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Remembering New Castle 2020

A family tradition – the Looney legacy races on



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Ronnie Looney started his love for racing in 1965 with an old station wagon he called "The Camper."

Pam Dudding Contributing writer (Published on January 22, 2020)

In Craig County, when the name Looney is mentioned, many know that "racing" is probably attached as well as the term "winners."

Since 1965, the Looney family has delved into the racing sport with their feet, hands and heart.

Recently, Mike Looney won the titles of The Motor Mile Speedway Nascar Whelen All-American Series 2019 Late Model Champion, Track Champion and State Champion in Virginia and also took second place in the Nascar Whelen All-American Series in North America. Yes, second in the nation.

His dad, Ronnie, started drove in 1965 when there was a dirt track at the Pulaski County Speedway.

"I guess I liked drag racing before circle track racing in '65," Ronnie shared as he owned a huge station wagon that he decided he wanted to drag race with. "The first time we took it to the racetrack, the inspectors asked me, 'What are you going to do with that thing?' Ronnie responded, 'I'm going to race it.' Their response was, "Man, that ain't a race car, that's a camper."

So, Ronnie named it "The Camper" and needless to say, his own words became reality as he won many trophies with it.

Later, Ronnie started driving in the Pure Stock Division on the circle track.

His good friend, James Dudding, shared, "He took that motor out of 'The Camper' drag car and dropped it into a '55 Chevy and we all built his first track car."

See **Looney**, page 5



SUBMITTED PHOTO
On February 15, Mountain View Church hosted a Valentine's Dinner and Hearts Party. Some people were very competitive while others just enjoyed learning the game. Everyone involved said they had a fantastic evening.

Valentine's Day brings hearts together

Pam Dudding Contributing writer (Published on February 19, 2020)

Mountain View Church took advantage of Valentine's Day by planning a dinner from scratch before attendees partook in the infamous game of "Hearts" for all to play on Saturday, February 15.

When people entered the building, the aroma of food in addition to the unique decorations warmed people's hearts. Most people had arrived by 5 p.m. Name tags were placed at chairs and the waiters escorted everyone to their seats. They also offered to take coats and hang them up.

Claudia Huffman welcomed everyone individually and served them their drinks. Karen Reynolds started the evening by ringing the bell. When she did, everyone immediately knew to stop talking. Well, almost everyone. She rang it again, because people were having so much fun socializing.

She gave a warm welcome and the agenda of the evening was announced.

Charlie Stull shared that the meal for the special evening would include "filet mignon and"...but Reynolds interrupted him, explaining that the filet mignon was served at the 3 p.m. dinner. He then proceeded to correct himself that the meal would be, "chicken cordon bleu with asparagus..." but again Reynolds explained that was the meal served at 4 p.m. He then leaned into the kitchen and announced that the Chef Boyardee spaghetti and meatballs would soon be served. Laughter soon rang throughout the room.

The blessing was said, and waiters brought everyone's dinner to the table. A meal of spaghetti (not Chef Boyar Dee), a tossed salad and roll was served and later a vanilla

or chocolate cupcake with a heart on top was dessert.

Reynolds handed out heart shaped microphones, and as she announced the first two to three words of a song, whoever sang the rest of the song first, won a prize. As the contest went on, the singing got louder as people became either more comfortable or decided they didn't care if they could carry a tune or not. The main objective was just to win the game. Many sang the songs together in joyous harmony.

The anxiousness of the evening ended as the hearts party started. Some were slow to throw the die to see if they could spell hearts with them while others were very competitive, rushing through, trying to be the team that got to 100 points first, which would win them a punch in their Valentine card.

Throughout the evening, if anyone got "H-E-A-R-T" or "H-E-A-R-T-S," shrieks, laughter and shouts soon followed. Everyone seemed to join in on their victories.

At the end of the evening, Dana Nelson won the grand prize, which included a big cuddly teddy bear with a box of chocolates. Sarah Huffman won the boobie prize which was a small box of chocolates.

It was said that another game night may be coming up soon around another holiday which sparked hopes with many.

Reynolds and her helpers were quick to start taking the beautiful hearts and decorations down to save for another time.

As people left, hugs were exchanged, and laughter continued.

"We hope everyone had a great time," Reynolds said before Stuff added, "We'll see you all tomorrow."

Craft shares story of his dying moments

Pam Dudding Contributing writer (Published on March 18, 2020)

Life is precious. Sometimes it takes a serious happening to make us more aware of its worth.

At the Wildlife Dinner on March 7, Fred Craft spoke about his battle with dialysis and his long-waiting period for a kidney transplant. He experienced kidney failure in November 2014, and had to start dialysis three days of week a month later.

"I am so blessed to be here, and I mean that from the bottom of my heart," he said. "Because if it wasn't for the Lord and prayers, I wouldn't be here."

Craft shared that he experienced a lot of pain and got hooked on opioid medicine. He states, however,

See **Craft**, page 5



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Fred Craft shared his story of what he thought was his last moments on the operating table.

Local teacher designs shields for healthcare workers



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Geoff Boyer, a CCPS teacher, recently took his talents to those in need. He heard about a shield being designed to help protect people from the coronavirus and decided to do his part in creating some.

Pam Dudding Contributing writer (Published on April 22, 2020)

Though many people are tired of hearing about COVID-19, others are still working tirelessly to make a difference in the community. They are tired too.

Health care workers, EMS staff and police officers are in the midst of tending to people with COVID-19 which can be contagious. And now, postal and delivery workers as well as truck drivers have to be attentive to their handling of packages.

More and more talented and caring people are using their time to help others in what feels like a game of survival.

Local teacher Geoff Boyer shared that he was watching a story on CNN where people around the world were making headband face shield holders.

"Former volleyball player, Ruthanne Duffy (Hoover) got me in touch with a group in Roanoke that are making these for the doctors and nurses in the valley," he shared.

He is using the school's 3-D printers and as well as his personal one at

home to make NIH approved face shields for doctors and nurses in nearby hospitals.

"These will be combined with a plastic sheet to form a barrier for those who come into contact with patients with COVID-19," Boyer explained. "There are approximately 30 volunteers around the Roanoke Valley that are making these."

Workers can use a rubber band to attach a plastic sheet to the headband to be worn as a physical barrier to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 disease.

He also noted that there is a 3D PPE Roanoke page on Facebook for those who wish to help.

It takes Boyer approximately five hours to make one shield.

He has delivered these much-needed shields to the local Health Center as well as to an office in Botetourt and to the Emergency Room in Bath County.

He's unsure when he will stop, but already the community is being made safer by one person doing his part to help prevent the spreading of the worldwide coronavirus.



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Fisherman Hunter becomes a ‘catch’ himself

Pam Dudding Contributing writer (Published on August 12, 2020)

Like many kids in Craig County, fishing becomes a favorite sport at a young age, especially when one gets taught by their dad.

Nine-year-old Hunter Ponton is no exception to this, however, he has become exceptional.

Hunter's interest into fishing goes back to the young age of three. His dad, Bub, shares his story.

"Every year Howard Hales Hunting Camp would put on a little fishing rodeo there behind my homeplace at the CC camp on Barbours Creek. Hunter's paw-paw Jimmy Williams wanted me to bring him down to fish," Bub shared. "It had been a family tradition since they started hosting the event in 2010."

Hunter's first fishing rodeo there was in 2013, where Hunter caught his first fish.

"It was a nice rainbow trout," Bub said. "I recall the memories of him been so excited. Little did I know this would be the start to Hunter's fishing lifestyle."

As time passed, Hunter always enjoyed "catching fish of any kind."

Bub shared that he grew up trout fishing and "doing a little bit of everything but my passion was hunting." And, yes, Hunter likes to hunt with his dad too.

Bub recollected, "It was ten degrees one day in snowy and windy weather. Me and Hunter went to get in a deer blind but the whole time he wanted to fish. I told him it was freezing. Still, I took him fishing and he fished till dark and never complained once."

He told his wife, Angie, one evening, "I think I know what Hunter loves, he may hunt but his true love is fishing."

Sadly, it was during this time Hunter had a minor bump in the road after receiving some required children's vaccines.

His parents shared that he suffered through many complications and continues to battle daily.

"Now he is also legally blind in his right eye," Bub shared. "I had to teach him to shoot left-handed although he's a righty."

Bub and Angie shared that Hunter just wasn't himself for months.

"It was breaking our

hearts watching him go through this. He would have to touch his ears and nose before he would talk, he would repeat over and over and cry for hours sometimes for no reason," they said. "He handles it differently now, but he still fights it. We tried everything. We prayed and prayed for things to get better and they did."

During this time, Bub said he would ask Hunter all the time, "What do you want to do?"

One evening Hunter said he wanted to go fishing. "So, we did, and he caught some fish. I will never forget the happiness I saw it bring to Hunter's face, and I could see him being a kid again," Bub said.

So just like kids playing baseball and basketball and their parents pushing them, Hunter watched Bass Masters along with many fishing shows.

"He said he wanted to be a professional fisherman and Marine biologist," Bub added. "So, it slowly began."

Bub then told Hunter they needed a boat to go down in the weeds.

The new chapter began as Hunter's paw-paw, Jimmy Williams gave him his Dads boat, a 1972 Sears which Bub and Hunter totally re-finished, including its trailer. "It's very special to us!" they shared as Bub patted the side.

Bub continued, "Then, Hunters interest in musky fishing grew fast with the size and the talk of the fish. Hunter told me he wanted to catch one, so I reached out Luke Kesler and he gave me plenty of tips and information to help get us started."

Luke holds the Jesse Carper Memorial Musky Tournament every year, and is an advent musky fisherman.

"Well needless to say, Hunter and I got a rod and reel, a few musky lures and away we went," he said. "I remember the day Hunter finally hooked his first one. We got it netted and I remember Hunter saying, 'they are real because we had finished for them so much and never caught anything,'"

Just in case though, Bub always kept a small rod and reel in the boat for Hunter to catch something like a bluegill or bass to pass the time.

"It makes me laugh now," Bub reminisced. "Jesse had

invited me to go musky fishing and I laughed and said I didn't care about catching one. Now, it seems that it is all that me and Hunter do."

"They say the musky is a fish of 10,000 casts. I think it was more like 30,000," Bub added with a laugh. It didn't take long until both Hunter and Bub were on the fast pace of musky fishing.

"We got more gear, joined the local musky club, met so many great friends along the way and began to learn a lot about musky fishing," Bub shared. "Then we started fishing musky tournament's and spending countless days fishing."

In May of 2019, they received a message from T.L. Wagner and Brandon Briggs that was a surprise and became a blessing beyond imagination.

Their shop, W.B. Musky, had been following Hunter's fishing and hearing much about him, wanting him to become their first youth ambassador to show and advertise their products.

"Last year in the First Annual Jesse Carper Memorial Youth Tournament, Hunter placed third. This began an itch to find more youth tournaments," Bub continued.

"Then shortly after that a well-known business, Figureight Musky Gear, announced they would be hosting their First Annual Musky in the Mountains Youth Tournament. Hunter was ready and said, 'I'm going to fish as hard as I can to try and win first-place.'"

And, he did. "He gave it his all, catching a 37½-inch musky that just barely got first place," Bub shared.

Hunter said that he was both excited and nervous wondering if his fish would be big enough to win. He has the plaque and trophy that he is proud of.

Bub added, "Just one-inch difference in the fish separated him and Luke Kessler's son David Lee which was pretty cool, having two local fellas win a WV/VA musky tourney with the only two muskies caught."

This gave Hunter more exposure in his life's love of fishing.

He has fished with some men who have won bigtime musky tournaments including, Tony Grant, Gregg Thomas and Lance Seator. They have all won the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Family is so important to Hunter Ponton. His mom and dad, Angie and Bub Ponton, support his love for fishing and now have three boats to prove it.

PMTT, Professional Musky Tournament Trail Championships and are well-known musky fishermen.

"He does videos of lures and wears gear for companies," Bub said. "Lure Builders build him things to try and advertise."

Some companies send him lures to try and apparel to wear. This excites Hunter.

Also, Muskie Inc. Magazine had the picture of Bub pulling in a 43-inch musky with Hunter's hand on it. They called Hunter the "Muskie Hunter." The magazine editor added, "This is one of my favorite images that have ever crossed my email inbox. I knew as soon as I saw it that I would have to find a way to feature this on the cover. For me, this image is all about body gesture. Hunter's facial expression conveys that he's pretty awestruck. Even the way he's leaning his chin on his hand gives us a sense that he's in deep contemplation over the beauty of this fish. Then, to top it all off, his outstretched hand – that's placed ever so gently on the back of the fish – further conveys the enormity of the moment for Hunter."

"Then something special happened," Bub shared. "We received our Muskie Inc. Magazine and through our Chapter Club, I entered the fish that Hunter caught in a log well. We noticed Hunter was in the top 10 so we set out to try to win."

This was for the Muskies Inc. Youth Nationals, age 12 and under. There were 73 kids that participated throughout the U.S.

Bub explained, "Needless to say, we spent as much time fishing as we could. He missed winning and came up just a little short in second place in the youth nationals which was an amazing achievement."

Hunter said that it made him "super happy and that

all the time spent paid off."

COVID-19 put a damper on the 2020 tournaments and gatherings; however, Luke still had the Jesse Carper Memorial Tournament and the Second Annual Youth Tournament.

Hunter said he was grateful to his sponsors, his mom of Guthrie Insurance, WB Musky Shop and Steve Gould of Trophy Time Leaders and Lures.

Also, Hunter took third in their year-long Muskie Club Chapter Tournament which is judged on points earned by the fish you catch.

When one visits Hunter at home, he is more than happy to give a tour.

In the garage, there are rows of lures. Hundreds and they are all different, yet Hunter will explain each one individually and tell you what he caught with them, or who made it for him and how each works.

"This is my suicide sucker," he said as he held it high. "I named it. It is one of his favorites amongst all his lures."

Bub added, "The tail kicks off a vibration as musky fish have lateral lines in their sides which help them to feel the vibration, letting them know there is something moving in the water."

Hunter held another lure which was a top water lure. "It pops on the top of the water like this," he explained motioning the lure. "It's called the 'walk the dog' as you twitch the reel side to side to make it walk."

Then he told of his purple spinner, which he caught another musky with.

As you enter Hunter's home, there is what Angie calls, "The wall of Hunter's fame," which is fully covered with his fishing pictures.

He quickly started sharing the story of each.

"This one I caught with the top water, and this is

my biggest one at 47 inches at St. Clair. I went to fish in Kentucky with a guy who won the professional musky tour, we were using live suckers and I caught that one that was 37 inches," he shared with excitement.

Then his bedroom hosts many captures. Amongst all the fish he still had his dear skulls and horns that he had gotten during seasons.

Hunter already has 10 or 11 citations for rainbow, trout, catfish, large mouth bass and musky.

He explained that "Santa got me this" as he turned page after page of a journal where he had his pictures of his fish and description of each that he had caught. He could explain every page without looking at its details. He had a difficult time picking out a favorite, as all of them seem special to him.

Already, businesses and people have contacted Hunter's dad to have Hunter sit in their booths at major upcoming shows, to promote their equipment and lures.

"I'm going to have to go to that one, then that one, then that one," Hunter explained with a grin.

Hunter's parents believe that he will continue to chase his dream of been a local fishing guide, fishing professional and biologist.

"I think it's a big goal and I told Hunter nothing stands between you and your goals. You need to work hard, learn from your mistakes and continue to climb to the top, always putting others before yourself and keeping God leading you, and you're unstoppable," Bub shared.

Hunter invites anyone to follow him on Facebook at Hunter Pontons Outdoor Adventures. Plus, Hunter said he is going to be on YouTube soon. Who knows, one day he may be on the Big-tube,

McCleary kids making Veterans Christmas a bit more special

Pam Dudding Contributing writer (Published on December 16, 2020)

As Christmas time enters the atmosphere of people's homes, it also

enters the hearts of many during this special season. McCleary Elementary

teacher Karen Jones assisted her third and fifth-grade students in making cards for Veterans throughout Craig County.

The students created homemade cards, writing many thanks to Veterans.

To make it even more special, they put their handmade card inside of a Christmas card.

Wrote one child, "If y'all hadn't been there during the revolutionary war, we wouldn't be here today."

Other students sent their appreciation with

many thanks regarding the service of vets, noting that they are happy "they made it through the many wars."

"At first, I wasn't going to do the cards because everything is so crazy with COVID-19, but I couldn't let a year go by without letting our Veterans know how much we appreciate them," Jones said. "They gave so much for us, it's the least we can do to recognize them once a year."

At first, Jones was just going to make enough to hand out at the VFW.

"Then I realized it prob-

ably wouldn't take many more to send to every Veteran in the county," said Jones who obtained a list of many of the Craig County Veterans.

Ken Looney, a Navy Veteran of the local #4491 Craig Valley VFW Post, took some to hand out at their monthly meeting.

"It then evolved into the idea of sending our thank-you cards inside of a Christmas card," Jones said. "Our kids are so grateful to the Veterans and very excited to express thanks to them in this way."

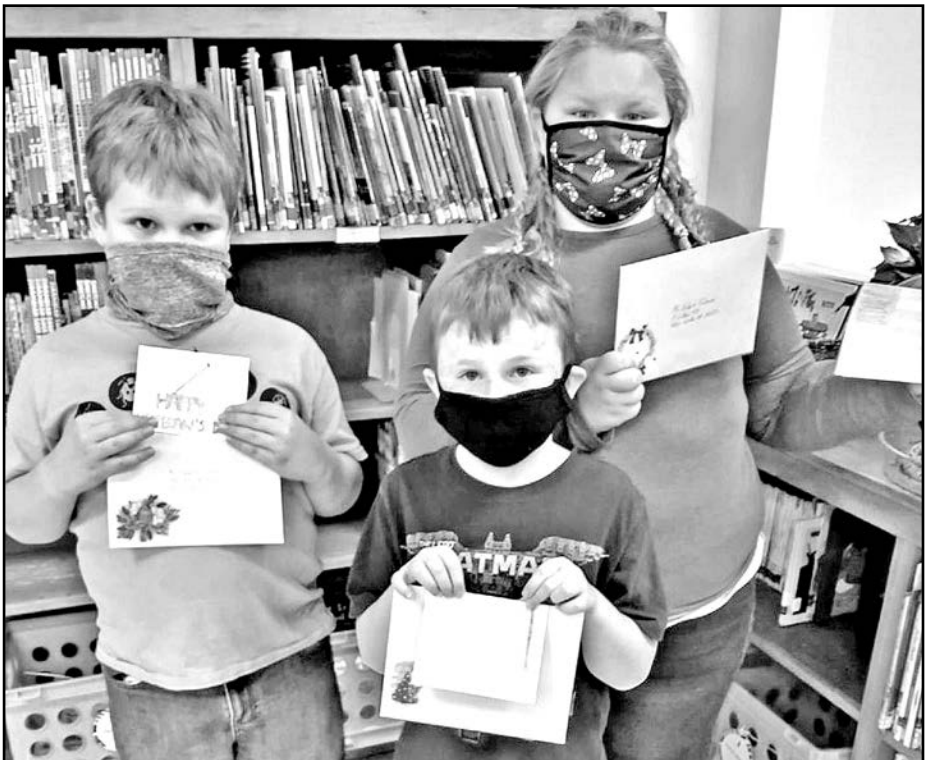
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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51							52					
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CLUES ACROSS
1. Hair care product
4. Looped
10. It's present in all living cells
11. Choose
12. South Dakota
14. Cash machine
15. Of the pia mater
16. Ancient Egyptian documents
18. Layers at the back of the eyeballs
22. Not perceived
23. Look over
24. Improve a tire
26. Time zone
27. Main branch of Islam
28. Bark of the mulberry tree
30. Sea eagles
31. Records heart muscle

CLUES DOWN
34. Famed Hollywood producer
36. Yuck!
37. Reject outright and bluntly
39. ___ 500, car race
40. Small heap or pile
41. Type of degree (abbr.)
42. Contagious skin disease
48. Erases from a surface
50. In an enthusiastic way
51. Begin again
52. Intricately produced pattern
53. It flows NW to the Seine
54. Be obliged to repay
55. Southeast
56. Slip in
58. Leisure time activity
59. Breastbones
60. Sun up in New York

CLUES DOWN
1. More cloudy
2. Main course
3. Protect with plastic
4. Equally
5. Rebukes
6. Friend to a salesman
7. Warms up
8. Overshadow
9. Interior lineman in football
10. San Antonio hoopster
12. Comedian Cook
17. Time zone
19. First PM of India
20. Performing perfectly
21. A way to hide
25. Former NBA commissioner
29. Peter's last name
31. Outlying suburb of London
32. Used to cut steak
33. Deep inlets
35. Type of tree
38. Done openly and unashamedly
41. Indigenous person of N. Africa
43. Confessed openly
44. A way to separate with an instrument
45. Influential journalist
46. Manning and Roth are two
47. One who cares for horses in India
49. Something to believe in
56. Form of "to be"
57. Atomic #73



SUBMITTED PHOTO

McCleary Elementary pupils, Keaton, Gunner and Zoie were three of the students who made special handmade cards for local Veterans and tucked them inside colorful Christmas cards.

Jesse Carper Memorial Youth Tournament did not get rained out

Pam Dudding Contributing writer (Published on June 24, 2020)

Though the weather forecast predicted showers and thunderstorms all day for last Saturday's event, by Friday, it seemed there was a change and Luke Kessler, an event organizer, called the event a "go."

Due to the coronavirus this year, the Second Annual Jesse Carper Memorial Youth Tournament Banquet was held at the Craig County Fairgrounds on June 20 from noon until 4 p.m. Everyone involved was happy that it happened.

"The free event included a jump house, rock climbing wall, and an obstacle course for the kids," Kesler said. "They do not have

to fish the tournament to come have fun."

Much of the proceeds from the tournament will go towards the Hooked on Fishing – Not on Drugs Program in Craig.

Kesler added that the event is free, however, they do accept donations if anyone wishes to give. Kesler started the kid's tournament to "do something for the kids in our community."

There are no requirements, participants just sign up before the tournament begins. As people came in, kids didn't hesitate to run to the jump house and obstacle course. The older ones decided to take a try at the rock-climbing wall.

One mom, Ashley All, gave it her all, as her son

Kingston, competed with her to the top. As the gentleman was hooking her up, he asked with a grin, "You want to go up the hardest one?" Ashley was sporting her cowgirl boots, but still made it to the top and so did Kingston.

The smaller kids were jumping in the bouncy house and enjoying the different ventures in the obstacle course. Parents mingled together with smiles as they watched their children play and heard echoes of laughter.

While the children played, parents mingled with each other.

Kesler noted that last year he had 29 kids to participate in the tournament. Sadly, because of COVID-19,

there were only 15 little fishermen this year.

This year's happy fishing winners were: Hunter Ponton with a 29.75" catfish (first-place); Adalyn Haines with a 14.75" large-mouth bass (third-place) and Sherwood Haines with a 16.5" large-mouth bass (second place). In addition to the trophy, they received a tackle box, bait and a \$10 gift-card from Sportsman Warehouse.

Kesler added, "I am greatly appreciative to Dave's Moon Walk and More, all the board members of the fairgrounds for allowing us to use the fairgrounds and everyone who donated and fished the Annual Jesse Carper Memorial Musky Tournament this year and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This year's happy fishing winners were: Hunter Ponton with a 29.75 catfish (first place); Adalyn Haines with a 14.75" large-mouth bass (third-place) and Sherwood Haines with a 16.5" large-mouth bass (second place). In addition to the trophy, they received a tackle box, bait and a \$10 gift-card from Sportsman Warehouse.

also to WB Musky Shop."

As the kids enjoyed the day, Kesler seemed to get his reward as he said he got lots of hugs from the kids.

All boys and girls are encouraged to join the tournament next year and add this event to their family time of fun and sharing.

Old-fashioned self-sufficiency and bartering is on the rise

Pam Dudding Contributing writer (Published on May 13, 2020)

It's quite eye-opening at all of the things COVID-19 has brought out of some people.

Many have purchased a chicken coop and started raising their own chickens, while others have bought cows, goats or even pigs. Some have even tilled up their yard to start their first garden.

Many factors are leading people to be more self-sufficient, while at the same time bringing people's individual talents to their forefront such as sewing, gardening, singing and growing original herbs.

The coronavirus has plunged many to a place of wondering if they should be more self-reliant. Many are talking more and more about their grandparents and great grandparents' "ways of living."

One local woman said, "I had no idea I could even grow my own rosemary and peppermint. I'll never go back to store-bought now, as

mine is much better and I know what it in the soil."

Many hardware stores have repeatedly stated that they have sold out of plants and seeds in record time this year.

As meat prices rise at the markets, and untainted meats remain a question for so many, more residents are fencing in their yards and purchasing their first cow or pig.

"I'm so excited about our new chicken coop because we now have six chicks," one resident said. "My children as I will be learning this new experience together."

One positive about COVID-19 is that people are doing more family things together that will help them sustain their individual households.

Another past system people seem to be enjoying is bartering.

Many are doing more trading or as it used to be called, 'bartering', as funds are low for most these days.

One gentleman traded a gun

for a mower while another traded mowing for loads of mulch. Ladies are trading cakes and handmade items for eggs and sausage.

"I remember my granny fixing up her canned vegetables from the garden and I always asked her if she was going to feed Custer's Army because she canned hundreds of cans at a time," one girl reminisced. "Granny told me that one never knows when you may need a little bartering goods in hard times. I never forgot that, I just didn't realize I'd live during a time when I now believe I need to heed to what she did."

Could you really survive using the barter system, if you lost your job, you were out of cash, the cash lost its value, or the electronic payment systems were down? There's only one way to find out.

Tim "Mac" MacWelch at Advanced Survival Training shared some thoughts. "Many historians, anthropologists and econo-

mists agree that money didn't emerge from the barter system. It may be the opposite that barter emerged from money. Looking at many historic examples, barter takes place between people who know how to use money, but for some reason, they don't have a lot of it. In other words, they were broke," he said. "That sounds painfully familiar, right? And while this skill set is ancient, the act of bartering is still happening today. It's even gone digital, through various web-based barter systems and networking organizations."

There are many benefits to bartering. First, you can meet some new friends, or some weird people who could give you a great conversation.

Bartering is flexible as you can trade anything for anything. All you need is for both parties to agree. Also, bartering can transcend language and cultural boundaries.

The fun part is that barter deals should leave each person walking away happy with the trade. Always keep the mood light and friendly and if you can't come to an agreement, walk away with a smile anyway.

One warning is to be aware of those few who look for homes to steal from, so don't be too anxious to show someone you don't know all your goods. You may be setting yourself up for a steal.

Roughly 95 percent of people who barter go home happy. Some happier than others because if you are in a financial pickle, you may be the one who is letting things go at a cheaper price than you'd prefer.

For some, bartering can help provide for yourself and your loved ones when money is not an option.

Almost everyone has heard the saying, "One man's junk is another man's treasure." So, keep that in mind and enjoy a newer way of living.

Introducing the devoted “Blue” in Craig County

Pam Dudding Contributing writer (Published on November 10, 2020)

No one but the officers themselves know of the extended circumstances the Sheriff and his deputies are challenged with every week, and sometimes every day.

And even more so in today's world, with the acceleration of riots, anger and suicides, their jobs are becoming more dangerous and the calls more heart-wrenching.

Still, they serve. They are dedicated and do their jobs, even faithfully serving those who do not return any respect.

Can there be "bad cops" amid the many good ones? Yes, just like any other profession or gender.

Yet, here in Craig County, it seems we have been blessed with the "cream of the crop." Laws are upheld. Respect is shown to residents, and citizens are being protected and cared for.

The Craig County Sheriff's Department currently has these dedicated officers: Sheriff Trevor Craddock, Master Deputy Robert Wrzosek, Chief Deputy Geromy Nichols, Deputy Jeffrey Bryant, Deputy Jesse Crowder, Deputy Nathaniel Arthur, Deputy Gregory May and Christopher Swingle Jr., the newest officer.

Lloyd T.N. Craddock holds the position of Sheriff in Craig. He shared that he started his career with the Roanoke City Police Department and then applied for and was hired by the Virginia State Police.

"I left the Virginia State Police in 2015 with the rank of Senior Trooper to run for Sheriff in Craig County," he said. "I was elected Sheriff and took my current posi-

tion in 2016."

Craddock also shared why he pursued a career in law enforcement. "I was impressed with the Virginia State Police when they came to my elementary school and it left a lasting impression."

He added, "The part I enjoy most about working in Craig is that the people are great in this county."

Craddock, along with his officers, sees a lot of incidents that most people cannot even imagine, along with the devastating wrecks and family losses.

"The most difficult part of my job is telling families that a loved one is deceased," he said.

Deputy Wrzosek has lived in Craig County since 2016 and was hired in 2014 as a part-time dispatcher before becoming full-time later the same year.

In 2016, he applied and was sworn in as a Deputy Sheriff and now holds two positions: Deputy Sheriff and E911 Coordinator. He has moved up in the ranks as Master Deputy.

"This has been a career choice for me since I was young," Wrzosek shared. "Craig County has been a great place to work in dealing with the community and the camaraderie within the office."

He added that he has enjoyed getting to know everyone which makes his job difficult at times.

"So, with that being said, don't do anything that is going to put us in a troubling situation because, at the end of the day, we all have a job to do," he said.

Nichols, who has been a resident in Craig for 25 years, was hired on the force in 2008 and now holds the office of Chief Deputy.

"I have obtained certi-

fications and various training throughout my tenure to advance the department for the community," he shared.

Nichols said that he joined the law enforcement as he was a member of the fire department and "it was a way to continue to help in the community."

As he takes his responsibilities seriously, stating, "Craig County has a lot of great people and they support us in doing our jobs."

Bryant, also a lifelong resident of New Castle, shared, "I have wanted to be in law enforcement since I was a child."

He is currently Deputy Sheriff and was hired onto the Sheriff's Department in 2017.

"One of the things I enjoy most about working in Craig County is the camaraderie of all the emergency services within the county," Bryant said. "We all work very well together in a crisis and have been referred to as a well-oiled machine in the face of stress."

However, he added, "One of the most difficult parts of my job is having family and friends whom I have grown up with or known for a very long time that no longer have contact with me because of my career path."

His one message to the community of Craig County is "Thank you. Thank you for your support and kindness. I, myself, am greatly appreciative, as well as my fellow deputies."

Crowder is another lifelong resident of Craig who joined the force in May of 2018 and is a Deputy Sheriff.

He shared that he chose law enforcement because, "I enjoy helping people and think it is an interesting career field."

His most enjoyable part of his job is "patrolling our beautiful county and keeping our highways safe."

Yet, he shares the same sentiments with his comrades, that his most difficult part about his job is notifying families about the death of a family member.

Deputy May has been in Craig for 30 years and was hired in October 2018 as Deputy Sheriff and Animal Control Officer.

May shared, "When I was 18, I had an accident and ever since then, I have wanted to help people in the community the way they did."

However, the most difficult part of the job is having to respond to situations where family or friends could be involved. "But that does not change the way I handle the situation or the out-

come," he said.

He added, "I enjoy working where I live at and keeping the community safe."

The newest deputy, Nathaniel Arthur, joined the

force on September 1, 2020. When asked what he enjoys most about his job, he said, "being able to work in a

See **Blue**, page 5

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OBITUARY

Greenway, Lucy Hancock

Lucy Hancock Greenway, 90 of New Castle, was called home on December 23, 2020. She was born October 7, 1930, to the late Walter and Minnie Hancock.

She was the loving mother of seven children; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

All Services will be held privately with the family.

The Greenway family is being served by Paitzel Funeral Home in New Castle.

Young Fisher following in dad's "derby tracks"

Pam Dudding Contributing writer (Published on October 28, 2020)

Some kids find their passion at a young age and Trevor Fisher has been one of them.

At just two-years-old, young Trevor Fisher started getting excited about driving cars. "That is when he really understood what they do," shared his mom Lori.

"I started doing derbies when I was four," Trevor explained. "That means on October 31, I'll be eight and been driving for four years."

As most Craig Countians know, Trevor has a great role model to watch, his dad, Donnie, who has won many of the derbies at the Craig County Fairgrounds as well as other counties.

"My daddy, Donnie Wayne aka 'Trouble Maker' encouraged me," Trevor excitedly said. "My daddy has given me lots of pointers and tips on how to run a derby,

plus I watch a lot of YouTube videos."

He added, "I have the same derby name as my dad, I'm just the 'Little Trouble Maker' though."

"When they started the Power Wheels derbies at the fairgrounds, Trevor was quick to request, 'Daddy, get me a car. I am running,'" Lori noted. "This child eats, sleeps and breathes for these derbies. Not only does he do the Power Wheels, he will derby hot wheels cars and even sugar packets in restaurants. It's that bad."

When Trevor was asked, "What do you like most about driving in derbies?," he quickly responded, "I love to run derbies, because I like to hit hard and tear things up."

"We feel excited for him as he enjoys it that much and his daddy loves seeing him follow his footsteps," Lori expressed before adding, "We love watching him

work on his car. He beats it with a hammer to make dents and takes screwdrivers to the tires to tighten everything up before he runs."

Trevor did add that there are no individual "winners" in their Power Wheel derbies because every driver receives a trophy from Guthrie Insurance who sponsors the event for the little ones.

He added, but, if I did win, I would be like my daddy. "I got lots of tips from watching YouTube videos of our friend Dustin Price off of Metal Carnage TV. My daddy is a big supporter and helps me build my cars. I like to watch him, so I'll get better," he said.

"We tell him how good he is and the importance of good sportsmanship. Win or lose, he will always be our little winner," Donnie and Lori shared.

Trevor thoroughly enjoyed the October 24 Power Wheels derby and he's ready

for more. Sammy Huffman, emcee of the Saturday night live derby, let Trevor announce his dad as he entered the ring for his heat.

Trevor added that he and his dad are traveling to Maryland the weekend of the 30th to run in a demolition derby. "It's going to be on my birthday. Best birthday present ever."

Lori explained that he is running in an out of town Power Wheels. "His birthday is Halloween, so it is super special to him. A big thing in a little mind. We love it."

It is called the Buried Alive Derby for Deadman Productions. Shine Studio presents Deadman Powerwheels Trunk or Treat Deadman Style where children of all ages will be invited onto the track for a demolition style Trunk or Treat as well as an opportunity to meet ten spotlighted drivers for an autograph.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Trevor Fisher has enjoyed building his car with his dad, Donnie Wayne, aka "Trouble Maker" in the Craig County derbies. "I'm little Trouble Maker," Fisher now proclaims.

Donnie will also be driving in the Stock car derby that day, so they will have a full weekend.

Trevor concluded, "I've been giving this some

thought, I think they should give out a 'Mad Dog' Trophy in my class. I can't wait until the next demolition derby, I eat, sleep and breathe this stuff."

"Just A Hand" sparks a need for a place in Craig

Pam Dudding Contributing writer (Published September 30, 2020)

Everyone knows the phrase, "Your child is growing like a weed." And, all parents understand the absolute truth of its substance.

Craig County received a blessing on September 19 and 20 when Camp Mitch-

ell sponsored the "Just A Hand" Organization Children's Giveaway.

"A big thanks to Lynn and Bill Morgan of Spotsylvania, Virginia, for bringing their charitable non-profit organization, 'Just A Hand', to Camp Mitchell," the Persinger's shared.

Nichole Persinger organized the connection with

the Morgan's and her son Dustin, who is a school counselor, assisted. Both were at Camp Mitchell for the entire two days of giveaways.

They noted that with the risk of COVID-19 still on the horizon, many programs such as The Christmas Store will not be occurring this year. It was the hope of "Just A Hand" to provide some extra comfort to local families.

Everything was free of charge.

"The giveaway's sole purpose was to provide free children's clothing, toys, and accessories to families in our area through community outreach," Dustin noted. "This is also a great opportunity to prepare for

the holiday season."

Attendees were encouraged to wear a mask for safety.

As one walked in, it appeared that Wal-Mart had exploded in the auditorium. Clothes, shoes, toys, bicycle helmets, Halloween costumes, video games, books, baby items, strollers and baby baths and stuffed animals were all lined up. Every inch was packed.

As parents entered, eyes popped out and mouths dropped at the abundance of choices available to choose from.

Some kids were able to shop for themselves, carrying their bag around, selecting "just the right things they wanted to take home."

Many parents echoed "Thank you" and "God bless y'all," as they left carrying bags of needed items for their kids or others whom they knew had a need.

"With the help of Robin Nobles, who offered Camp Mitchell's services and allowed this giveaway to occur and the Persinger family for helping to run the event, the free children's clothing giveaway was a big success," the Persingers added.

Many families were overwhelmed with the nice items they were able to take home to their children, and some for their neighbors' children too.

However, "Just A Hand" does not want to just stop there.

"After listening to families participate in the event, it sounds like our community could benefit from having a place where individuals can come often to provide for their children without the need for costly expenses," Dustin said. "Just A Hand and the Persinger family are looking to do just that by creating a Community Closet here in Craig County, where families who need basic children's necessities can easily have access to them."

One obstacle standing in the way is a permanent location.

"If anyone in town has an available space that could be used to store a large collection of children's apparel as well as toys and books, please reach out to the Persinger family," they asked. "The Morgan's 'Just A Hand' non-profit organization may have the ability to continue supporting our community if we have the space to accept their donations."

For more information, contact either dpersinger@craig.k12.va.us or (540) 864-7558.


Dustin added, "Continue to watch the Craig County Yard Sale page on Facebook for further updates about giveaways in our community."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

At the "Just A Hand" children's giveaway weekend, parents were astounded at the variety of clothes, toys, books and home needs they were able to choose from for their children, all of which was free.

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Legals - City of Salem

Notice is hereby given to
all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, January 11, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room of the Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1) Request of Barry E. and Valerie T. Dick, property owners, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a 1,288 SF detached garage on the property located at 1737 Amy Lane (Tax Map #212-1-10).

2) Request of Derbyshire Real Estate, applicant, and Sunset Ridge Holdings, LLC, property owner, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a two-family dwelling on the property located at 703 E. Riverside Drive (Tax Map #232-2-9).

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of the City Planner, Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia.

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA
BY
James E. Taliaferro, II
Clerk of Council

Legals - Craig County

TRUSTEE SALE OF 99 Laurel Hill Pass, New Castle, VA 24127

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated September 5, 2017, in the original principal amount of \$125,190.00, recorded as Inst. 170000491, assigned as Inst. 200000407, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the County of Craig, 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 Craig on January 7, 2021, at 11:00 a.m., the property located at the above address and described as Lot 2, containing 4.026 acres, together with a 25 foot access easement as shown on plat recorded in Deed Book 114, pages 274-277, County of Craig. TERMS: CASH. PROPERTY SOLD AS IS WITH SPECIAL WARRANTY OF TITLE. A deposit of \$12,000.00 or 10% of the successful bid amount (whichever is lower) will be required immediately of the successful bidder, in cash, cashier's check or certified funds only payable to "BRIAN DOLAN LAW OFFICES, TRUSTEE", balance due within 15 days from date of sale. No personal checks accepted. 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. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. For Information Contact: Brian Dolan Law Offices, PLLC, and G. Benny Moore Substitute Trustee(s) 12610 Patrick Henry Dr., Ste. C, Newport News, VA 23602; (757) 320-0255

Publish On: December 23 & 30, 2020

Legals - Montgomery County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ004492-01-00 & JJ004492-02-00
RADFORD J&DR- JUVENILE DIVISION
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re BOWLING, ALAYNA DAWN RENEE
HILL, STEPHANIE
/v.
BOWLING, DAVID H.

The object of this suit is to: LOCATE PARENTS.

It is ORDERED that DAVID H. BOWLING appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 1/19/2021 2:00pm.

11/16/2020
Sally Davis
Clerk

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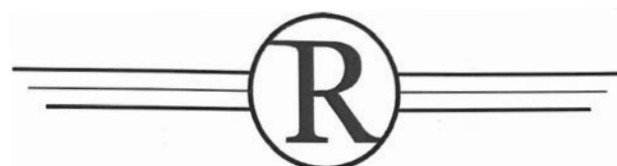
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2020, the Year of COVID



Brian Hoffman

Sports Editor

It's the curse of the COVID in the year 2020 and sports as we know them are far from aplenty. The cutouts of fans placed in seats with great care as folks watch at home wishing they could be there.

When Rudy Gobert came down with the bug he ticked off D. Mitchell with a well-meaning hug. That was 293 days ago, as far as I can tell when sports as we knew them went all to hell.

No baseball, no hockey no March Madness, too and even the golfers played golf before few. The baskets returned with their games in a bubble but only with masks and a whole lot of trouble.

The high school sports seasons were all put on hold with many a senior left out in the cold. No districts, no regions, no state games or meets no honors or trophies or memorable feats.

When things got no better the sports that we saw were reruns and cornhole and Korean baseball. The NASCAR returned but was run with great care with hopes that the crazy fans soon would be there.

MLB baseball came back and was funny to watch without spitting or slapping or grabbing of crotch. The Dodgers prevailed by downing the Rays then Turner spread virus in post-series craze.

By autumn we hoped that the virus would be better and high school athletes could still earn a letter. But sadly the Virginia High School League noted no football in this state was how the group voted.

The Hokies and Hoos completed their seasons but won't go to bowls for virus fueled reasons. The Commonwealth's Cup was won by VT then Hooker decided to set himself free.

The NFL season is still going strong with plenty of time for things to go wrong. The GOAT looks fine as a Tampa Bay Buc but the Patriots and Newton have run out of luck.

The NBA season did open last week with Harden in strip clubs to get him a peak. He hopes to soon be a Sixer or Net but the Rockets demands have yet to be met.

And so this is New Year and what have we here? A mask on the baby and nowhere for beer. Restaurants are places where we like to go but they're superspreaders of virus, you know.

But wait, do I hear there's some hope on the scene? It's Pfizer and Moderna, with COVID vaccine. There's Fauci and Gupta, and bring back Rich Bright the good whistle blower who knew what was right.

In the year '21 may the sports that we yearn, be cleared from the virus so fans can return. And once again athletes will be back in action enjoying the games and their great satisfaction.

And so when I laugh, like a bowl full of jelly may the sports that we watch be more than the telly. The year's almost over, there's real hope in sight. Happy New Year my friends, and to all a safe night.

Martinsville Speedway to Host 2021 NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Race on Oct. 30, 2021

Track to Host Penultimate Race of NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Season for 2nd Consecutive Year

MARTINSVILLE, Va. As part of NASCAR's announcement of the 2021 NASCAR Camping World Truck Series schedule, Martinsville Speedway will host the penultimate race of the series' season on Oct. 30, 2021.

Martinsville will host the penultimate races of the NASCAR Cup Series, NASCAR Xfinity Series, and NASCAR Camping World Truck Series seasons for the second consecutive year in 2021. On Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021, Martinsville will host a doubleheader with the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Playoff race and the Draft Top 250 NASCAR Xfinity Series Playoff race. The NASCAR Cup Series' Championship 4 will be set in the Xfinity 500 on Sunday, Oct. 31, 2021. The NASCAR Championship in all three series will be

held the following week at Phoenix Raceway.

In the spring, Martinsville will host its first-ever three race weekend of night races on April 8-10, 2021. The weekend will kick off with the return of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour on Thursday, April 8, 2021. This will be the first Modified Tour race at Martinsville since 2010. Martinsville will host a NASCAR Xfinity Series race on Friday, April 9, 2021 and the Blue-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 500 NASCAR Cup Series race on Saturday, April 10, 2021.

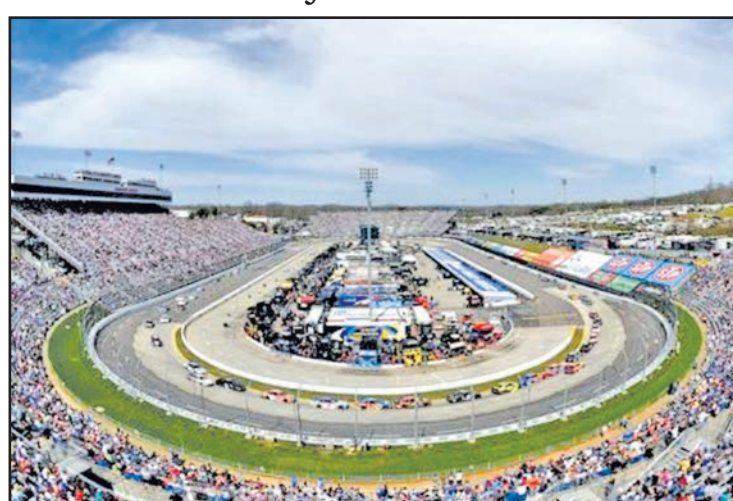
Racing Virginia will be active in the month of April as the Commonwealth will host two Cup Series races in the same month for the first time since the April 2017 with Richmond Raceway hosting a Cup race a week after Martins-

ville on April 18, 2021. Martinsville and Richmond have hosted back-to-back race weekends four times, with the last time being in the spring of 1967. The first time was in the spring of 1955.

The ValleyStar Credit Union 300, the nation's biggest, richest and most prestigious NASCAR Late Model Stock Car race, will return for an evening of intense competition at Martinsville in 2021. The race date will be announced in the near future.

Start times and television networks for the NASCAR Cup Series, NASCAR Xfinity Series, NASCAR Camping World Truck Series, and NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour will be announced at a later date.

2021 NASCAR race tickets are available for purchase today



Martinsville Speedway

NASCAR.COM PHOTO

via phone at 877-RACE-TIX or online at martinsvillespeedway.com. Fans can view the full 2021 NASCAR Cup Series,

NASCAR Xfinity Series, NASCAR Camping World Truck Series schedules and purchase tickets a nascar.com/tickets.

Major League Baseball eliminates 40 Minor League franchises

Jackson, Tennessee, lost its Double-A baseball team for next season, one of 40 cities dropped as professional affiliates as Major League Baseball went through with its plan to cut to 120 farm teams.

The New York-Penn League, which started in 1939, was eliminated and the Pioneer League, founded the same year, lost its affiliated status and became an independent partner league. The Appalachian League was converted to a college summer circuit for rising freshmen and sophomores.

Each franchise's top four affiliates will include one team each at Triple-A, Double-A, High-A and Low-A. Additional clubs are allowed at spring training complexes and in the Dominican Republic.

Jackson had fielded a Double-A team since 1998, first as a farm team of the Chicago Cubs through 2006, then of Seattle through 2016 and Arizona since 2017. The Amarillo Sod Poodles will switch to the Diamondbacks from San Diego, and the San Antonio Missions from Milwaukee to the Padres, dropping down from Triple-A.

"If we have the necessary advocacy, Major League Baseball has stated

a commitment to provide sustainable opportunities for the Jackson Generals to maintain professional baseball," Generals general manager Marcus Sabata said in a statement. "We will wait, respectfully, for more clarity and for the process to play out while continuing to advocate for, and invest in, the city of Jackson and the state of Tennessee."

MLB ended the Professional Baseball Agreement that governed the relationship between the majors and minors. The National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, which had governed the minors since 1901, is closing down, and the minors will be run from MLB's office in New York under the supervision of Peter Woodfork, MLB's new senior vice president of minor league operations and development.

Washington is dropping the Fresno Grizzlies in California as its Triple-A team in favor of Rochester, New York, which had been affiliated with Minnesota. The Twins' Triple-A team will be the St. Paul Saints, which had been an independent team.

The Saints, one of the rare independent clubs to become a farm

team, play at 7,000-seat CHS Field, a five-year-old ballpark about 11 miles east of Target Field at the other end of a light rail line. CHS Field served as Minnesota's alternate training site during the pandemic-altered 2020 season.

Minnesota moved its Double-A affiliate from Pensacola, Florida, to Wichita, Kansas.

"We have long admired the creative excellence of Marv Goldklang, Mike Veeck and their team in making the Saints one of America's most successful minor league brands," Twins president Dave St. Peter said. "We are incredibly excited at the thought of Minnesota baseball fans having the opportunity to watch their favorite Twins prospects as they wear the Saints uniform and play at gorgeous CHS Field. Simply put, a Twins-Saints partnership would not only be historic, but a wonderful boon for baseball in the Twin Cities and beyond."

Fresno, California, will wind up as the Low-A team of Colorado, according to the Fresno City Council. The Rockies were planning to terminate their affiliation with Lancaster, California.

Major league teams issued 119

invitations Wednesday, and the Rockies then became the final franchise to settle its alignment when the Fresno City Council approved the deal.

The Frederick Keys of the Carolina League also lost professional status. The team, which had been a Baltimore affiliate, will be part of the Draft League that was announced last month for prospects ahead of the amateur draft.

The Nashville Sounds of the Triple-A Pacific Coast League reunite with Milwaukee, its parent club from 2005 to 2014, from Texas. Rock Round rejoins the Rangers after two seasons with Houston, and the Sugar Land Skeeters move to the PCL from the independent Atlantic League to become Houston's top farm team.

The Jacksonville Shrimp move up from Double-A to Triple-A with the Miami Marlins. The Wichita Wind Surge, who were to have started as Miami's Triple-A team in the pandemic-canceled 2020 season, will drop a level to affiliate with the Twins. The team had been the Marlins' Triple-A New Orleans Baby Cakes through 2019.

Binghamton, New York, which

had been targeted for elimination, will remain as the New York Mets' Double-A team.

"This result is nothing short of a home run," said Sen. Chuck Schumer, the New York Democrat who is Senate minority leader.

The Brooklyn Cyclones shift from the New York-Penn League to the new High-A full season Mid-Atlantic League and remain with the Mets. As part of the changes announced by the Yankees last month, short-season Staten Island is being dropped along with Double-A Trenton, New Jersey, which will be replaced by Somerset, New Jersey. Trenton will join the Draft League.

Hudson Valley moves from Tampa Bay's New York-Penn team to the Yankees' Mid-Atlantic League team, while Lansing stays in the Midwest League and shifts from Toronto to Oakland. The Augusta GreenJackets of the South Atlantic League shift to Atlanta from San Francisco, and the Asheville Tourists switch to Houston from Colorado.

The Florida State League and California League shift to Low-A from High-A.

KastKing introduces podcast series of fishing interviews titled "KastKing On The Line"

(Garden City, Long Island NY) KastKing has taken another step in its social media presence with the launch of KastKing On The Line, an ongoing podcast series of interviews with personalities in recreational fishing and the fishing tackle industry.

Listeners can find KastKing PodKast on the free-download Spotify app. Once on Spotify they can search for KastKing to find KastKing PodKast with KastKing On The Line episodes. Interviews with show host KastKing Communications Specialist Nikki (Nichole) Delio range from 15 minutes to an hour. The topics and

guests cover many aspects of recreational fresh water and saltwater fishing.

"For the moment KastKing on the Line programming is streaming on Spotify," says KastKing CMO Tom Gahan. "Shortly it will be available on Apple Podcasts (formerly iTunes), Google Podcasts, Stitcher, iHeartRadio, and others. Video versions of the interviews will be uploaded to the KastKing YouTube channel on a weekly basis. Fresh content will posted to the KastKing PodKast channel on a regular and frequent basis."

"You have to believe in yourself," Nikki says, "and all that you

are," then quotes Thomas Carlyle, "Permanence, perseverance and persistence in spite of all obstacles, discouragements, and impossibilities: It is this, that in all things distinguishes the strong soul from the weak."

You have to know that there is something inside of you that is greater than any obstacle. All you can do is offer everything that you are, everything that you are made of, wholeheartedly. Walk with the people that you love and love you... through all fear, and everything this world has to throw at you. It's all you can do. It's all anyone of us can do..."

"I'm so excited to be able to do KastKing On The Line and to be able to introduce people to the world that follow these words every day. People that have passions, hopes, and dreams, and push through every obstacle, trial, and tribulation, that the world throws at them, to obtain them. I know that our world is in chaos today, but I know as a people, we always stick together and adapt and overcome. It is my utmost hope that this show, can give just a little bit of peace, put a smile on your face, and put some warmth in your heart, if only for a few minutes."

Nikki also hosts a weekly live

show, KastKing Fishing Frenzy, on the KastKing YouTube channel. She is an outdoors journalist, US Military Veteran and former Law Enforcement Officer.

"We waited until the holiday season to launch KastKing On The Line," adds Gahan. "As Shane and Nikki point out, it's an opportunity to share fishing information and entertainment, and also to spread goodwill. In the wake of 2020, which was a tough year for a lot of people, KastKing hopes to share a little cheer. There's a lot of interesting content. I'm proud of everyone involved for making these podcasts happen."