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# THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



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## Courthouse and Administrator Office have new buzz-in systems



**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

Safety is always a top priority when viruses hit any area and Craig County is doing its due diligence to keep everyone as healthy as possible.

Recently, the Craig County Courthouse and County Administrator's office installed a new buzz-in system for their entry doors. The Sheriff Department assisted in the installation of the new units.

The need for the new system in the courthouse is because of COVID-19 and was paid for by the government funds provided to the county. The system was installed as part of COVID-19, to limit exposure to employees and to citizens.

Said system was installed at the Administrator's Office on November 25, which will be a permanent way to enter.

Submitted photo  
New "buzz-in" systems have been installed at the County Courthouse and Administrators Office. This decision was made to help protect both employees and citizens during the COVID-19 epidemic.

See Buzz-in, page 2



Submitted photo  
Occasionally, Cole shreds the strings on his own at the Coffee Pot on Brambleton Road in Roanoke.

## Winebarger "shredding" strings with the big boys

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

Some kids have talents while other kids live theirs "out loud." Cole Winebarger is a young man who started playing the guitar at an early age and has excelled with sincere passion.

Winebarger says he remembers wanting to play the guitar at nine. His dad and mom, Jerry and Shari, were very supportive as were other family members.

When Winebarger started showing interest in playing, his Uncle Shannon gave him an older electric guitar.

"He was really progressing, so then his Grandpa Slone gave him an acoustic that he had," Shari said. "Every waking minute he was with one of those guitars."

Now, Cole says he plays his guitar at home every day. Though no one in his immediate family plays the guitar, he has uncles who do.

"My brother, Rick Slone, plays around town, and has even played at the Grand Ole Opry," Shari said before adding, "I have many in my family that are musical."

Cole has now been playing for three years and jams with some other local guitarists like Joey Mayo, Jeff Sloss and his family members and friends when he gets an opportunity.

"My favorite guitarists are David Gilmour (Pink Floyd), Mark Knopfler (Dire Straits), George Harrison (Beatles) and Jimmy Page (Led Zeppelin)," he shared.

Winebarger said that he doesn't have a favorite guitar because "they all matter the same to me whether it's because of use or sentimentality."

He played at the Fairgrounds last year during a special music concert but had a moment like all true musicians. "I forgot part of the song I was going to close on, so that performance was most certainly not my favorite," he said.

Whether he is playing with a band or performing solo, Winebarger enjoys it all.

And, for anyone who goes to the Coffee Pot in Roanoke or the Fatback Soul Shack in Christiansburg, there is a good chance that they have seen this 13-year-old young man perform like a professional.

"He plays at the Coffee Pot when his Uncle Ricky plays during intermission, if it's early hours," Shari said. "Many places are not appropriate for him at his age."

"I got hooked up with Fatback Soul Shack because the band I play with a little bit was playing there and there was a decent chance I could get on stage," Winebarger shared. "And I also knew that the place had good food. I had been there

See Winebarger, page 3

## Santa has mailboxes in New Castle

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

Hey, all kids in Craig County! Guess what? Santa knew you were in a more rural area and he was so saddened that many of you have not gotten to see him yet, so he's making special provisions just for you.

Santa Claus is sending his special mailboxes to some of your stores this year.

He said he has heard most of you "have been reeeeeeally goooood this year and that made his belly jiggle a lot, because you made him laugh really big."

Santa's special mailboxes will be at Family Dollar, IGA Express Exxon and Food Country every day until 7 p.m. through December 20.

So, get your letter ready and take it



Submitted photo  
Santa's mailboxes will be at Family Dollar, Food Country and IGA Express Exxon for every child that wants to mail a letter to Saint-Nick. Mr. Clause is going to take time to write back and will deliver letters on December 21, which can be picked up at whatever store the child mailed them from.

See Santa, page 2

## Christmas cash is here

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

During this special holiday season, cash can be a little tight. Aware of this, two local businesses are do-

ing their part to make a difference.

The Gopher Market and IGA Express Exxon are giving away cash for Christmas which will fill a few people's stockings this year.

For every \$20 a customer spends

at either business, they will be entered to win \$50 and \$100 gift cards. People need to remember to take their receipt and write their name and contact phone number on the back of it to be drawn. The drawings will be held weekly through Christmas.

There is no limit on entering and there are no exclusions.

The purchases can be inside their stores, outside or a combination of both.

Mike Carper came up with this idea when he had the Mick-or-Mack store and it proved to be fun for everyone.

There will be two winners per week at each store through Christmas.

"We love our customers at IGA Express Exxon Mobile and Gopher Market and this is just another way we can give back to our customers for their loyalty throughout the year," Mike and Richard Carper shared. "Winners will be drawn every Friday and posted at the stores and on Facebook."

They added a jolly, "We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."



Submitted photo  
Christmas cash is here, and community residents have a chance to win some. The IGA Express Exxon and Gopher Market are giving \$50 and \$100 gift cards every Friday until Christmas. For every \$20 spent, people get to enter into the contest for the drawings.



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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](http://www.craiglibrary.org).

•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 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](mailto: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 Simonsville 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.

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

The Craig County Department of Social Services Board Meeting will start at 6:30 pm.

# Ninth District traveling staff office hours for December

Congressman Griffith's Ninth District staff will be available at the following locations during the month of December. Traveling office hours follow the status of local government offices, which vary across the 22 counties and nine independent cities of the Ninth District. As local governments offices reopen, office hours will be resumed.

In the event of inclement weather (heavy snow, sleet, icy rain, etc.), traveling office hours may be rescheduled to avoid putting constituents at risk. If a County's or City's schools are closed, then its office hours will be closed as well. Feel free to contact the Christiansburg Office at 540-381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at 276-525-1405 with any questions.

*Wise County: 3:15 pm – 4:45 pm*  
Big Stone Gap Federal Courthouse  
3rd Floor Room 303  
322 Wood Ave. E  
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

**December 10, 2020**  
*Giles County: 9:00 am – 10:30 am*  
Town of Pearisburg Offices  
112 Tazewell Street  
Pearisburg, VA 24134

**December 15, 2020**  
*Tazewell County (Richlands): 10:00 am – 11:30 am*  
Town of Richlands Offices  
200 Washington Square  
Richlands, VA 24641

*Buchanan County: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm*  
Town of Grundy Offices  
1185 Plaza Dr.  
Grundy, VA 24614

**December 16, 2020**  
*Carroll County: 9:00 am – 10:30 am*  
Carroll County Administration Building  
Board of Supervisors Room  
605 – 1 Pine Street  
Hillsville, VA 24343

*Galax: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm*  
Municipal Building  
Conference Room  
111 E. Grayson Street  
Galax, VA 24333

*Grayson County: 2:30pm – 4:00pm*  
Grayson County Administration Building  
Board of Supervisors Room  
Suite 206  
129 Davis Street  
Independence, VA 24348

**December 17, 2020**  
*Tazewell County (Tazewell): 10:00 am – 11:30 am*  
American Legion Building  
226 Central Avenue  
Tazewell, VA 24651

*Russell County: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm*  
Community Center  
72 Gibson Street  
Lebanon, VA 24266

**December 18, 2020**  
*Floyd County: 9:00 am – 10:30 am*  
Town of Floyd Offices  
134 Wilson Street SE  
Floyd, VA 24091

*Patrick County: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm*  
Patrick County Administration Building  
Conference Room  
106 Rucker Street, Stuart, VA 24171

*Martinsville: 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm*  
City of Martinsville Municipal Building  
Conference Room #32, Lower Level  
55 W. Church Street  
Martinsville, VA 24112

**December 22, 2020**  
*Norton: 9:00 am – 10:30 am*  
City Council Chambers  
618 Virginia Avenue NW  
Norton, VA 24273

*Wise County: 11:00 am – 12:30 pm*  
Big Stone Gap Federal Courthouse  
3rd Floor Room 303  
322 Wood Avenue E  
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

*Dickenson County: 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm*  
Dickenson Center for Education & Research  
818 Happy Valley Drive  
Clintwood, VA 24228  
*-Submitted by Kevin Baird, Communications Director*

## Buzz-in

It was installed at both doors. There is a bell that citizens ring, then someone will either come to the door or speak to them through a microphone to ask who they need to see and for what purpose. The lock on the door will then release for entry. Their regular office hours are still from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Their holidays follow the State of Virginia Holiday Calendar. For Christmas, they will be closed all day on the 24 and 25. They will only be closed on New Year's Day. "The system was installed in the courthouse and each

Constitutional Officer has the ability to let people in and out and health screen them prior to entering the Courthouse which is for everyone's safety during the pandemic," Sheriff Trevor Craddock said. "The system works by an A-phone by each entrance which allows you to see and talk to the citizen at the door once you ring the bell. A control panel is in each office and can be operated by the individuals inside." Also, people are health screened, COVID-19 related questions are asked and temperatures are taken, prior to entering court. Anyone entering the

courthouse for other business are not health screened at this time. The hours for the Commissioner's, Treasurer's and Circuit Court are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Holidays closings are noon on Dec. 23, closed on the 24, 25, 31 and January 1, 2021. "The benefits of the system are that it provides a safer working environment for the employees of the county who work inside the courthouse as an added measure of protection during this pandemic that we are all facing on a daily basis," Craddock added.

to his mailbox in town and then, Santa will write you a letter back. You can pick up your letter from Santa on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, December 21-23, at the store where you left your letter, as Santa will leave it there, just for you. Santa said, "I and my wonderful elves have been working extra hard this year to make the special toys and things you are asking for." His reindeer have been eating well and have been exercising and are ready for their great Christmas trip. "Dasher is as fast as ever, Dancer has learned some new steps in dancing, Prancer is extra happy

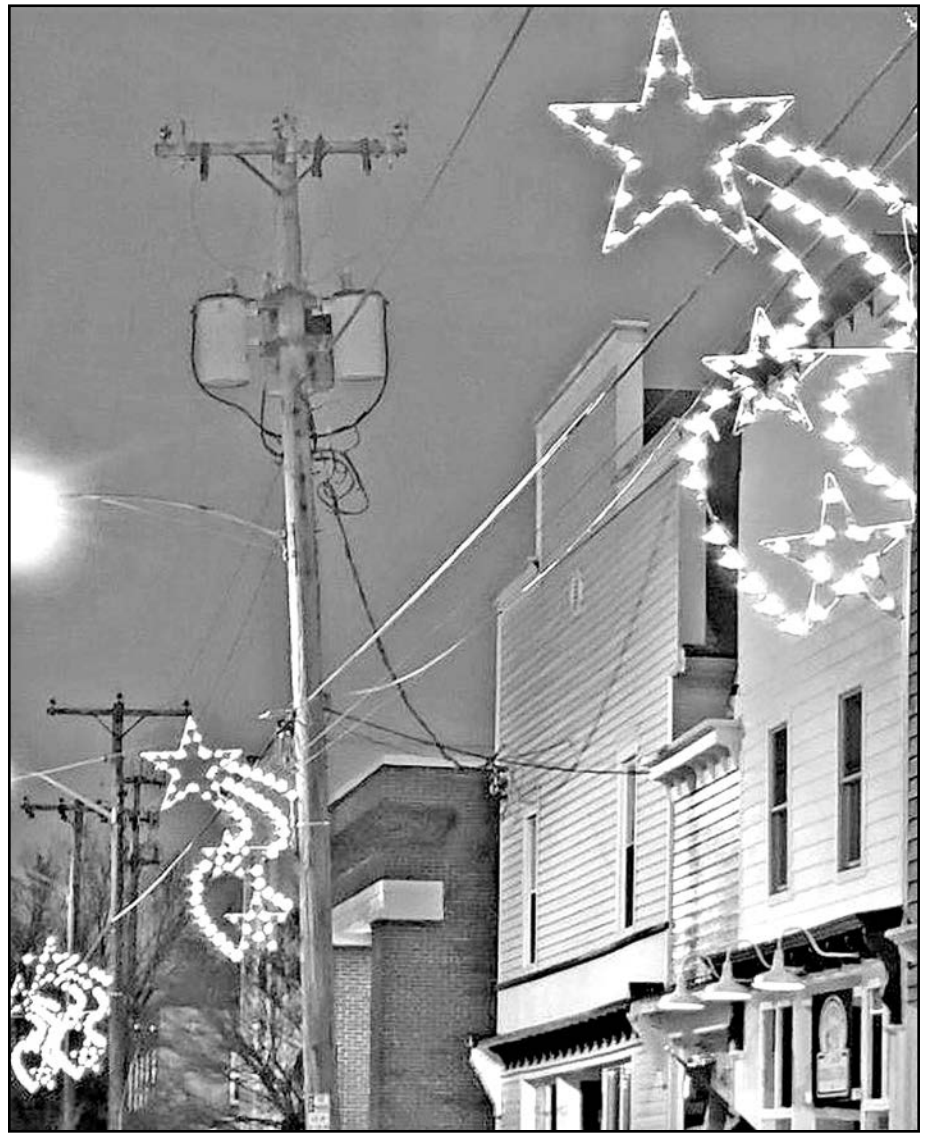
## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
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16				17					18			
19			20					21				
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60					61					62		
63					64					65		
66					67					68		

**CLUES ACROSS**

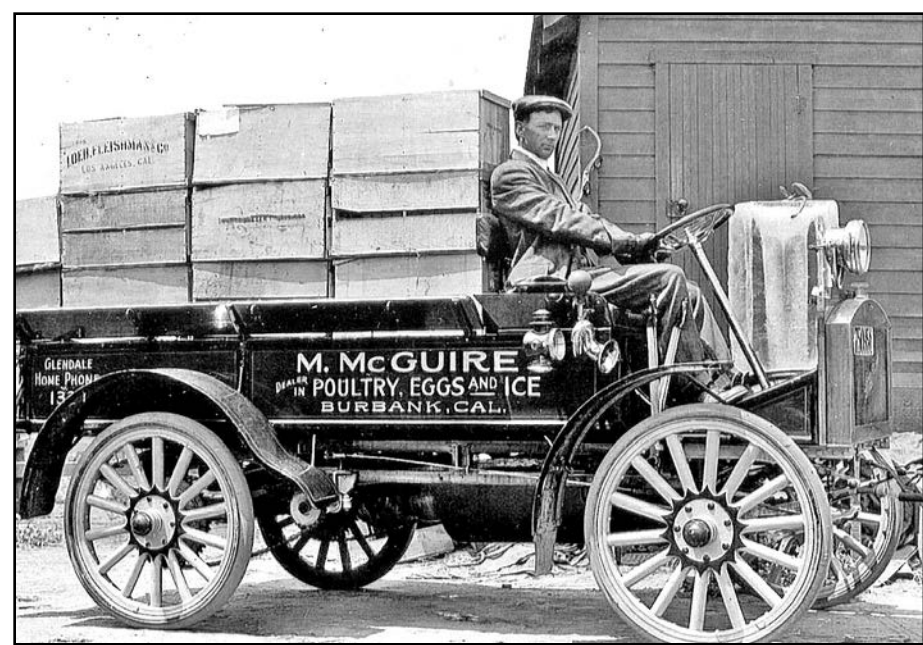
1. Skateboarders love them	33. Second year high schooler	67. Field force unit	it's purported to be
6. Popular sports podcast (abbr.)	36. "___ in comparison"	68. Lying face downward	27. E. Indian trees
9. Former Ohio State great Michael	38. Golf score	<b>CLUES DOWN</b>	29. Beloved December holiday
13. Not dirty	39. Raise	1. Proof of purchase (abbr.)	30. Regions
14. Earth goddess (Greek myth.)	41. Pastas	2. Soap ingredient	32. Metric unit of length
15. A Spanish river	44. Easily manageable	3. Blackbird	34. Peter's last name
16. Pig meat (French)	45. Fathered	4. Single steps	35. Beige
17. Famed astronomer	46. Pouch	5. Tin	37. 18-year period in astronomy
18. Floating ice	48. Institute legal proceedings against	6. Books have lots of them	40. Where golfers begin
19. Broadcast	49. News organization	7. Made of fermented honey and water	42. Basketball stat (abbr.)
21. Aquatic mammals	51. Unruly group of people	8. You can get it in a bed	43. Frocks
22. Some are bath	52. Fasten or secure	9. Room for communal meals	47. Soda comes in it
23. Hip hop trio	54. Sheets of glass	10. Early Syrian kingdom	49. On approval
24. NY Giants' #56	56. Doubled	11. Provokes dry amusement	50. Trims by cutting
25. Small European viper	60. Foolish person	12. Use with "thou"	52. Small finch
28. Neither	61. Rooney and Kate are two	14. Mollusk	53. Language Bura-___
29. Multiple Tony-winner Rivera	62. Small, rich sponge cake	17. Grain storage units	55. Nothing
31. Loud noise	63. Advice or counsel	20. Not a car, not a truck	57. Imbecile (British)
	64. Large wading bird	21. Ooze	57. Tropical Asian plant
	65. Famed British physicist	23. N. Vietnamese ethnic group	58. Abba ___, Israeli politician
	66. Narrow ridges (Swedish)	25. Tennis pros group	59. Small freshwater fish
		26. Something that's not what	61. Indicates position
			65. Data processing

## Christmas lights on Main Street



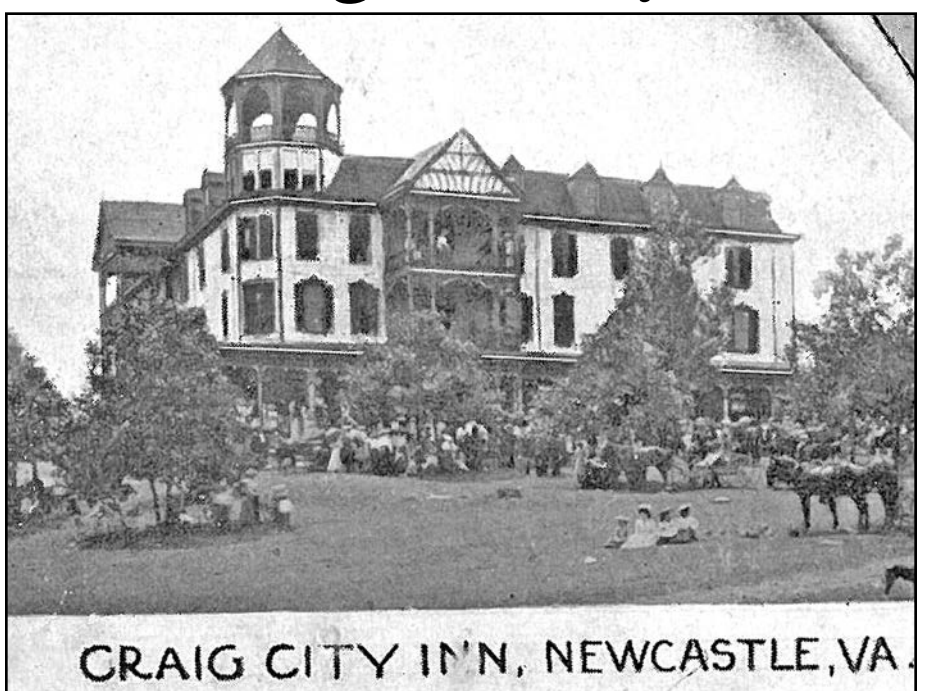
Submitted Photo: The Main Street of New Castle is starting to light up with Christmas around the corner. The traditional shooting stars, along with the garland and red bows, helps to bring the spirits of the holiday season to the town.

# Craig County Historical Society announces next edition of the In and Around Craig County Series



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Marcie McGuire moved from Sinking Creek where his father ran a store in Burbank, California.



Craig City Inn was built around 1890 during an economic boom in the area.



The book features stories of weddings and vintage photos showing the latest fashions.

For 30 years, volunteers of the Society have compiled and published accounts of Craig County history. Many of the books focus on a geographical region of the county, while others cover specific topics such as schools, churches and war veterans.

The 2020 book is called "Looking Back" and will be sold by for \$12. Copies can be shipped for an additional \$3.00 postage or Society members will gladly meet or deliver to accommodate local buyers. For more information, contact 540-864-7023 or write craig.historicalsociety1981@gmail.com.

The book is also for sale at The Emporium on Main Street in New Castle.

"Looking Back" is a collection of stories, family history and vintage photos. Several articles are excerpted from early issues of the New Castle Record. A brief history of the newspaper, featuring a photo of former publisher Haden Sublett and Record advertisements, is included.

Topics in the book are varied and wide-ranging. Samples from the Table of Contents include recipes, county musicians, household hints from 1951, and diary entries from 1894.

**IN AND AROUND CRAIG COUNTY**

**LOOKING BACK . . .**

**2020**

The book cover features some of many talented Craig County musicians.

Bridges over Johns Creek, W.H. Jewel photographer from Christiansburg, and school children from Upper Craigs Creek, New Castle and Maywood areas, as well as transportation, weddings, and Virginia Historical Markers in the county fill the 168 pages.

Several articles were originally written by Craig natives, reminiscing and relating by-gone events. Clyde Caldwell tells about sheep-shearing and his brother Muntford tells about walking 20-miles to shop at Custer's Store. William Elmore and Grover Kay talk about growing up in

New Castle. "One time I saw a Ford Coupe driven onto the ice on Johns Creek..." and "I recall that the first telephones in New Castle were those owned by and connecting the stores of the Wagoner Brothers..."

Meadow Creek resident Charlie Spraker details his first experience as a hunter. As hunting season 2020 is now in progress, Charlie begins "The deer season in 1947 was about to open and it was to be two days long. Dee (his friend) had made arrangements for us to camp out in the front yard of a man by the name of Brizenidine who lived on the

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One of several vintage ads in the book is for E.W. Camper who was a funeral director on the lower end of Main Street in 1938.

road up Bald Mountain, just above the Fenwick Mines on the left side going up. We set up our tent.... in the front yard under a big tree... After breakfast and when good light came, we could see that everything was coated with ice."

Unlike past years when ads were sold to subsidize print costs, donations were collected this year which will cover about half of the total printing cost.

Current ads were replaced with a sample of advertisements from past New Castle Records. The last twelve pages showcase former Craig County businesses such as Boitnott Funeral Home and Economy Feed Store. One interesting ad from 1955 lists stores which will be closed on Wednesday afternoons.

The book's introduction concludes there is "something for everyone, but it just scratches the surface of Craig's rich history."

All 30 issues of In & Around Craig County are available for sale, as well as county census, marriage and death records. In addition, there are 14 Hometowne Collectibles that make excellent Christmas gifts for lovers of Craig County history. They are wooden replicas of county landmarks such as the Layman Victorian House, the County courthouse, and Tinger's Mill in Paint Bank and include a brief history on the back.

To make a purchase, contact 540-864-7023 or craig.historicalsociety1981@gmail.com

-Submitted by Craig County Historical Society

**Job Opportunity in Craig County**

The Craig County Electoral Board is seeking qualified applicant for the position of General Registrar/ Director of Elections. Qualified applicants must apply by 12/22/20. Applicants must be a resident and qualified voter in Craig County or willing to re-locate. A complete job description and application information may be found at [www.craigcountyva.gov](http://www.craigcountyva.gov) or by mail to the Craig County Electoral Board, P.O. Box 8, New Castle, Va.

## Winebarger

from page 1



SUBMITTED PHOTO

At a young 13 years of age, Cole Winebarger is already living the dreams that many young kids have. Here, he is playing at the Fatback Soul Shack with New River Valley's leading band, Phlegar Hill.

prior just to eat."

He plays at Fatback whenever the Phlegar Hill band is playing there. Phlegar Hill Band is called "the New River Valley's leading cover band" on Facebook.

Jerry went to school with the singer Billy Williams. "So, I managed to weasel my way in there using that fact to my advantage," he said with a grin.

Cole has also played for two years at the Back Creek Fire Station's fundraiser.

When Jerry and Shari were asked if they were surprised at the level of professionalism he plays, they responded, "Cole has always thrown himself into what his interest is 100 percent."

Cole was asked about competing but noted that

he has never felt the slightest urge to enter into a competition, saying, "I don't think music should be a competition."

However, anyone that has heard him, knows his love for music can definitely be heard by the way he can "shred those strings."

At only 13, Winebarger says his future is uncertain, but he does not see himself stopping to work on his guitar skills anytime soon.

However, his heart speaks for him, when he added, "I've thought about maybe helping people with special needs." His sister, Maci, has been suffering for several years from a brain tumor and its side effects.

His parents continue to support his love for music, "Jerry and I love hearing Cole play," Shari said.

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# OPINION

## The best literary quotes about hope and optimism

You don't have to look far to find hope in a book. These authors have lent their words to the power of optimism. From Penguin Books, November 3, 2020.

Books bring us entertainment, inspiration and ideas. They allow us to reflect on the world around us, and escape from it. And, at times of upheaval and confusion, words from authors can spark that most valuable thing of all: hope. Here are some of the greatest meditations on optimism in literature.

Amy Tan, *The Hundred Secret Senses*  
 "Everyone must dream. We dream to give ourselves hope. To stop dreaming – well, that's like saying you can never change your fate."  
 Bram Stoker, *Dracula*

"There are darkneses in life and there are lights, and you are one of the lights, the light of all lights."

George Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss*

"We can never give up longing and wishing while we are thoroughly alive. There are certain things we feel to be beautiful and good, and we must hunger after them."

Toni Morrison, *Beloved*  
 "You are your best thing."  
 Emily Dickinson, *The Poems of Emily Dickinson*

"Hope is the thing with feathers That perches in the soul And sings the tune without the words

And never stops at all."  
 Langston Hughes, *The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes*

### Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community

"Hold fast to dreams, For if dreams die Life is a broken-winged bird, That cannot fly."

Frank Herbert, *Dune*  
 "Deep in the human unconscious is a pervasive need for a logical universe that makes sense. But the real universe is always one step beyond logic."

Arundhati Roy, *The Cost of Living*

"To love. To be loved. To never forget your own insignificance. To

never get used to the unspeakable violence and the vulgar disparity of life around you. To seek joy in the saddest places. To pursue beauty to its lair. To never simplify what is complicated or complicate what is simple. To respect strength, never power. Above all, to watch. To try and understand. To never look away. And never, never to forget."

L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

"Tomorrow is always fresh, with no mistakes in it yet."

Maya Angelou, *Letter to My Daughter*

"You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them."

Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*  
 "Those who contemplate the

beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter."

#### Library News:

I always try to go to the Kroger store where I have the Craig County Public Library as my Community rewards choice. Every time I shop for groceries, Kroger is making a small donation to my local library. If you'd also like to sign up, just go to the google Kroger Community Rewards, choose your favorite store, and select Craig County Public Library as your recipient. We thank you!

We depend on your donations to keep the library open!

## Marijuana legislation: Wrong time, wrong bill

### Morgan Griffith

Representative

Setting an agenda means setting priorities. Based on the agenda of the U.S. House of Representatives, apparently marijuana is a priority of Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA).

It must be so, because

on December 4 she used some of the little legislative time remaining in this Congress to bring up H.R. 3884, the Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act of 2019. H.R. 3884 not only decriminalizes marijuana, but expunges previous marijuana convictions and permits taxpayer dollars to be used in support of the marijuana industry and convicted drug dealers.

I doubt the constituents we represent in the House believe this measure to be such an urgent concern amid the current pandemic and economic downturn.

To be sure, I am supportive of changes to current federal drug laws. I support medicinal marijuana and further research into the effects of marijuana use, which the present laws and regulations make difficult to pursue. I have introduced legislation and worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to achieve these goals.

But with few legislative days remaining in this Congress, now is certainly not the time to focus on full-blown marijuana legalization. Further, H.R. 3884 goes way too far in the other direction from the restrictions currently in place.

In light of the fact that the bill was taken up so late in the Congress and with little chance of becoming law, H.R. 3884 appears to be more of a messaging bill than a serious attempt at legislating. But what kind of message is sent by its provisions?

Consider how it handles marijuana convictions. Any prior conviction for non-violent federal marijuana offenses are expunged, and courts are required to conduct resentencing hearings on any federal convictions that included marijuana as part of the underlying offense apart from crimes of violence. For example, if an individual was convicted of embezzling from a bank but was in possession of marijuana when arrested, he or she could be eligible for resentencing.

This would create tremendous strain on the court system, occupying its time and resources with thousands of resentencing hearings rather than more important business.

Prior marijuana convictions could also not be considered in denying any federal public benefit, granting security clearances, or in regard to immigration laws. So the individuals recently caught in Connecticut with a rental truck carrying an estimated \$15 million worth of marijuana, as an example,

See Griffith, page 5

### THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Dear Early Care and Education Provider,

Congratulations on being recognized as a Virginia Breastfeeding Friendly Early Care Recognition Program recipient. By achieving this recognition, you have demonstrated that Craig County Child Care Center is dedicated to supporting mothers and families in meeting their breastfeeding goals. Through this work, your early care site is helping to establish a healthy environment for all infants and toddlers across the Commonwealth by showing evidence of meeting all five of Virginia's early care breastfeeding standards, which include policy, system and environmental standards for breastfeeding. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has prioritized breast-

feeding in order to protect the health and well-being of both infants and mothers. Breastfeeding has short-and long-term health benefits, including reducing the risk of sudden infant death syndrome and chronic diseases, such as asthma and diabetes.

In 2019, VDH established Virginia's Breastfeeding Friendly Recognition Program in partnership with Child Care Aware Virginia, Virginia Infant and Toddler Specialist Network, Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, and Virginia Breastfeeding Coalition as a way to recognize those entities that are dedicated to supporting breastfeeding and the health and well-being of Virginians.

VDH prioritizes breastfeeding throughout our agency's strategic goals, programs, services and policies. We work to support the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention breastfeeding recommendations, including the United States Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding, by addressing the need for communities, including early care settings, to normalize and create breastfeeding-friendly environments.

In conclusion, we applaud the efforts you have taken to reach this award. This demonstrates your interest and commitment in providing healthy and safe environments for our youngest Virginians. Keep up the great work, and please spread the word about Virginia's Breastfeeding Friendly Early Care Recognition Program to other early care providers in your community.

-From the Department of Health Commonwealth of Virginia

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# SPORTS

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## Rockets are cautiously optimistic with opening of basketball practice



Craig boys' coach Ryan Frazier is looking forward to the season.

High School basketball practice opens at Craig County this week and it's ironic that school was closed on the first day due to snow. It figures to be a challenging time for sports, regardless of the wind and weather.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic the Craig boys and girls will have to observe strict guidelines when practicing, including daily temperature checks. If a student was in school that day the morning check will suffice,

but if he or she is virtual then a check will be made before being allowed to practice.

"It won't be like anything we've seen," said Rocket girls' coach Randy Hale. "Everyone has to be six feet apart and wear a mask. There's no team room, you have to have your own water bottle and the balls have to be cleaned after every practice."

The practice can have no more than two players in a "pod."

"It's going to be tough,"



Rocket girls' coach Randy Hale talks to the team during a timeout last season.

NCR FILE PHOTO

said Hale. "We haven't been able to get in the gym during the off-season, and there's no way to keep the girls from sweating. I always say, 'if you ain't sweatin', you ain't doin' nothin'."

Boys coach Ryan Frazier is dealing with the same rules.

"The state has laid out some guidelines for us to follow with mask wearing on the sidelines by coaches at all times, and players on the bench after they have

hydrated and caught their breath," said Frazier. "The state has its standards that could be added to at each locality to meet those needs for safety. As I have told the players since we started meeting, we might not like all the rules being put on us. However, we want to play and will do whatever we have to do it safely for everyone. As of now they are letting us play a game we love during a time when many folks are struggling, we know that and will respect the powers that be and do our best to follow all guidelines."

Both teams were expecting good turnouts. Hale reports that everyone eligible is coming back from last year's team, as well as four jayvee players who figure to compete for the varsity. Frazier has had interest from 25 boys who want to play.

"I am very pleased with those numbers for us, and even more so during this

time," he said. "I think we should have a strong competitive team this year as long as we can stay healthy and have some teams to play against."

The schedule is another issue. The girls have 10 games scheduled, two each against Pioneer District foes Eastern Montgomery, Covington, Narrows, Parry McCluer and Highland. Bath has announced that it won't have a girls' team.

The boys will play everyone in the district, home and away, and non-district games with Giles and Alleghany. Pioneer opponents Bath and Highland have announced they will not have teams.

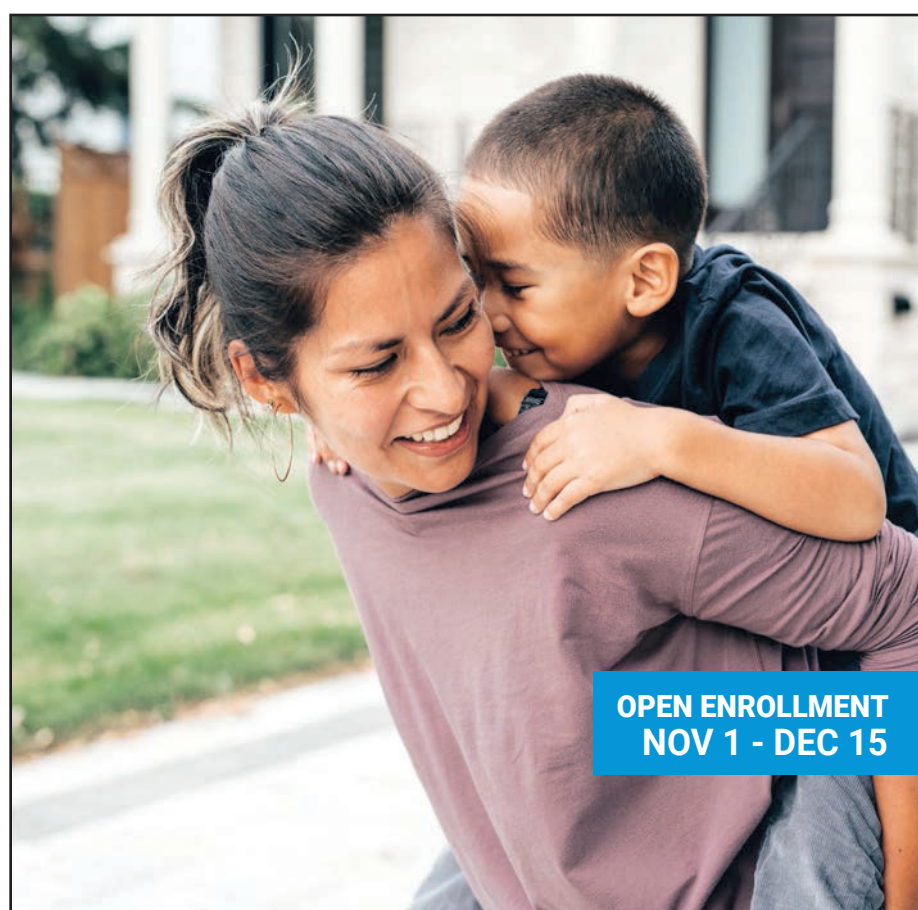
"So there are four games gone," said Frazier. "Giles is supposed to be first game of the season on December 21, I believe, but that's subject to change. Also, in the week and days leading up to the games the community and schools will look at the

data of cases and determine if it is safe to travel for these games. I imagine things can and will get changed often throughout the season."

The boys have had very little opportunities to practice in the off-season with the school being off-limits.

"We have not been allowed in the gym this off-season," said Frazier. "I understood it as no one was able to have anything, I have heard some did, but to my knowledge that should not have been allowed. So really we are all in, or about in, the same boat. Thankfully they are allowing us to play because they feel like it can be done safely. We plan to make the most of it."

"We are excited to get started, and hope that it goes smoothly for all schools that participate. We want the kids to be safe first and foremost, but I know they will benefit from some physical work and team spirit. We all could."



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## Craig recreation basketball on hold

Craig County has not cancelled the recreation basketball season as of yet, but chances are getting dimmer of having a season. Roanoke County and Salem have already cancelled their seasons.

"We have not cancelled yet, but have very slim hopes," said Craig's Sheri Sloss. "We want too and we have been holding off to make a decision, but with all the restrictions the schools and VHSL have it will be tough to pull it off. Schools may not even allow us to use their gyms if the COVID restrictions don't loosen up."

The Craig County school system has to consider possible liability issues.

"We are not county funded so we are an outside identity," said Sloss. "Plus, to have to clean like is required after each practice and games would take man power. The VHSL last discussions I heard that only parents would be allowed to watch at home games and no away games. If we have to follow that rule we wouldn't make enough to cover our costs, but doesn't mean we won't figure it out if we get the go. So, we are awaiting to see what VHSL does."



The Celtics and Wabbits battle for a rebound during a recreation game last winter.

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