items if the program were implemented.

the two boiler systems in the schools need to be

One of the major expenses is fuel oil. The Board briefly discussed converting to propane and noted

Other energy-saving items the company would utilize include LED lighting, motion sensors, low flow water systems, and solar options.

The company representative said the schools could see a \$450,000 to \$750,000 savings over a 15-year

Huff said that in addition to the proposed energy savings, he already has cancelled most cell phones for personnel, saving approximately \$800 a month. He told the board members that he had identified approximately 25 software programs, some purchased in previous years with federal Covid funding, which could be "axed," for a savings of approximately

He has also initiated a health insurance review and has found a different company to service the copying machines for less money.

However, the schools do have needs. He cited capital improvement projects that included the purchase of two new school buses plus some minivans. The boiler replacements at the school campus could cost as

much as \$500,000, he said. Other CIP items the school board would like to see include new roofing on parts of the school campus,

construction of a new school bus garage, which could cost approximately \$1.2 million, and teacher raises. Huff noted that with the new reassessment, the county-wide value increase of taxable real estate went up about 39 percent. While he expects the Board of

Supervisors to cut the tax rate from 63 cents per \$100

value to equalize the tax rate, "now is a good time

for the county to raise additional revenue without it being a huge burden to the tax payers," he said. "I understand we need to give some relief there, but also it's a good opportunity to bring our school budget up. We've been locked in at about \$1.8 million [from the county] for about 5 years. With inflation we've

actually been losing money.' Huff also noted that the school systems daily attendance has dropped to 448. The school had budgeted for daily attendance of 450. State funding

depends on daily attendance numbers. The school board is scheduled to hold a joint meeting with the supervisors on April 4 about the

budget. In other matters, the school board learned that most of the county's students qualify to receive free

breakfast and lunch. The school board also discussed the computer use policy, noting that "questionable accidents" could be costly. Huff suggested a policy change that ensured parents know that they are responsible for computers assigned to their children so that the schools could recoup the cost of the computer from the parents if necessary. He also suggested that children be assigned a computer in the ninth grade and that it be given to them upon graduation, in hopes that the laptops might fare better if the students thought they would eventually own it. The school board members agreed to review the issue at a later date.

The school board also heard from the After Prom

See Year in Review, page 2

Farm from page 1

but the house had to be sufficient to attract a qualified overseer and his

Near the superintendent's house stands the 1892 poorhouse cottage, one of three residential cottages that stood on the grounds in 1909. The poorhouse cottage has a two-bay tworoom form reminiscent of servants' quarters of the 19th century era and was the standard poorhouse lodging form in Virginia at the turn of the 20th

Also from the poorhouse period are a stone cellar, a frame granary/corncrib, the cemetery, where residents of the poor farm were buried, and possibly a frame barn.

Four recipients of assistance are known for 1892, all of whom died that year: William Caldwell (ca. 1827-1892), Delilah "Lila" (Hackett) Hughes (ca. 1812-1892), Eliza Reynolds (ca. 1852-1892), and a second William Caldwell (d. 1892). Reynolds and the first William Caldwell were African American; Hughes and the second William Caldwell (whose birth date is uncertain)

were white. Note that these are only poorhouse residents who died in 1892—there may have been other residents who

did not die. The 1900 census listed eight poorhouse residents, six females and two males. The majority of the residents were over 50 years of age, one was 80, and one, Alexander Sarver, born in 1815, was

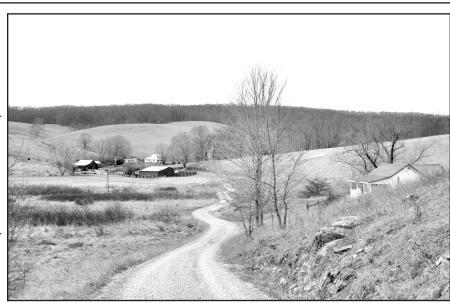
In 1910, the poorhouse had a new overseer, Charles Allen "Bub" Keffer (1866-1929), who lived there with his wife, Mary Ellen (Johnston) Keffer (1862-1942), a young daughter and son, and a farm laborer. Five poorhouse residents, three females and two males, lived in the cottages.

VDHR research has determined the names sometimes the condition of some of the poor farm's residents, including individuals like John F. "Cats" Myers, whose "mind never developed beyond that of a child," and "a onelegged white man, who is very nervous."

Ón the hill above the farm complex is the County Farm Cemetery

(also called the Poor Farm Cemetery) with a single marble tombstone. VDHR archaeologist Thomas Klatka investigated the cemetery in 2010. Klatka identified one tombstone, that of Benton Thomas, and several unmarked grave depressions. According to one source there are thirty-nine unmarked graves in the cemetery.

The small marble Thomas tombstone is of standard military form and is inscribed Co C 22 Regt VA Inf (a Virginia company active According to notes at the VDHR website, in a 2018 interview by Jane Henderson with Scott Jones, who grew up on the farm in the 1950s and 1960s, "The Benton Thomas marker is not at the grave site. At the time the [Craig County] Historical Society placed it, they were not allowed to put a single headstone in the middle of the field, so it was placed near the fence. Also, there is some question about Benton being buried there or his brother who also served the Confederate Army."



during the Civil War). The marker will note the location of the first Craig County Poor Farm.



The property consists of about 145 acres.

Year in Review from page 1

committee and agreed to the use of school buses for the

Additionally, the school board approved a modest increase in pay rates for

substitute teachers. "Since I started in September I don't think we've had one day where we have had every absence covered," Huff said. The school system needs more substitute teachers, he added. The school board members also discussed the school's

"no hat" policy. Students are allowed to wear hats on special occasions, such as an FFA day

where students can pay to wear their hats that day. It is school policy that no hoodies or other head gear be worn during school hours. "It's all about character,"

Huff said. He wants the schools to teach students to respect those around them and themselves. "If we win that battle," he said, "the academics will take care of themselves."

March: Craig County

An ordinance that has been on the books for 50 years came under scrutiny by the Craig County Board of Supervisors in recent meetings. As a result, the Board voted at its March 7, 2024 meeting to hold a public hearing to repeal an ordinance prohibiting the discharge of firearms within residential districts on April 4, 2024 at 6 p.m. in the Circuit Court Courtroom at the Craig County Courthouse.

The supervisors in 1973 had adopted an ordinance that states, "It is unlawful for any person to shoot any gun, pistol, or other firearm within the limits of residential districts of the county, except in the case of urgent necessity. This section shall not apply to licensed gun dealers within the confines of their business property." The local ordinance makes the violation a class 4 misdemeanor.

In January, the Board began discussions about repealing the ordinance after Supervisor Jordan Labiosa asked about the ordinance. According to the minutes of the February meeting, the supervisors agreed that the county code should be repealed as redundant. Instead, the county would rely on Virginia Code § 18.2-56.1 (A), which states: "It shall be unlawful for any person to handle recklessly any firearm so as to endanger the life, limb or property of any person. Any person violating this section it's more related to the noise shall be guilty of a Class 1

The state statute also says that, "Any person who handles any firearm in a manner so gross, wanton, and culpable as to show a reckless disregard for human life and causes the serious bodily injury of another person resulting in permanent and significant physical impairment is guilty of a Class 6 felony."

Sheriff Trevor Craddock stated in a follow-up phone call on March 13 that the supervisors had discussed the matter with him and he had told them there were state statutes he could use if necessary. "We don't have a lot of issues over here," the sheriff said of gun complaints. "We've had some pop up occasionally but a lot of times of the shooting than its being unsafe. Sometimes the bullets are going on somebody's property maybe damaging trees or something, but most

doing extended shooting. We have a noise ordinance that would cover that. It's not something that we deal with

Labiosa in a follow-up email of March 13 stated that he pursued removal of the ordinance for several reasons. "In my view, the original aim of the County Code section, which prohibits the discharge of firearms within any residential zone, was intended to prevent reckless firearm use. However, the Code of Virginia (\$18.2-56.1.) already outlaws the reckless handling of firearms that could endanger human life or property. Given this, repealing the County Code section to strongly uphold 2nd Amendment Rights seems both logical and necessary," Labiosa wrote.

He noted that the county code as written, "includes prohibitions in residential zones, which constitute a significant part of our county. These zones are characterized by larger distances between homes than in more densely populated areas, naturally reducing any risk associated with firearm discharge."

neighboring counties do not have a similar ordinance and that, "Craig County's prior declaration as a "2nd Amendment Sanctuary" by the Board of Supervisors underlines our commitment to protecting the rights of firearm owners. Amending this code section aligns with that declaration."

He also pointed out that

-- AJF, Special to The New Castle Record

April: VFW #StillServing Campaign Spotlights Veterans' Service After Military

of the time it's somebody

Nearly 5 Million People Engaged with Campaign That's Seen 2,000 Veterans' Personal Stories Shared

KANSAS CITY, Mo.— The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) launched #StillServing, a campaign to highlight how America's combat veterans continue to serve in their local communities after transitioning from the military, in March 2020. What started as a campaign became a movement as veterans across the country stepped up to share stories of how they are still serving.

"Veterans are the pillars of our communities," said Duane Sarmiento, VFW national commander. "Their unwavering dedication to service echoes beyond their time in the military. The VFW #StillServing campaign was launched in 2020 to acknowledge and highlight the service leadership veterans bring to our society. Now, in its third year, the stories of veterans who're still serving in meaningful and impactful ways continue to pour in from around the world."

New Castle veteran Joann Smith is being honored for dedication to country and community in the national Veterans of Foreign Wars #StillServing campaign. Smith is #StillServing with the New Castle VFW Post as quartermaster and adjutant. She can be seen around town representing the VFW in local parades like the Craig County Fourth of July Parade where the float won the Most Patriotic award, Veterans Day and Christmas parades. In addition, she helps at recruiting events at the food pantry, high school Land Lab Fair, Ruritan Flea Market and county Fall Festival. She hosted a Veterans Day event at the high school football game for veterans and military members to get in free and raffled off a flag set.

When not volunteering in New Castle, Smith works at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Roanoke where she ensures that when a veteran is injured the responsible party pays for the medical care instead of the American taxpayers. According to the 2021 Veterans

Civic Health Index1, veterans average nearly 30 percent more volunteer hours per year and outpace civilians by 15 percent in charitable donations. Additionally, nearly 40 percent more veterans belong to a group working on community issues and veterans are more likely to be registered to vote (7 percent) and have recently voted (6

Since its launch, 4.8 million people have engaged with the campaign through the website, videos and social channels. Additionally, 2,000 veterans have shared their personal stories of sacrifice and service, and the stories have been covered by more than 700 media outlets worldwide.



Building on a legacy of service that spans more than a century, #StillServing represents the heart of the VFW and its members and conveys what today's VFW embodies. The VFW encourages all veterans to share stories on social media using #StillServing to show how they continue to answer the call to serve in ways big and small. In addition, family or friends are asked to use #StillServing in social media posts to honor a veteran in their lives who believes the spirit of service transcends

military life.

The VFW urges Americans to visit vfw.org/stillserving to learn more about the campaign, make a shareable image honoring veterans in their lives, watch videos of VFW members making a difference and see a collection of user-generated content.

May: Craig County experiences population loss, according to Census

recently released report from the Weldon Cooper

Center for Population indicates that as of July 1,

2023, the county had a population estimate of 4,855.

Anita Firebaugh Special to The Record

Craig County has had a slow loss of population over the last 13 years, with numbers declining by

6.45% since the 2010 Census. At that time, the county had 5,190 people. A

In the 2020 census, the county had a population of 4,892, for a loss of just under 1 percent of the population in the last three years.

See **Year in Review**, page 4

The statistics echo a statewide trend of population

<u>Recipe of the Week</u>



Shelly Koon Contributing Writer

Ahhhh, a new year. A fresh start. New goals. Or a time to just relax, ease in and be gentle with yourself. I will make a batch of muffins and sit down with a cup of coffee and just enjoy the outlook of the new year. Muffins were one of the first things I learned to bake in 7th grade home economics class.

I love how muffins are truly just one of those foods that you can eat anytime, anywhere. Breakfast with coffee? Sure! Mid-morning snack? Yup. After lunch treat to make it through the rest of the day? You got it! Dessert after dinner with a cup of tea? Sure!

Muffins are small cup shaped single serve quick breads that are often sweet and usually served warm. The type of muffin we enjoy is a decidedly American treat and can be traced back to the mid 1800's. The first written recipes of American style muffins began to appear during the middle of the 19th century. Muffins often contain fruit, nuts and spices. They may also contain meat, vegetables and cheese. They are usually eaten for breakfast, but the sheer variety of flavors available makes them an appealing addition to any meal or as a snack. The 1920's saw the first muffin mix created by Mr. McCollum of New Brunswick, NJ. Packaged mixes were not widely available until the 1950's. The 50's also saw muffins being marketed as baked goods for the first time since preservatives kept them from going quickly going stale.

The most popular flavors of muffins are blueberry, banana nut, bran, corn and poppyseed. Muffins whether homemade or bought in a coffee shop are a small cake that is okay to eat whole. It's easy for us to see what we are getting nutritionally in a single serving, and to quickly factor into our daily allowances.

This week's recipe is for Nothing Muffins. These basic muffins are good plain with butter and jam, they can take the place of a dinner roll with a salad, or try some add ins for a sweet or savory option.

Nothin' Muffins YIELD 12 muffins Ingredients

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup sugar • 2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 cup milk
- 1/3 cup neutral oil (like avocado

or canola)

• 1 large egg

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Arrange a rack in the center of the oven. Grease each cavity of a muffin pan with cooking spray or butter. Mix the dry ingredients: Whisk the flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt, and any additional add-ins (if using) in a large bowl. Whisk wet ingredients and combine: In a small bowl, whisk the milk, oil, and egg until combined. Pour the milk mixture into the bowl with the flour mixture. Use a flexible spatula and mix just until no flour is visible. The batter will be thick and lumpy. Resist the urge to mix until it's perfectly smooth, you'll end up with tough muffins instead of tender ones. Bake: Fill each muffin cavity halfway (about 2 heaping tablespoons). Bake in the center of the oven until the tops are slightly golden and firm when lightly pressed, about 15 minutes. Cool the muffins in the pan for 5 minutes and then move to a cooling rack. Serve the muffins warm or at room temperature with butter and jam. Store remaining muffins in an airtight container on the counter for up to 2 days. Make them either sweet or savory:

Here are a few ideas for add-ins that make these muffins sweet or savory.

Add them to the dry ingredients.

Savory add-ins:

1 teaspoon black pepper

1/2 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese,

½ cup chopped crispy bacon 1/4 cup chopped black olives 1 1/2 teaspoons dried herbs, such as

rosemary or thyme Sweet add-ins:

1 tablespoon citrus zest and 1 tablespoon poppy seeds or chia seeds

1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries, chopped strawberries, or raspberries Sprinkle with a mixture of 3 tablespoons sugar and 1 1/2 teaspoons

cinnamon before baking 1 cup chocolate chips or chopped



COURTESY PHOTO

PROM THE ARCHIVES

Parkway is 'America's most scenic drive'

From the March 4, 1994 edition of The New Castle

The Roanoke Valley offers access to the Blue Ridge Parkway—ranked "America's most scenic drive" by leading travel writers.

But visitors should be warned: Those who choose to take their time to visit should take their time to enjoy the nation's skinniest national park as it should be-meandering among the 469 miles past spectacular scenery, with plenty of opportunities to stop in charming towns, visit adjacent attractions or to be pampered mountain resorts and other comfortable accommodations.

Starting in Virginia, travelers can pick up the Blue Ridge Parkway in Waynesboro, where Virginia's 105mile Skyline Drive ends in Shenandoah National Park. Of course, there are entry points all along the Parkway including several in the Roanoke Valley.

The Skyline Drive starts in Front Royal and offers great panoramic views of the Shenandoah Valley below. The Blue Ridge Parkway is markedly different, equally beautiful, but in a more rugged robust way. Linking the two drives together, visitors can travel more than 320 mountainous miles just in

curvy mountainous road beginning in Waynesboro and ending in Cherokee, N. C., connecting the Shenandoah National Park to the Great Smokey Mountains National Park. Speed limit along the BRP is 45 mph.

The Blue Ridge Parkway motor road is a two-lane

The primary tourist season for the Blue Ridge Parkway is May through October with most concessions and lodges open during this time period. October because of the fall foliage, is the busiest month for traffic along the Parkway. Reservations for lodges are recommended, especially in October. For those who thrive in hearty outdoor experiences,

stops along the Blue Ridge Parkway offer leisurely picnicking and camping in the mountain meadows, hiking, swimming, canoeing and boating in the refreshing coolness of mountain summers. Activities as diverse as hang gliding and cross-

country skiing are available along this four-season Parkway to visitors who bring their own equipment and travel to areas where they are permitted. And for those interested I the rich mountain heritage, The Parkway has encouraged the preservation and interpretation of the area's natural and cultural Regular scheduled visitor activities begin in mid-June and continue through October. Schedules are posted weekly in all visitor centers and campgrounds along the Parkway.

The best time to view spring blooms is usually mid-June. The fall color season begins in early September and can last until Mid-November, depending on the

Locally a popular Parkway attraction is the Peaks of Otter. Located nearly 25 miles northeast of Roanoke, the rustic splendor of the mountain area includes a lodge, country cuisine, hikes along selfguided nature trails, watching hawks circle above a

trout-filled lake and riding a bus to the summit of Sharp Top for a breathtaking view of the mountains.

Fairy Stone State Park is also popular with many happy hours spent there at the park's housekeeping cabins, tent and trailer campgrounds and activities along the 168-acrelake adjoining the Philpott Reservoir. The lake offers a sandy beach, picnic shelters and pleasure boats. In addition, there are hiking trails and a visitors' center.

Mabry Mills is also a must-see stop. The waterpowered grist mill and working blacksmith shop in the picturesque mountain setting are among favorite spots for photographers. The self-guided trail features old-time mountain industry. A restaurant offers a variety of homecooked food, including buckwheat cakes made from flour ground at the mill.

Whether on the Blue Ridge Parkway, May through October, is characterized by moderate temperatures while I late spring and early fall the temperatures may range from 30 degrees at night to 70 degrees mid-day.

Backpack camping is allowed in two areas on the Parkway—Basin Creek in Doughton Park and Rock Castle Gorge in Rocky nob. You must obtain a permit in each area. There is no charge.

The Monarch butterfly migrates about the middle of September. A good spot on the Parkway to view this migration is Wagon Road Gap (Milepost 412.2).

-Prepared by Shelly Koon

Upcoming public meetings scheduled in Craig County

Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting will meet at the Craig County Courthouse at 6 p.m. Jan. 7

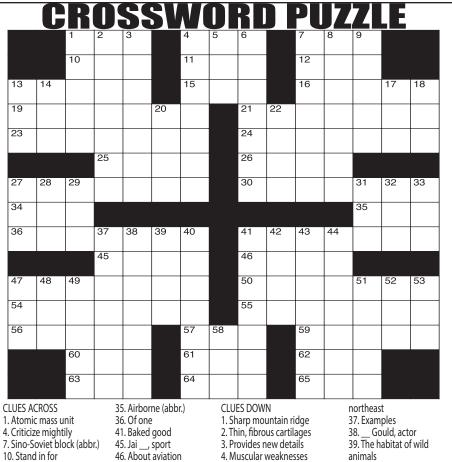
Economic Development Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m., at the Craig County Administration Building. Jan.14

Tourism Commission Meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m at the Craig County Administration Building.

Board of Supervisors Monthly

Meeting will meet at the Craig County Courthouse at 6 p.m.

-The New Castle Record



10. Stand in for 11. Everyone has one 12. Brew 13. Rectify 15. Popular Dodge truck

25. Fleshy bird beak covering

26. Dueling sword

30. Court is in it

34. Touch lightly

27. Helps

46. About aviation 47. Low oval mound 50. Rugged mountain 54. Compel to do somemodel thing 16. Beef or chicken intestine 55. A way to carve 19. Satisfy 56. Sao __, city in Brazil 21. Of a particular people or 57. Mustachioed actor localized region Elliott 23. Movements in quick 59. American Idol runner-up 20. Wrongful act 24. Able to pay one's debts 60. A way to soak

61. Car mechanics group

62. Born of

63. Time zone

64. Sea eagle

65. Even's opposite

5. Ottoman military title 6. Banes 7. Horse-riding seats 8. Arms of a shirt 13. Viper

18. Portray in a show

27. State of agitation

32. The NBA's Toppin

29. One point east of due south

33. Midway between north and

__ Diego

31. 007's creator

22. No (slang)

animals 40. Artful subtlety 41. Infielders 42. Keep under control 43. Herb 9. Narrow path along a road edge 44. Distressed 14. Disfigure 17. Variety of Chinese language

47. A way to go down 48. Type of acid 49. Take by force 51. Collected fallen leaves 52. Shout of welcome or 53. Monetary unit 58. Swiss river



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Supporting a grieving loved one on holidays

The holiday season, often considered a time of joy and togetherness, can also be one of the most challenging periods for those who

are grieving a loss.

Nearly 95% of people who have experienced loss report dealing with at least one symptom of physical or mental distress. Approximately 10% of them develop prolonged grief disorder, a persistent and debilitating form of grief that does not ease Often, this grief is due to the death of a

loved one, but it may also be caused by the loss of a friendship, a divorce or even a job Grief affects not only mental health but

also physical well-being, and it can increase the risk of heart disease, immune dysfunction and even death. Holidays and special occasions, which

often include family gatherings, traditions and reminders of what's missing, can amplify this pain, leaving those grieving feeling isolated and overwhelmed. As a clinical psychologist and professor of psychiatry and neurobehavioral sciences

working with cancer patients and their families, I see the profound toll grief takes on people. I've also experienced grief personally, both when my mother died suddenly at the age of 66 and when my father passed after a long illness at the age of 84. Those experiences, combined with my

research, have driven me to dedicate much of my career to understanding grief and its effects, and to finding effective ways to support those who are struggling with it.

Mourning vs. prolonged grief

Grief is a natural response to loss, encompassing emotional, cognitive, physical and social reactions. Common signs include sadness, withdrawal, difficulty concentrating, disrupted sleep and physical symptoms like fatigue or aches.

Grief is deeply personal, and while there is no "right" way to grieve, most people move through the process over time, finding a new equilibrium in their lives.

However, some people experience prolonged grief disorder, a condition newly recognized in psychiatry's gold-standard manual, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, in 2022.

This condition is characterized by intense yearning, sorrow or preoccupation with the deceased that persists for 12 months or more, significantly impairing daily functioning. People experiencing this disorder often feel disconnected from life and unable to find joy Unlike nonpathological grief, prolonged

grief disorder is associated with chronic activation of the brain's stress response system, particularly in areas like the amygdala. The amygdala is a small, almond-shaped cluster of neurons in the brain that plays a key role in processing emotions, especially fear, stress and threat-related responses. Prolonged grief disorder is also linked to mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD. As you support a friend or family member

in their grief, it's important to watch for signs of prolonged grief disorder because it requires targeted interventions. Research, including my ongoing studies on the use of psilocybinassisted therapy for the treatment of grief, highlights the importance of innovative approaches to help those stuck in the cycle of prolonged grief. If you suspect someone you love is

struggling with prolonged grief, encouraging

them to seek help and offering to support them in the process can be life-changing. Resources are available, from grief counseling to support groups. Organizations like the American Grief Foundation and local mental health services can provide further guidance for helping a loved one get the treatment they

Caring for our own grief on holidays and special occasions Research supports several strategies for

addressing grief, whether typical or prolonged: Express emotions: Suppressing grief can exacerbate mental and physical health issues. Talking with trusted friends, journaling and joining support groups can be therapeutic. Engage in rituals: Personal or cultural

rituals, like lighting a candle, visiting a grave site or creating a memory book help integrate Create new traditions as a way to honor

your loss: If you're mourning a death, consider integrating your loved one's memory into the occasion by preparing their favorite dish, playing their favorite music or hanging an ornament in their honor. Seek professional support: Cognitive

behavioral therapy or complicated grief therapy can be effective treatments for prolonged grief disorder. Psychedelic-assisted therapy is also emerging as a promising option in clinical research. Supporting someone as they grief

For those grieving, holidays and special occasions like a birthday or Mother's Day can be especially difficult. Here are some practical tips for supporting someone who is grieving during these times: Remember that grief is not a problem to be

solved, but a process to be supported. Be present. A common fear is saying the

wrong thing to someone who is grieving. Often, it's not about saying the "perfect' thing, but simply showing up and listening without judgment.

Acknowledge the loss. Saying "I've been thinking about (their loved one) and how much they meant to you" or "I want you to know that I've been thinking about you and the significance of what you're experiencing right now" can be more comforting than

avoiding the subject. Offer practical help. Grief can be debilitating and exhausting. Assisting with tasks like cooking, shopping or child care can

relieve some of the burden. If you don't know what to say, it's OK to admit it. A simple "I don't have the right words, but I'm here for you" can mean a great deal. Avoid phrases like "They're in a better

place" or "Everything happens for a reason." While the intentions behind them are often good, these platitudes can feel dismissive. Focus on empathy and validation. Saying "This must be so hard for you" or "Tell me

more about what you're feeling" opens the door to meaningful conversation and helps make space for the complex emotions that grief brings.

Respect the boundaries of your loved one who's grieving. Let them honor their emotions by going at their own pace.

Navigating holidays and special occasions with those who have experienced a loss can be complicated. But your presence and compassion in these moments can support -J. Kim Penberthy, Virginia Mercury-J.

Kim Penberthy is a professor of psychiatry and neurobehavioral sciences at the University of

Year in Review from page 2

a trend of migration from Virginia's large metro areas into smaller metro areas and rural counties. Many other rural communities have seen slight gains in population since 2020.
"Craig County has not noticed a decline in

loss, according to Weldon Cooper. However, it bucks

population," Board Supervisor Chair Jesse Spence said in an email on Feb. 8. "A 6.45% decline in population would only be a few hundred people in a County of this size. I would guess a lot more people than that decided not to fill out a Federal Census The numbers make Craig County the fourth

smallest locality in the state, behind Highland, Bath, and Norton, in that order. Population numbers matter because it determines how federal and state funds are distributed to local governments for various programs and services, such as health care, education, and transportation. Additionally, county population data is used to

apportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and to draw congressional and state legislative

districts, affecting the balance of power and influence in the government. County population data can help businesses and investors make decisions about where to locate, expand, or invest, based on the size, characteristics, and trends of the local market and Individually, county population data can affect

how much one pays for auto and homeowners insurance, as insurance companies use factors such as population density, traffic congestion, crime rates, and weather conditions to assess the risk of accidents What's more, the population of Craig County

is expected to buck trends that show rural county

increasing in population and instead continue its decline in population. A map on the Weldon Cooper site indicates that by 2050, Craig County will have a population of 4,264 people, nearly a 13 percent drop by mid-century from the 2023 population estimates. Between 2022 and 2023, population in both Virginia and the U.S. grew by less than half a percentage point. For Virginia, this is the slowest

Some of Virginia's recent migration trends including movement from larger to smaller metro areas and from city cores to suburbs—echo longstanding demographic shifts that have been shaping the state's population distribution for close to a century. For example, decades of migration into the Richmond Metro Area and weak growth in western Virginia means that at some point in 2024, the size of the population in the Richmond Metro Area will surpass Virginia's total population living west of the Blue Ridge Mountains for the first time since before the American Revolution.

However, Virginia is experiencing a change in its demographic trends. In 2023, over three-quarters of Virginia's rural counties outside metro areas had more people move into them than out, the highest share since 1975. The persistence of remote work is shaping up to be the most impactful demographic trend since

expansion of suburbs and exurbs after World War II, according to Weldon Cooper. If the impact of remote work even partially echoes the cataclysmic demographic shift that Virginia experienced during post-war suburbanization, Virginia's population trends will continue to be reshaped by remote work well beyond this decade.

rural counties, particularly in an increase in real estate values. It remains to be seen as to whether or not Craig County will continue its downward population trend or obtain an increase in numbers, possibly as a result of better remote work opportunities or increased traffic from the proposed rails-to-trails project, should it come to fruition.

THE NEW CASTLET RECORD

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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.

growth the state has seen since the Civil War. Increased migration is already impacting Virginia's Statewide, there were less than 13,000 more births than deaths in 2022, a big drop from 27,000 more births than deaths in 2019.

June: Reminder about DAR Independence Day Celebration The greater Craig County Community will once again come together on Thursday, July 4 for the Independence Day

Celebration on Main Street in New Castle hosted by Craig Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution

The celebration begins with a judged parade starting at 10 a.m. Participants of all ages are encouraged to showcase their red, white, and blue spirit by registering cars, trucks, floats, marching bands, and even tractors. A panel of impartial judges, selected from outside Craig County, will award prizes for the Patriot Cup, Honorable Mention and Most Patriotic Entry. Spectators lining the parade

route from the Craig County Fairgrounds (Rt 311) to the Courthouse on Main Street can expect to be showered with candy and other treats. The parade will pass by the library's bake sale and the newly opened farmers market, offering a taste of local delights. Following the parade, the festivities shift to Main Street,

where the open-air farmers market transforms into a hub of patriotic fun. Live music will fill the air, while volunteers have planned exciting activities for all Children can put their skills to the test in the watermelon eating

contest, while adults can compete for the titles of longest beard and most patriotic bonnet/hat. Be sure to meet and congratulate Karly

Potter, the recent Craig County graduate and Craig Valley DAR scholarship winner, who will be serving as the parade's grand marshal.

Local vendors will be offering delicious treats, including mouthwatering fried pies from The Old Hotel. Keep an eye out for free patriotic merchandise distributed at various locations on Main Street – a perfect memento for this special day.

For those seeking further Independence Day revelry, head up Rt 311 to Paint Bank for their annual picnic and auction. This beloved tradition offers another opportunity to celebrate America's birthday in the company of friends and neighbors. -The New Castle Record

CHESTNUT GROVE CHURCH 11AM-Noon. 9:15 a.m., Sunday School 10:30 a.m. email at paxtonchapel@ yahoo.com.

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 VALLEY GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP HWY 621, Pastor Roy Lee Law Jr., "Jay",

864-8984. Sunday School 10:00am; Wor-

ship 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 -

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. LEVEL GREEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FIRST BAPTIST

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. MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN 4199 Craig Valley Drive, New Castle, Jonathan Lee, pastor, 864-6622. Sunday: Wor-

ship Service 9:00 a.m., Children's Church

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; Sun-

day Worship Service 11:15 AM; visit us on

the web at www.paxtonchapelchurch.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.

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

July: Craig County is part of Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail

Anita Firebaugh

Special to The Record

If the screech of a hawk or the coos of a dove are the kinds of sounds that make you want to head to the mountains, then Craig County may be just the place to be.

Maybe you'd rather see a bear, watch a raccoon, or catch a glimpse of an elusive bobcat. You can do that in Craig

County, too.

Craig County is part of the Mountain phase of the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail. Its Iron Ore Loop highlights prime birding and wildlife viewing locations. The Iron Ore Loop encompasses several distinct habitats, making it an ideal destination for nature enthusiasts of all levels.

The Iron Ore Loop takes in seven sites in the county. The designated bird watching and wildlife sites are the Craig Creek Recreation Area at Oriskany, Fenwick Mines, the Lion's Ćlub Park (also called New Castle Town Park) in New Castle, the Hall Road Raptor Viewing Area, the Paint Bank Trout Hatchery, the Paint Bank General Store - Depot Lodge - Hollow Hill Farm (all considered one site), and Sweet Road (Forest Service Road 350), which starts in Craig and goes into Alleghany County.

The online guide includes regional and loop maps, travel directions, and site descriptions. The Mountain phase spans all of Virginia west of U.S. Route 29 and includes 310 sites, some of which are state and local

parks, wildlife management areas, and privately owned

The birding and wildlife trail is more a car tour than a hiking tour, although some hiking trails are reachable from the birding sites. Visitors can watch birds, return to their vehicle, and go to the next spot to see a variety of wildlife. There are also places to park for picnics, walking, or biking excursions.

The state opened the trail about 20 years ago. At that time, county leaders hoped the project would be a boon for Craig County, enticing tourists to the area. According to the Virginia Wildlife Viewing Plan, about 35 percent of Virginia's population viewed wildlife in 2016, amounting to 2.1 million wildlife viewers in the state. The 2016 National Survey of Hunting, Fishing, Wildlife-Associated Recreation reported that wildlife viewers in Virginia spent \$1.4 billion on wildlife viewing activities that year. Wildlife viewing is one of the most popular outdoor recreation activities in the United States and in Virginia.

"Craig County is known for its outdoor recreation and its miles of National Forest where there are lot birds, and we welcome birders to the county," said Diane Givens of the Craig County Tourism Commission.

"We now have a variety of unique lodging and dining that didn't exist 20 years ago," she added, noting that visitors could stay in a tiny house,

several apartments, Air B&Bs, the woods give way to a and other "houses and lofts people are renting out."

Birds to be seen in County include herons, hummingbirds, ospreys, raptors, eastern phoebe, American goldfinch, song sparrows, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, Carolina wren, blue jay, Northern cardinal, turkey vultures, hawks of various kinds, red-eyed vireo, wormeating warbler, scarlet tanager, and downy woodpecker, among many others.

The Iron Ore trail in Craig County reflects the county's heritage of iron ore mining communities. For example, one stop, the Craig Creek Recreation Area, is located east of Oriskany on Old Rail Road (Rt. 817) and not far from Lignite, now a lost iron ore mining community. At Craig Creek Recreation Area, visitors can see meadows and woodlands that follow Craig Creek. This area is known to be home to the northern bobwhite that can be heard giving their characteristic, "bob-white," whistle at any time of the day.

Fenwick Mines offers a wheelchair accessible trail that winds through woods and across wetlands. Located off Rt. 615 (follow signs), this easy walk takes the wildlife watcher first into relatively young woodland that has grown back since the area was cleared for mining. This area rings with the sounds of woodpeckers.

After a few hundred yards

series of shallow ponds with a tremendous diversity of dragon- and damselflies. The trail climaxes at an overlook of the marsh. This spectacular view presents a good example of how nature can return from a strained to a growingly stable ecosystem. Additional trails that are not handicap accessible continue down Mill Creek. New Castle Town Park, also

known as Lion's Club Park, is the perfect stop for a picnic or short walk. The brushy woodland along the rear of the park supports a variety of wildflowers, insects, birds and other wildlife. Heading into the Paint

Bank area, visitors can learn more about this mining town that once supported a railroad depot and flourishing hotel. When the mines closed, the town faded. In the 1990s, the area became home to the Hollow Hill Farm, which supports American bison. Wildlife watching starts right on the grounds of the General Store and Depot Lodge, which follow Potts Creek through the Town of Paint Bank. The

relaxing walk. The gardens at the Depot

Lodge support a variety of songbirds. After visiting the buffalo at Hollow Hill Farm, visitors may also see whitetailed deer and black bear.

creek here is perfect for a

The Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail, including the Iron Ore Loop, plays a vital role in conservation efforts aimed at protecting the state's natural heritage. By promoting ecotourism and environmental stewardship, the trail fosters a deeper connection between people and nature, inspiring a sense of responsibility to preserve these invaluable resources for future generations.

Planning Your Visit

Before setting out on the Iron Ore Loop, visitors and locals alike should familiarize themselves with trail maps, regulations, and seasonal considerations. Dressing appropriately for the weather and bringing along binoculars and a field guide can enhance the experience, allowing for closer observation of birds and wildlife. Additionally, practicing Leave No Trace principles ensures that the natural beauty of the trail remains unspoiled for all to

those seeking an For immersive nature experience, the Iron Ore Loop in Craig County offers a journey of discovery through some of the area's most captivating landscapes. Whether marveling at the diverse birdlife or encountering elusive wildlife, the trail invites visitors to connect with the wonders of the natural world in a meaningful and

unforgettable way.

To learn more about the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail, visit https://dwr.virginia. gov/vbwt/

Other websites to check out include vawesternhighlands. Virginia.org, visitcraigcounty.com.

Aug.: Local VFW is hosting a spaghetti dinner, TV raffle

Bonnie Cranmer

commander

Contributing writer

The Craig Valley VFW Post 4491 has been busy. After the successful July 4th parade entry, Crossing the Delaware, winning Most Patriotic for the third year in a row, they are on the move again. The 82 member group meets on the second Monday each month at 7:30 p.m. Not all members are in attendance at each meeting, but all support

the work in spirit.

One of the annual projects is the raffle for Fall Festival. Tickets are available from club members between now and festival Saturday in October. This year the prize is a 55-inch Vizio 4K Smart Color TV. The funds support the ongoing work of the club. and maintenance of their facility. With the upgrades made in the past few years, it is now available for Craig County community members

to rent for meetings, reunions, weddings and birthdays.

On Saturday, Sept. 7, the VFW will host a spaghetti dinner with all the fixings at the Craig Valley Post at 295 Hunters Drive in New Castle, past Camp Mitchell. The meal will be an opportunity for the community to meet and show appreciation to the club members for their service and hear their stories. The dinner will include generous portions of spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, drinks and a selection of homemade desserts. The dinner tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and 2 years old and under are free.

Another project the club is focused on is the upcoming tour of The Wall That Heals, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Replica and Mobile Education Center. The replica will arrive in Lexington on Oct. 2. It will be part of a parade from Lexington to the Jackson River Sports Complex Covington. motorcycles, and antique cars will be there," said David Caldwell, commander of Post 4491. The memorial will be open to the public Oct. 3 - 6, 24 hours each day. The VFW and other organizations are providing support, donations, and volunteers for this important project. Those who would like to donate or volunteer should contact cdrpost4492@vfwva.org.





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Legals -Montgomery County

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia

hereby schedules a public hearing on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 7:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter in the Board Room in the Montgomery County Government Center located at 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, in order to hear citizens comments on a proposed ordinance approving the 2025

Agreement Between Montgomery County and the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg for the Creation and Implementation of the Joint Tourism Program.

Organizational Cooperative

A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Administrator and is available 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday for public inspection or copying.

> BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF **SUPERVISORS** Angela M. Hill County Administrator

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE **MONTGOMERY** COUNTY **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on January 13, 2025 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Board of Supervisor's intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request:

A request by Andrew and

Katie Wells for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a ShortTerm Tourist Rental within an existing residential structure on property located at 2671 Luster's Gate Road, approximately 0.08 miles southeast of the intersection of Harding Road (State Route 785) and Luster's Gate Road (State Route 723). The property is further identified as Tax Parcel 042-A 1 77A (Parcel ID: 000020), 3.483 acres, zoned Residential (R-2) in the Mount Tabor Magisterial District. The property

Legals -

currently lies in an area designated as Residential Transition in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan.

Copies of the proposed

Montgomery County

plans, applications. ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at http://www.montgomerycou ntyva.gov/pendingapplicatio

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE **MONTGOMERY** COUNTY **PLANNING** COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on January 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St.,

Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request: A request by Network

Towers, LLC for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a 199-foot monopole wireless telecommunications tower, freestanding. The property is owned by S. R. Goff Hauling, Inc. and is located at 6000 North Fork Road, Elliston, northeast of Roanoke Road (State Route

11). The property is further identified as Tax Map 047-3 1A (Parcel ID: 026253), 3 914 acres zoned Manufacturing (M1) in the Shawsville Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area

designated as Village Expansion in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan, and is further designated as Mixed Use in the Elliston-Lafayette Village Expansion Area.

Copies of the proposed plans, applications. ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services,

County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

or at http://www.montgomerycou ntyva.gov/pendingapplicatio-

Legals -Montgomery County

TOWN OF BLACKSBURG -NOTICE OF

PUBLIC HEARINGS

BLACKSBURG TOWN COUNCIL will hold public hearings on Tuesday. January 14, 2025 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

Ordinance 2068: An Ordinance Rezoning 1.59 ± Acres of Land at 402 Clay Street from R-5 Transitional Residential to Planned Residential Zoning The proposed ordinance would rezone the property at 402 Clav Street from Transitional Residential (R-5) to Planned Residential (PR) which would permit the construction of two 3story multifamily buildings with up to a maximum of 72 bedrooms. Twenty percent (20%) of the units will be income restricted to households earning less than 80% of Area Median Income (AMI).

Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2025/2026 to 2029/2030: A summary of the proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is being published as a stand-alone advertisement in the December 25, 2024 edition

All persons affected by or

of this newspaper.

Recommended Capital

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 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

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special assistance to attend

and participate in this

meeting should contact

Lorraine Spaulding, Town

Clerk at (540) 443-1025 or

443-1000 (voice or TDD).

Legals -Montgomery County

Order of **Publication** Commonwealth of Virginia

VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,20-104 Case No.CL24001914-00 MONTGOMERY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073

Commonwealth of Virginia.

in re BRITTNEY FAYE

TILSON v. WILLIAM

MATTHEW TILSON The object of this suit is to: DIVORCE. It is ORDERED that WILLIAM MATTHEW TILSON appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before February 6,2025 @9:00 am December 4/2024 November 6, 2024

Robert M.D. Turk, Judge

PUBLIC NOTICE PROPOSAL TO CLEANUP AN UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) SITE

There has been a release of petroleum from a former underground storage tank system at: Shell VA0063 2655 Roanoke Street Christiansburg, Virginia

24073 The Virginia Department of **Environmental Quality** (DEQ) is requiring a Corrective Action Plan to address cleanup of petroleum at the site. If you have any questions regarding the cleanup, please contact: Evan R. Bishop, P.G. EarthNet 2314 Ridgefield Street Roanoke, Virginia 24012 (540) 362-5636

The Corrective Action Plan will be submitted to the Blue Ridge Regional Office of the DEQ by December 23, 2024. If you would like to review or discuss the proposed Corrective Action Plan with the staff of the DEQ. please feel free to contact David K. Kirby at (540) 598-1502 after the date of the Corrective Action Plan submittal. The DEQ Blue Ridge Regional Office will consider

written comments regarding the proposed Corrective Action Plan until February 23, 2024 and may decide to hold a public meeting if there is significant public interest. Written comments should be sent to the DEQ at the address listed below. The DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case; PC #2023-2218

Department of Environmental Quality Blue Ridge Regional Office Storage Tank Program 901 Russell Drive Salem, Virginia 24153

Legals -Montgomery County

TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG, **VIRGINIA** THE **CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE** AND EVALUATION REPORT

(CAPER) The Town of Christiansburg, as a recipient of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to prepare the 2023 Consolidated Annual Performance and **Evaluation Report** (CAPER). The CAPER is an evaluation and performance report detailing accomplishments toward meeting the goals outlined in the 5-year Consolidated

performance measures with . those measures listed in the 2023 Annual Action Plan. Please note the Town of Christiansburg has

Plan The CAPER

compares the actual

requested and received an extension to the standard September 28, 2024 deadline. PUBLIC MEETING AND

PUBLIC HEARING Town Staff will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 5:30 PM in the Admin Conference Room, Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street to provide an opportunity for any interested citizens to discuss the plan with Staff. Town Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday January 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Council Room, Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street to receive comments on

Council's intention to adopt the 2023 CDBG CAPER. A draft copy of the 2023 CDBG CAPER is available for review and may be viewed in the Office of the Town Manager, Town of Christiansburg, 100 E. Main Street during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. In addition, a draft electronic copy is available on the Town's Web Site. A copy is also available for

review at the Christiansburg branch of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library located at 125 Sheltman Street. Any interested party whose participation in this meeting would require reasonable accommodation

of a handicap or language services should contact Retta Jackson at (540) 382-6128 ext. 1120 or by e-mail at rjackson@christiansburg.or

Legals -City of Salem

Notice is hereby

given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on January 15, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., in 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

1.Consider the request of Heather Pollard, contract purchaser, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a personal service, beauty salon, on the property located at 707 South Colorado Street, Tax Map 160-7-3. 2.Consider the request of

CITY OF SALEM,

VIRGINIA:

Patrick and Jamie Snead to amend Chapter 106 Zoning, Article III Use and Design Standards, Section 106-304.17(B)(6) Townhouse, of the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA pertaining to setbacks for townhouses.

Permitted Signs by Use and District, Section 66-105 Permitted Signs, of the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA pertaining to wall signs Copies of the proposed

plans, ordinances or

amendments may be

examined in the Office of

Community Development,

21 South Bruffey Street,

Chapter 66 Signs, Article IV

3.Consider amending

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: Christopher J. Dorsey **Executive Secretary**

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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 January 23, 2025, 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. 1.The request of Phillip

Investment, LLC, property

owner, for a variance from

Section 106-226.7 pertaining to development restrictions in a floodway, for the property located at 2011 Cook Drive, Tax Map

256 - 1 - 11 The petitioner is requesting to remove fill material, regrade the slope, and place riprap to improve slope stability in the floodway.

At this hearing, all parties in interest will be given an opportunity to be heard, present evidence, and show cause why such requests should or should not be granted. For additional information, contact the Office of the Zoning Administrator, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia (Phone 375 3032).

THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS OF THE CITY OF SALEM BY: Mary Ellen H. Wines, CZA, CFM Planning & Zoning Administrator



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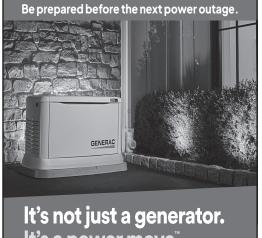
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GENERAC



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Rocket basketball teams close out 2024 with doubleheader at Faith Christian

The Craig County basketball teams will back will play, and a big day of hoops will wrap up with a on the floor this weekend for both boys' and girls' games at the teams head into the 2025 portion of their schedules.

This Friday, January 3rd, the Craig boys will host Highland County in Pioneer District action in New Castle. The jayvees will play at 5:30 pm with the varsity to follow.

This Saturday the Rockets will host a quadrupleheader against visiting Giles. It opens with a girls' jayvee game at noon, followed by a boys' jayvee game at 1:30 pm. At 3 pm the varsity girls

varsity boys game at approximately 4:30 pm.

Both teams were scheduled to wrap up the 2024 portion of their seasons with a girls-boys doubleheader at Faith Christian School on Monday of this week but results were too late for publication due to early holiday deadlines. The same can be said of last weekend's two games in the Brookville Tournament for boys. Craig was scheduled to play host Brookville on Friday and then play in the consolation or championship game Saturday.

The Rockets went to Brookville with an 0-7 record

after losing their last game before Christmas to James River on Thursday, December 19. The Knights took a 46-40 win in New Castle.

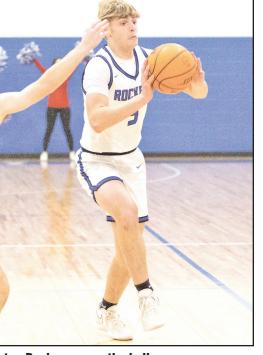
The Craig County girls played in the Knights Christmas Classic in Buchanan last week, hosted by James River High School. The Rockets dropped three games in the tournament to fall to 0-8, losing 45-30 to Northside, 57-31 to Amherst County and 57-27 to Auburn in the seventh place game. Staunton River won the tournament, defeating host James River in the final, 59-33. Craig County's Daileigh Donithan was named to the All-Tournament team.



Talon Ritter drives on a River defender.



Tristan Dooley passes the ball.



Luke Potter scores against James River.





pushes the ball against Northside.

Caton(#5)





PHOTOS BY JIM AND REGINA **DEVINNEY**

Morgan Underwood(#24) drives to the Kallie Fisher (#12) scores for the Rockets.

Left: Craig's Daileigh **Donithan** was named to the **All-Tournament** team at the Knights Classic.

PHOTOS BY LEIGH DOWNEY

Fisher returning for another season with Rocket football

Craig County football coach Jimmy Fisher announced this week that he'll be back for the 2025 season.

That's good news for county football fans, as Jimmy has been one of the most successful coaches in the history of the program. A graduate of New Castle High School and a former player for the Rockets, he took over a team that had a 9-61 record in the seven seasons prior to his taking the job. With Fisher at the helm

the team has won 12

games in the past four years, including a 6-5 and the first trip to the VHSL playoffs in a dozen years. Craig lost in the first round to Grayson County, who went on to win Region 1C and play in the state championship game at Salem Stadium. With a young roster,

record this past season

Fisher expects the team

to be even better next "Next season has the potential to be better," said Fisher. "(All-Region junior Carter) Calfee returns and there are

several other really good

backs as well. Isaiah

Nichols is going to be a

is going to run over some opponents. Dreydin Smith ran for well over 200 yards in the last JV game and will also be in the backfield mix. All of the offensive linemen are underclassmen."

beast and Noah Paxton

Not only did the varsity have a winning season but the jayvees

finished 4-1 and were just six inches away from going 5-0. They'll only get better. "We have a really solid 10th grade class and an outstanding freshmen group," said Fisher.

The freshman class has

everything. . .a bunch

backs, receivers and a couple of kids that throw the ball really well." Fisher also sells real estate in addition to

of big linemen, running

coaching the team and serving on the Craig County High School faculty. He didn't promise a long run as head coach when he took the job, but he's built the program up and decided to stick around to see the job through.

"We lose offensive starters and four or five defensive

loaded."

three starters," he said. "The



Rocket football team.