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Craig County community celebrates the Fourth of July



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Eighteen-month-old Everleigh Sowers enjoyed celebrating the red, white and blue at home. Said her family, "God bless America."



Carol Old's family members, from left to right, Marlon Old, Patrick Old, Samuel Old and Scott Old who served in the Marine Corp. The flag behind them belonged to their oldest brother Dana Old who is deceased and served in the United States Marine Corp, as their father, Charles Old, did too.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

As summer continues, no one is left out this year. The local t-ball team recently started their season at the Field of Dreams.

Field of Dreams – reimagining recreation

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

"having a ball" at the FOD.

"As a neighboring County Recreation Program says, it's time to 'reimagine recreation,'" Debbie Snead, Field of Dreams Advisor, recently said. Snead has always had not only a vision, but a zeal to create a place for Craig County youth to play and enjoy.

There have been games following athletic contests at the field, with laughter streaming from kids as well as parents and coaches.

Noted several parents and coaches, "It's so good to see our kids enjoying themselves, getting out in the fresh air and playing sports that make them happy."

She noted that after a year of not being able to play sports, Craig County kids have literally been

The Craig County Rec- See Dreams, page 5

Independence Day for the U.S.A.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

As dusk came on Sunday night, the sky lit up with jaw-dropping fireworks in New Castle. Several families shared their excitement of the special day by shooting elaborate fireworks with some going at least 100 yards into the sky. Happy chatter was in abundance and the giggles of kids at the booms, sparkles and colors made the sky come alive.

its founding heritage.

Many years ago, people fought to become independent of other rulers and chose to separate its association with another country's beliefs and standards.

History shows that Independence Day, the Fourth of July, is a holiday which commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, which solidified the American colonies' resolution to fight for their independence from Britain, the monarch of King George III, and were now free and independent states.

It is stated that, "A major milestone in the United States' development as a nation, the Declaration of Independence was written by Thomas Jefferson and later approved by Congress in a closed-door session on July 2, 1776. The next day founding Father John Adams wrote in a letter to his wife Abigail: 'But

See Independence, page 5

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

feel their families fought for the freedom of the United States of America.

Most of today's older generation hold Independence Day dear to their hearts, as some

America is experiencing more trials and tribulations in the last couple of years, than it has since

Annual Craig County Fall Festival happening this year



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The fun-filled 38th Annual Fall Festival is scheduled to take place on October 9 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on the streets of New Castle.

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

When news broke that the Annual Craig County Festival will be happening this year, many residents went to Facebook and responded with positive comments.

The Craig County Historical Society recently announced that the annual occurrence, now in its 38th year, will be held on Saturday, October 9, from 9 am to 5 pm on Main and Court Streets in New Castle.

"Lenny Macdonald has agreed to emcee the event along with David Givens who will be handling all the entertainment and events of the day. Dr. Jackie

See Fall Festival, page 5

Many items exchanged on Swap Day, including new opportunities



SUBMITTED PHOTO

It is said that Silas Templeton was intensely absorbed in a book on the hot Swap Day, as he is not the average nine-year-old that bounces from text message to text message. Templeton is on a long-distance journey, like a marathon runner.

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

have discovered that people enjoy bringing items to swap, exchange or donate.

A small-town community seems to enjoy the closeness its surroundings allow. Craig County is one county that revels in that privilege.

Many, from young to old, participated and seemed to all receive something of value to them.

On June 26, the New Castle Library hosted another "swap day." They

It is said that Silas Templeton was intensely absorbed in a book on the hot

See Swap, page 5



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Governor Northam commemorates 50th anniversary of the Virginia constitution

Recently, Governor Ralph Northam marked Constitution Day by visiting the Library of Virginia to view original copies of four of Virginia's Constitutions and commemorate 50 years since the current Virginia Constitution took effect on July 1, 1971. Until 1971, the Virginia Constitution included detailed provisions intended to disenfranchise Black voters and prohibit racially integrated public schools.

In the years after the Civil War, the brief period of Reconstruction was characterized by state and federal laws that expanded the rights and freedoms of citizens. But Virginia leaders re-

wrote the state constitution explicitly to restore white supremacy, culminating in the Constitution of 1902 that instituted poll taxes, literacy tests, and other barriers to voting. The Constitution also required segregated schools by prohibiting the teaching of Black and white children in the same school. While some of the most discriminatory provisions of the 1902 Constitution were reversed by federal law or court decisions, it remained in effect in Virginia for most of the 20th century, until voters approved a new constitution in 1971.

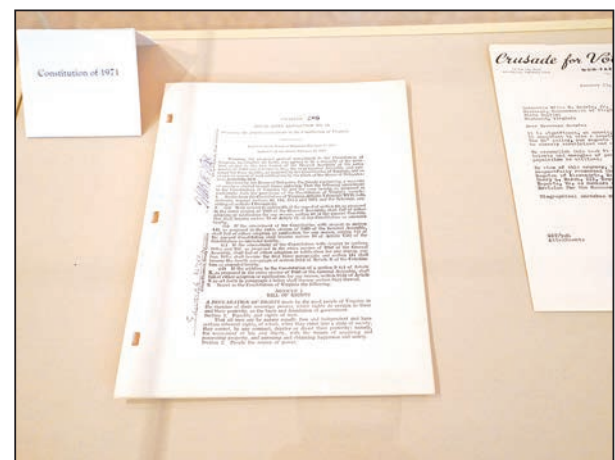
"The 50th anniversary of Virginia's 1971



Governor Northam and Professor Howard viewing original copies of Virginia's Constitutions at the Library of Virginia.

Constitution is an important opportunity to acknowledge how our Commonwealth has evolved," said Governor Northam. "Virginia has 400 years of history—good and bad—and it

is important that we tell the accurate, honest story of our past. Understanding our full history means learning about these events and the ways they are connected to the present day, so



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

we can work together to build a better future for all Virginians."

The 1971 Virginia Constitution took important steps to renounce the constitution in place since 1902

by eliminating the poll tax, enshrining a ban on racially segregated schools, providing free public education for every school-aged child,

See Constitution, page 3

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.

EVERY TUESDAY

- Overeaters Anonymous (OA) meeting, 7 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, located at 2011 Brandon Avenue in Roanoke. Contact 540-293-4065 for more information.
- New Castle Church of Christ will hold its Bible

Study from 7 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. at 118 Main Street in New Castle.

EVERY FRIDAY

Craig County Genealogy Library open every Friday 1 to 4 p.m. 152 Main Street. 540-864-7023

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.

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.

SECOND TUESDAY

- Craig County School Board meets at 5:30 p.m. in the High School Media Center.
- Mountain Lodge 140 AF&AM, 7:30 p.m. at Lodge Hall, 255 Main St.

THIRD WEDNESDAY

The Botetourt/Craig/Roanoke Farm Service Agency County Committee meets each month at 10 a.m. at the Bonsack USDA Service Center. Please call one day before the meeting date regarding possible

cancellation information 540-977-2698, Ext. 2. The Bonsack USDA Service Center is located at 36 Executive Circle, Suite 1, Roanoke, VA 24012. All County Committee meetings are open to the public.

FIRST THURSDAY

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

SECOND THURSDAY

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

EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

Everyone six months and up should receive a flu shot each year. A parent or

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

FRIDAY, JULY 23

The Craig County Historical Society will be starting their delicious dinners again this month in the Old Hotel on Main Street. There will be two seatings, the first at 5 p.m. and the second at 6:30 p.m. There will be ham, all the fixins' and dessert. To make a reservation, contact Call Mary Hutchison at (540) 747-2255.

Live the Life!

With a focus to encourage vibrant living and individual wellness, 2021 brings exciting new senior apartment options and convenient Town Center amenities catered to those looking for an active, independent lifestyle to Richfield's Salem Campus.

Join our vibrant Independent Living community!

New options at Richfield include The Villas and Lake Retreat apartments, both now leasing! You can put your own sense of style on any of our comfortable, convenient floor plans and enjoy maintenance-free living.

Our beautiful surroundings, combined with a broad range of services and accommodations, provide a setting where individuals become members of a secure, supportive, and active community.

Add in a convenient, amenities-rich Town Center and a robust Richfield social calendar, and you'll have every opportunity for a joy-filled lifestyle. Additionally, should your health or the health of a loved one change, you'll have access to a full continuum of health care services without leaving the Richfield campus.

Community Highlights

- Town Center
- 24-hour Wellness Studio
- Restaurant-style and casual dining venues
- Salon/Spa
- Community room with scheduled activities
- Chapel
- Outpatient therapy with salt water pool
- Gift shop
- Outdoor walking paths on 52-acre campus
- Underground heated parking
- Retail and restaurants nearby

Richfield Living
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YOUR NOT-FOR-PROFIT SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

Historical Society hosts memorable dinner



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Craig County Historical Society will start serving their delicious dinners again this month in the Old Hotel on Main Street. On July 23, there will be two seatings, the first at 5 p.m. and the second at 6:30 p.m. There will be ham, all the fixins' and even dessert. To make a reservation, contact Mary Hutchison at 540-747-2255.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13							14					15	
16			17			18					19		
20		21				22			23		24		
25					26			27		28			
29				30				31		32		33	
		34	35					36		37			
38	39									40			
41					42			43					
44				45		46		47			48	49	50
51			52		53		54			55			
56				57		58				59			
60			61		62				63			64	
65		66						67				68	
	69							70					

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Plant of the mint family
 - Hand tool
 - Made of the color of gold
 - A volume of several novels
 - Type of degree
 - Good job!
 - Seventh tone in major scale
 - Fevers
 - One's mother
 - Fertile desert spots
 - Large integers
 - Plate for Eucharist
 - Tennis matches have them
 - Peyton's little brother
 - Monetary unit of N. Korea
 - Head movement
 - Twelve
 - Renaissance musical instrument
 - Behavior showing high moral standards
 - Letter of the Hebrew alphabet
 - Notes to be sung
 - Women's garment
 - Coarsely ground corn
 - One point south of due east
 - A way to deplete
 - Rough, prickly covering of a seed
 - LA hoopster, but not a Laker
 - Hindquarters
 - Franz van ____, German diplomat
 - Liquid body substances
 - Rhythmic patterns
 - A beaver might build one
 - Police officer's tool
 - Indicates who you are
 - Pinwheel
 - Exist
 - Ornamental molding
 - Closes again
 - Verses
 - Come into view
 - CLUES DOWN
 - Short stick used as a weapon
 - An alternative
 - Laws
 - Sense organs
 - One from Utah
 - Mariner
 - People in charge of cattle
 - Health insurance organization
 - Ornamental box
 - Forest-dwelling deer
 - One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
 - Atomic #71
 - Become less intense
 - Cowards
 - Body ornament (slang)
 - Applicable to all cases
 - Multiplied by 6
 - Afghanistan monetary unit
 - Calendar month
 - Cena and Lennon are two
 - Monetary unit of Serbia
 - First time on the market
 - Georgia rockers
 - Free from contamination
 - Coastal region of Canada
 - Clothing retailer
 - It rises and sets
 - Fathers
 - Stain with mud
 - Used to align parts
 - Wake up
 - Solid water
 - Semiprecious stone
 - Atomic #45
 - Top lawyer

Richfield Living celebrates 'long time coming' of The Health Center



PHOTO BY MEG HIBBERT

Richfield Living representatives prepare to cut the ribbon opening The Health Center on June 24. From left, they are Richfield Living COO Esteban Duran-Ballen, Richfield Board Members Dr. W.D. Hasty and Dr. Martha Anderson, Richfield CEO Cherie Grisso, Board Chairman Kirtesh Patel, Roanoke County Supervisor Martha Hooker, Supervisors Chair Jason Peters and Health Center Administrator Andy Jones.

Richfield Living representatives cut the ribbon officially opening The Health Center, creating a happy and historic day for the residents who live there.

"It's been a long time

coming," said Chief Executive Officer Cherie Grisso at the June 24 event. "We are so proud to achieve a major objective of our Vision 2020 Strategic Plan in opening The Health Center

– Salem Campus which provides a significant shift in the environment of long-term health care."

She pointed out the new Health Center offers a unique home-like setting, with every resident having a private bedroom, full-service kitchens available and more choices in their daily living routines.

Grisso added it was amazing to see the impact already on the quality of life for long-term care residents.

The move toward today's care began in 2008 when the Richfield Living Board had the vision to make changes to the former model, that included 315 beds in the nursing building, she said.

The new Health Center has 76 beds and four

households, Health Center Administrator Andy Jones pointed out, with a dining room, four-season porch and laundry room available for residents who want to do their own laundry under supervision of staff. Jones is also administrator of the new Roanoke City campus's health center soon to open.

The center is for residents who need a higher level of care.

"Our Health Center residents can control their own days," Grisso said. "It helps them feel like they are in their own personal home instead of the former institutional model nursing home."

Richfield Living is the first in Southwest Virginia to offer the household care model, the CEO said.

All Richfield team members are cross trained to run the household, Grisso added.

People could tour the Willow Household after the ribbon cutting. The average age is 82, Grisso said, and average stay three-and-a-half years.

Others who took part in the ceremony included Chief Operations Officer Esteban Duran-Ballen, Roanoke County Supervisors Chair Jason Peters, Roanoke County Catawba District Supervisor Martha Hooker, County Economic Development Director Jill Loope, Richfield Board Chairman Kirtesh Patel and several other board members, and Senior Chaplain Gary Kingery.

The Health Center is in a building that started out as the T. Stuart

Payne Center for Assisted Living in 1990. Payne served as general manager from 1964 to 1981. The new Health Center is located at 3719 Knollridge Road in the Glenvar area.

Richfield is a not-for-profit community that is home to 700 residents and 500 employees including a Roanoke campus soon to open. It started in 1934 and was initially named Mercy House. There was a 280-acre farm which supplied fruits and vegetables, raised pigs and chickens and had a small dairy herd to supply milk.

For more information, contact Lisa Clause, Public Information Officer and Senior Director of Marketing and Philanthropy, at LClause@richfieldliving.com.

Constitution

from page 2

and prohibiting governmental discrimination based on race, color, national origin or sex.

Work on the 1971 Virginia Constitution began in 1968 when Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr. appointed a commission to revise the 1902 document. This action came in response to the momentous social changes of the 1960s, including the passage of the Civil Rights Act and other laws that su-

perseded discriminatory provisions in state constitutions, including that of Virginia.

A.E. Dick Howard, the Warner-Booker Distinguished Professor of Law at University of Virginia School of Law, served as executive director of the Commission on Constitutional Revision 50 years ago and directed the successful referendum campaign for the ratification of a new constitution.

"Thomas Jefferson famously called for each generation to consider the extent to which a constitution serves the needs of its own time," said Professor Howard. "In 1971, the revision commission's purpose was to repudiate the racism of the 1902 constitution, and to put Virginia on a sound and progressive footing. I consider Virginia to have been well served by the com-

mission—they handed us a good constitution, and the proof lies in the fact that it continues to serve the purpose of upholding a democratic government."

Virginia adopted its first Constitution on June 29, 1776, declaring the total dissolution of the rule of Great Britain and its monarch over the citizens of the Commonwealth. Virginia also led the nation by adopting the Virginia

Declaration of Rights, which later influenced the United States Constitution Bill of Rights.

-Submitted by Alena Yarmosky, Office of the Governor

Warner and Kaine praise Treasury's launch of state and local COVID relief funds

U.S. Senators Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine recently applauded the Treasury Department's launch of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, established by the American Rescue Plan Act.

"We welcome the \$7.2 billion in relief for Virginia and are pleased the Biden Administration has listened to our calls to give states, localities, and tribes significant flexibility in determining how best to use these emergency funds," said the Senators. "These funds will allow the Commonwealth and localities to recover from the economic harm of COVID, promote public health, invest in broadband, make up for lost revenue, and address many of the other impacts of the pandemic. We will keep working with the Common-

wealth and local governments to ensure Virginians receive this much-needed relief."

The Virginia state government will receive nearly \$4.3 billion from these funds. An additional amount of approximately \$2.9 billion will be allocated to municipalities the following way:

- Bedford County: \$15,344,241
- Blacksburg: \$13,364,987
- Bland County: \$1,219,816
- Botetourt County: \$6,491,249
- Christiansburg: \$3,115,411
- Covington: \$1,075,692
- Craig County: \$996,637
- Danville: \$29,142,851
- Floyd County: \$3,059,059
- Franklin County: \$10,885,502
- Franklin City: \$1,547,496
- Galax: \$1,232,830
- Giles County: \$3,247,664
- Lynchburg: \$33,328,529
- Martinsville: \$2,438,467

- Pulaski County: \$6,609,346
- Radford: \$8,228,392
- Roanoke County: \$18,294,526
- Roanoke City: \$64,576,671
- Salem: \$4,914,423
- Non-entitlement funds: approximately \$633,000,000

Allocations for non-entitlement local governments will soon be released and will provide an additional \$633 million in relief to Virginia cities and towns. Tribal governments will receive their allocation amounts after submitting their requests for funding to the Treasury.

Eligible state, metropolitan city, and county governments may now request their allocation through the Treasury Submission Portal.

-Submitted by Rachel Cohen, Communications Director

New law pertaining to bicyclists, motorists currently in effect

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) wants residents to be aware of a new law, effective July 1, that requires motorists to change lanes when passing a bicyclist if the lane of travel is not wide enough to accommodate three feet in distance between the motor vehicle and the bicycle.

Current law allows, but does not require, a motorist to move into the other lane when passing a bicyclist in order to ensure at least three feet of distance between the bicyclist and the overtaking vehicle. In addition to bicycles, this provision also applies to people riding on an electric personal assistive mobility device, moped, animal or animal-drawn vehicle.

"This law increases safety for bicyclists by providing more space between them and much larger vehicles when motorists pass on our roadways," said DMV Commissioner Richard D. Holcomb, the Governor's Highway Safety Representative. "We all share our roads and we all share the responsibility to look out for each other."

The new law also removes restrictions on bicyclists riding two abreast. This provision applies to people riding on an electric personal assistive mo-

bility devices or motorized skateboards or scooters.

-Submitted by Jessica Cowardin, Communications Specialist



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Motorists will be required to change lanes to pass bicyclists.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Craig County Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on July 20th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Craig County Courthouse - New Castle, Virginia to consider a Conditional Use permit to add structures to parcels located at 16108 Paint Bank Rd., Paint Bank, VA. The request seeks a permit to construct a Glamping campsite. Property owner seeks exception as described in Section 58-121 and 58-122. Property reference Parcel A, containing 1.77 acres, and Parcel B, containing 69.7 acres, for a total acreage of 71.47 acres.

The application is available for public review at the Craig County Administrator's Office in New Castle. Public comment on the application may be submitted by writing to P.O. Box 308, New Castle, Virginia 24127 or by calling (540)864-5010 or at the public hearing.

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OPINION

How to read more by Matt Blake

Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community

It was a doctor who once said, 'The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.' That was, of course, Dr Seuss in his mesmerizing children's book, *I Can Read with My Eyes Shut!*

As we grow older, it gets easier to appreciate the wisdom of the good doctor's words. The irony is that many of us are so busy letting life drag us in other directions — work or the school gates or that private part of our mind where only Instagram can take us — that we rarely find enough time to actually crack open a page.

'The conditions in which we read today are not those of 50 or even 30 years ago,' wrote the British novelist Tim Parks in an essay for the *New York Review of Books*. 'Now, every moment of serious reading has to be fought for, planned for.' He wrote that in 2014; last week, I finally found time to read it.

Part of the problem, writes Parks — whose oeuvre includes the Booker-shortlisted novel *Europa* — is that the modern mind 'is overwhelmingly inclined toward communication.' Or, as Philip Roth put it in 2010: 'The concentration, the focus, the solitude, the silence, all the things that are required for serious reading are not within people's reach anymore.'

So how do we reconcile our digital addiction with our desire to read more books? The most obvious — not to mention sensible if you like big books (and aren't prepared to saw them in half) — approach is to get an eBook reader.

Neil Gaiman, said I have the Kindle app on my phone, my iPad and on pretty much everything except the toaster, and I use that, because I am besotted by [its] ability to know where I am in a book,' he told the *New York Times* recently. 'I've been using it to read *Huge Books* of the kind I always meant to read, or to finish, but didn't, because carrying them around stopped being fun. Books like *The Count of Monte*

Cristo.' But screens, you might say, are imagination-leeches, little glass sponges of boredom and self. Screens are not for everyone. The *Cider House Rules* author John Irving claims never to 'read anything electronically.' More interestingly, as he told an interview in 2012: 'I get up early and read a little before anyone, but the dog is up. I also like to read at night, not in bed but just before I go to bed ... I don't read in bed, ever.'

For others, reading just before sleep is ideal (the Sleep Council says, '39 percent of people who are in the habit of reading before they go to sleep, sleep very well', which is nice, even if it won't help you get through *Ulysses* any time soon). Anna Quindlen, the Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist and author of *A Short Guide to a Happy Life* puts it rather beautifully: 'We read in bed because reading is halfway between life and dreaming, our own consciousness in someone else's mind.'

When it comes to that, other big rivals for your attention — the TV — Groucho Marks had some novel advice. 'I find television very educating,' he said. 'Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book.' Granted, when he said that, he didn't know about Netflix.

Then there are life's dead spaces: on the train, in the dentist's waiting room, hanging solo for your late friend to arrive for dinner. Crime king Ian Rankin, for instance, does his best reading when he travels. 'Trains, planes and ships,' he recently told an interviewer. 'I'll plug in headphones, play some



The Craig County Public Library is at 303 Main Street.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

ambient music and lose myself in a book.'

But maybe time isn't your issue. Maybe you've just hit a slump. Maybe you need a new genre to reanimate your book lust. You could experiment with something completely new like cliffi (novels about climate change), or Twitterature (books written entirely through the medium of Twitter), or spoetry (poems composed from the subject lines of spam emails). But if all that feels too try-hard, you could just do as Marian Keyes does and double down on a genre you know you love, and that already loves you back.

Nina Stibbe holds a similar line. Her advice: don't try too hard. For her, that means comedy 'in all its shapes'. 'In case anyone thinks me frothy or lowbrow, I want it known that as a young adult I was brimming with curiosity and grit, the Reasons to be Cheerful author told the *New York Times* last July. 'Nowadays, though, I'm drawn more or less exclusively to absurd, fun-

ny books that present worlds I want to inhabit and never leave — Maria Semple, P. G. Wodehouse, Barbara Pym, Muriel Spark, David Sedaris, Magnus Mills.'

For me, sometimes, the sheer volume of recommendations I receive on a weekly basis can weigh down my enthusiasm for reading like a lead-bound *War and Peace*. You must read this, friends, colleagues, newspapers and websites say, thrusting a book into your hands with a beatific gleam in their eyes — it's easy to get lost in such a book-storm of advice.

Haruki Murakami suggests avoiding the bestseller list altogether. 'If you only read the books that everyone else is reading, you can only think what everyone else is thinking,' he wrote in his 1987 novel *Norwegian Wood* (fortunately for Murakami, few people at the time took this advice, and it became a stratospheric bestseller).

We all wish we read more. And there are many ways to reinvest in

our reading. But perhaps the best advice I ever came across was from a six-year-old girl. OK — it technically came from Harper Lee via Scout, her young protagonist in *To Kill A Mockingbird* — but still. 'Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read,' she says. 'One does not love breathing.'

Maybe, then, the best medicine for reading sickness is to take a break from it altogether, recharge, and realize how ugly life looks with a gaping, book-shaped hole in it. I can't think of any better incentive to read than that.

Library News:

Thank you to everyone who made the Swap Day a success and for all the financial donations that were made.

Look for the winner of the gift card drawing in next week's Library Corner.

July Board meeting Monday, July 12, on the library patio at 6 p.m.

There are lots of new titles at the library. Look for them in the window-sill shelf!

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

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Fall Festival from page 1

Scruggs Taylor is presenting the annual car show which has been a huge success year after year," Robyn Foster, festival organizer, said. "We have a few new surprises for this year and will share them as the event draws closer."

Givens is searching for entertainment for the day and can be reached on Facebook for those who have an interest or know of someone to suggest.

This year, booth spaces of 10 feet x 10 feet of sidewalk and street may be rented for

\$35. If more than ten feet is needed, additional space may be rented. Regardless of weather, the Fall Festival will be held. Additionally, no refunds will be granted.

Electricity is limited; however, individuals can indicate on their application that they need it, along with the size of their tent and what items they will be selling or showing.

For setup, a Society member will be on Main Street by 6 a.m. to direct everyone to their space. Exhibitors must

furnish all materials needed. They ask that table fronts be draped to the sidewalk.

"We also request that vendors sell only those items that are healthy and safe for our children and our community," Foster said. "No alcoholic beverages will be allowed."

Each space will be asked to be kept clean during the day and the Society will furnish trash bags. All vendors, however, will be responsible for cleanliness and trash removal. Please break down any large boxes and keep

trash secured. All materials and equipment must be removed by the vendor at the end of the day and a dumpster will be located across from the Craig County Administrator office for easy disposal.

To reserve a space, contact Foster for an application. The check or money order can be made to the Craig County Historical Society.

Those who register by September 1, can get the early bird rate of \$45.00. Afterward, it is \$50. Registration

ends September 30. For more information, contact Robyn Foster at 540-977-8395.

The Fall Demolition Derby has also been scheduled for that evening, along with the little tikes Power Wheels Derby and the younger teens and tweens Lawnmower Derby.

"The Craig County Historical Society is really looking forward to this event and bringing back the history of Craig County and sharing the legacy of our beautiful homeplace," Foster said.

Independence from page 1

the Day is past. The Second Day of July 1776, will be the most memorable Epoch, in the History of America."

He continues, saying that he thinks that this will become "the great anniversary Festival" to be remembered as "the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty."

In 1941, July 4 was made a federal holiday. Americans, however, had been celebrating it decades before.

Many Veterans of Craig County have shared in the past that the Fourth of July is special because it is a reminder of both one's political and

personal freedoms.

One of the eldest Veterans who passed last year, Eugene Francisco, shared, "I celebrate July 4 because that's what we all fought for then and in wars after, to keep our freedom and I will until I die."

Another, Panco Cantley, added, "Because of our freedom from other countries strongholds, we can worship as we please here as Christians, our heritage from the foundation of the first colonies."

Life today seems different in America. Some question, "Are we still the United States

of America?"

The local Daughters of the American Revolution have added their spirit of patriotism and gratitude to the County of Craig.

"For several years Craig Valley Chapter, NSDAR, has encouraged businesses and organizations with road-side signs to post a patriotic message to celebrate our nation's independence," DAR representative Diane Givens said.

Many years the suggested message has included "Happy Birthday America" with phrases such as "Freedom is Not Free" or "America the Beautiful."

On the night of July 4, many people within the town of New Castle lit up the skies with beautiful fireworks.

I live on a hill on the outskirts of town. At dusk, on Sunday night, fireworks started going off in many areas around New Castle. There were six different ones going off at one time. The sky and area lit up so beautifully in all the colors. It seemed to display the glory that our country has fought to keep, the freedom of being able to enjoy life as we know it. A sense of deep pride and appreciation welled up inside me, as I thought of the many

men and women who sacrificed their time, families and some, even their lives for me to have this privilege. I am grateful, honored and happy to be living in the United States of America, in Virginia and especially in Craig County, where freedom is still free.

Salute your country, the United States of America, by flying your flag and honoring all who have fought, whether in combat or at home, to keep our country a free nation and one known to exemplify honor, integrity, courage and faith, "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Swap from page 1

Swap Day, as he is not the average nine-year-old that bounces from text message to text message. Templeton is on a long-distance journey, like a marathon runner.

"Those of us, who come to the library, seeking to discover new books, know that difference," Jennifer Lovejoy, VP of Friends of the Library (FOL), shared. "A love of reading opens up a broader world of possibility, which is wonderful to see nurtured and sustained. The more books in the hands of readers, young and old, the happier we are as library volunteers."

ager got his mother's wish-list of books to bring home.

Carol King, the FOL Secretary and Dietitian at Catawba Hospital, set-up a table for the Catawba Hospital's employment opportunities and said, "Overall, Swap Day was such good community interaction. I spoke with a young couple who were looking to relocate to this area and were happy to hear about employment opportunities. One local lady, who recently got her nursing degree, was excited about an employment opportunity closer to home."

Jane Henderson, FOL Treasurer, shared, "For me, it was seeing someone excited about having free things available to them; especially a big chair that just did not fit in my new house and was perfect for someone else. I experience great energy and much joy during these community sharing events."

The library porch became a gathering place for new and old residents as visitors from Roanoke and Martinsburg enjoyed its comfort.

"Local hospitality folks restocked their businesses with

Craig County maps," Lovejoy said. "Vehicles pulled in and opened up the back of their vans and offered their household extras for free adding to the variety of offerings from library volunteers."

Kathi Toelke, a County Board Member, unloaded children's toys and puzzles her family had outgrown and watched them get re-homed.

She also reconnected with new residents, the Templetons. "I had connected with the Templeton's several times before, but Swap Day was an opportunity to intro-

duce new community members to neighbors," Toelke said. "I also love seeing kids get excited about free books. Another reward was watching things that had been a part of our household, get an opportunity to be appreciated by someone else, and witnessing their gratitude."

"We are committed to continuing to provide this event," they said. "We have discovered that Swap Day is valued by the community beyond free books. These events are vital to elevating our perception in the community."

Dreams from page 1

reation and Conservation Association had its first in-person meeting in June with a good turn-out of parents, coaches and interested community folks.

Teresa Oliver will continue to serve as President. Other officers confirmed include Joyce Ashley - VP, Debbie Boitnotte - Treasurer, Sheri Sloss - Sports Director and Debbie Snead - Advisor. The group also expressed gratitude to JoAnna Hutchison, who served as Field of Dreams Treasurer for over a decade.

They shared that there were lots to discuss, including a successful softball, baseball, and T-ball season; insurance and finances; field conditions and approaching football season.

There is a new sports email available strictly for sign-ups with PayPal and

Venmo - ccracasports@gmail.com - to make it easier for all parties involved.

Sloss reported there was a need for a new outfield fence and Craig Botetourt Electric Cooperative provided a \$1,900 donation in memory of Christie Scott to fund the fence. The group was most appreciative and has created a CBEC fence banner in gratitude.

"It was agreed that maintenance for the fields is a big job for the 18-acre complex, but Justin Boitnotte, with help from his family, keep the place mowed and in beautiful shape," Snead said. "In fact, it has never looked better, and CCR&CA appreciates funding the Craig County provides to help with the field maintenance."

It was noted that

CCR&CA has completed several infrastructure projects for the FOD, including electricity into the field with assistance from Craig Botetourt Electric Cooperative; a well for watering the fields with labor donated by Billy Horn; and a detailed water project to get fresh water into the field.

The project was overseen by B.J. Oliver and son Grant who implemented the 2,500-foot line from the town's PSA into the center of the complex. The group is grateful for all the contributions of in-kind labor.

Additionally, the CCR&CA collaborated with the Craig County Child Care Center to receive more grant funding to construct a learning lab for school age children. Due to the number of children in the center,

the need for expansion of space and outside activities, the Craig Center met the guidelines for the funding services, to "expand and maintain capacity to increase access to safe learning spaces for school age children from pre-k through age 12."

The Leaning Lab with restrooms, concession area and storage will be located at the Craig Field of Dreams Complex and available for other sports and activities when the lab is not in session.

"Thus, with the water project complete and the new building almost ready, we're in need of a septic system to complete the infrastructure," they reported. "Daniel Givens of D&C Excavating is licensed for this type of commercial system and will be doing the job. The Craig Economic Develop-

ment Authority was kind enough to donate \$8,500 and CCR&CA will be searching for funds to pay for the remainder of the project."

Snead added, "Since the Craig County doesn't have a department of Parks and Recreation, dedicated CCR&CA volunteers and the Field of Dreams provide a basic community service with organization of youth sports and a multi-purpose complex that enriches the County's assets and economic development. Imagine how much could be accomplished if CCR&CA could have the unique skills of all those interested in supporting Craig's recreation programs. Not only parents and coaches, but the organization is looking forward to the day when these volunteers can transition into a

County Parks and Recreation program, having the additional benefits of local and state recreation funding and support."

The next meeting of the CCR&CA will be July 8 at the Craig County Child Care Center's newly renovated Quonset Hut beginning at 7 p.m.

"CCR&CA is happy to have the community attend and share ideas," the team shared.

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<p>CHESTNUT GROVE CHURCH Duane Wentle, Minister, Rt. 42, New Castle, 540-864-5692. Sunday: Worship 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 159 Old Railroad Ave, New Castle, 540-864-PRAY, Sunday School 9:30AM, Sunday Worship Service 10:00AM, Wednesday Night Services 7:00PM.</p>	<p>PAXTON CHAPEL Pastor Kenny Davis, 17 Sage Brush Lane, New Castle; "Presenting God's Word Faithfully"; Sunday School 10:00 AM; Sunday Worship Service 11:15 AM; visit us on the web at www.paxtonchapelchurch.com; email at paxtonchapel@yahoo.com.</p>
<p>CORNERSTONE CHURCH Pastor Don Brown, Corner of Salem and Wagner, New Castle, 580-3228. Sunday Worship 10:30am (Children meet separately, Nursery provided). Bible Study - Wednesday 6p Teens - Wednesday 6p. Ministries: Men, Ladies, Young Adult, and Seniors. Times vary, call for details.</p>	<p>HEBRON UNITED METHODIST Pastor Rodney Longmire, Rt. 606, 1981 Caldwell Mt. Rd., New Castle, 540-400-3419. Worship 11:15AM.</p>	<p>THE CHURCH OF CHRIST Contact person: Panco Cantley, 864-5035, 118 Main Street, New Castle. Service Times: Sunday, Bible classes-10 a.m., Worship-11:00 a.m., Evening Worship-6 p.m.; Wednesday, Bible classes - 7 p.m.</p>
<p>CRAIG HEALING SPRINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) Pastor - Kenneth W. Davis, Jr., 6 Grannys Branch Road (Johns Creek), New Castle, Phone: 864-6102. Sunday School at 10 am. Sunday Worship at 11 am every Sunday. Fellowship meal after Sunday Worship on second Sundays. Everyone is welcome!</p>	<p>LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST Rev. Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, & 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.</p>	<p>NEW CASTLE UNITED METHODIST Rev. Charles Stacy, 364 Main St., New Castle, Va. 864-5242; Sunday School 10AM, Worship 11AM; Monday Adult Choir 7PM, UMW 3rd Wednesday 7PM, Youth and other programs, Bible Studies.</p>
<p>CRAIG VALLEY BAPTIST 171 Salem Avenue, New Castle, 864-5667; Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m., Wednesday: Prayer Service and Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Youth Group 6:30-8:00PM, Bible Buddies at 6:30-8:00PM. Transportation provided - call the church. Hearing devices also available. www.craigvalleybaptist.com</p>	<p>LEVEL GREEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH 3388 Cumberland Gap Rd. Newport, Duane Wentle, Minister, 540-544-7179. Sunday School 10:00am, Sunday Morning Worship 11:00am, Children's Church 11:00am. Choir Practice, bi-weekly 7:00pm, Ladies meeting first Monday of each month at 7:00pm.</p>	<p>ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH 99 2nd Street, New Castle. Rev. Stephen McNally. 540-473-3691. Mass is on Sunday at 11:15 AM.</p>
<p>CRAIG VALLEY GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP HWY 621, Pastor Roy Lee Law Jr., "Jay", 864-8984. Sunday School 10:00am; Worship 11:00am., Wednesday night Bible study 7pm, from HWY 311, up HWY 621, 8 miles on left.</p>	<p>LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST Pastor Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle, 540-525-7662. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, & 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.</p>	<p>CRAIG COUNTY COMMUNITY CHURCH - 'WELCOME HOME!' Sunday service 9-10:15am at the VFW building in New Castle. Casual dress if you desire and contemporary praise and worship. If you don't have a 'home' church, please join us at ours with Pastor Gary Burch. Check us out on facebook or contact us at: craigcountycommunity-church@gmail.com.</p>
<p>CROSSROADS CHURCH 21892 Craigs Creek Road, New Castle. Pastor Gary Burch. 864-7520. Sunday School- 10-10:45AM, Sunday Worship - 11AM-Noon.</p>	<p>MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN 4199 Craig Valley Drive, New Castle, 864-6622. Sunday: Worship Service 9:00 a.m., Children's Church 9:15 a.m., Sunday School 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH Located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttfc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).</p>
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Craig girls eliminated by Franklin County

The Craig County 12U softball team played in the Roanoke Area Youth Softball Association tournament at the James I. Moyer Complex in Salem last week. The Rockets lost their opening game to Franklin County, then played Franklin again in the losers' bracket after Franklin dropped a game to South County. Franklin then eliminated the Craig girls, who were coached by Debbie Boitnotte, Nichole Zimmerman and Samantha Gilreath. Here. . . .



Kylee Gilreath takes a pitch for a ball.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Hayli Huffman tosses the ball to first for an out.



Annika Zimmerman takes a cut.



Kailyn Jones pulls safely into third.



Annalese Zimmerman pitches.



Teagan Devinney beats the throw to the bag.



Aleah Owens gets a hit.



Jenna Boitnotte pitches for Craig.



Peytin Ragland takes her turn at bat.

Martinsville Speedway to Host Track Laps for Charity to Benefit Vet Tix on July 10

Fans Can Drive Their Personal Vehicles Around the Historic Half-Mile of Martinsville Speedway Under the Lights for a \$25 Donation

MARTINSVILLE—Martinsville Speedway will host Track Laps for Charity on Saturday, July 10 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Track Laps for Charity offers fans the opportunity to drive their personal vehicles around Martinsville's historic half-mile

for a donation of \$25. All proceeds will benefit Vet Tix.

"Track Laps for Charity is a one-of-a-kind experience for fans to drive their family and friends around the historic half-mile of Martinsville Speedway that legends have

competed," said Martinsville President Clay Campbell. "We look forward to welcoming the community back to the track for a fun event to benefit a great organization in Vet Tix that supports our veterans."

"Vet Tix is honored to be se-

lected by such a valued partner and donor such as Martinsville Speedway to benefit from their Track Laps for Charity experience," said Navy veteran, Michael A. Focareto III, Founder & CEO, Vet Tix. "This tremendous opportunity to literally drive or

ride the short track at Martinsville will be a thrill for anyone who has the need for speed."

To participate in Track Laps for Charity, fans must sign up in advance by visiting www.martinsvillespeedway.com/events/tracklapsforcharity.