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DAR commemorates Flag Day



SUBMITTED PHOTO

At the Gopher Market, DAR members recently recognized Mike and Richard Carper for flying their flag at their business. Pictured, from left to right, are Carolyn Roberts, Mike Carper, Alyssa Stump, Richard Carper, Margaret Hines and Diane Givens.

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

To commemorate annual Flag Day on June 14, the Craig Valley Chapter NSDAR recognized two New Castle businesses for

their year-round and patriotic display of the American Flag.

"Gopher Market and the Emporium General Store both received certificates noting their "Proper Use, Correct Display and Patriotic presentation of the flag

of the United States of America," said DAR member Diane Givens. "One of the many action committees of the National DAR is the American Flag Committee which was established in 1909 with these objectives: to keep the flag flying and to protect it continuously under all conditions, as well as to educate citizens regarding its correct usage."

Mike and Richard Carper and store manager Alyssa Stump accepted the certificate on behalf of Gopher Market while Deborah Spence accepted for the Emporium General Store.

In America, Flag Day is celebrated on June 14. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress which stated: "Resolved, that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

See **Flag Day**, page 3



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Big Car Heat brought on several hard hits with fast movements. Here, Jimmy Owens decided to ram Derek Duding into Joey Minter as Braeden Morrison came in from behind for a good hit.

Summer Derby packs the fairgrounds

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

The June Summer Derby usually attracts a sizeable crowd. This year, however, every available seat was taken, and the park was filled to capacity.

People enjoyed picnicking on their truck beds and at the stage, children threw footballs in the field while the smaller kids played tag in front of the bleachers. As one attendee said, "it looked like a great family event and laughter and happy chatter could be heard everywhere."

The Upper Craig Creek Volunteer Fire Department lent their services for the evening, along with the Craig County Rescue Squad and EMS.

Judges for the night were B.J. Oliver, Jesse Bradford, Paul Welch and Jacob Bradford.

Emcee Sammy Huffman started the evening by playing the National Anthem. The crowd stood in silence as the song filled the atmosphere with a feeling of American appreciation.

Huffman then announced for the heat to enter the ring. Cars revved their engines making performance entrances, and all awaited the countdown and blowing of the horn.

Big Car Heat #1 included drivers 35 - Corie Trivette in his antique 1959 Ford, 56 - PJ Welch, Lucky 13 - Derek Dud-

See **Derby**, page 5

Library returning to normal with a Swap Day

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

The library is back to regular hours. This means appointments are no longer necessary, and no more restrictions on the number of patrons.

To celebrate the reopening, they are having Swap Day on the library back porch this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be books and household goods for free and everyone is invited.

Since "School's Out for Summer," the Craig County Library is an essential "go-to" for kids and parents alike during their summer fun days, enjoying the books, videos and internet.

Jane Henderson, Treasurer of the CCPL, Inc Board, said, "Previous library plant Swap Days have been great, and the library would like to



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The New Castle Library is excited to announce there are no more COVID restrictions and will be celebrating with a Swap Day on Saturday, June 26. They invite others to set up as well.

continue Swap Days as a regular activity. It's a fun day of sharing with people from the community and others from outside New Castle."

She noted that on their Swap

Day, anyone can bring household items they want to give away.

"Just remember, you can set up

See **Library**, page 3

Craig County High Class of 1961 gather to reminisce at 60th reunion



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jackie Taylor help set up the table with memorabilia for all to enjoy at the Class of 1961 reunion.

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

There is nothing like touching base with high school friends of yesteryear. The Craig County High Class of 1961 feels the same and since the lifting of mandates, they decided to have a class reunion.

Members of the class graduated on June 10, 1961. Their 60th reunion was celebrated at the Olde Hotel on Main Street in New Castle.

The Craig County Historical Society served lunches in the dining room of the hotel. Class members noted their appreciation for allowing the reunion to be held at the hotel.

New Castle High School was the site of their graduation ceremony, where 26 high school se-

niors received their diplomas.

Those in attendance for the reunion were: Judy and Barton Baker from Morgantown, WV., David Humphries of Covington, Jerry Lamb of Salem, Ronnie and Cheryl Parker of Smith Mountain Lake, Bobby Robertson and Connie and Jack Shelor of Catawba. New Castle residents who attended included Nancy Mattox, Jackie and Glenn Taylor, Patty and Norman Taylor, Sue and Dallas Helems, Carol Jean and Eugene Hannah.

Mrs. Connie Watson was their class sponsor throughout high school, and she attended the last reunion a few years ago.

"The class will review a way to remember her for the Class of 2022, as she passed away re-

See **Reunion**, page 3

Beloved community member receives the Unsung Virginian Award



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Recently, Lanier Frantz of New Castle received the Unsung Virginian Award, bestowed annually since 1968 by the Virginia - Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives. Pictured from left to right are Mary Ann Gober, Lanier Frantz and Jeff Ahearn of Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative.

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

Communities bring together friendship and family-like friendships. And for some, they just enjoy giving and being a part of comm"UNITY."

Recently, Lanier Frantz of New Castle received the Unsung Virginian Award, bestowed annually since 1968 by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Headquartered in Glen Allen, Virginia, the Virginia - Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives provides safety training, continuing education,

and communications and legislative services to 15 electric cooperatives serving the three-state Mid-Atlantic region.

Representatives of the VMD Association and Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative presented a certificate of honor to Frantz, who also was recognized at a Memorial Day weekend ceremony in New Castle.

"The Unsung Virginian Award honors a citizen, who has not previously been recognized, for services rendered to the Commonwealth without thought of personal gain," Steven John-

See **Unsung**, page 4



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Sweet corn starting off slow, but farmers optimistic for the season

Sweet corn season is a sure sign of summer, but farmers say this spring's cooler temperatures and lack of rain have delayed the crop's growth.

"The nighttime temperatures in May were very cold," said John Cromwell, a Virginia Beach sweet corn grower and member of the Virginia Beach Farm Bureau's board of directors. "We had many nights in the mid- and low 50s. For us down here on the coast, that's really cold."

Cromwell said he had to start irrigating in May up until Memorial Day weekend because of the dry weather. Despite this, he remains upbeat as he readies for the summer sweet corn season, which runs from now through early September.

"We got everything planted on time," he said. "It probably should be a couple inches taller, but all in all it's in good shape. We should start harvesting somewhere around June 25."

Farmer Richard Goode echoed

Cromwell's sentiments.

"It was a struggle until it rained the other day," he said. "I was trying to irrigate, but you can't put enough water on it when it's dry like it was."

"It's probably going to be a little bit later than normal. We usually have corn for the Fourth of July—that's going to be cutting it pretty close this year. Then again, it could get hot and go the other way too and speed it up. It depends on the temperature—that's the biggest

thing."

According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, 4,369 acres of sweet corn were harvested on 416 farms in Virginia in that year. While it's grown throughout the state, some of the highest-producing areas include Augusta, Caroline, Carroll, Halifax, Hanover and Rockingham counties, Virginia Beach and the Northern Neck region.

Goode, who sells white and bicolor super sweet corn at his farm market and wholesale, said he

planted more than last year.

"People are usually hungry for it when it first comes in," he said. "We're going to have 15 acres for them this year."

Cromwell said he's been busy selling broccoli and peas at Cromwell Produce's roadside market, and he's ready to add his Allusion and Glacial white sweet corn to the mix.

-Submitted by Alice Kemp, VFBF communications

New Western Virginia Regional Jail Superintendent appointed

The Western Virginia Regional Jail Authority recently announced the appointment of David Cox as Superintendent of the Western Virginia Regional Jail (WVRJ). Cox assumes his new position immediately.

"David is well known and well respected in law enforcement circles throughout southwest Virginia and, personally, I have had the pleasure of working with him on a number of levels," said Jay Taliaferro, chair-

man of the Western Virginia Jail Authority. "He has been a key figure at the jail since it opened and I cannot think of a better person to succeed Bobby Russell as superintendent, and continue the jail's high level of professionalism."

Cox currently serves as Lieutenant Colonel and Interim Superintendent of the WVRJ.

"It is a great honor and privilege to be selected as WVRJ's Superintendent," said Cox.

"This is an accomplished organization because of its employees and governing board; I am humbled to be entrusted with this responsibility."

During his tenure, Cox has served as Deputy Superintendent and overseen day-to-day operations of the WVRJ, as well as a workforce of approximately 200 people. Prior to joining the WVRJ, Cox served as a Police Officer for the City of Salem. He was also employed at the

Roanoke City Sheriff's Office where he directed operations within the security and services divisions of the Roanoke City Jail.

Cox holds a Master of Criminal Justice degree from Boston University and a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Roanoke College. He is a graduate of the National Jail Leadership Command Academy, and holds multiple certifications from the Department

of Criminal Justice Services. In addition, Cox is a member of the American Jail Association and served as a program advisor for the Virginia Association of Regional Jails Leadership Initiative.

Cox follows Superintendent Bobby Russell who retired in March 2021 after 14 years of service at the WVRJ.

-Submitted by Amy Whittaker, Public Information Officer

Flag Day

from page 1

The United States Army also celebrates its birthday on this date.

History shows that in 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day and on August 3, 1949, National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress.

Flag Day is not an official federal holiday, however, on June 14, 1937, Pennsylvania became the first U.S. state to celebrate Flag Day as a state holiday. Also, New York Statutes designate the second Sunday in June as Flag Day, a state holiday.

Other states also honor the day by hosting gala parades.

Givens noted that, "The Daugh-

ters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a women's service organization dedicated to promoting historic preservation, education, patriotism and honoring the patriots of the Revolutionary War."

She also noted that annual support goes to five different military bases such as medical centers in Germany and Walter Reed in Maryland. This also includes the 3,000 chapters around the country that regularly send thousands of personal care items, medical supplies, packages of popcorn, batteries, boots, cards, and gifts to Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force, Coast Guard, and National Guard units on the front lines and at sea.

"Our local Craig Valley DAR ladies are proud to support businesses as well as active military throughout the entire year," Givens added. "We are proud of these and other businesses in the community which display our national symbol."

Several families in Craig also support Flag Day as well as other patriotic days by flying their flags, some even daily, with a light displayed on it at night, which is the proper way to display at night.

"We appreciate the recognition from DAR," Mike Carper said. "And we are proud to fly the flags at both locations. We are proud to be American-owned and serving Craig County."



Members of the Craig Valley DAR presented Deborah Spence of the Emporium General Store their certificate for proudly flying the American flag. Carolyn Roberts, Margaret Hines, Deborah Spence and Diane Givens are pictured from left to right.

Reunion

from page 1



Many enjoyed viewing the pictures and class news from yesteryear at the class reunion.



Clara Leftwich assisted in serving a delicious meal cooked by the Historical Society at the Olde Hotel.

cently," said Jackie Taylor. "She, Mrs. Garrett, Mr. Walton Mitchell and others were teachers and supporters throughout our years at New Castle High School."

"The class really enjoyed the opportunity to fellowship and look at memorabilia from their school years," Taylor added. "It is very hard to believe that so many years have passed, but the group was really enjoyed seeing each other and discussing old memories."

Library

from page 1

your own space (pick-up truck bed, table and chair, etc) behind the library and you must take away anything that is left over. Anyone can come and pick up treasures they want for free," Henderson added. "There will also be books to swap at the library."

The idea of free household goods for this Swap Day came from Kathi Toelke, the library's County Board representative.

"I have lots of nice used games and toys. I'd rather just give them to people in the community as opposed to giving them to

Goodwill where they get sold or thrown away," Toelke shared. "If you have had time for spring cleaning and want to clear out no longer used household items, join us for the day. We can help you find a new home for your things. You may find some treasures you can take home for free also."

Also, June is the Friends of the Library Membership Drive.

They had their kick-off at the start of June by inviting everyone to become a supporting member of the Library, whether they

would be a new member or renew their membership. (These small funds make a huge difference in helping the staff run the facility and provide more for the patron of Craig.)

If people sign-up at the library or on their website in June, their name will be put in the hat for a \$100.00 gift card towards a local business of their choice.

"Please consider additional support dollars," they asked. "With new laws increasing the salary of our dedicated staff, our cost of operations is in-

creasing and please know that any gift is greatly appreciated."

Their doors are open and awaiting everyone this weekend's visit.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING COUNTY OF CRAIG, VIRGINIA PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2506 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the Craig County Board of Supervisors on the proposed County Budget amendment for Fiscal Year 2020-21 (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021) and also for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022). The Public Hearing, which may be continued or adjourned, will be held **July 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** or as soon thereafter as the matter is heard during the Board of Supervisors meeting at the Craig County Courthouse in New Castle, Virginia.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public review at the County Administrator's Office in the County Administration Building, New Castle, Virginia.

PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENT FY 2020-21 TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR:

County of Craig	
EMS	\$ 8,136
Craig Co Public School	
Forest Reserve	\$ 96,811

PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENT FY 2021-22 TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR:

County of Craig	
Misc Departments	\$ 28,050
Sheriff Seizure	\$ 7,786
Commonwealth Attorney Seizure	\$ 2,459
911 psap grant	\$228,989
Communications System Radio Grant	\$ 42,500
Craig Co Public School	
Capital Funds	\$237,889

OPINION

Become a friend of your local library

Library Corner
Empowering individuals to build a stronger community

How do libraries benefit from Friend groups? They benefit from the expansion of their resources to serve the public. Friends extend a library's capacity through dollar gifts, volunteer and program support, and through advocacy. Few libraries are in a position to turn away help from their supporters – in fact, even if a library were so well-heeled that additional funding wasn't needed, libraries without a well-developed group of Friends will find the going tough when they need to bring in additional precious funds in an increasingly competitive environment, when they need a new

building, or when they need to grow their collections and services. Additionally, any library that seeks grant funding will find themselves in a much more competitive position for those grants if they can show that they receive tangible support from the very people who use and benefit from the library. Politically, Friends are very important and effective for libraries of all types. Friends are advocates by default! Friends wouldn't be giving their time, energy and financial support to an entity they're not willing to fight for – that entity is the library. When the case needs to be made for your library, the group most able to step up to the plate is the Friends of the Library. Every day across America, Friends are making a difference for the libraries

they serve. Think about the most successful library you know and look behind the curtains. There you will almost inevitably find Friends working behind the scenes, at city hall, with the school or academic administration, and in the public at large making sure that their library is strong, relevant, and well-funded. Source: American Library Association
How to join:
1) Come by the library and join. Check out a book while you're there!
2) Go to craigcountypubliclibrary.org and click on the tab that says About and scroll down to Friends of the Library and fill out a membership form.
3) Go to the same website and click on the yellow donate button and put membership in the notes when you pay via



The Craig County Public Library is at 303 Main Street. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Paypal. Your membership lasts until June 30, 2022
Library News:
June 26, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Swap Day Bring household items to swap.

Browse books and other things the library offers. You never know what you might find. July 12, Board of trustees meets at 6 p.m. on the library patio.

Become a Friend of the Library with your \$5 donation by June 30 and you will be entered in a drawing to win a \$100 gift card to the local business of your choice!

Unsung

from page 1

son, Vice President of Communications, said. "Frantz, a Craig County resident, was honored with the award for his work in promoting aviation, as well as conservation, in his community."

"Through his drive and determination, Lanier Frantz has truly made a difference in the lives of those in Craig County and beyond. Lanier epitomizes the Seventh Cooperative Principle

of Concern for Community, and his efforts carry on the tradition of the Unsung Virginian Award," said Jeff Ahearn, CEO of Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative. Said Ahearn at the ceremony, "To Lanier Frantz, for his decades of outstanding service, leadership to the community and region, for his role in developing the New Castle International Airport, and for his resolute, enthusiastic unconditional support of the environmental steward of becoming the first farm west of the Blue Ridge Mountain in the state of Wild Life Management Program, for insuring protection of the heritage of Western Virginia through one of the largest easements in the region and for doing so without any expectation of personal gain and for remaining a valued friend to those fortunate enough to know him. Now, the Virginia-Maryland-Delaware Association of Electric Cooperative in conjunction with Craig Botetourt Electric Cooperative hereby recognize Lanier Frantz as the 2021 recipient of the Unsung Virginian Award."

"Goodness, I'm flattered," Frantz responded in surprise. "This is incredible. I certainly do thank you." "You are a better friend than I knew," he added as everyone joined in laughing. Melissa Mattox, a member of the Blue Ridge Soaring Society and a student pilot, noted that many read the Cooperative Living Magazine the Electric Company publishes. "They had an article about nominating people and your name came to my mind," she said to Frantz. "I've only been here a couple of years, but I've seen young people solo an airplane before they have their driver's license and Kelly went on to be an Air Traffic Controller and other commercial pilots. You have just put so many people on their path and that impressed me. You have earned my respect." "I didn't do all of that you know," Frantz quickly

ly added. "You are being too generous. Thank you all." "Thank you for what you do for the community," Ahearn quickly responded. "We have a lot in common as my father has an airstrip he lives on, in Eastern North Carolina. He has fly-ins and he inquired about landing here. He's got a little 172 wingtips for low stall speed." "You know he'd be welcome," Frantz said. The committee shared, "A Roanoke native, Frantz has been the driving force in bringing aviation to New Castle. In the 1950s, he learned to fly airplanes and gliders, and, in 1960, bought the land that would house the New Castle Airport. During the past 59 years, he has developed the airport and Blue Ridge Soaring Society, the glider club that is housed there." Also, for his work in teaching students and flying gliders, he was inducted into the Soaring Hall of Fame in 1986. "Under his leadership, New Castle has gained

worldwide recognition as a great soaring location," said his daughter, Cole Frantz. "Many of the students at his airport have gone into careers as pilots and air traffic controllers." Johnson noted, "Additionally, Frantz was cited for his contributions to land conservancy. He and his wife Thelca have donated more than 1,100 acres in conservation easements in southwest Virginia. In 2000, the Virginia General Assembly approved a resolution commending the Frantz family for its participation in natural resource programs." "It's just remarkable how many lives Lanier has touched," said Brian Mosier, president and CEO of the VMD Association. "He didn't do it with any thought of personal gain; he did it because he thought it was the right thing to do and we're so pleased to be able to add his name to our Unsung Virginians." "I'm totally overwhelmed," Frantz said. "I never expected anything like this."

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USPS 378-080 1633 W. Main St.
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Michael Showell, *Publisher*
Shawn Nowlin, *Editor*shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org
Brian Hoffman, *Sports Editor*.....bhoffman@ourvalley.org
Lynn Hurst, *General Manager*.....lhurst@ourvalley.org
Randy Thompson *Advertising Consultant*.....advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view: newcastle@ourvalley.org
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Rockets soccer season ends with loss to Galax in Region 1C tournament

Craig County's most successful soccer season to date came to end last week when visiting Galax defeated the Rockets at Mitchell Field in New Castle, 5-0. Galax went on to win the region with a 1-0 victory over George Wythe.

"They were a good team, but we held them scoreless for the first 49 minutes before they scored one," said Craig County coach Robin Nobles. "They were a very good passing team, really skilled."

The Rockets had a hard time mustering an attack against the

Maroon Tide. Craig had just five shots on goal for the game while the Craig defense and keeper Mason Huffman were peppered with shots but managed to keep the Rockets in the game. In the end, Galax was just too good a team for a Craig team that had only been in existence for a few years.

The loss ended the Rockets' season at 7-2-1 overall, and that included a Pioneer District championship. The school received a trophy and the coaching staff is going to buy a banner to hang in the gym, as that's not a

part of the school budget. There will be a space on the banner to add future accomplishments.

"I think we had an awesome season," said Nobles. "We had really good chemistry on this team. We had a lot of players who have been playing together for a long time."

Craig will lose six seniors, Claire Deplazes, Clayton Owens, Logan Kitler, Dalton Henderson, Hunter Ashley and Alexis Jones. All six were named to the All-Pioneer District team last week at either first or second team or honor-

able mention.

First team honors went to Henderson at forward, Ashley at midfield and Kitler on defense. Mason Huffman was named the first team goalie.

Deplazes was a second team selection at midfield while Lucas Taylor was honored at forward and Alex McDowell was named on defense. Honorable mention honors were bestowed upon Owens and Jones.

"We lose a lot," said Nobles. "Next year will be a rebuilding year, but we should still be competitive. We'll have a lot of

fresh players coming in."

The Rockets could also have a middle school team next year, and that should help the program. The team is now on solid ground and Nobles, who has been instrumental in getting the program started, is stepping aside as coach. Robin was named the Pioneer District Coach of the Year this season.

"It's a good time to step out," she said. "There's something to be said for going out on top, and I'm hoping Jeff (assistant Hickson) will take over the team. He's definitely qualified."



Action from Craig County's region soccer game against Galax last week.

PHOTOS BY DONNA DEPLAZES