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THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



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Just A Hand has finally found a home in New Castle in the former Craig Printing building. SUBMITTED PHOTO

"Just A Hand" found a permanent home

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

During 2020, it seems many people extended their hands, regardless of how little they felt they had to share.

Last year, a new service blessed Craig County residents with a building full of clothes, books, toys, and household goods at Club Camp Mitchell. People that heard, flooded in, and picked out their necessities for their children and other neighbors.

This event, "Just A Hand," is a non-profit organization created by Lynn and Bill Morgan of Spotsylvania, Virginia. It was brought to Craig by Nichole Persinger who organized the connection with the Morgans and her son Dustin Persinger, a CCPS School Counselor.

Locals who attended were seen and heard and expressed how thankful they were.

This tugged on their hearts and they went to work searching for a permanent place to house such a wonderful idea.

This week, Derek Persinger announced that "Just A Hand" official-

ly has a home.

"Starting this month, we are located at 1945 Craig Valley Drive in the Former Craig Printing Building," he said. "With the help of many individuals from the community, our non-profit organization is off to a great start."

The goal of Just A Hand is to help support families in communities by offering free access to clothing, kids' books and toys, household goods and other necessity items.

They are accepting donations and will officially open the doors to the public closer to the end of January.

"We would like to say thank you to quite a few individuals who have helped to see our dream realized," Persinger said. "Without the help of the founder Lynn Morgan, who started this nonprofit in Northern Virginia from the ground up, we would not have the resources or the support to get this started and share something so great with our community."

He added, "Robin Nobles of Camp Mitchell provided a location for years before we were able to find a more permanent space. Without

Robin and other individuals such as Stacy Fisher, Debbie Boitnotte, and Gina Smith who gave a hand to us when we needed it, we would not be able to pay it forward. We would like to say thank you to Jack Rankin for his support in lending us a more permanent space, which ultimately will allow us to house more items to eventually give back to the community."

"Lastly, during our first day of donations in the new location, one individual from our community saw our potential and has been working effortlessly to raise funds to further support our community. We are so very thankful to Jordan Labiosa for the kindness he has shown Just A Hand," Persinger mentioned. "We appreciate all of the individuals who are working to make our community a place where everyone can thrive."

Just A Hand is also on Facebook for the community to view. <https://www.facebook.com/justahand>.

"We encourage those who are interested in donating or would like to know more about the organization to

See Home, page 5

VFW awards First Responders of the Year



The VFW EMT of the Year is Darryl Humphreys. Said the submission, "Darryl has served as the Craig County infectious control officer for the past seven years and currently is assigned full-time work activities to coordinate Craig County's response to the pandemic event created back over 19. I think Daryl is very deserving of this reward."

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

Communities have certain needs and having excellent first responders is a major and important asset.

The local VFW Post 4491 has been honoring men and women of the Fire Department, EMS and Police Force for the last few years, annually choosing one person from each to show their appreciation.

Submissions of persons are given to the VFW and one is chosen from each for Policeman of the Year, Firefighter of the Year and EMS Worker of the Year.

Deputy Jeffrey M. Bryant was chosen as Police Deputy of the Year for the Craig County Sheriff's Office.

The person who nominated him wrote, "Deputy Bryant joined the Department on December 1, 2017. He started the Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy in Salem, Virginia, in January of 2018 and graduated that May. He has continued to excel at the Sheriff's Office and has become certified in courtroom security and civil process."

The person continued, "Deputy Bryant has a strong work ethic and is very proactive in keeping the community safe as he actively promotes highway safety for travelers in response to calls for service as well. Deputy Bryant is also a member of the New Castle Volunteer Fire Department and can be seen responding for fire calls in his off

times as well as assisting on fire department calls while on duty with the Sheriff's Office. He is an asset to the Craig County Sheriff's Office and our community."

"I would like to say thank you to the citizens of Craig County and the membership of the VFW for presenting me with this award. It truly means a lot," said Deputy Bryant.

Chief Darryl Humphreys was chosen as the EMT of the Year.

Humphreys first became a Virginia and National EMT in the early 1980s at Craig County Volunteer Rescue Squad. He has remained an active EMS responder to the citizens of Craig County and currently is the chief of our existing career rescue squad. Since that time, Humphreys has continued his EMS education certifications to become a cardiac technician and now an advanced life support Virginia intermediate ALS provider.

As the number of volunteer EMS providers dwindled and Craig County had the need to ensure 24/7 coverage, Humphreys became the significant and important member of the Craig County government's career agency. He then progressed to the position of chief of that agency. Humphreys has supervised the staffing and equipment needs of the career agency while maintaining and coordinating coverage as avail-

See VFW, page 3

Making old year challenges, New Year stepping-stones



The year 2020 was not a great one for many. However, let us all choose to make the challenges of last year our stepping-stones for 2021. Let's turn our back on 2020 and look forward to a New Year.

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

People have often said, "It can't get any worse." It seems that the year 2020 proved that statement wrong in many avenues of individuals' lives, according to many Facebook posts.

Yes, it is a New Year, however, many things seem to still bombard one's mind during this pandemic time that the United States of America is still dealing with.

Before 2020, we would ask ourselves upon January 1 such questions as: Do I diet? Do I stop watching so much TV? Do I spend more time with my kids and family? Do I find a new job where I can be happier at? Do I? Do I? Do I?

And sometimes, we make the list longer. Then, for some, we do nothing because confusion and overload steps in and kicks us down to a place where many just forget about any goals or dreams they may have been thinking about. It just becomes too much.

However, the year 2021 seems to bring a different list of questions, such as: Should I buy more canned goods to store up? Should I consider a backup heating system? Do I need to start giving more to others and the local churches so they can reach out to the needy? Do I need to spend more time with my family, as they may not be here tomorrow, due to the COVID-19 killer? Again, do I? Do I? Do I?

With the closing of many small businesses, churches and public event places, life in the great U.S.A. has become more like life in a third-world country.

See New Year, page 5



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY

The Craig County Public Library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Wednesday from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The library is located at 303 Main St. in New Castle. For more information, call (540) 864-8978 or visit www.craiglibrary.org.

Contact 540-293-4065 for more information.

•New Castle Church of Christ will hold its Bible Study from 7 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. at 118 Main Street in New Castle.

EVERY SATURDAY

Overeaters Anonymous (OA) meeting. 11 a.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, located at 2011 Brandon Avenue in Roanoke. Contact 540-293-4065 for more information.

EVERY TUESDAY

•Overeaters Anonymous (OA) meeting. 7 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, located at 2011 Brandon Avenue in Roanoke.

EVERY SUNDAY

•Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. 8 p.m. at New Castle Fire Hall.
•The New Castle Christian Church, located

at 282 Salem Ave, is pastored by Sheldon Cosma is having services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., with communion at each, and is on Facebook live at 9 a.m.

•St. Johns Catholic Church, on Route 615, is having virtual masses at 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. by Father Steve McNalley. They are also live on Facebook. For more information, contact (540) 864-8686 or send an email to stjohnnewcastle@tds.net.

SECOND MONDAY

•Paint Bank Ladies Auxiliary meeting, 7 p.m. at the Paint Bank Fire Department. Call 897-5346 for more information.

•Craig County Public Library Board of Trustees meeting at 6 p.m. at the library.

THIRD MONDAY

Town of New Castle Council Meeting at 7 p.m. inside the New Castle Town Hall, located at 339 Market Street.

FIRST TUESDAY

Craig County School Board meets at 6:30 p.m. in the High School Media Center.

SECOND TUESDAY

Mountain Lodge 140 AF&AM, 7:30 p.m. at Lodge Hall, 255 Main St.

THIRD WEDNESDAY

The Botetourt/Craig/Roanoke Farm Service Agency County Committee meets each month at 10 a.m. at the Bonsack USDA Service Center. Please call one day before the meeting date regarding possible cancellation information 540-977-2698, Ext. 2. The Bonsack USDA Service Center is located at 36 Executive Circle, Suite 1, Roanoke, VA 24012. All County Committee meetings are open to the public.

FIRST THURSDAY

Craig County Board of Supervisors meets at 6 p.m. at the Craig County Courthouse.

SECOND THURSDAY

Maywood Garden Club meeting at 7:30 p.m. held at Simmonsville Fire Department.

EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

Everyone six months and up should receive a flu shot each year. A parent or guardian must accompany those under the age 18. Insurances will be billed. People are encouraged to bring their insurance card and not attend if they have COVID-19 like symptoms. The curbside clinic schedule is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment only. For more information, contact 540-864-5136.

Southwest Virginia Deputy Commissioners of the Revenue donate \$3,500 to foodbank

In its December meeting, the Southwest Virginia Deputy Commissioner of the Revenue Association voted to donate \$3,500 to Feeding Southwest Virginia, a regional branch of the Feeding America Organization. Association President and Smyth County Master Deputy Sara Kegley remarked, "This action is yet another example of how giving deputy commissioners of the revenue are of their services and resources."

The motion to appropriate a portion of the fund was offered by Wise County Master Deputy John Mullins in response to the association's quest to give to a worthy cause. "This year has been a year many of us would like to forget," said Mullins. "It has changed our lives, at home and the workplace. But Southwestern Virginians are strong and resilient. We are our best when we are helping others."

In an overwhelming show of support, association mem-

bers voted to donate the entire amount to help foodbanks throughout the region. After receiving news of the very gracious gift, Feeding Southwest Virginia associate Joe Kessler offered his heartfelt appreciation.

"Thanks so much for contacting us with regards to the donation being made by the Deputy Commissioners of the Revenue Association," he said. "We are so grateful in having your support to help us fight hunger all across our 26-county, nine-city region.

With the Association's gift, we will recognize you as an official civic partner under our Funds, Fun, and Food partnership initiative - our posts on LinkedIn and Facebook will recognize that the Association has made a donation that will help us to provide 17,500 meals to the region. Thank you for helping us feed our neighbors this winter."

The Southwest Virginia Deputy Association was one of the first Deputy Commissioners of the Revenue or-

ganizations to form in the Commonwealth. Its members have always stressed the desire to grow in professionalism, knowledge and service. In a subsequent email communication to the group, Kegley stated, "Bless you one and all...I am so very proud of our deputies for supporting this program. This is truly a team effort."

-Submitted by Sara Kegley, Master Deputy Commissioner of the Revenue

Additional health insurance coverage options for Medicare-eligible Virginians under age 65

New insurance coverage options are now available to Medicare-eligible Virginians under the age of 65.

Individuals are now able to enroll in Medicare Supplement (also known as Medigap) plans if they are:

- Under age 65 and live in Virginia
- Eligible for Medicare by reason of disability, and
- Either enrolled in or will be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B by the effective date of coverage.

Medigap is sold by private companies and helps fill cover-

age gaps in original Medicare. A Medigap policy can pay for copayments, coinsurance and deductibles for covered services. In some cases, it can also pay for services that original Medicare doesn't cover, such as medical care when traveling outside the U.S.

A new law passed by the 2020 Virginia General Assembly requires each insurer, health service plan and health maintenance organization that issues Medigap plans in Virginia to offer the option to buy at least one of its Medigap plans to individuals who meet the above

criteria for eligibility.

The Medigap plans are guaranteed for eligible individuals. In other words, the insurer must issue and maintain coverage as long as premiums are paid on the policy or certificate. In addition, insurers cannot exclude benefits based on pre-existing conditions under certain circumstances.

Enrollment periods may vary depending on one's circumstances and eligibility. To learn more, contact companies that sell Medigap policies in Virginia or visit the State Corporation

(SCC) Bureau of Insurance (Bureau) website at Virginia SCC - Tips, Guides & Publications and select Medicare Supplement.

In Virginia, individuals have a 30-day "free look" period for a Medigap policy that allows them to return the policy for a full premium refund within 30 days of purchase if not satisfied.

Upon turning 65, individuals who have purchased a Medigap policy under the pre-65 coverage option, will receive a new six-month open enrollment period and can purchase

any of the standardized Medigap plans, which may offer a wider choice of plans and lower premiums.

For more information about Medigap plans, a list of insurance companies that sell Medigap policies to disabled Medicare-eligible individuals under age 65, and a list of premiums, visit the Bureau of Insurance website at Virginia SCC - Tips, Guides & Publications and select Medicare Supplement.

-Submitted by Katha Treanor

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12				13		14			15				
16					17		18			19			
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	47						48						
49					50			51		52	53	54	55
56					57			58					
59					60				61				
62					63					64			

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Homestead
 - More (Spanish)
 - Type of notification
 - Approves
 - Mandela's party
 - "Mom" actress Faris
 - Predatory insects
 - Where honey goes
 - Canadian flyers
 - Of an earlier time
 - Indigenous people of Australia
 - Organize
 - All over
 - Made it through
 - Between-meals food
 - A quantity upon which an operation is performed
 - German mythological god
 - "Heavy" type of rock
- CLUES DOWN**
- Grave
 - Alright
 - Sharp tooth
 - Bird genus
 - Important
 - One who studies carefully
 - Not very big
 - Astronomy unit
 - Way to open up
 - Trap
 - Handle of a knife
 - Indicates one from a part of W. Africa
 - Lucky number
 - Doctor of Education
 - Legendary Cubs broadcaster
 - Female parent
 - Mimic
 - Connects to the rim
 - Small constellation
 - Indicates near
 - Consumed
 - Criticize
 - Shock therapy
 - Type of cigarette
 - The fashionable elite
 - Shed tears
 - Arm or branch of a bone
 - Quell anger
 - Where rock and rollers play
 - "The Alchemist" author Coelho
 - Choppers
 - Lacks brightness
 - Port in Yemen
 - Brood of pheasant
 - Approves food
 - A type of sign
- music**
- Pharmacy chain Duane
 - First responders
 - Mysterious
 - Leisurely stroll
 - Most naughty
 - Plant tissue
 - Small fish
 - Men's fashion accessory
 - Distant planet
 - Destroy
 - Location in Norse mythology
 - One who is deliberately cruel
 - Romeo, car
 - Former name of Tokyo
 - Male children
 - French/Belgian river
 - Tide

Zimmerman's tractor tire wreath



PHOTO BY PAM DIDDING
Zimmerman's machinery brought the New Year in with a creative decor. Their wishes for the community are for a "great New Year," according to their Facebook page. Their store has much to offer and they are ready to assist the citizens in any of their needs.

VFW

from page 1

able by the volunteer Rescue Squad.

“During this time, Humphreys has also been an active member of Craig County New Castle Volunteer Fire Department,” read his submission. “He has served as the Craig County Infectious Control Officer for the past seven years and currently is assigned full-time work activities to coordinate Craig County’s response to the pandemic event created back over 19. I think Daryl is very deserving of this reward.”

“I was very honored to receive this award from the VFW and so appreciative that the VFW does this award yearly for Craig County First Responders,” Humphreys shared. “I want to thank all the veterans for their services to our country. I would like to let the

citizens know I have been proud to serve them in their time of need and will continue to do.”

Calin Crush was chosen as the Firefighter of the Year.

“Calin is an active member of the New Castle Volunteer Fire Department, currently serving at the rank of captain,” read his submission. “He first joined the Department in 2005 as a junior member and has repeatedly proven himself as an asset to the community. Calin studied Fire Sciences at Virginia Western Community College and has completed the training at the firefighter 1 and firefighter 2 levels as well as achieving numerous other certifications during his time in the fire service.”

Crush has responded to all types of calls and has shown himself to be a

resourceful and dependable firefighter and leader on the fireground. He is always willing to perform duty tasks at the Department and to volunteer additional time for extra assignments as they arise. Calin has worked on several of these assignments during this past year which has helped the Department grow through these difficult recent months.

Said Crush, “It was an honor. Definitely, a very nice achievement to receive, and as a fourth family member to be a volunteer firefighter, something to be proud of. There has been a lot of ups and downs in the 16 years I have volunteered for this small community, which in part is why I’ve grown fond of this town. Made a lot of friends in this service that are more like fam-

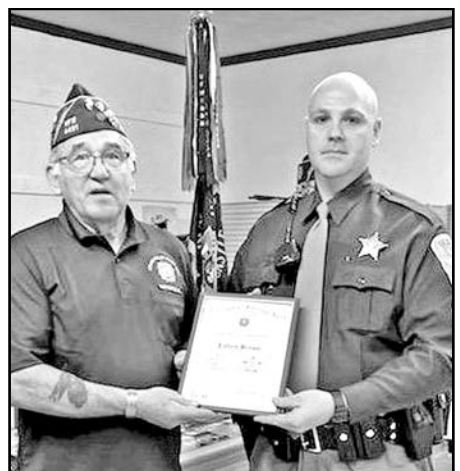


SUBMITTED PHOTO

The VFW Firefighter of the Year is Calin Crush. Said the submission, “Calin has responded to all types of calls and has shown himself to be a resourceful and dependable firefighter and leader on the fireground. He is always willing to perform duty tasks at the Department and to volunteer additional time for extra assignments as they arise.”

ily, both fire, EMS and law enforcement. I hope I can continue to serve this community as they deserve.”

Each person was award-



The VFW Policeman of the Year is Jeffrey Bryant. His submission read, “Deputy Bryant has a strong work ethic and is very proactive in keeping our community safe as he actively promotes highway safety by keeping our highways safe for travelers in response to calls for service as well.”

ed an embossed certificate from the VFW, presented by Billy Lee, VFW Post 4491 Post Commander and a gift card.

“It is good to live in a

county where First Responders and police have your back,” Lee said. “You can count on them to be there when you call.”

Community members ‘haul out the holly’ and other creative decorations



PHOTO BY SHAWN NOWLIN

The home of Dave and Pat Wyble on Horner Lane is lit up with thousands of lights, decorations and a colorful nativity scene.



This home features warm lights and some festive garland.



This house features holiday figures and lights.

Shawn Nowlin
shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org

For those that appreciate creative yard displays and holiday decorations, Santa Claus came with an early present this year. To help spread some holiday cheer, people all throughout the Roanoke Valley have brightened up the community with colorful yard displays, outdoor Christmas decorations and much more.

Take area resident Thomas Coleman for instance. If people notice several familiar characters in his front yard, that is not by coincidence. Said Coleman, “I am 35, and love everything about Marvel Comics. Black Panther has been my favorite character since I was a kid. The passing of Chadwick Boseman was beyond devastating. In my yard this year I went with Black Panther, Iron Man and Hulk inflatables in addition to some other decorations.”

Roanoke County resident Kim Fudge’s passion for creative yard displays started at an early age. I, she said, will never forget the feeling I got as a kid driving around with my parents and looking at different decorations. She added, “With everything that has happened this year, it’s nice that so many people have decided to brighten up the community.”

Fudge and her husband Jalen made a deal in November: as long as they agreed on the same colors, their yard

display would remain as is until February.

For as long as she can remember, Catawba resident Amy Robinson has driven around the Roanoke Valley each December with her grandparents and took pictures of the best visuals that catch the eye. This year, she said, “I drove around by myself and emailed the pictures to my nana and grandpop. Because of their ages, I just didn’t want to risk exposing them to any potential illness.”

Few people have a more colorful yard display than Dave Wyble and his wife Pat. The couple began working on their yard in November and relish feedback from the community. “We just wanted to do our part in bringing some holiday joy to the community because it is needed more

than ever,” he said.

Driving up to the house William Smith is a little like driving through Disneyland – at least that is how Ryan Carter initially felt.

“Most people just put up a few lights and call it a day. I certainly fall under that category. There are others, however, who you can tell take a more calculated and strategic approach to their yard displays,” Smith said. “I saw a house that was so colorful that it made me pull over the car. The owner gladly answered my questions and told me the stories behind his decorations.”

With so much darkness that 2020 has presented, said Sandra Beal, it’s nice to see so many people doing their part in brightening up the community. “I hope everyone has a safe and fulfilling start of the New Year,” she added.



In front of this property are two of Santa’s helpers.

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OPINION

Your library responds to changing times

As the Craig County Public Library evolves with the changing times, not only with our book and DVD collections, we have also added some new equipment. We now offer Hotspots for patrons to check out. We have added these to our library for those who do not have access to internet while staying at home and may need to do

homework, check news reports or just check emails. To use this, you must have an account in good standing. Hotspots can be checked out for a week at a time.

We have also upgraded computer equipment with cameras, headsets and microphones to better serve you in a world of Zoom Meetings. With staying at home,

Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community

people are learning to connect with

friends and family by way of computer. You can see and talk to each other with your computer. You can even schedule doctor's appointments and not have to go to an office. We have computers at the library that you can use in a private conversation. Our staff can show you how to do this at the library or in your own home.

We are continuously trying to meet the needs of our community and are here to help with any issues. Contact the library to set up an appointment or with any suggestions on how we can serve you better.

*-Letha Persinger, Director
Craig County Public Library*

Operation Warp Speed: A Success Story of 2020

Morgan Griffith

Representative

The year 2020 was a difficult one, but as the year draws to a close, I want to highlight something about the year that went right.

Operation Warp Speed accomplished what had been considered nearly impossible: the development, manufacture, and distribution of a safe and effective vaccine to combat COVID-19.

President Trump announced Operation Warp Speed in May. His Administration recognized that meeting the challenge posed by the coronavirus pandemic would require the investment of Federal Govern-

ment resources, partnership between the public, private, and scientific sectors, and cutting red tape that would impede delivery of a safe and effective vaccine.

This effort was supported by almost \$10 billion in funding included in the CARES Act passed by Congress with my support.

The project focused on six vaccine candidates. Seven months after Operation Warp Speed was launched and less than one year after COVID-19 began spreading widely around the globe, two vaccine candidates were approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for emergency use.

On December 11, the FDA approved for emergency use the first vaccine created by Pfizer. After clinical trials including over 43,000 participants, the vaccine was found to be 95 percent effective.

A vaccine developed by Moderna was subsequently approved for emergency use on December 18. Thirty thousand people participated in its clinical trials, and its efficacy rate is 94.5 percent.

These vaccines are the fastest ever produced for a novel pathogen. In fact, the average development timeline for a vaccine is eight to twelve years. Operation Warp Speed reduced the time needed by maximizing the number of participants in Phase 3 trials and manufacturing vaccine doses while waiting for the FDA's emergency use authorization order.

While bureaucratic hurdles were lowered, the vaccine development process did not skimp on safety.

As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over health matters, I was briefed repeatedly throughout the process or involved in hearings featuring public health officials at the U.S. Department of

Health and Human Services, the National Institutes of Health, and the FDA, as well as the vaccine manufacturers. I am confident that they maintained high safety standards as they pursued a vaccine.

While the vaccines were under development, the Trump Administration planned ahead for their delivery and administration to Americans. It purchased millions of doses of the prospective vaccines and made agreements with pharmacies that would be able to vaccinate people.

While enough vaccine doses will be manufactured to cover most of the population, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended the priorities for vaccination while supplies remain limited. It suggested health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities be first in line, followed by older adults and frontline essential workers, all groups with a higher susceptibility to the coronavirus than other parts

of the population.

The vaccines are broadly safe, but caution is appropriate for people with allergic reactions and certain other conditions. The CDC recommends that you talk to your doctor if you have had a severe allergic reaction to other vaccines or injectable therapies to determine if a COVID vaccine is a safe decision for you. Further, if you have had a severe allergic reaction to any ingredient in a COVID vaccine, the CDC recommends not getting that vaccine.

I also believe that vaccinations should not be mandatory. This would be true particularly for people who object to taking it due to their religious principles or as a matter of conscience. I also reject the idea of individuals being required to carry around a vaccination certificate, which is too close to the identification papers of highly restricted societies for my comfort.

Operation Warp Speed is just one component of the Federal Government's

efforts to combat the coronavirus. Other therapeutics and treatments have also been developed at a rapid pace and are also being deployed as the pandemic still inflicts widespread sickness.

The United States has long excelled at scientific innovation, but even among our country's long list of achievements, from the light bulb to the first manned landing on the Moon, Operation Warp Speed stands out – for its scale, speed, safety, and ultimately lives saved. Amid all the bad news of 2020, this accomplishment is one worth praising.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, feel free to contact my office. You can call my Abingdon office at 276-525-1405 or my Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671. To reach my office via email, please visit my website at www.morgan-griffith.house.gov. Also on my website is the latest material from my office, including information on votes recently taken on the floor of the House of Representatives.

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

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

Griffith statement on Omnibus Appropriations Legislation

Congressman Morgan Griffith (R-VA) issued the following statement on the omnibus appropriations legislation funding the Federal Government for the rest of fiscal year 2021:

"As a supporter of more relief in response to the coronavirus pandemic, I consistently urged congressional leadership to keep any relief package separate from any omnibus appropriations bill to fund the Federal Government. Omnibuses tend to be bloated, filled with unrelated provisions, and cobbled together in backrooms with little time for Members of Congress to read them, much less understand their provisions. They are

a terrible way to exercise Congress' power of the purse.

"The omnibus spending bill for fiscal year 2021 is the longest bill I've been asked to vote on in Congress. It was split into two parts running nearly 5,600 pages. The first totaled roughly 500 pages and included funding for the military and border security, including the border wall. I read this part and found its spending to be largely reasonable, so I voted for it.

"The second part containing the remaining 5,000 pages, while reportedly including some provisions I support, also reportedly featured far too many items that have no place in a

spending bill. Members of Congress had only a few hours to read and analyze this overstuffed monstrosity. As I have pledged to the constituents of the Ninth District, I will not vote for a bill I have not read in its entirety. I voted no.

"I continue to believe Americans need help in the face of the pandemic, and I know most of my colleagues agree. Legislation that would provide help would likely pass Congress easily, and there is no good reason to tie it to the overall omnibus bill."

*-Submitted by Kevin Baird,
Communications Director*

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Legals - Botetourt County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
Commonwealth of Virginia VA. Code Ann. §§ 8.01-316, -317
Case No. 20-649
Botetourt County Circuit Court
Mary Elizabeth McKenney v. Richard Lee McKenney
The object of this suit is to: Obtain a divorce based on separation of 1 year. It is ORDERED that Richard Lee McKenney appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before 02/01/2021. 12-28-20

Legals - City of Salem

Public Notice
Notice is hereby given that the City of Salem, Community Development is requesting authorization from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to amend VMRC permit (2019-1802) issued for this project, to include the installation of temporary work platform, measuring 27 feet by 45 feet, suspended beneath the Mill Lane Roadway Bridge a minimum 12-inches above the Ordinary High Water mark of the Roanoke River to allow access for bridge repair work.

Send comments/inquiries within 15 days to: Marine Resources Commission, Habitat Management Division, 380 Fenwick Road, Building 96, Fort Monroe, VA 23651 or jpa_permits@mrc.virginia.gov

Legals - Craig County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ002182-04-00, JJ002182-05-00, JJ002182-06-00
CRAIG COMBINED COURT- JUVENILE
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* PAITSEL, RAYNE, AKA BABY GIRL GARMAN
The object of this suit is to: terminate the residual parental rights of the father of Rayne Paitzel, aka Baby Girl Garman thought to be either Daniel Garman, Christopher Allen Paitzel or Unknown Father pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 16.1-283 B and C, and which child is under the age of twelve (12) months and was born to Kristen Nicole Garman. Residual parental rights are defined in Section 16.1-228 of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended) as the rights and responsibilities remaining with a parent after the parent loses custody of a child, including but not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition. The ties between you and your child are severed forever and you become a legal stranger to the child.

It is ORDERED that Daniel Garman, Christopher Paitzel & Unknown Father appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 02/17/2021 09:30 AM.

12/29/2020
Patty Taylor
Deputy Clerk

Legals - Montgomery County

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC is requesting a permit from Virginia Marine Resources Commission to install turbidity monitors in multiple streams with drainage areas greater than five (5) square miles, which are considered to be State-owned subaqueous bottomlands of the Commonwealth, to monitor suspended stream sediment levels along the designated pipeline corridor in Giles, Montgomery, Franklin, Roanoke and Pittsylvania Counties for the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) project. Send Comments/inquiries within 15 days to: Marine Resources Commission, Habitat Management Division, 380 Fenwick Road, Building 96, Fort Monroe, VA 23651 or jpa_permits@mrc.virginia.gov.

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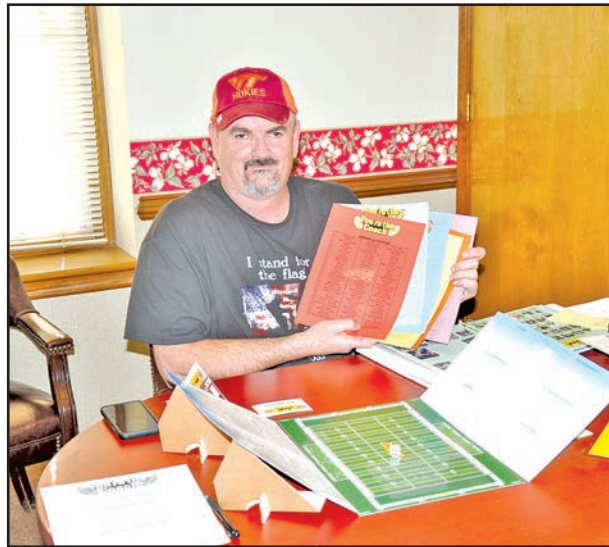
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Wray is in it for the long haul *Trucker has been fine tuning football board game since eighth grade*



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Michael Wray stands next to his rig, which is decorated with pictures and testimonials from his football board game.



Wray holds instructions for his game, "You're the Coach."



Michael Wray's football board game is set up and ready to play.

There's no denying that football games for kids, and adults, have made great advancements over the years. In the days of COVID-19 it's nice to have some fun games to play at home.

Most kids back in the '60s had an electric football game. You had a football field and 11 little football figures per side, and when you made the board vibrate the players moved. Some went around in circles and others, who usually ended up carrying the ball, went straight ahead. It was fun, but not the most realistic of games.

Another game kids played was called "Foto-Electric" football. One player had a group of offensive plays on sheets of paper, with the lines drawn as to where the players would go. The other would have defensive formations on a separate sheet of paper. To play the game, the offense would put his play paper on a light table and the defensive player would put his on top. Then you turned the light on and wherever the ballcarrier touched a defensive guy is how far the play went. No one ever missed a tackle.

Those games are sophomoric compared to today's computer games. Kids and adults alike play the Madden NFL game and the players not only look like their real counterparts, but they move like them, too. And, you control how they move.

That's not good enough for Michael Wray, Jr., who began making his own football game when he was in the eighth grade and now, 38 years later, is marketing a beautifully crafted and improved version of that original game. His board game "You're the Coach," puts your knowledge of football to the test.

"It's more a game of the mind than just hand-eye coordination," he said. "It's

more of what you know, and you can visualize the action in your head."

Anyone who has played APBA baseball or Stratomatic games will recognize the concept. In Michael's game players go head to head sitting on opposite sides of a professionally done football field playing board. The offensive player calls a play, with several options, and the other player counters with a defense that he thinks will outsmart his opponent. A dice roll determines the outcome with probabilities geared to what might actually happen in a real game.

It's fascinating, and very realistic. The offense has a myriad of plays to choose from, and each play has several options in itself. You'll feel like the offensive coordinator looking at what is jokingly called a "Denny's Menu" on the sideline. You know, that big plastic page of plays coaches use.

You can play an entire game in anywhere from an hour and a half to two hours, or maybe a little longer if you're a novice. However, it's easy to pick up and once you start it becomes addictive, especially if you love football.

"If you love football you'll love this game," said Wray. "Actually, the toughest people to play against are people who don't know football, because there's no way you can guess what they'll do."

Wray is originally from Salem and still has family there. His dad, Michael, Sr. went to Andrew Lewis High School and his grandfather, Jimmy Garlick, and great grandfather, Bill "Pops" Garlick, still live in Salem. Pops, who was a NASCAR chief steward, still maintains a garage in Roanoke at 90 years of age.

Michael lived in the trailer park behind the

General Electric plant in Salem until it flooded and his family moved to Thaxton. He went to school at Liberty High and played on the football team for the Minutemen. He always loved football, and during the eighth grade he was assigned to do a project for school and that's where "You're the Coach," was born. He started out with a very primitive version and has continued to improve it over the years.

"I played it all the time," he said. "My mom used to refer to it as 'my little corner of the world.'"

Once perfected to his satisfaction Michael was able to get his game manufactured. Scott Printing of Rolla, Missouri and SMC Packaging of Springfield, Missouri did the work and it looks great.

"Everything is made in the USA," he proudly proclaims.

Wray has sold about 180 copies of the game and has given away many others. He figures he needs to sell about 350 to break even from his initial manufacturing costs. The game sells for \$29.95 and you can find it on-line from Amazon or Ebay, adding about another 10 or 15 bucks for shipping. You can also find it on Facebook, and just recently Michael was able to talk White's Travel Center, about an hour up I-81 in Raphine, VA, to sell the game in their store.

A long haul trucker by trade, Wray now lives in Missouri with his fiancé Chrissy White. He has a 26 year old daughter, Christine, and a four and half year old grandson, Grayson, who he's anxious to start playing the game against.

Michael's one-man trucking business is named "You're the Coach Transport." His cab is colorfully decorated with a copy of

his game and testimonials from people who have enjoyed it from all over the country.

"I've been everywhere but Alaska and Hawaii," he said. "You tell me a city or town and I'll bet I can tell you what state it's in."

As he travels around the country Wray promotes his game and he offers to play it to show how realistic it is. His favorite teams are the NFL Packers (he was a Cowboys fan until Jerry Jones fired Tom Landry) and Virginia Tech in college. He was a big fan of Tech defensive coordinator Bud Foster and claims more than one person has told him he resembles Bud.

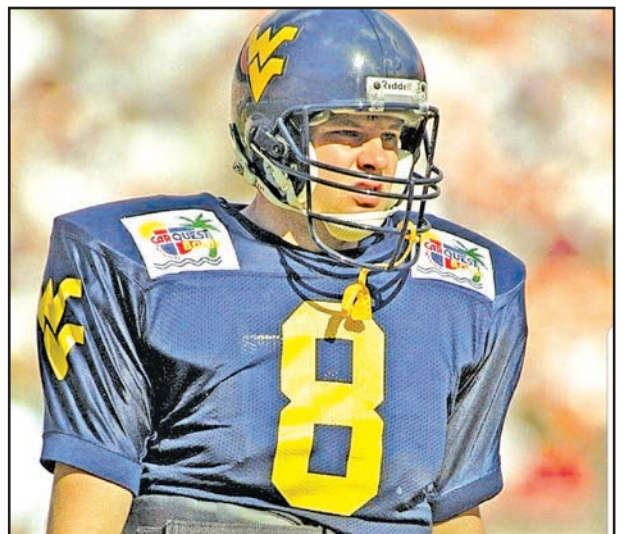
Michael's dream opponent would be Frank Beamer, but he's yet to lure him into a contest. He has played against former Tech tight end Joe Jones who is quoted as saying it's, "hard to quit playing," in a list of testimonials.

Another person who has played the game is former West Virginia University quarterback Chad Johnston, who played quarterback for New Castle High School in Virginia before moving to West Virginia. Chad's son Grant was a standout quarterback for Blacksburg High and Chad had some nice things to say about "You're the Coach."

"A great concept," he said. "It lets you develop your own game plan and puts you in the hot seat. It's the best football board game around."

Mike Scharnus, who won four VHSL state championships coaching football, is a big fan of the game and Joel Hicks, a state champion coach at Pulaski County, called the game "very realistic."

Michael has a long list of recognizable folks who he's met in his travels. He met Tampa Bay Buccaneers coach Bruce Arians,



Former West Virginia University quarterback Chad Johnston, who once played for New Castle High School, said it's the best game around.

who was a quarterback for Virginia Tech in college. When Michael told him it was an honor to meet one of Tech's best quarterbacks Wray said Arians replied, "is Michael Vick standing behind me?"

Of course, he tries to get back to Virginia as much as he can with family here. In his most recent visit he hooked up with former Amherst coach Mickey Crouch and played the game with him.

"He was Amherst and I was Salem, and I stopped him on the five yard line," said Wray with a chuckle. "He still likes to run the ball."

Due to copyright issues Wray can't name players in the game. However, he has a tablet of game statistic sheets where you can write in the players yourself. He even has different rules for high school, college and pros to make it as realistic

as possible. "It's amazing how realistic it can be," he said. "I played last year's LSU-Clemson national championship game before the game was played. My score came out 37-23 LSU and the actual score was 42-25. I played the Super Bowl and had the Chiefs winning 37-30 (actual score was 31-20)."

What began as a high school project has turned into a lifetime passion for Wray, and if determination will make it a big success he has it.

"People are amazed at how I've stuck with it all these years," he said. "My goal is for the game to be in every home in America. I hope to be on (the TV show) 'Shark Tank' someday. I think someone would go for it if they heard my pitch."

Are you listening Mark Cuban?

Botetourt sports return, Craig still using metrics

New Year's Day was last Friday and there have been no Craig County sports since Rudy Gobert of the Utah Jazz came down with COVID 19 on March 11. That's a span of nine and a half months as we hit day 300 AG (After Gobert) today.

It's been a tough ride for the high school athletes, especially the seniors who aren't going on to play college sports. This was to be their final hurrah in competitive sports other than city league basketball, slow-pitch softball, touch league football and the like. Golfers and swimmers have outlets to compete but, if you play football and aren't going to play in college, this is it.

On Tuesday, December 29, Botetourt County made a

major move toward returning to the court, mats, pool and track for the winter season. The Botetourt County School Board announced that sports were returning this week with games possible for Lord Botetourt and James River High School teams. They join Radford, Floyd County, Pulaski County and Giles County schools Narrows and Giles High Schools as teams currently allowed to compete.

Craig County remains in a group of schools from Roanoke County, Roanoke City, Alleghany County, Salem and Covington who are taking their cues from the Health Department. Each week the Health Department will determine, using the CDC school metrics, if the county



Brian Hoffman
Sports Editor

teams will be able to play sports. The metrics uses the number of COVID cases in relation to the population to determine how safe it would be for sports participation.

The metrics uses a color-coded system of Red, Orange and Yellow to determine what the student athletes can do. Yellow is the best, but the CDC currently is listing Red.

"Thomas Kessler (Byrd wrestling and assistant football coach) has been tracking

it and he said we haven't been in yellow since August, and that was just for one day," said William Byrd athletic director Jason Taylor.

Many parents of Craig County students are hoping the county will follow Botetourt's lead and allow kids to return to sports.

"What aggravates me is that kids are playing AAU and travel sports and there doesn't seem to be any problems," said Taylor. "I didn't do my fall (travel baseball) team because I didn't want the responsibility, but Luke (Jason's son) played for Team Virginia and we went to four or five tournaments and not one person was exposed to COVID."

Craig County won't be playing any games next week

or in the near future if the pandemic continues to get worse after Christmas, as has been predicted. The metrics won't allow it.

"We're still trying to take it week by week," said Craig County High School principal Melissa Whiting.

The Virginia High School League moved fall sports to the spring for an abbreviated schedule, with practice due to begin February 4. Rocket football coach Mark Harrison and volleyball coach Geoff Boyer are hoping the situation allows for sports by that time. In the meantime many parents are hoping Craig joins Botetourt County in leaving the metrics system.

"We're doing the best we can," said Whiting.