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THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



WE SELL KEROSENE

Craig County School Board adopts FY 2026-27 budget schedule

Aila Boyd
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The Craig County School Board voted unanimously on Jan. 20 to adopt its budget schedule for fiscal year 2026-27, setting a series of public hearings and work sessions leading up to final budget approval in April. The motion to approve the budget schedule was made by Faye Powers of the Potts Mountain District and seconded by Heather Matheny of the Craig Creek District. The

board approved the schedule without opposition. The budget process began Jan. 20 with a facilities walk-through at 4 p.m., followed by the board's regular meeting at 5 p.m. in the Craig County High School auditorium. A budget public hearing was also held in conjunction with the meeting. A budget work session is scheduled for Feb. 10 at 5:30 p.m. during the board's regular meeting at the CCHS auditorium. The board will hold another budget

public hearing on March 10 at 5:30 p.m., also during its regular meeting at the high school auditorium. The proposed school budget will then move to the county level, with a county budget work session scheduled for March 19 at 5:30 p.m. during a Craig County Board of Supervisors meeting at the Craig County Courthouse. If needed, a joint budget work session between the School Board and the Board of Supervisors will be held April 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the



COURTESY MAGE

courthouse. Final adoption of the FY 2026-27 Craig County Public Schools budget is scheduled for April 14 at 5:30 p.m. during the School Board's regular meeting at the CCHS auditorium.

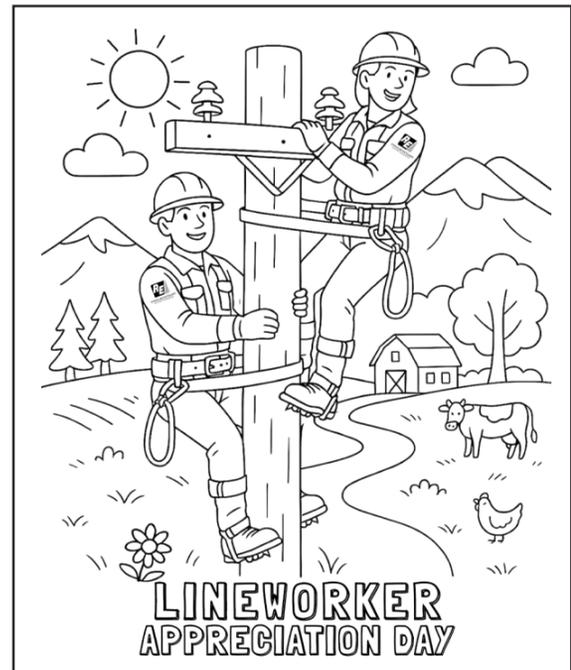
Lineworker appreciation day coloring contest returns for fourth year

Aila Boyd
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Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative is inviting students and children to help celebrate local lineworkers through its fourth annual Lineworker Appreciation Day Coloring Contest. The contest runs from Jan. 19 through Feb. 13 and is open to all students and children. Participants are asked to color the official contest image, available online or at the CBEC office, and submit their completed artwork by the deadline.

Lineworker Appreciation Day will be observed Saturday, April 18, recognizing the men and women who work to keep electric service reliable and restored, often in dangerous conditions. Each participant will receive a special gift from CBEC. One grand prize winner will be selected based on the most votes received on CBEC's Facebook page. The winner will receive a \$50 gift card and have their artwork featured in an upcoming issue of Cooperative Living Magazine. The winner will be announced Friday, April 17.

Only one entry per individual is permitted. Entries must be received by Feb. 13 and may be emailed to maiya.ashby@cbec.coop, dropped off in person, or mailed to CBEC, P.O. Box 265, New Castle, VA 24127. Submitted artwork may be displayed in the CBEC office, publications or on social media. Official rules and the printable coloring sheet are available at <https://www.cbec.coop/my-cooperative#cbec-in-the-community>. For questions, contact Maiya Ashby at maiya.ashby@cbec.coop.



COURTESY MAGE

Craig County School Board unanimously approves amendment to 403(b) retirement plan



School board members are pictured during the vote.

Aila Boyd
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The Craig County School Board unanimously approved a resolution at its Jan. 20 meeting to amend and restate its pre-approved 403(b) retirement plan for eligible employees. The motion to adopt Resolution R2026-03 was made by Potts Mountain District representative Faye Powers and seconded by New Castle District representative Shannon Whitlock. The resolution passed without opposition.

The action updates the school system's Non-ERISA Pre-Approved 403(b) Plan Document for Public Schools, Community Colleges, and Public Universities and Colleges in accordance with Internal Revenue Service Revenue Ruling 2023-24. The amended plan applies to Craig County Public Schools employees and is intended to ensure continued compliance with Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code and applicable

See Retirement Plan page 2

America's 250th anniversary to be celebrated in Craig County

Plans are being finalized across the United States, throughout Virginia and in Craig County to celebrate the nation's semi quinquennial anniversary. Semiquinquennial refers to the 250 years since our Founding Fathers declared independence from Great Britain. This historic milestone commemorates not only the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, but also the resilience and contributions of Virginians throughout the fight for freedom. The official slogan of the VA250 Commission is "America. Made in Virginia," reminding us that from its founding ideals to its leading figures, more of what made America happen, happened here in Virginia. The Craig250 Commission, in partnership with Craig County Public Schools, has arranged to bring The VA250 Mobile Museum Experience to Craig County. The museum will be located on the Craig County Public Schools campus Thursday and Friday, Feb. 19-20. Every Craig County student will have the opportunity to tour this interactive, immersive museum. The Museum will also be

open to the public after school hours. Details will be announced soon.

This past year the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDF) surveyed and documented twelve of the oldest oak trees found across the Commonwealth. Often referred to as "Witness Trees," each are at least 250 years old and bore witness to many historical events. Their plan is to plant a seedling at each school they visit. Seedlings of the special edition "Legacy White Oak" are now available to the public



COURTESY MAGE

at <https://buyvatrees.com/shop/oak-legacy-white/> (\$5 each/minimum order five). The seedlings will include a photo and brief description of the parent trees. The Virginia Museum of History & Culture recently launched their Virginia250 Passport. This is a great tool to guide travelers to the many Virginia historical sites a few hours' drive from Craig County. The Passport also offers many discounts and opportunities to win prizes. They are available

at many of the participating sites, as well as Virginia Welcome Centers. They will be available at the VA250 Mobile Museum while supplies last.

In addition to the 5th Annual Craig County Independence Day Parade in New Castle on the morning of Saturday, July 4, Craig County will take part in a nationwide event that afternoon. Bells Across America will have churches, fire stations, courthouses, and neighborhoods ringing their bells jointly at 2:50 PM. Watermelon may be served to add to this historic and fun occasion!

- Across the state the following VA250 Signature Events are being planned. For those who can't be there in person, each will offer live webcasts.
- Saturday, April 25, 2026 - Honoring Indigenous Peoples: A Tribal Nations Celebration, Colonial Williamsburg
 - Saturday, May 2, 2026 - Pen to Paper: The Civic Gospel of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, Charlottesville
 - Friday, May 15, 2026 - Saturday, May 16, 2026 - The Flame of Revolution: 250th Anniversary of the 5th Virginia Convention, Colonial Williamsburg
 - Sunday, June 7, 2026 - Virginia Resolved: A Commemoration of Independence: 250th

See 250th anniversary page 2

Retirement Plan from page 1

federal and state regulations. Under the resolution, the board formally adopted the amended plan with an effective date of Nov. 1, 2025. The plan is not subject to the requirements of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). The amended plan includes provisions allowing for Roth direct rollovers, Roth participant rollovers, and in-plan Roth rollovers. It also permits correction of excess deferrals from Roth sources and allows for a variety of distributions, including those related to federally declared disasters, qualified birth or

adoption events, terminal illness, and lifetime income investments. Additional provisions adopted under the plan allow for federally declared disaster loans and enable participants between the ages of 60 and 63 to increase their retirement plan catch-up contributions to \$10,000, as authorized under the SECURE Act 2.0. The resolution also authorizes appropriate officers of Craig County Public Schools to execute all necessary documents and take actions required to implement the amended plan. The resolution took effect upon adoption.

250th anniversary from page 1

Anniversary of the Lee Resolution for Independence, Stratford Hall
 • Thursday, June 11, 2026 - In the Eyes of the World: Celebrating 250 Years of American Independence, George Washington's Mount Vernon
 • Friday, June 12, 2026 - Sunday, June 14, 2026 - Freedom Flows on the Potomac: Celebrating 250 Years of the Virginia Declaration of Rights George Mason's Gunston Hall & Old Town Alexandria
 • Friday, June 12 - Sunday, June 14, 2026, and Friday, June 19 - Tuesday, June 23, 2026 -

Sail250® Virginia: Goodwill Tour with International Fleet of Tall Ships at various locations including Yorktown, Hampton, Richmond, Onancock, Smithfield, & Alexandria and Cape Charles, Chesapeake, Portsmouth, Norfolk
 More events will be added for both the Commonwealth and Craig County. Plan now for these truly once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Follow The Craig250 Commission Facebook page and <http://www.VA250.org> for more information.
--Submitted by: Craig250 Commission

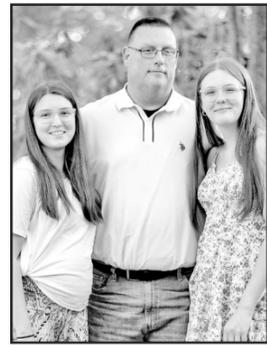
OBITUARIES

Short, Christopher Neil

Christopher Neil Short, 49, passed away peacefully on the morning of January 18, 2026.

Chris lived a life defined by service, dedication, and deep love for his family, friends, and community. He spent his career serving others as a public safety officer at Catawba Hospital and dedicated decades of his life to the Upper Craig's Creek Volunteer Fire Department and the Craig County Volunteer Rescue Squad. His commitment to public safety and helping those in need left a lasting impact on all who had the privilege of working alongside him.

Chris was a devoted father and grandfather. He is survived by his two daughters, Alexis Elizabeth Labiosa (Jordan) and Melissa Ann Short, and his beloved grandchildren, Naomi Marie Labiosa



known for his loyalty, humor, and the many friendships he cultivated throughout his life. He loved his friends dearly, including Trish Paitsel, whom he planned to marry.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made in Chris's honor to the Craig County Volunteer Rescue Squad, an organization that reflects his lifelong commitment to service.

Chris will be remembered for his selflessness, dedication to his community, and the love he gave so freely to those around him. He will be deeply missed.

Funeral Services were held at 12:00 PM Friday, January 23, 2026, at Paitsel Funeral Home. Interment followed at Gibson-Horn Cemetery. The family received friends 6-8 PM Thursday, January 22, 2026, at Paitsel Funeral Home.

and Silas Ray Short-Ferris. He is also survived by Elizabeth Renay Short, mother of his daughters.

He is also survived by his aunts and uncles: Gary (Sue) Yearout, Kenneth (Kathy) Yearout, Richard (Anna Balog) Yearout, Ronald (Brenda) Yearout, and Carolyn (Roger) Horsley.

Chris was preceded in death by his parents, Dorothy Ann Short and Walter Jerry Short, as well as his sister, Angela Dawn Short.

Chris spent his life serving others and was

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Adventure "academy" helps at-risk kids

Program helps keep kids straight by Judy Harper, staff writer

From the September 4, 1994 edition of The New Castle Record

It's been five years since Craig County welcomed Col.(Ret.) Eugene Nervo and his camping program, Wilderness Adventure at Eagle Landing.

On September 20, Nervo will add another aspect of his commitment to youth as the doors open in the Oak Lodge at Craig Healing Springs Retreat Cener to admit the first students if the Wilderness Leadership Academy.

"We've been putting this together for the past three years," Nervo said.

Five students, two teacher and two counselors are currently on board but registration is open year-round, he explained. The eight-and-a-half-month program is tailored for a maximum of 20 students.

The Academy offers a dynamic and powerful residence program for young men age 13 through 17. It is dedicated to the highest standards and principles of academic excellence, physical well-being, social norms and moral courage.

What sounds like it might not be for everyone, is actually for those who need it most- teenagers identified as "at risk." This includes those with learning disabilities, social maladjustments, strained family relationships, neglect and abuse.

Not accepted are those with drug, alcohol dependency, fire-setting behaviors, serious physically aggressive/assaultive behaviors, psychotic diagnosis, mental retardation, moderate to serious physical or sensory handicaps requiring individualized care as well as those who are distressed/suicidal and currently in need of hospitalization or otherwise a threat to self or community.

However, the Academy is neither a correctional nor a detention facility and candidates may be referred by individuals, therapists, families, the Department of Social Services, school systems or court service units. A full school year's tuition is \$24,000.

The program coordinator, Cheryl Austin, holds an MS in learning disabilities and has 13 years of experience in special and therapeutic education. Teachers are certified in special education and an education specialist and psychologist provide professional counseling for the students.

The program is aimed at improving the resident's academic, social, physical, emotional and moral well being with the goal of preparing the student for a full and satisfying adult life. It combines a traditional classroom educational setting with wilderness therapy to create a powerful experience that can change a young person's life, Nervo Said.

The unique educational process occurs on site in conformance with the Commonwealth of Virginia Public School Code.

The wilderness adventure therapy component is the nucleus of the residence program and the Academy is affiliated with Wilderness Adventure at Eagle Landing, a year-round outdoor adventure program that will provide instruction by skilled experts in rock climbing, rappelling, canoeing, kayaking, caving, mountain biking, Native American skills, adventure trail, high ropes, low ropes and climbing wall.

Two powerful motivational education components are the basis of the program: experiential education (based on experiencing the factual information in textbooks) and wilderness therapy.

Experiential learning is the foundation of the academic program.

Science is taught by seeing, touching and feeling. History is taught by acting out historical events and



Campers from New England were part of the summer program at Wilderness Adventure. An exciting ne program is now underway. New Castle Record Photos/Judy Har

visiting historical sites and museums.

Current events are taught by inciting an interest in what is happening in local, state, and national news and becoming involved through CNN and the news media. In fact, the students are required daily to watch one hour of CNN news and turn in a written report.

The average school day is six hours of classroom and experiential instruction, five days per week. One day of wilderness experience of outdoor adventure is schedule each week, including the adventure skills as well as farming skills and animal husbandry.

A three-hour session featuring a visit from an area resident with a particular career of profession is scheduled each week and a mentor program will be developed from the professional visits program.

And there's plenty of camping. Once a month the students visits place of interest such as a museum, theater or sporting event and in-house athletes can participate in organized sports such as soccer, tennis, wrestling and cross country running for scrimmages with nearby high schools.

Courtesy, respect for others and high moral standards are strong components of the program. Religious observances are encouraged and supported.

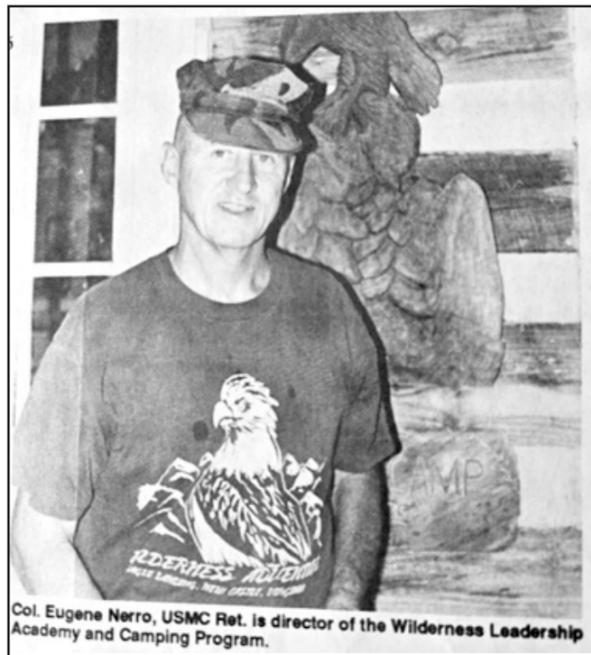
"The Academy is committed to providing a quality program and to being a good neighbor to the host community," Nervo said. Consequently, clients are carefully screened to ensure integrity of the program, safety to the community and maximum development of others at the Academy.

The overall objective to motivate participation and learning is a noble cause for any educator these days.

But Nervo remains humble. "It's a confusing world out there and there are so many harmful options for teenagers. At the Academy, we want to provide them with a light, or even a spark, for setting their goals and success at achieving them.



Campers find help from everyone, even the camp dog.



Col. Eugene Nervo, USMC Ret. is director of the Wilderness Leadership Academy and Camping Program.

-Prepared by Shelly Koon

FROM THE NEW CASTLE RECORD ARCHIVES

Recipe of the Week



Shelly Koon
Contributing
Writer

I am not much of a baker but when I do I tend to make cookies. Cookies date back to 7th century Persia, one of the first countries to cultivate sugar. With European colonization and global trade, cookies found their way around the world, evolving with local ingredients and cultural influences. This resulted in a diverse range of flavors, textures, and forms. The word 'cookie' is derived from the Dutch word 'koekje', which literally means 'little cake'. The first batch of cookies was put in the oven as small test portions of the cake batter.

Cookies are just so craveable. When do we crave cookies? When we are sad, happy, celebrating, or bored. In many cultures, cookies symbolize love and care. The act of sharing cookies is akin to sharing happiness; it conveys warmth and kindness, making them ideal gifts. I believe that a fresh-baked cookie is nothing short of a sweet little circle of love.

A good cookie is a blend of textures and flavors designed to make you want more. When that sugar hits your tongue, your brain says "Hello!" and you get a rush of dopamine rewarding you for that first bite. A study at Drexel University suggests that just seeing a cookie can provoke a dopamine response in your brain.

I have a list of reasons to eat a cookie. (I never need a reason to eat a cookie but it sounded good when I wrote it!)

With a really good cookie one is enough. Eaten slowly and with good company is best. With cookies, you can easily keep track of what you're eating and indulge in a little treat. Enjoy yourself and know this: you're allowed to have a cookie (or two).

You can pronounce and recognize all the ingredients in a homemade cookie. The flavor variety and combinations are practically endless. What that really means is there is something out there for everyone to enjoy.

A cookie is cheaper than a new Vera Bradley bag. It's a reward that won't hurt your credit score.

Baking cookies is good for you because it forces

you to slow down and follow one step at a time. The time between baking and eating requires patience and you get a reward for waiting.

A cookie goes with other good things like a picnic, Santa, and bake sales. No other dessert is as portable as a cookie. You can fit them in purses, pockets, gym bags, book bags, or briefcases.

People smile when offered a cookie. Maybe it's treasured memories of childhood that are being evoked, or maybe it's just a simple feel-good vibe that comes cookie shaped and flavored. There is no better way to connect with people than over a plate of cookies with a glass of milk.

At midnight, whether you're unable to sleep or you're overthinking about somethings, or you just want to be with yourself, a chocolate chip cookie is your best friend. It doesn't talk, it doesn't ask you to not eat late at night, it's low maintenance. You don't need any cutlery.

And finally, most cookie recipes have a story. My kitchen sink cookie recipe is from my mom's best friend Marge and my recipe card is in her handwriting. Just seeing that recipe brings back memories of her kitchen in Ohio and her warm hugs. Marge always asked what we wanted her to put in these cookies. I always choose potato chips and M&M's, my mom wanted pretzels, peanuts, and raisins. So, of course she added them all.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Kitchen Sink Cookies

Ingredients

- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 3/4 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 1/4 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 cup unsalted butter, melted and cooled
- 3/4 cup firmly packed light brown sugar

- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 3/4 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs, at room temperature
- 1 1/3 cups Chocolatey mix-ins, such as semi-sweet chocolate chips or chunks
- 1 1/3 cups salty mix-ins, such as ridged, salted potato chips or pretzels
- 1/2 cup nutty mix-ins, such as chopped, roasted peanuts
- 1/4 cup chewy/sticky mix-ins, such as toffee bits, dried fruit

Instructions

In a medium bowl, whisk the flour, baking soda, salt, and baking powder to combine and set aside. In a large bowl, stir together the melted butter, brown sugar, granulated sugar, and vanilla with a rubber spatula until well combined and the mixture is glossy and almost creamy looking. Add the eggs to the butter mixture and beat together with the spatula until the eggs are completely broken up and fully combined with the butter mixture. Add the flour mixture to the butter mixture and stir until the flour mixture is almost fully combined. A few dry streaks of flour are okay. Add the chocolatey, salty, nutty, and chewy/sticky mix-ins to the dough and gently stir until all the mix-ins are evenly distributed, taking care not to break up any delicate mix-ins (such as potato chips) too much. Portion the dough and chill: Line a small rimmed baking sheet (or alternatively a plate) with parchment paper. Using a 2 1/2-inch scoop or measuring cup, divide the dough into 1/3 cup portions to yield 13 to 16 portions and place on the lined baking sheet. Transfer the scooped dough to the freezer to chill until firm while the oven preheats, about 15 minutes. Alternatively, the dough can be chilled on the baking sheet wrapped in plastic wrap in the refrigerator for up to 24 hours. Arrange the racks in the top and bottom thirds of the oven. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line 2 large rimmed baking sheets with parchment paper. Arrange the chilled portions of dough on the lined baking sheets spaced about 3 inches apart. Bake at 350°F for 8 minutes, until the cookies are starting to spread. Rotate the pans from front to back and top to bottom. Bake until the cookies are light golden and set in the center and just turning golden brown around the edges, an additional 6 to 9 minutes (14 to 17 minutes total). Let the cookies cool on their baking sheets set over wire racks for a few minutes, then transfer to the wire racks to cool completely.

Stay safe on snow- and ice-covered roads

RICHMOND—The recent winter storm blanketed much of Virginia in snow and ice, creating dangerous road conditions for drivers.

While the snow, sleet and freezing rain ended after last weekend, hazardous road conditions linger as low temperatures keep roadways icy and slow-down cleanup efforts. According to Virginia State Police, troopers responded to over 500 crashes during and after the snowstorm.

"We certainly see a spike in claims during wintry weather," said John Agee, Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co.'s director of casualty claims. In addition to broken-down vehicles, "accidents involving slick conditions flood our inboxes."

Drivers are urged to stay off roadways until they're cleared, Agee said. But if traveling is unavoidable, motorists should first ensure their vehicles are clear of snow and ice, especially

windows, headlights, mirrors and the vehicle roof.

"You need to see clearly when driving," Agee said. "And debris should not fly off your vehicle, which may put someone else in a hazardous situation."

Always slow down and increase following distance so there's time to react to hazards or stop. And if encountering any snowplows, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration advises staying far behind and using caution if passing. Plows often drive slow, make wide turns, overlap lanes and exit roadways frequently.

"Be careful of those around you," Agee added. "If a vehicle is going faster than they should, give them space and just let them go! Keep an eye out for disabled vehicles on and alongside roads, large trucks, farm equipment and pedestrians."

If you're stopped or break down

during a winter weather emergency, NHTSA urges staying with your vehicle. Don't overexert yourself and let your car be seen with bright markers on the antenna or windows, and keep the interior dome light on.

Risk of carbon monoxide poisoning increases during winter weather, so ensure your exhaust pipe is clear of snow, and only run your car occasionally—just enough to stay warm. Don't run the car for long periods with the windows up or in an enclosed space.

"If you find yourself in an accident, check yourself and others for injuries," Agee added. "Move your vehicle off the road if you're able, turn on your hazard lights to alert others of the dangerous situation, and call 911 for help."

Have a winter emergency kit in your car with blankets, phone car charger, water, food, medications, flashlights and alert devices like flares. Keep



METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS MAGE

jumper cables, a snow shovel, broom, ice scraper and sand or kitty litter.

Finally, check in with your insurance agent to make sure your car's coverage is up to date before venturing out.

For more on safe winter driving and preparing your vehicle for icy conditions, visit nhtsa.gov and exchange.aaa.com.

-Virginia Farm Bureau

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OPINION

News from the 9th: EPA reform, permitting and coal



Morgan Griffith
Representative

A cornerstone of American power and success is predicated on our manufacturing might.

As factories transition in the 21st century, new technological innovations boost American industry and support more efficient and productive manufacturing activity.

For example, new technologies could help coal plants burn coal cleaner with reduced emissions.

Accordingly, many domestic manufacturers are interested in seizing the moment by adopting 21st century innovations.

However, many manufacturers from furniture makers to steel manufacturers seek to make efficiency modifications or improvements to their facilities and plants. And yet, they often refrain

from doing so.

This is because of something called New Source Review (NSR).

NSR regulations fall under the *Clean Air Act*. Once triggered, the NSR process can jeopardize the air permit for the entire manufacturing facility.

Accordingly, a plant could be put out of business, even though the efficiency upgrades would result in a net reduction in plant emissions!

One example that I frequently cite is the Vaughan-Bassett Furniture manufacturing plant in Galax.

When I have toured the plant, I have viewed the plant's production process and the work of its craftsmen.

This facility possesses what I call the "long conveyor belt to nowhere."

It was clear that

this "conveyor belt to nowhere" did not serve a meaningful purpose. At the very least, it made the production process less efficient.

To most people, it would make sense to rearrange this feature and save production time on every piece of furniture manufactured there.

However, lawyers for Vaughan-Bassett advised the factory that removing any part of the conveyor belt system could possibly trigger an NSR analysis, thus threatening the entire facility's air permit and thus the legal ability of the plant to operate.

Accordingly, they do not touch the "conveyor belt to nowhere."

You may ask, "why should I care?"

And the answer is this. Vaughan-Bassett is an American manufacturer.

It competes with Asian furniture manufacturers.

Every second, every minute that is added to the process reduces the efficiency of the manufacturer and adds costs to the production.

We will never beat the Asian countries on

wages. Nor should we.

But we can be more efficient. NSR in many cases prevents us from being more efficient and more competitive in the marketplace.

These NSR issues pose challenges to manufacturers in Virginia's Ninth District and across the country.

Accordingly, for multiple Congresses, I introduced legislation to correct this misguided practice to deliver clarity for American manufacturers and promote plant efficiency improvements.

This year, my *New Source Review Permitting Improvement Act* was considered by the House Committee on Energy Commerce, on which I serve.

During remarks on my NSR reform bill, I highlighted that numerous industry groups and labor unions support my bill. That includes the United Mine Workers of America, the National Mining Association and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

As debate occurred on my NSR reform bill,

Committee Democrats introduced several amendments.

One such introduced amendment happened to unintentionally target Appalachian communities!

The Democratic amendment proposed that my reform bill could not apply to any facility or plant that uses any electricity generated from coal.

Therefore, under the Democrats' amendment, any coal plant that generates electricity or any facility that uses coal-generated electricity would likely not be able to make efficiency upgrades!

There wasn't even a limit. It was a blanket application to all facilities with coal-generated electricity, regardless if the facility needs 90% of its electricity generated from coal or 1%.

Therefore, our manufacturing plants would be barred from using the reforms to improve their facilities!

I raised my objections to the proposed amendment during the hearing.

I specifically outlined

the threat that such an idea would pose to Virginia's Ninth District and central Appalachian communities at large.

Facilities in our region rely on coal for electricity purposes and industrial processes. By handicapping our manufacturers in the Ninth District, our factories would lose business and we would lose jobs.

The consequences could be devastating for our communities.

Luckily, we defeated the Democrats' amendment and my bill was reported favorably by the Committee.

However, this episode illustrates just how out of touch DC Democrats are on energy policy and exposes their radical zeal to eradicate coal from our energy mix.

If DC-style Democrats get their way, we will see even higher costs on our electric bills and less reliability.

I will continue fighting against anti-coal policies and promoting commonsense energy policy to ensure we have the backs of American manufacturing workers.

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Virginia's farm community to advocate for policy priorities at annual Legislative Day on Feb. 9

RICHMOND—Over 100 Virginia agriculture leaders are uniting in Richmond for the Super Bowl of grassroots advocacy known as Legislative Day.

Farmers and foresters will make their priorities known at the General Assembly on Feb. 9, which was rescheduled due to Winter Storm Fern.

"At the top of our list for budget priorities is fully funding the Agricultural Best Management Cost Share Program," said Katelyn Jordan, assistant director of VFBF governmental relations. This voluntary program helps farmers implement practices that further Chesapeake Bay water quality goals.

In his tenure, Gov. Glenn Younkin supported VFBF's priority of fully funding ag BMPs, reaching \$223 million for 2026—the highest funding ever.

But his final budget in December "came up just a bit short," Jordan said. However, several Virginia lawmakers are carrying budget amendments to reach full program funding through 2028.

An effort to establish a framework for properly labeling manufactured protein food products, like fungus or plant-based proteins, is moving to the Virginia Senate.

"This bill requires alternative protein products to have a qualifying term on the label indicating the origin and the contents of the ingredients," said VFBF legislative specialist Jake Tabor. "This will protect consumers and support transparency and truth in labeling."

Farm Bureau opposed a bill that removes minimum wage exemptions for farm laborers.

"We did lose that exemption," said VFBF working lands and state advocacy specialist Rachel Henley. "However, we did successfully safeguard the farm worker exemption for overtime. Those two bills will be moving to committee."

Farm Bureau supported legislation that passed unanimously, giving localities the authority to create service districts to help control invasive plant species.

"This will give communities another targeted tool to help control the invasives that are causing a lot of economic damage to our farms and fields," Tabor said.

Farm Bureau also supports proposed legislation regarding:

See **Legislative Day** page 5

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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42									43

CLUES ACROSS

- One point south of due east
- Coagulated blood
- Fortifying ditch
- Devotee of Hinduism
- Trunk of a tree
- Bank note
- Capital of Guam
- Study again
- Covered with hoarfrost
- Opening
- Legendary Rolling Stone
- Stray
- Computer storing system
- Signal
- Pitching statistic
- Human being
- Malaysian isthmus
- The "Blonde Bombshell"
- A gland
- Bluish greens
- Endangered
- Three-dimensional
- In a way, precipitated
- God associated with dissolution
- Blemished
- Flow or leak slowly
- Disco legends The Bee
- Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- A way to board
- Get down
- Highly seasoned sausage
- First day of month
- Eurasian shrubs
- The organ that bears the ovules of a flower
- Small lake
- Belief
- Sunrooms
- Metric weight unit
- Vasopressin
- Bravo! Bravo!
- Bravo!
- One-time family room staple
- Got back together
- Anger
- Sang merrily
- Sea eagle
- Military men
- Kilo yard (abbr.)
- Found in the sea
- Protects from weather
- Type of medicine
- City along the Rhine
- Animal disease
- Martini ingredients
- Get away
- Lack of disunity
- One-time European Commission officer

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Legislative Day from page 4

- Maintaining the Department of Forestry's Virginia Forestry Sustainability Fund, helping localities recoup the cost of adopting forest land use assessment. The land use status provides real estate tax relief and furthers conservation by assessing forestland at its timber value rather than higher market value. Support of the fund over the next biennium would help localities offset some costs of assessment adoption.
- Continued fiscal support for the large animal

veterinarian grant funds. A shortage of rural food-animal veterinarians persists statewide, due to high education costs and limited income expectations. The policy successfully moved through the General Assembly and will continue to be funded this year, "And hopefully going forward," Jordan said.

- A budget amendment to secure \$5 million in funding for DOF grants to protect waterways on logging jobs, and urban forestry programs that advance water quality goals.

Creation of a state work group on "agrivoltaics" and its official definition as "the intentional co-location of agricultural production and solar energy generation."

Keep track of agriculture-related legislation at plowsandpolitics.com/2026, the VFBF Plows and Politics blog.

-Virginia Farm Bureau

VDOT Roadwatch

INTERSTATE 81 I-81 SLOW ROLLS FOR UTILITY WORK IN ROANOKE COUNTY - AEP will be using a slow roll operation during nighttime hours on I-81 for an aerial crossing between mile marker 130.9 and 133.9 in Roanoke County, January 31 to February 1, 2026, from 12 a.m. to 5 a.m. Delays are possible.

INTERSTATE 81 ACCELERATION RAMP EXTENSION AT EXIT 162 IN BOTETOURT COUNTY - This ramp extension project is underway and as part of the project, the on-ramp from Route 11 onto northbound 81 was previously closed but is now back open. This project will extend the on-ramp onto northbound I-81 about 1,000 feet. The project also includes installing drainage structures and constructing a retaining wall alongside the slope. As work progresses, additional ramp and lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours. During construction, barrier wall will be installed along the right shoulder of northbound I-81 at exit 162. Electronic message boards will alert drivers to the upcoming ramp closure and announce any schedule changes.

L A N E CLOSURES: Drivers can expect nighttime right and left lane closures in place on I-81.

INTERSTATE 81 BRIDGE WORK AT EXIT 156 IN BOTETOURT COUNTY - Bridge work is underway on northbound and southbound I-81 at Exit 156. Milling and paving the bridge deck will take place in both directions beginning with the northbound side first and then southbound once northbound is completed. Drivers can

expect lane closures on I-81 during nighttime hours. Slow roll operations are expected periodically and flagging operations will be used during barrier wall placement on Route 640 (Brughs Mill Road). Expected completion is fall 2026.

T E M P O R A R Y traffic barrier in place on westbound side of Route 640 under the I-81 bridges off exit 156 with lanes narrowed to 11 feet.

N i g h t t i m e outside and inside lane closures may be in place on I-81 from mile marker 155 to 157, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

INTERSTATE 81 ACCELERATION RAMP EXTENSIONS AT MILE MARKER 94 IN PULASKI COUNTY AND 105 IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY- Work is underway on the extension of two acceleration lanes on I-81. The first one will be the entrance ramp onto I-81 southbound at mile marker 94, the entrance ramp onto I-81 northbound at mile marker 105 in Montgomery County. Construction will begin at mile marker 94 location first and then once complete, work will start at mile marker 105. Scheduled completion date for both projects is summer 2026. During construction, drivers can expect:

L A N E CLOSURES: Nighttime lane closures northbound and southbound from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m., the following morning, Sunday through Thursday.

S h o u l d e r closures throughout the work zone area.

- Ramp closures are possible.
- Narrowed or shifted ramps during

nighttime hours.

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

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

R A M P CLOSURES: Ramp closure of exit 137 and 140 on and off ramps

onto southbound I-81 in Salem possible. Watch message boards for updates.

F L A G G I N G O P E R A T I O N S : Flagging operations possible on Route 635 and Route 619.

U N E V E N PAVEMENT: Drivers may experience some uneven pavement and/or rough surface throughout the project.

T R A F F I C S H I F T S AT I-81 EXIT 140: Drivers may experience periodic lane closures, narrow ramps or quick merges into traffic onto Thompson Memorial Drive from the southbound or northbound exit ramps of exit 140 off of I-81. Work zone located at bottom of the ramp for work on the I-81 bridge at the underpass.

T R A F F I C S H I F T S O N W I L D W O O D R O A D: Expect a work zone with traffic shifts and narrow width on Wildwood Road after exiting I-81 southbound on exit 137 heading towards Salem. Southbound and northbound I-81 exit 137 and entrance ramp narrows are possible at Route 311.

W O R K Z O N E S P E E D: 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.

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

I-81 WIDENING FROM MILE MARKER 143 TO 150 - The I-81 widening project is underway with survey and preparation work. Shoulder strengthening work will require northbound and southbound lane closures during nighttime hours. Barrier wall installation is possible in late fall or early winter. The expected completion for this project is summer 2031.

P A R K A N D R I D E AT EXIT 150 IN BOTETOURT COUNTY: Drilling operations scheduled February 16 - 20. Shoulder closures on Route 220 (Roanoke Road) north and southbound. A few parking spaces in the park and ride lot at exit 150 will be barreled off for the drilling operation.

T R A F F I C S H I F T: Southbound traffic is shifted to the right shoulder from exit 150 in Botetourt County to exit 146 in Roanoke County.

L A N E CLOSURES: Periodic right and left lane and shoulder closures in place during nighttime hours 9 p.m. to 6 a.m., on northbound and southbound I-81.

N i g h t t i m e right lane and shoulder closures are being scheduled.

B A R R I E R W A L L S: Drivers will see barrier walls in place throughout the project.

S H O U L D E R CLOSURES: Shoulder closures in place with additional barrier wall to be installed next year.

W O R K Z O N E S P E E D: Drivers should adhere to posted 60 mph speed limits in the work zone and allow space when following a vehicle. Speed reminders are posted for drivers.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS									
EBS									CLOUT
MOAT									SAIYA
BOLE									DOLLAR
AGANA									RELEASE
RIMED									VACANCY
KEITHRICHARDS									
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WELCOME TO FARM BUREAU

Jamie Greenway

Member Service Specialist (MSS)
CRAIG COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Welcome to Farm Bureau, Jamie Greenway!

Craig County Farm Bureau welcomes Jamie Greenway as our newest Member Service Specialist (MSS). She began her role at Farm Bureau on January 5 and is looking forward to serving our Craig County members in the year ahead. If you have the opportunity, please stop by the office and join us in giving her a warm welcome to the Farm Bureau family. Give Jamie a call at (540)864-6428.

God's House Is Always Open

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 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 Raymond Christian and Tim Creasy. Check us out on facebook or contact us at: craigcountycommunitychurch@gmail.com.

CRAIG VALLEY BAPTIST
Pastor Scott Gabrielson, church phone 864-5667, 171 Salem Avenue, Food Pantry available (M,W,F) 9am-noon. Sunday School 10am, Worship 11am, Mondays 6:30pm Men and Ladies Bible Study, Wednesday: Bible

Buddies 6:30pm, Bible Study 7pm. craigvalleybaptist@gmail.com

CROSSROADS CHURCH
21892 Cross Creek Road, New Castle. Pastor Kenny Davis. 540-765-9418. Sunday School - 9:30am, Sunday Worship - 10:30am.

ECKANKAR
Eckankar, The Path of Spiritual Freedom, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. We offer a Spiritual Event on the 2nd. Sunday of each month. The program may be a Light and Sound Service, a Spiritual video and discussion, or other topics and techniques to help Raise Your Spiritual IQ. The Roanoke ECK Center is located at 1420 3rd. St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. For more information visit www.eck-va.org or call 540- 353-5365. People of all faiths are welcome.

FIRST BAPTIST
Corner of Main Street & Boyd Ave., New Castle. Church phone 864-5919. Sunday School 10:00AM, Sunday Worship 11:00AM and 7PM. 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, Rev. Dr. Loraine Taylor, agladypastor@msn.com. Sunday Service @ 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Adult Bible Study @ 7:00 p.m. Youth (Ages 13-18) & Super Church (Ages 4-12) 7:00 p.m. Facebook Livestream each Sunday morning @ 10:30 a.m. www.graceassemblycatawba.org

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

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, 540-5257662. 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 Zane "Sput" Jones, phone: 540-309-3170, Rt. 621, Sunday Prayer 10:00-10:30 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 pm.

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 advertising@mainstreetnewspapers.com



Legals - Botetourt County

**Trustee's Sale
187 SPRING HOLLOW RD, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175 (Parcel ID: 11123)**

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated 1/5/2024, in the original principal amount of \$264,926.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the Botetourt County, Virginia on 1/8/2024, as Instrument No. 240000041, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on 3/4/2026 at 2:00 PM, Front of building of the Circuit Court Building For Botetourt County, 1 West Main Street, Fincastle, Virginia 24090, the property designated as 187 SPRING HOLLOW RD, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175.

Located in the County of Botetourt, Commonwealth of Virginia: Lot 15, Block 2, according to Map No. 2 Subdivision, Portion of Property of S. E. Wilkinson and G. W. Wills, made by C. B. Malcolm & Son, S.C.E., dated November 21, 1951, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, in Plat Book 3, page 184, and being further described as follows: BEGINNING at the intersection of Lot 14 and Lot 15 at an iron pipe in the edge of Spring Hollow Road; thence along the property line of Lots 14 and 15, N. 30° 22' W. 203.14 feet to an iron stake in the property line of Lots 2 and 3; thence N. 58° 44' E. 100.01 feet to an iron stake in the property line of Lots 15 and 16; thence S. 30° 22' E. 204.71 feet along the property line of Lots 15 and 16 to an iron stake in Spring Hollow Road; thence S. 59° 38' W. 100 feet along Spring Hollow Road to the point of Beginning; and BEING the same property conveyed to the Grantor herein by Deed dated January 4, 2024, recorded contemporaneously with this Deed of Trust.

TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$26,492.60 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review upon request before the sale, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector. Vyila Solutions - Virginia, LLC, 283 Constitution Drive, Suite 102, Office B, Virginia Beach, VA 23462, File No. 25-37622, Tel: 888-313-1969

TRUSTEE SALE OF 1131 2nd Street, Blue Ridge, VA 24064

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated November 30, 2017, in the original principal amount of \$148,265.00, recorded as Inst. 170004619, assigned as Inst. 200000435, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the County of Botetourt, Virginia, default having occurred in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and at the request of the holder of the note, the undersigned, as Substitute Trustees, either of whom may act, will sell at public auction at the front entrance of the Circuit Court for the County of Botetourt on February 24, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., the property located at the above address and described as Lot 5, Block 7, Section 5, Blue Ridge Heights, County of Botetourt. TERMS: CASH. PROPERTY SOLD AS IS WITH SPECIAL WARRANTY OF TITLE. A deposit of \$10,000.00 or 10% of the successful bid

Legals - Botetourt County

amount (whichever is lower) will be required immediately of the successful bidder, in cashier's check or certified funds only payable to or signed over to "DOLANREID PLLC, TRUSTEE", no person checks accepted. Balance due within 15 days from date of sale VIA BANKWIRE ONLY. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower filed for and obtained bankruptcy protection, entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, or if trustee is unable to complete the sale, or if it is set aside or not fully completed for any reason except purchaser's default, the sale shall be null and void, and the purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Upon purchaser's default, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property resold at the risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, reservations and conditions, if any, of record, as well as inchoate liens and any other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. Real estate taxes will be adjusted to the date of sale. All costs of conveyance, deed, examination of title, recording charges, grantor's tax and possession will be at the expense of the purchaser. All risks of casualty immediately pass to the successful bidder. Time is of the essence. Winning bidder must sign a memorandum of sale immediately upon completion of sale. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. Trustee's affidavit and a copy of the notice of sale available at the foreclosure sale. The opening bid is not announced until the sale. Current sale status available at dolanreid.com/foreclosuresales. THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. For Information Contact: DolanReid PLLC and G. Benny Moore, Substitute Trustee(s) 12610 Patrick Henry Dr., Ste. D, Newport News, VA 23602; (757) 320-0255, ext. 220 or ext. 260

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1449 LAKERIDGE CIRCLE, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated January 4, 2006, in the original principal amount of \$175,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 060000421. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on March 19, 2026, at 10:30 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH ALL THE APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING LYING AND BEING THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, STATE OF VIRGINIA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO WIT: BEING LOT 17, BLOCK 5, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OF RAINBOW FOREST, PROPERTY OF BOTETOURT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, MADE BY C.B. MALCOLM AND SON, S.C.E.'S, DATED AUGUST 15, 1960 OF RECORD IN TILE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 102. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the

Legals - Botetourt County

sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwvsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsales.com. VA-372477-1.

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1302 LAYMANTOWN ROAD, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated January 26, 2022, in the original principal amount of \$303,750.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 220000407. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on April 3, 2026, at 10:45 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND EASEMENTS AND APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO APPERTAINING, LYING AND BEING IN BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: PARCEL 1: BEING LOT 4, BLOCK 24, ACCORDING TO MAP NO. 3 OF BLOCKS 11-24, RAINBOW FOREST, PROPERTY OF BOTETOURT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, MADE BY C. B. MALCOLM & SON, SCE, DATED JUNE 29, 1962, CONSISTING OF SHEETS 1 THROUGH 5 RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 4, AT PAGE 143. PARCEL 2: LOT NO. 5, BLOCK 24, ACCORDING TO MAP NO. 3 OF BLOCKS 11-24, RAINBOW FOREST, PROPERTY OF BOTETOURT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, MADE BY C. B. MALCOLM & SON, SCE'S, DATED JUNE 29, 1962, CONSISTING OF SHEETS 1 THROUGH 5, RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 4, AT PAGE 143. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set

Legals - Botetourt County

aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwvsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsales.com. VA-380025-1.

Legals - City of Salem

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.-317,20-104 Case No. CL25000427-00 CITY OF SALEM 2 EAST CALHOUN ST SALEM VA 24153 MICHAEL EUGENE MORAN v. AMBER NICHOLE MORAN, The object of this suit is to: OBTAIN A DIVORCE It is ORDERED that AMBER NICHOLE MORAN appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before April 15, 2026 Entered January 9, 2026 Stacy L. Owen Deputy Clerk

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 11505 Countyline Road, Bent Mountain, VA 24059 Tax Map No. 117.00-01-91.01-0000

In execution of a Deed of Trust dated February 7, 2011, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the County of Roanoke, Virginia, as Instrument No. 201101629, the Trustee will offer the above-described property for sale to the highest bidder at public auction on February 18, 2026 at 9:00am, at the Roanoke County Circuit Court, 305 East Main Street, Salem, VA 24153.

That certain lot or parcel of land with all appurtenances thereto, being a parcel of land containing 0.655 acres more or less lying and being in the west side of Virginia Secondary Route No. 644, fully shown on a map attached to and made a part of the certain deed recorded in Deed Book 1217 at page 926 of the records of the Circuit Court Clerk of Roanoke County, prepared by Buford Lumsden & Associates, Engineers & Surveyors, dated February 20, 1985, the description being incorporated herein by reference.

Date of Sale: February 18, 2026 at 9:00am at 305 East Main Street, Salem, VA 24153.

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 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 Trustee reserves the right to reject all bids, extend the time to receive bids or withdraw the

Legals - City of Salem

property from sale at any time. In addition, should the 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 Trustee will convey the above-described property to the purchaser(s) by Special Warranty deed at settlement and makes no additional representations or warranties of any kind regarding the title to said property.

John K. Prillaman, Esq. Trustee

For Information Contact: John K. Prillaman, Esq. OPN Law, PLLC 3140 Chaparral Drive, #200-C Roanoke, Virginia 24018 (540) 725-8194

Legals - Montgomery County

ABC NOTICE
TANGLED WISDOM LLC, trading as TANGLED WISDOM, 4287 & 4289 North Fork Road, Elliston, Montgomery Co. VA 24087.

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

Sean Burrows, Managing Member

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing for Monday, February 23, 2026 at 7:15 pm or as soon thereafter, at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to receive citizen comments on the proposed Ordinances Temporarily changing the A-3, E-3 and F-3 Precinct Polling Place from Squires Student Center located at 290 College Avenue, Blacksburg, Virginia, to Johnston Student Center located at 920 W. Campus Drive, Blacksburg, Virginia, for the June 16, 2026 Primary Election Only.

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

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Rezoning request by LZM-BAM, LLC, Applicant and Property Owner, for an amendment to proffers on property located at 2886 Roanoke Street, identified as Tax Parcel 501 - ((1)) - 24A (Parcel ID 011123), consisting of approximately 0.968 acres. The property is zoned General Business District (B-3) with proffers, and the request is to amend the proffers accepted with the 2001 rezoning action. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

B. Conditional Use Permit request by Rockstep Christiansburg LLC, Property Owner, to allow operation of a Carnival from March 26, 2026 through April 5, 2026 on the

Legals - Montgomery County

property located at 782 New River Road NW, Tax Parcel 435 - ((A)) - 41, Parcel ID 007741, zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact the Planning Department, by phone at (540) 382-6128, Ext. 1902 or by email at planning@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

Legals - City of Radford

ABC NOTICE
VYY WOODMUJI, INC., trading as FUJIYA RAMEN 103 3RD AVENUE, RADFORD, VA 24141-4703.

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

YUJIE YANG, OWNER

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

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Brown v. Board of Education SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Accepting Applications through April 12, 2026

The Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program was established by the General Assembly to provide educational opportunities for persons who were denied an education in Virginia between 1954 and 1964 due to the closing of the public schools during Massive Resistance. The scholarship is now available to those individuals and to their descendants. The program is open to eligible applicants for the 2026-2027 school year. For applications and information on eligibility, visit: **BROWNSCHOLARSHIP.VIRGINIA.GOV**

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SPORTS

Send story ideas & announcements to bhoffman@ourvalley.org

Full week of Craig County basketball is weathered out

Snow, ice and freezing temperatures kept the Craig County High School basketball teams off the court last week as three Rocket girls' games and two boys' games were postponed. It could be more of the same this week with temperatures expected to be near or below the freezing point. If weather permits, the Rockets were scheduled to

return to the court Tuesday with a girls-boys varsity doubleheader at Bath County. On Thursday it's another doubleheader, this time at Highland County, with the girls at 5:30 pm and the boys to follow.

This Saturday the Rockets

are scheduled to host Bland County for a tripleheader. The jayvee boys are scheduled for noon followed by the varsity girls at 2 pm and the varsity boys at 4 pm.

Next Tuesday, February 10, the Craig boys are at Giles for a jayvee-varsity doubleheader,

beginning at 5:30 pm. The girls will host Giles in New Castle with a 6 pm varsity game.

Please note that the schedule could change due to the weather or makeup dates for games that have been previously postponed.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Kallie Fisher(#12) is greeted by Natalie Fisher(#3) during introduction of the Rocket girls at a recent game.



Craig players watch from the bench at a recent Rocket basketball game.

PHOTO BY REGINA DEVINNEY

Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame inducts Class of '26

Five area baseball greats were inducted into the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame at the 34th hot stove banquet and induction ceremony Sunday night at the Salem Civic Center. This year's inductees include Drew Bailey, Allen Lawrence, Wes McMillian, Donald Minnick and Jackie Bradley, Jr., who was also scheduled to be the keynote speaker. Bradley could not attend due to transportation issues from the winter storm that impacted travel along the east coast. In addition, Roy Lower received the Wayne LaPierre, Sr. Community Service Award.

A native of Prince George, Bradley helped lead South Carolina to the 2010 College World Series championship, earning CWS Most Outstanding Player honors. Selected by Boston in the 2011 MLB draft, he highlighted the Opening Day roster for the 2012 Salem Red Sox, quickly becoming a fan favorite showcasing elite defense, strong plate discipline and a .359 average over 67 games that fueled his rise through Boston's farm system.

Bradley joined the Boston Red Sox in 2013, just one year after playing in Salem. From there, he became one of Major League Baseball's best defensive outfielders, showing his range, strong arm and spectacular highlight catches. He was named an All-Star in 2016 and then earned a Gold Glove Award in 2018 while helping the Red Sox win the 2018 World Series, also claiming American League Championship Series MVP honors.

Jackie later played for Milwaukee, Toronto and Kansas City. Post-MLB, Bradley has worked as a college baseball analyst with the SEC Network and recently joined the Indianapolis Clowns of the Banana Ball League.

Drew Bailey was a three-sport athlete at Christiansburg High School where he threw two no-hitters as a senior pitcher. He was a two-time all-WVIAC selection from 2008-10 at Concord University where he was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in 2017.

Drew became the first Concord pitcher selected in the MLB Amateur

Draft when he was taken in the 35th round in 2010 by the Oakland Athletics. He played two seasons in the Athletics' organization and reached the Class A level for the Vermont Lake Monsters in 2011, finishing with a 5-0 record and a 2.34 ERA.

Bailey began a collegiate head coaching career at Averett University before leading Bluefield State to a pair of HBCU National Championships and compiling a 95-79 won-lost record from 2021-24. He is currently the head baseball coach at his alma mater, Concord.

Allen Lawrence has built a distinguished career in professional baseball operations in the Roanoke Valley where he currently is the general manager of the Carolina League's Salem RidgeYaks. A 1996 graduate of North Cross School and a 2004 graduate of Elon University, he began his career as a game-day employee of the Colorado Rockies' Class A affiliate, the Salem Avalanche, advancing through roles including food and beverage director, director of stadium operations, vice president of sales, and assistant general manager.

Allen served as interim general manager of the Salem Red Sox before being named general manager in 2019. Recognized for his leadership and impact, he has been named one of the "Ten Most Outstanding Young Professionals in the Community," reflecting his dedication to Salem and the Roanoke Valley.

Wes McMillian built a legacy of excellence and consistency over nearly four decades of coaching baseball and softball in the Roanoke Valley. Beginning with the North Roanoke Rec Club (1984-1999), he guided countless young players before leading a 1992 softball team to a Dixie League state championship and national tournament appearance.

After baseball assistant coaching roles at Northside and Salem High, Wes became Salem's head baseball coach in 2011. As Salem's head coach for 12 years, he never posted a losing season. During his tenure Salem made six



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

The Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame Class of '26 includes, left to right, Wes McMillian, Drew Bailey, Donald Minnick and Allen Lawrence. Jackie Bradley, Jr. was also inducted but could not make Sunday night's ceremony at the Salem Civic Center.

regional appearances and four Class 4 state tournaments, winning the VHSL championship in 2018 with a 2-1 walk-off victory over Jamestown. He was a two-time River Ridge District Coach of the Year and Timesland baseball Coach of the Year in 2018.

Donald Minnick starred as a left-handed pitcher at Liberty High School and at East Tennessee State before playing three seasons of Minor League baseball. At Liberty from 1974-77, he compiled a 34-5 career pitching record, was a first-team Seminole District selection and led the Minutemen to the 1977 VHSL Group AA state championship. He also was the winning pitcher in the VHSCA East-West All-Star game.

Minnick was chosen by the Cincinnati Reds in the 19th round of the 1977 Amateur Draft but opted to play at ETSU, where he helped the Buccaneers to the Ohio Valley Conference title. He was taken in the second round of the 1979 January Draft by the Seattle Mariners. He played for three seasons for affiliates of the Mariners and Baltimore Orioles, helping the Hagerstown Suns to the 1981 Carolina League championship.

Roy Lower has made his mark in baseball as a player, coach, administrator and school booster for more than 50 years. He was a two-sport athlete at Cave Spring High School, graduating in 1976. He played baseball at East Tennessee State, graduating in 1980.

Lower coached baseball for nine years

at the Little League level, four years in AAU, seven years in American Legion baseball and two years of Cave Spring High baseball and basketball. He served on the Cave Spring Little League board of directors and served on the booster boards at Cave Spring and Hidden Valley high schools.

The banquet also recognized Tristan Lange as the 2025 Ray Bellamy Award winner. The Bellamy Award goes to the player selected as the top high school player in the area served by the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame. Lange, a current senior at North Cross School, struck out 123 batters in 64 innings while holding his opponents to a .161 batting average. At the plate, Tristan had a .441 average. He has signed a baseball scholarship offer from Virginia Commonwealth University.

The Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame was founded in 1991 and honors players and contributors from the counties of Alleghany, Roanoke, Bedford, Botetourt, Craig, Floyd, Franklin and Montgomery and the independent cities located within the boundaries of those counties. The Hall of Fame building is located on the grounds of the James E. Taliaferro Complex, next to the Salem RidgeYaks administrative office behind the third base seating area of Salem Memorial Ballpark. It is open to the public on selected nights during the Carolina League season and upon request.

RidgeYaks announce 2026 manager, coaching staff

The Salem RidgeYaks, in conjunction with the Boston Red Sox, have announced their coaching staff for the 2026 Carolina League season. The staff is highlighted by the return of manager Ozzie Chavez and four coaches from the 2025 Salem staff.

Nelson Paulino (Hitting Coach), Alex Reynolds (Pitching Coach), Kyle Schmidt (Defensive Coach) and Brenden Argomaniz (Assistant Pitching Coach) all return to Salem for the 2026 season. New additions to the RidgeYaks' coaching staff include Ivan Quackenbush (Assistant Hitting Coach), Jessica von Kessel (Athletic Trainer), and J.P. Echeverría (Strength and Conditioning Coach), completing the club's 2026 staff.

Chavez returns for his second consecutive season as Salem's manager after leading the club during the 2025 campaign. Now

entering his fourth season with Salem, Chavez previously spent two seasons as the club's bench coach before being promoted to manager ahead of the 2025 season.

A former 12-year minor league player, Chavez brings prior managerial experience within the organization, having managed the Red Sox Dominican Republic Academy from 2019-22, including a run to the Dominican Summer League semifinals in 2022. Chavez has been a member of the Red Sox organization since 2015.

The Salem RidgeYaks will take the field under their new identity for the first time on Thursday, April 2, 2026, when they host the Delmarva Shorebirds on Opening Day at Carilion Clinic Field. For more information on the upcoming season, visit ridgeyaks.com or call (540) 389-3333.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Ozzie Chavez will return to manage the Salem Carolina Baseball team, now known as the RidgeYaks.