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# THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

**IGA EXPRESS**

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## Big Buck Contest starts this weekend

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

If there is one thing Craig County is known for, it is its land that houses lots of deer and certainly big bucks. Jeff Phillips, a hunter since he was a youth, decided years ago to start a small contest for hunters to submit their big buck pics to be judged. Little did he know that his small 17 buck contest from year one would lead to his current 30,000 followers on Facebook. He created his own page called Star City Whitetails. "It is a hunting page for Virginia," he shared. "This is my 10th Anniversary of the SCW Big Buck Contest, and I am just as excited

this year as I was my first year." For all hunters, during this year's full deer season from October 2 until January 1, Phillips will be accepting pictures for the Big Buck Contest. Only Virginia bucks can be used. He has donations of over \$13,000 in prizes, including three different nice-outfitted hunts packages. The contest covers all of Virginia and he has six different divisions to include everyone: men's, women's, youth, National Forest, mobility impaired and early bow season. "It is truly a 'no hunter



**The Star City Whitetails is hosting its 10th Big Buck Contest Anniversary for the 2021 deer season. Over \$13,000 in prizes will be handed out, including three different nice-outfitted hunts packages.**

See **Big Buck Contest**, page 10



**Elizabeth Spellman has opened her acupuncture business on Main Street in New Castle. Spellman is a board-certified, licensed acupuncturist in both Virginia and West Virginia. She holds a master's degree from Jung Tao School of Classical Chinese Medicine in Sugar Grove, North Carolina.**

## Acupuncture business opens in Craig County

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

Pain is nothing to "shake your head" at when you are the one experiencing it. For many, one of the oldest avenues of relief and healing has now come to Craig County. "Thank you, New Castle, for a great first week for Healing Spring Acupuncture," Elizabeth Spellman expressed on Facebook when she first opened her new business. "I'm thrilled to be of service to our community." According to Spellman, "acupuncture is effective for many acute and chronic conditions such as asthma, anxiety, depression, insomnia, weight control, low back pain, frozen shoulder, migraines, fibromyalgia, digestive concerns, sciatica, general aches and pains, and more."

day) but the opening of the space at 219 Main St was perfect timing for me and it's great to be downtown among other wonderful businesses like The Emporium and Last erday," she said. Her clinic is called Healing Spring Acupuncture, PLLC. Spellman believes that Classical East Asian medicine offers a "beautiful way of seeing the body as a reflection of nature and part of an interconnected whole."

She continued, "It's given me a whole different way of relating to the world. I work with needles to facilitate blood and consciousness flowing in places where it is stuck. The body is so intelligent, it knows what to do to heal once consciousness and blood can flow more freely." Spellman feels strongly that farming and acupuncture are both healing work—whether it's working with the ecology of the land or the body. She explained that diseases can often arise in response to alterations in anatomy and blood flow which can lead to impairments of localized immune regulation and gene expression. "If we shift the body's ecology toward health, it can be a much more life-affirming and powerful course of healing than, for instance, going to war against every cancer cell," she added. "This way of healing can also be deeper work than eradicating a disease and hoping it doesn't come back. If our body's ecology supports a disease like diabetes or cancer, then shifting that

Spellman is a board-certified, licensed acupuncturist in Virginia and West Virginia. She also holds a master's degree from Jung Tao School of Classical Chinese Medicine in Sugar Grove, North Carolina, where she spent four years learning from nationally recognized acupuncturists while gaining clinical experience working with a broad range of patients. Spellman has also sought advanced clinical training with Edward Neal, MD, a world-renowned classical Chinese scholar and clinician. Today, she lives and farms in Sinking Creek and shared that she is thrilled for the opportunity to serve her local community. "I played with the idea of an on-farm clinic (which I may still do one

See **Acupuncture**, page 6

## School Board brings much to the table

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

Superintendent Jeanette Warwick, along with Board members, Gina Smith, Trace Bellasai, George Foster and Faye Powers were all present at the September 14 School Board meeting. Bellasai was nominated as the new Chairman to fill the resignation of Susan Crenshaw. Craig County Public Schools Covid updates from Superintendent Warwick included six students who tested positive for Covid-19 and four staff, creating 63 students in quarantine due to being in close contact exposures and eight staff. Warwick clarified the reason for closure last week, "It was not due to positive Covid in the schools, but due to the lack of staff, as they had to quarantine and supervise with their children." Samuel Foster, Director of Instruction and Technology, shared the plan for unscheduled remote learning days. Warwick explained

that this term has been used interchangeably for going virtual should the school need to again. Currently, all CCPS virtual students are being served through Virtual Virginia. Foster clarified terms and guidelines, such as when they build the calendar where there must be 180 school days and/or 990 instructional hours and what it entails. He added that lunch

nor any activities before or after the bell rings for the school day can be included. "When we start school, we have 180-day calendar and because of the length of our school day, we have 1,185 instructional hours that we can count towards the 990," he shared. "When we start the year, we have 30 banked

See **School Board**, page 3



**Samuel Foster, the CCPS Director of Instruction and Technology, addressing the School Board on many subjects at the monthly meeting.**

## VFW #4491 hosts spirited picnic for their Veterans



**Veteran Danny Kendall grilled the burgers as fast as he could, and they turned out delicious.**

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

Without a shadow of a doubt, comradery amongst Veterans is an obvious core of beliefs, when you are standing in the midst of their presence. On Saturday, September 11, Craig Valley VFW Post 4491 hosted their first Annual Veterans Potluck Picnic at their post. As people entered, they were greeted with handshakes which seemed to have underly-

ing strength in meaning and smiles that were unending. Danny Kendall happily cooked the burgers while the Craig Valley Daughters of the American Revolutions prepared the tables for the lines to start. Dennis White gave a ticket to everyone for special door prize drawings later. Much fellowship was going on while everyone was waiting on the call to eat. Families walked

See **Picnic**, page 5


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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY

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

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

## SECOND MONDAY

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

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

## THIRD MONDAY

Town of New Castle Council Meeting at 7 p.m.

inside the New Castle Town Hall, located at 339 Market Street.

## 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.

## 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.

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9

Craig County Fall Festival 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Downtown New Castle. Live entertainment, games, Flat-Foot Contest at 11 a.m., Old Brick Hotel and cabins open all day. To rent a space, contact Robyn Foster at 540-977-8395. For car show information, call Jackie Taylor at 540-520-5555. Sponsored by Craig County Historical Society.

Send community news and photos to [shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org](mailto:shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org) And visit us online at [newcastlerecord.com](http://newcastlerecord.com)

# Young Roanoke County farmer seriously injured in tractor accident



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Jessie Sowers and his father, Calvin, planting broccoli, getting ready for the Farmers Market.

On Labor Day, Jesse Sowers, a young Roanoke County farmer, was seriously injured while raking hay on a Catawba farm. While going up an incline, the tractor stalled, rolled back and jackknifed, causing the tractor to turn over on Jesse.

Jesse's injuries include a broken pelvis, crushed right femur, broken bones in left leg between knee and ankle, multiple ligament dam-

age in left knee, multiple spinal fractures in lower back, and two broken ribs. His recovery time has been estimated at six to 12 months.

The Sowers family is well-known in the area - Jesse works at Boone Tractor near Dixie Caverns, while Jesse's mother, Kristy, sells produce and baked goods at the Catawba Valley Farmers Market. The family rents farmland in the Catawba area.

The Shiloh Union Church is holding a Hotdog Social Benefit, with all proceeds going to Jesse, his wife, Laura, and their two young sons. This event will be on Sunday, September 26, at 4:00 p.m., at the church located at 7509 Newport Road, Catawba.

In addition to the hot dog meal, music will be provided by County Connection, old-fashioned cake walks and

a Chinese Auction. A few of the items in the auction include a quilt handmade by Elva Sirry (always a sought-after item), handmade deer antler knife with sheath, Walnut Hill Farm pork package, handmade purse from Alice Ricucci, movie night basket, various gift baskets, large barnwood-framed photo and "So God Made a Farmer" poem from Ann Harrell, handmade walking stick, handmade basket, handmade

"turned" American flag writing pen, deer antler writing pen and fall and holiday décor.

The Sowers family hopes that the community can support this event. In addition to the live music, hot dogs, cakes, pies and useful items in the Chinese Auction will be available for purchase. Most activities will take place outdoors, so attendees are encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather and bring their

own chair. Those who can't attend but would like to support this young family, they can see Pam Garman at the Catawba Valley Farmers Market on Thursdays or mail a check to Pam at 8870 Newport Road, Catawba, VA 24070. Checks should be made payable to Shiloh Union Church with a notation "For Jesse Sowers Fund."

Submitted by Ann G. Harrell

## HOTDOG SOCIAL BENEFIT

Sunday, Sept. 26 4:00 PM

Shiloh Union Church

7509 Newport Road, Catawba, VA 24070

**\$5 Ticket Sold At The Door**



**Ticket Includes:**

**2 Hotdogs, Chips, Drink**  
*Desserts Sold Separately!*



**Come & enjoy food, fun & fellowship!**

**Music ~ Chinese Auction ~ Cake Walks**

*All proceeds will go to Jesse & Laura Sowers of Roanoke County. Jesse was seriously injured in a farming accident on Labor Day. Please join us to support this family in their time of need!*

**For additional information or questions, please contact**

**Pam Garman - 540-384-5009**

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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

- CLUES ACROSS**
- One of the four Vedas
  - Part of (abbr.)
  - At the peak
  - African antelope
  - Expression of satisfaction
  - Yankees' ace
  - Bellittled
  - A baglike structure
  - Utah Jazz coach Snyder
  - Actress Tomei
  - Explosive
  - Formal for "on"
  - Cruelties
  - Country singer Brad
  - Make very happy
  - Binary compound of hydrogen with a metal
  - Albanian currency
  - Subatomic particle
  - Type of salt
  - 007's creator

- Emerging
- Railroad flare
- Observed
- Capable of reproduction
- Indicates adjacent to
- Legendary Notre Dame coach
- Not wide
- An embarrassing mistake
- Pearl Jam's debut album
- Denotes passerine birds
- Stumble
- Midway between east and southeast
- W. Indian trees
- You
- Pigpen
- Be aware of

- CLUES DOWN**
- Crease
  - "Honey" actress Jessica
  - Broad volcanic crater
  - Product safety watchdog
  - Southern Colombian city
  - Part of a church
  - Perceptible by touch
  - Pronounce not guilty of criminal charges
  - Hairpiece
  - Variety acts
  - "Mystic River" actor Sean
  - Remove salt
  - Went out with
  - Type of bread
  - Popular Eagles song
  - Philosophy degree
  - Yes vote
  - Passports and licenses are two
  - No seats available

- Pounds per square inch
- A way to launch an attack
- The lowest cardinal number
- Popular Miller beer
- Pokes holes in
- Closest to
- Folk singer DiFranco
- Rivne's former name
- Flat ruler
- Lacking the means to do something
- Cockatoo
- Dred Scott decision deliverer
- Explosion exclamation
- Canadian flyers
- Houston university
- At some prior time
- Red, swollen mark

Send community news and photos to [shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org](mailto:shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org)

# School Board

from page 1

days, so when we miss a day, we don't have to essentially worry."

Foster noted that CCPS misses 17 weather-related days on average per year.

He also explained that there is in-person instruction, virtual instruction and short and long-term remote learning that is developmentally appropriate for the students, (which are for unplanned closed school days such as weather, covid related, etc).

Foster also noted that last year, they distributed Chrome devices to Pre K-12, but it did not work as well from kindergartners, first graders and second graders. It was better for families and students to have paper packets sent home. Principal VanDyke and her staff are working on packets for students to be able to take home in possible case needs for the future.

Foster said that the difficulty the teachers experienced last year was trying to do both virtual and in-class teaching.

"It was a learning curve, but CCPS staff and administration has now ironed out the right and wrong ways of the 'unforeseen event of March of 2020' that caused the immediate teaching changes," he shared.

For short-term - 10 days or less - all appropriate for their grade level.

•Kindergarten through second grade: Complete work at home with emphasis on reading and math - paper packets

•Third through seventh grade: will use Canvas, emergency modules and work on review material. Daily work to be completed by the student and content will change throughout the year as class

progresses through standards

•Eighth through 12th grade: (These teachers already maintain Canvas) - will use Canvas, continue with course work and teachers may adapt or change lessons based on content or objectives (preparing students for 'beyond')

For long-term remote learning - greater than 10 days (closed due to executive order, health, etc.).

•Shift to complete virtual learning with CCPS teachers as instructors (using the Short-term for the first 10 days)

•All students receive direct instruction via Canvas

•Short-term remote learning modules would be used while staff transitions to 100 percent virtual model

•Instruction would include both synchronous (students follow a schedule of times to receive instruction) and asynchronous (students watch videos and complete assignments on their own schedule) learning

To count the 10 days, the guidance document provided by the DOE states CCPS must have:

•Power and other required utilities necessary for the provision of instruction and services are still available for students and staff throughout the division

•Students receiving supports under an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan will be able to access services, as applicable and appropriate

•The division will provide student support services (e.g. counseling, consultation, assessment, skill instruction) to students, as appropriate

•The division maintains

school meal services for students

•All students have computing devices, Internet connection and/or other supplemental supplies necessary for successful engagement in instruction

•Any student that may be unable to access remote instruction and/or assignments will be provided sufficient opportunity to complete instruction and/or assignments without penalty

Warwick shared that on September 10, the VDH issued a clarification as to what constitutes close contact in quarantine periods. "In indoor and outdoor K-12 settings, a student who is within three to six feet of an infected student is not considered a close contact as long as both students are wearing well fitting masks the entire time," she said.

Esser III is the latest round of funding for CCPS. The public gets the opportunity to comment. Foster has been conducting a survey as to what people believe should be the top priorities in the school to forward these funds to.

Foster said that he has a little over 75 people to respond to and it is still available if people wish to comment.

"It seems everyone wants us to work on our programs for our students and the HVAC, which we are looking at," he added.

Warwick shared that they are able to consider the information that they have gathered from firms who have given bids on the current issues at CCPS. Adding, "Obviously, there are many more needs than we have money for, so we try to prioritize what we

thought was best for the safety of our kids."

Foster said, "Esser III is the third round of monies allocated to the schools, based off of our Title I allocations, being allocated \$1,292,385.59 where 20 percent (\$258,477.12) has to be reserved for learning loss due to school closure during 2022-2021 and remaining 80 percent (\$1,033,908.47) may be used for mitigation strategies to combat Covid-19, such as HVAC, cleaning supplies, or related."

He continued for the allocations of the \$258,477:

•\$105,925 - for the Summer Boost Program in 2022 (noting that the students thoroughly enjoyed this year's program which was similar to a camp, but with much learning.)

•\$143,519 - remediation and acceleration such as IXL, MyOn, Accelerated Reader, STAR 360, Texthelp, Kami, BrainPop, Flocabulary and Writable

•\$9,033 - for K-12 'Too Good Curriculum which addresses the social and emotional requirement, Too Good for Drugs, Too Good for Violence and programs that have been used previously (Foster noted this is to help combat students who have been experiencing stress and anxiety from the transitions as well as behavioral issues)

Foster shared that they have had multiple contractors in to look at the quote several issues the schools are in need of and "Let me say that it is very expensive to get anything done, especially with the increase of materials. You think a million dollars is a lot, but it is not. We are trying to meet

the specific criteria of Esser III, which leads us to two projects."

For the proposal to allocate the \$1,033,908:

•\$661,986 to renovate the auditorium - carpet, seating, and HVAC

•\$374,006 to renovate the locker rooms - patch floors, new benches, renovate showers and bathrooms, HVAC

The remaining \$171,933 of the \$545,939 estimate could be a capital expenditure.

Foster also shared that the renovation of the auditorium would give the school a new place to spread out during the "social distancing" and continue learning, without pause. Warwick emphasized, "At the November VSBA Convention, they will have a delegate assembly where they will vote on priorities and various items, so each school division needs to appoint a delegate and alternate."

CCPS nominated Trace Bellasai as Delegate and Faye Powers as Alternate as representatives.

"I would like to recognize John and Mary Hunter for taking the lead and assisting with our Land Lab and working with Ms. Nolin to make what she wants a reality," she said. "They have gotten several in-kind and cash donations and it is exciting as I feel this is beginning to become a reality."

John and Mary shared that they have worked on many aspects of the project. (It will be addressed in a separate article.)

Warwick announced that Denny Williams will be retiring before the end of the year and that she herself will be retiring in November too.

## First Robotic Esophagectomy performed in Southwest Virginia at LewisGale Medical Center



Dr. Dominique Dempah is a general surgeon.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Dr. James Taylor is a cardiothoracic surgeon.

LewisGale Medical Center announced that for the first time in Southwest Virginia, a robotic esophagectomy has been successfully performed at its facility. Requiring a highly specialized multidisciplinary care team, Dominique Dempah, MD, general surgeon, and James Taylor, DO, cardiothoracic surgeon, together performed the advanced surgery resulting in smaller incisions, less pain, and a quicker recovery for the patient.

A traditional esophagectomy is often performed on patients with

esophageal cancer. The surgeon makes an incision from the patient's breastbone to their bellybutton, removes the esophagus, and reconstructs a pathway for food using a portion of the patient's stomach or large intestine.

The minimally invasive, robotic esophagectomy is performed with state-of-the-art technology enabling surgeons to perform delicate and complex operations. The robotic esophagectomy uses small incisions in the patient's abdomen and chest. Afterwards, the surgeons use instruments

to guide the robotic arms to the esophagus for its removal. They are able to completely dissect the thoracic esophagus with four small incisions, allowing it to be successfully separated from the pericardium, the airway, the aorta, and the thoracic duct.

"The robot enables me to achieve better visualization offering better control and precise operation," said Dr. Dempah. "Additionally, the robotic surgery decreases

the number of incisions required to perform the procedure, resulting in less pain for the patient and their faster return to normal activities."

LewisGale Medical Center is the only hospital in Southwest Virginia that offers a completely robotic minimally invasive esophagectomy, alleviating the burden of time and cost of travel for patients in the region.

"Robotic surgery is one of the latest advances in esophageal

cancer treatment," said Dr. Taylor. "In addition to less pain and a shorter hospital stay, robotic surgery offers a reduced likelihood of infection, fewer cardiopulmonary complications, decreased

blood loss, and less scarring."

- Submitted by Christopher Finley, LewisGale Regional Health System Marketing Director

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- Rock & Stump Removal
- Crane Services
- Bucket Truck Services
- Underground Utilities
- Storm Water Management
- Site Prep • Small Job Specialty



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### Community Yard Sale

Saturday, October 2  
8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Bethel United Methodist Church  
11599 Cumberland Gap Rd  
New Castle, VA  
Route 42 Sinking Creek

Interested in selling your used items or crafts? **No Charge** for a space -  
- 3'x6' table included -  
You must reserve a space by Sept. 30  
Call and leave a message at 864-6063 to reserve your space!

# OPINION

# Move ahead with Adult Ed

## Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community

Region 5 Adult Education offers students 18 and over free classes designed to earn a GED, an adult High school diploma, job skills training and English language skills.

Need help to increase your job skills so you can find employment? We can help you earn an industry recognized credential in an in-demand job field! Together, with our training partners, our supportive teachers can help you so you can make progress toward the job of your dreams! Open to anyone who wants to improve skills.

Get help with math, social studies, science,

and the reading and language arts content needed to pass the four tests required to earn your GED certificate. Flexible classes, both in person and online. Learn at your own pace and convenience.

Don't do well on high pressure timed tests? Are you an adult but still want to earn a high school diploma? You can demonstrate high school level skills by completing a portfolio of life skills and academic tasks, anywhere you have access to the internet, to earn an adult high school diploma.

Region five adult ed-  
www.regionfiveadulthood.com can help! Phone 1-888-622-7256.

Library News:


GED practice tests are available at the library.

The library is compiling a list of tutors available in the area for children and adults.

The library is having to move items from storage in the Crown Building. These items are listed on the New Castle Facebook page and will be available for pickup Friday, Sept. 24 from 5 to 7 p.m. A donation to the library is requested for the items. There are two matching sets of tall free-standing bookshelves and nine small computer desks.

Oct. 2, Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Yard Sale at Bethel Church. The library will have a table with information and free books.

Oct 9, Saturday all day: Fall Festival in New Castle. Come by the library for the giant book sale and for other activities. The cake walk has



**ADULT EDUCATION**  
Counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, & Roanoke; Cities of Covington, Roanoke, & Salem

SUBMITTED PHOTO

been cancelled due to Covid 19.

Monday, Oct 9 at 6:00 p.m. Library Board meeting on the patio

November 6, Saturday, SWAP DAY. The theme will be winter clothing, holiday decorations, and of course

books! Bring a donation, take something home!

Barn Quilt and Book Lamp raffle tickets are on sale now. Buy some tickets for someone you love and they might win a full-size personalized Barn Quilt! Tickets are available from board

members and at the library. Drawing will be at the end of Fall Festival.

Win a Bench Recycling Project starts in October. To sign up to participate, please contact the library at craiglibrary@swva.net

## Dr. Cynthia Morrow

Roanoke City and Alleghany Health Districts Health Director

# The Question of Boosters

Fueled by the highly transmissible Delta variant, the Roanoke City and Alleghany

Health Districts are currently in the midst of a surge of cases of COVID-19. In June, we saw a low for the year of about 80 new cases each week, but by early July, that number had jumped to over 200 new cases per week. We're now in the 11th week of this most recent surge, with over 950 new local cases reported this past week alone.

This dramatic increase in cases in just two months understandably generates concern for individuals across our districts; for healthcare providers, for school administrators and staff, and for local businesses and restaurants. In short, across our community, people are concerned. And we are concerned, too - that's why we are strongly urging everyone over the age of two to wear a mask at indoor gatherings, continue to avoid crowds for the time being,

and of course, for everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated if they have not yet done so.

We have heard a lot about boosters lately. On September 17, a subcommittee of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommended booster doses of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for people who are older than 65 and people who are at risk for severe disease associated with COVID-19 infection, but there are still a lot of steps that need to be taken before boosters become available in Virginia.

We need to remain patient as we let the process continue. The FDA needs to review the subcommittee's recommendations this week. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee of Immunization Practice needs to make their recommendations this week and

then the CDC Director needs to approve those recommendations.

Only then will the Virginia Department of Health provide guidance based on all of this information. Because we have this robust system of checks and balances in place, we can have confidence in the safety and effectiveness of the three approved COVID-19 vaccines; and also, if it is approved, we can have confidence in the Pfizer booster shot. As we await these decisions, we and our vaccine partners (such as pharmacies and doctors' offices) have been preparing to make the booster shots available if they are approved.

It is important to know that if/when a booster dose is recommended for you, there is no rush to get it right away. If you are fully vaccinated, you still have strong protection against severe illness,

hospitalization, and death, including against the Delta variant. Over the next few weeks, there will be plenty of vaccine available for anyone who is eligible.

Finally, and most importantly, we need to continue to focus on increasing the vaccination rates for people who are not yet fully vaccinated. The only way to get out of this pandemic and to reduce the risk of even more dangerous variants, is to have as many people fully vaccinated as possible. In the meantime, wear your mask when you are indoors, physically distance when you can, avoid crowds, and wash your hands. Regardless of where we come from, regardless of our beliefs, we are tired of COVID-19. We may be grieving, angry, or scared, but we are not powerless. Together, and only together, we can beat the pandemic.

**THE NEW CASTLE RECORD**

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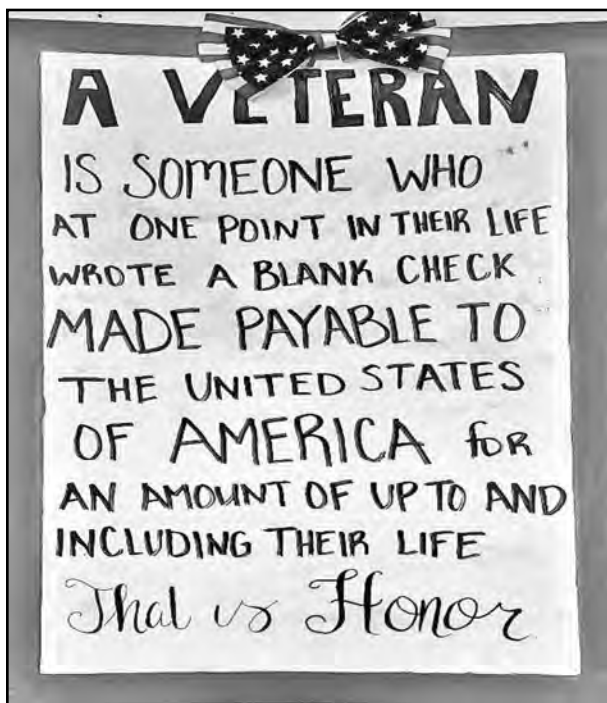
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# Picnic from page 1



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Organizers Ken Looney, Dennis White and Robert Falsone handed out the door prizes at their Craig Valley VFW Post 4491 First Annual VFW members Potluck Picnic.**



**It takes a special person to be a Veteran and Olivia Dudding Slusher made a sign a few years ago for the Annual Military Dinner, which depicted a Veteran's heart of service. It still hangs on their wall.**

around, admiring the many patriotic signs and pictures that decorated the walls.

Once the burgers were off the grill, a call to bless the food was given and the line started.

Post Chaplain Ken Looney welcomed everyone. He shared that at one of their recent meetings, he made the suggestion to have "a picnic to recognize and honor our Veterans."

"All of our members thought it was an excellent idea, and were very positive, and approved my proposal without any exceptions. As all you Veterans very well know, if you propose something that you would like to see happen, then you had best be ready to step up and take charge to make it happen, because it is now your baby," Looney said before adding, "Well true to past experience, our Post Commander quickly said 'Ken, pick your committee members and let's do it tonight.' Well, I learned in my Navy career, and in my business career, that to be a good and successful leader, all you need to do is to select good helpers, and that is what I did."

He recognized and thanked the members who assisted him too - Robert Falsone, Dennis White, Peter Cranwell and Commander Billy Lee.

Burgers, mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, salads, green beans and many other sides were offered as well as several choices of sodas, water and homemade lemonade.

The dessert table was so full that they had to pull up a second table to hold them all. Not much was left as the caramel, chocolate, angel food cakes, along with the coconut pies and watermelon and cookies.

Everyone was welcome to take a plate home if they so desired.

After their meal, a special program was given. Though the VFW had several dates to consider when they came across the idea, September 11 ended up being the only one all could participate.

"The Lord provided this day," Looney shared. "And I think it is the best day we

could have chosen as Veterans to honor 9/11."

He read thought provoking words in remembrance of 9/11, asking people to think what they were doing and where they were at, exactly 20 years ago.

Looney shared that he was at ITT Night Vision. They announced to "lock the gates" and no one was allowed in or out. Then the bank beside of them heard all their alarms go off and immediately evacuated, though ITT did not.

He captured the moments for everyone, describing what most saw on TV.

"We couldn't believe it. It couldn't happen to us because we are the USA, we're safe. But it didn't turn out that way, did it?" he continued. "Our Homeland came under a terrorist attack."

As most recall, it happened in 2001 in New York City. Planes crashed into the Twin Towers and the Pentagon.

"No! It just can't be happening!!! Not in our Nation. Somewhere else in the world maybe, but not here in the good old United States of America," Looney exclaimed. "Our America has always been known as a Nation of Security, Peace and Safety. But now our trust, and comfort zone status, along with our rights as citizens with our awesome beloved freedom, has now been put to the test, and has shaken us to our core, and shattered our confidence of being 'untouchable.'"

Looney continued that the terrorist attack filled many with the fear of the unknown and questions of what may come next.

He asked Billy Lee, Post Commander, to read from a booklet called "Remembering 9/11," which has ten firsthand accounts of those who was "Facing Tragedy and Finding Hope."

Lee read about people visiting Ground Zero the following year in New York City.

"The reading of every one of the 2,801 victims were read. At Ground Zero, there are places of devastation, destruction,

and deep loss. The first use was in 1945 of the testing of the first atomic bomb. When Nehemiah visited the Jerusalem in 5th century B.C. he encountered Ground Zero situation where he provided a proposal to act, stating, 'Jerusalem lies in ruins and it's gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and end this disgrace. Life's rubble and debris can overwhelm us and the temptation to give up is real. The situation of agony, disgrace and loss need not be permanent. They prompt our prayers to the gracious God of heaven. Faithful perseverance is in order. We must not lose hope as God provides what we need to press on.'"

Lee continued, "When flight 77 slammed into the Pentagon on that ill-fated Tuesday, many inside were trapped by a cloud of thick blinding smoke. Police Officer Isaac Ho'opi'i ran into the blackness searching for survivors and began shouting over and over, "to head towards his voice." Six who had lost all sense of direction followed his voice. This is also the invitation of Jesus to each of us when we're in danger or we have lost our way. Jesus described the true spiritual shepherd who calls His sheep by their names and leads them out. After He has gathered his own flock, they follow Him as they know His voice. Are we listening to Jesus' voice when we are in difficult circumstances? Are we walking toward Him instead of groping towards the dark? He is the good Shepherd and whatever our need in guidance or protection, he calls us to heed and to follow Him."

"Now you know why this day is so important to remember," Looney noted. "We have 2,801 reasons to keep this day in remembrance, as we remember our brother and sister citizens, who perished in this attack. May we never forget them, or this day, as we recall the day our Nation came under a terrorist attack. Thank You Lord, for blessing us with our American citizenship, and for allowing us to live our lives in the greatest Nation ever known since the beginning of time, the United States of America."

The VFW would like to thank the businesses that so graciously support them and donated to their event: Mike and Richard Carper - IGA Express Exxon and Gopher Market, Robbie Carper - Subway, Angie Guthrie - Guthrie Insurance, Phil Spence - The Emporium General Store, Carol Owens - Pine Top, Caitlin Reynolds - Family Dollar, Mark at the Moose Lodge 284 in Catawba, the local DAR ladies and Arzetta and Carol.

The VFW members ask that everyone support these businesses that have supported them over the years.

A special thank went out to the Craig Valley Daughters of the American Revolution who came to serve the food. They responded, "It was a great event for the community to recognize an important anniversary of 9/11. We thank the VFW for the opportunity to serve."

Looney ended the afternoon with a prayer.

"Lord this is a special day for most Americans, as we remember and recall, the terrible terrorist attack upon our homeland Nation, 20 years ago, today. Life has a way of surprising us and throwing us into a sea of confusion. We witnessed this in 2001 when an attack from the other side of the globe, came crashing down on us. We were surprised and caught totally off guard. When life is full of unknowns, confidence and assurance can quickly disappear, and in their place comes fears and doubts. But Lord, we



**Families walked around, admiring the many patriotic signs and pictures that decorated the walls, while things were being prepared.**



**With fresh hamburgers, and all the sides and desserts to go with it, people did not lack for a plate full of delicious food at the picnic.**

know that if we put our faith and trust in You, then doubt and fear will soon be gone. We know Lord, that You and You alone, is the only one who we can trust in, to answer our prayerful call and bless us with your forgiveness, for the sins that we have committed as a Nation. We have turned our backs on You Lord and are living and doing just like the rest of this sinful world. Now Lord we plead for Your loving forgiveness, for our sins and our lifestyle failures, even though we continue to ignore Your Holiness. We devoutly pray for You to come and guide us, to where You would have us be as people of faith, and once again, allow us to be, "One Nation under God," again," Looney shared with emotion. "Lord help us to unite as citizens of faith, and take a stand against evil, and bring our Nation back to You. And Lord, help us to never forget, or take for

granted, the high cost of Freedom, that You have blessed us with, paid for by those who gave their lives as a supreme sacrifice in Defense of our beloved Freedom. Lord, please bless every person who has ever served in the Military, and please especially bless the families whose loved one never made it home. We, again thank You for this day, and for this time of fellowship with our Veteran comrades, and we ask for safe travel mercies on each of us, as we depart and travel to our destinations. We now give you the Praise, the Honor and the Glory for our blessings, and ask that You please accept our Love and our Thanksgiving, for bringing us safely home from the battlefields. Thank You Lord again for all Your blessings and for our God given Freedom. We now ask that God Bless America, forever more, and keep us eternally in His loving care."

Though games were set up on the grounds, it seemed everyone continued to enjoy the fellowship the most.

The DAR ladies and others assisted in helping to clean up and the event was at its end.

As each departed, handshakes, laughs and head nods were abundant.

"I believe the folks who showed up enjoyed themselves," Fontane shared. "For the first time for this 9/11 event, it was a success thanks to all the businesses and ladies who helped out."

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# Gov. Northam visits Roanoke Valley to help Feeding Southwest Virginia celebrate 40 years of service



PHOTOS BY SHAWN NOWLIN

**Governor Ralph Northam praising Feeding Southwest Virginia CEO Pamela Irvine for her leadership.**



**James Pearman Jr., FSWVA Board Chair, explaining the process of how food is distributed throughout the area.**



**Pam Irvine thanking her staff for all of their hard work.**

## Shawn Nowlin

shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org

On September 10, Feeding Southwest Virginia (FSWVA) celebrated 40 years of service with a celebratory luncheon. Present at the gathering was Governor Ralph Northam, FSWVA CEO Pam Irvine, Feeding America CEO Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, representatives from both sides of the political aisle, longtime volunteers, staff personnel and donors.

Praising Irvine and all of the organization's supporters, Gov. Northam said, "Pam has been with this organization for 40 years. When you think about that many years of service, and certainly there are a lot of other individuals who

have been part of this process, but you have touched a whole lot of lives."

Responded Irvine, "Thank you Governor. Without so many amazing employees, volunteers and supporters over the years, we would not be having this celebration."

Today, far too many families face food insecurity, the state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food. Data shows that one in eight Southwest Virginia residents regularly face hunger, including one in five children.

The Roanoke Valley is part of Feeding Southwest Virginia's 26-county, nine-city service region. In addition to being a \$34

million food distribution business on a nonprofit budget, FSWVA is also a first responder in disaster situations. Its partner programs include soup kitchens, food pantries as well as elderly and children's initiatives.

The Mobile Food Pantry visits 12 distribution sites each month: Buchanan County, Carrol County, Craig County, Dickenson County, Grayson County, Lee County, Wise County, and Wythe County.

Millions of people, according to Babineaux-Fontenot, received help from food banks and pantries last year. Like the vast majority of Americans, she believes that no child should have to go to bed hungry.

"I have a very big family and when I'm giving speeches like this, I often ask people to guess how many. When people find out that I'm Catholic, they think maybe 20. But it's much bigger than that. Through birth, adoption and foster care, I am one of 108 children," she said. "The greatest honor that I will ever have was providing the keynote address when my parents were inducted into the National Adoption Hall of Fame. The woman I am today is direct result of their compassion, love and thoughtfulness. I carry on those traits in my capacity as Feeding America CEO every single day."

The luncheon celebration was sponsored by the Kroger Zero Hunger/Zero Waste campaign

and Member One Federal Credit Union. At the conclusion of the program, attendees were given a tour of the warehouse.

September is National Hunger Action Month. Looking for a way to make a difference in the community? FSWVA is always looking for volunteers, people willing to share their message via social media and food donations.

The Feeding America Southwest Virginia Food Bank was founded in 1981 to reduce hunger in a region where the economic landscape had been altered by plant and mine closings, a slow influx of new jobs and constrained job re-training opportunities.

More information can be found by visiting [feedingswva.org](http://feedingswva.org).



**Left to right, Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, Feeding America CEO and Gov. Northam.**



**Claire Babineaux-Fontenot explaining how her parents shaped her into the woman that she is today.**

## Acupuncture from page 1

ecology so disease can no longer thrive is a stronger preventative against recurrence."

Spellman may use one or any combination of the following: acupuncture, cupping, moxibustion, herbal liniments, massage, and dietary therapy.

"As a farmer acupuncturist, I ensure with the patient, that the body is well irrigated, whether that is with blood or energy. When we regulate tissue planes with needles, we are regulating the flow of blood and energy through the body," she explained. "Sometimes this regulation can open up stuck areas and create space that the body fills with blood and energy. In fact, acupuncture is specialized for releasing stuck places - whether knots, adhesions, scars, or other devitalized places."

She further explained that these could come from surgeries, emotions, trauma, excessive exposure to cold or heat, and long-term illnesses that impair movement in the body.

Spellman explained that most insurance carriers often don't cover acupuncture except for certain conditions, and

Virginia law makes it difficult to get full coverage with Medicare.

"In order to make my practice accessible to people of varying income levels and needs, I have the most affordable rates in the region, offer a senior discount, and won't turn anyone away for inability to pay. In other words, I can offer 'sliding scale' or 'pay what you can' as needed," she shared.

Healing Spring Acupuncture is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays and interested individuals can call (540) 339-7538 for an appointment.

"It's an honor to be able to work with Craig County residents and I hope that I can encourage an increased idea of what health is. Health is thriving in all stages of life, not just experiencing a lack of symptoms," Spellman said. "Thriving is like the beauty of a flower - our bodies are worlds of oceans and tides, pulsing with red rivers - not machines whose parts break and need to be fixed. I also am specializing in illnesses that are complex and resistant to standard care, and many of my patients have not had results with other modalities."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Elizabeth offers many services that have been proven to help the body's functions, pain and healing process. She notes that acupuncture is effective for many acute and chronic conditions such as asthma, anxiety, depression, insomnia, weight control, low back pain, frozen shoulder, migraines, fibromyalgia, digestive concerns, sciatica, general aches and pains, and more. She is excited about helping people in Craig County.**

# God's House Is Always Open

<p><b>BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 11599 Cumberland Gap Road/Rt. 42, New Castle, 864-5242; church phone:544-7040 Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m., Sunday School 10:30 a.m., Choir Tuesday 7:30p.m., Youth Outreach and Missions Program. Rev. Charles Stacy.</p>	<p><b>GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b> 5530 Catawba Valley Drive, Catawba, VA, 540-384-7075. Pastor Lorraine Taylor, <a href="mailto:agladypastor@msn.com">agladypastor@msn.com</a>. Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Evening service at 7:00 p.m.; Youth (ages 13-18) &amp; Super Church (ages 4-12) Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. You can also watch on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m. <a href="http://www.graceassemblycatawaba.org">www.graceassemblycatawaba.org</a></p>	<p><b>NEW CANTERBURY PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP</b> Pastor John D. Abbott, Hwy 621 (10 miles), phone: 864-8242, Sunday Morning Lesson 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday Night Service 6:00 pm.</p>
<p><b>CHESTNUT GROVE CHURCH</b> Duane Wente, Minister, Rt. 42, New Castle, 540-864-5692. Sunday: Worship 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p><b>GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 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><b>PAXTON CHAPEL</b> 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 <a href="http://www.paxtonchapelchurch.com">www.paxtonchapelchurch.com</a>; email at <a href="mailto:paxtonchapel@yahoo.com">paxtonchapel@yahoo.com</a>.</p>
<p><b>CORNERSTONE CHURCH</b> 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><b>HEBRON UNITED METHODIST</b> Pastor Rodney Longmire, Rt. 606, 1981 Caldwell Mt. Rd., New Castle, 540-400-3419. Worship 11:15AM.</p>	<p><b>THE CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> 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><b>CRAIG HEALING SPRINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)</b> 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><b>LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST</b> Rev. Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, &amp; 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.</p>	<p><b>NEW CASTLE UNITED METHODIST</b> 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><b>CRAIG VALLEY BAPTIST</b> 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. <a href="http://www.craigvalleybaptist.com">www.craigvalleybaptist.com</a></p>	<p><b>LEVEL GREEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> 3388 Cumberland Gap Rd. Newport, Duane Wente, 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><b>ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 99 2nd Street, New Castle. Rev. Stephen McNally. 540-473-3691. Mass is on Sunday at 11:15 AM.</p>
<p><b>CRAIG VALLEY GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP</b> 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><b>MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN</b> 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><b>CRAIG COUNTY COMMUNITY CHURCH - 'WELCOME HOME!'</b> 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: <a href="mailto:craigcountycommunity-church@gmail.com">craigcountycommunity-church@gmail.com</a>.</p>
<p><b>CROSSROADS CHURCH</b> 21892 Craigs Creek Road, New Castle. Pastor Gary Burch. 864-7520. Sunday School- 10-10:45AM, Sunday Worship - 11AM-Noon.</p>	<p><b>NEW CASTLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH "WHERE YOUR HEART CAN FEEL THE DIFFERENCE"</b> Sheldon Cosma, Senior Minister, 282 Salem Ave., New Castle; 864-5212; Sunday Mornings: 9 A.M. Contemporary Service and 10:45 A.M. Traditional Service with Sunday School at 10 A.M.; Sunday night adult Bible study at 7 P.M.; Sunday Night Youth Bible study (6-12) at 6:30 P.M.; Wednesday night Bible study at 5:30 P.M. for K-5; If you need a ride to church, please contact Calvin Duncan by 8 P.M. on Saturday at 864-5321; <a href="http://www.nc-cc.org">www.nc-cc.org</a>.</p>	<p><b>ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH</b> Located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit <a href="http://www.sttfc.org">www.sttfc.org</a> for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).</p>
<p><b>FIRST BAPTIST</b> Pastor Kevin Altizer, Corner of Main Street &amp; Boyd Ave., New Castle. Church phone 864-5919. Sunday School 10:00AM, Sunday Worship 11:00AM and 6PM. Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7PM, Youth Group 7:00PM, Reformers Unanimous Addiction Recovery every Friday evening at 7PM.</p>	<p><b>LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST</b> Pastor Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle, 540-525-7662. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, &amp; 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.</p>	<p>If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at <a href="mailto:advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com">advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com</a></p>

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## Legals - City of Radford

**NOTICE OF INVITATION TO COMMENT AND PUBLIC MEETING CONSOLIDATE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER) PROGRAM YEAR 2020**

The City of Radford has completed its Consolidate Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Year. The report includes an assessment of expenditures in relation to community objectives, progress on HUD financed activities, and an analysis of persons benefiting from activities.

A citizen comment period will run from September 20, 2021 through October 4, 2021. A copy of the CAPER may be found on the City's website or in the City Manager's office. Questions or comments should be directed to Melissa Skelton, Community Developer at [melissa.skelton@radfordva.gov](mailto:melissa.skelton@radfordva.gov) or in person at City Councils meeting on September 27, 2021 at 7pm, located at 10 Robertson St., Radford.

## Legals - Montgomery County

### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Major Home Occupation Conditional Use Permit for a single-chair salon in the Agricultural zoning district at 725 Stafford Drive on Tax Parcel 405 - ((A)) - 8. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

B. Rezoning from R-3, Multi-Family Residential and B-3, General Business to B-3, General Business by the Montgomery Museum & Lewis Miller Regional Art Center (Montgomery Museum of Art and History) at 300 Pepper Street SE on Tax Parcel 527 - ((A)) - 235. The property is designated as Parks/Open Space. Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. Additionally, the meeting will be streamed live on the Town of Christiansburg's YouTube channel at [www.christiansburg.org/you tube](http://www.christiansburg.org/you tube) and will remain on the Town's YouTube page once the meeting concludes. For information on contactless methods for submitting public comment, please visit [www.christiansburg.org/publichearings](http://www.christiansburg.org/publichearings).

A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128 ext. 1130 or by email at [awarren@christiansburg.org](mailto:awarren@christiansburg.org) with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

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Contractors must submit their application on the electronic M7B bidding site at <https://www.plow4va.com/>. All new and returning Contractors must be active in the Virginia eProcurement Portal (eVA) in order to do business with the Commonwealth of Virginia (<https://eva.virginia.gov>).

Applications received by 7:00 PM on Friday September 24, 2021 may be eligible for a mobilization bonus. See the EVA posting for additional information, including contract requirements.

Questions can be directed to the Christiansburg Residency from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday – Friday. Phone: 540-381-7201  
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Virginia Department of Transportation

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# SPORTS

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## Rocket football team is back in action Friday after two weeks off with bye, cancelled game



**Dylan Crawford(#22) models the Craig County football road uniforms while Zachary Peters(#13) is decked out in the new home threads.**



**The jerseys and pants have stripes while the white helmet has a Craig "C" on both sides.**

The Craig County Rockets will travel to Pilgrims Knob this Friday night to take on the Titans of Twin Valley High in football. It will be the first game since the Rockets beat Auburn on September 3rd as Craig's bye week followed and last week's game with Montcalm was postponed, and possibly cancelled. "Montcalm had to postpone last week's contest due to COVID-19," said Craig County coach Jim Fisher. "We talked about making it up on a Monday, giving us three games in eight days, but then Mercer County went to remote learning for two weeks with no extra-curricular activities and ended that possibility. We will just have to see if an opportunity presents itself to play them, but it does not look good."

It's a tough break for Craig, as it was "Senior Night" for the Rockets and a big crowd was expected for the second home game of the season. Craig is now left with just four home games, and the Rockets won't play in New Castle again until October 8.

Twin Valley should be a good test for the 1-1 Rockets. It's a relatively new school, having opened in 2001 when Whitewood High School and Garden High School consolidated. Hence, TWIN Valley.

This year's football team is off to a hot start at 3-0. It is only the second time in school history that the Titans have started a season at 3-0. Ironically they opened with a 52-6 win over Montcalm, followed by a 30-0 shutout of Thom-

as Walker and a 16-9 win over Northwood last Friday.

"They line up in the spread but they want to run the football," said Fisher. "They are good in every facet of the game. They have size, speed, and are physical. Their main back, Matthew Lester(#40), is a converted lineman. He looks like he weighs 230-plus but he is quick and tough to bring down. Their slot receiver, Jeighkob Cooper(#10), carries the ball a bunch as well. He will be the fastest player we have seen so far this season, very shifty and quick. He had an 80 yard kickoff return last week for a TD.

"The quarterback, Lane Stiltner(#2), is also a good runner and throws a nice ball. Their main receiver is more of an H-back/TE

type kid at 6'2" 215. He is very physical with good hands. All four of the aforementioned players are also very good defensive players. They are also solid and physical on both the offensive and defensive lines. They are the best team we have played thus far and we are looking forward to playing them on Friday."

Craig has been able to get some folks healthy in two weeks off.

"We've had several kids out with illnesses and a bunch of coaches out as well," said Fisher. "Most days we have only had about two-thirds of our team. Several coaches have been quarantined and a couple have been out with COVID. There were several days that it was just me at the start of practice. It is impossible to

break off into individual position drills, which we need, when we do not have the coaches available to do it. However, we have had some good practices regardless. We have, hopefully, done some fine tuning of the offense and installed some other plays, series, and formations. We are looking forward to having an opportunity to play and see how well we execute. We aren't looking forward to the bus ride (Twin Valley is three and a half hours by bus) but can't wait to play."

Craig's new uniforms have arrived and the team will be sporting the visiting white jerseys for the next two weeks before breaking out the new home blues on October 8 when the Rockets host Eastern Montgomery.

## Craig volleyball team is at Highland Thursday

The Craig County volleyball team has a trip to Highland County scheduled for Thursday of this week, and the girls will play a varsity doubleheader. The first match will begin at 5:30 pm with the second expected to start at approximately 7 pm.

The Rockets dropped a match to Narrows in New Castle last Thursday, 25-19, 25-13 and 25-12.

"In the first game we came out focused and strong, ready to play," said coach Suzanne Crawford. "After that, Narrows was able to spot several holes in our defense."

Kaylee Stroop had a dozen assists for the Rockets to go with three kills, three aces and a pair of digs. Jennifer Fitzpatrick had four digs and an ace while Hannah Caldwell contributed three kills to go with five blocks, three digs and

an ace. Annabelle Gregory had four kills, six digs and an ace, Kylee Clifton had two kills, Erin Snider had eight digs and Lily Hutchison had two kills and a block.

The girls also played North Cross last week and lost in four sets, including a 27-25 overtime thriller in the fourth set.

"The girls played great," said Crawford. "It was a hard loss but an awesome game. That was all

heart, I was so proud. They walked off that court winners to me."

Crawford had pulled Snider up from the jayvee and she did a good job filling in as a Defensive Specialist alongside Maggie Mays. Stroop has really stepped up as captain along with Kylee Clifton. Against North Cross Stroop had 34 assists, 5 kills, 3 blocks, 7 aces and 10 digs while Clifton had 7 kills, 3 blocks, 4 aces and 10 digs.

Hannah Caldwell was an absolute beast at the net against North Cross with 10 kills, 3 blocks, 4 aces and 10 digs. Gregory had 9 kills, 2 aces and 11 digs while Mays had an ace and Hutchison had 4 kills. Snider had 16 serves with 6 aces.

The Rockets were looking for their first win on Tuesday with a home match against Covington, followed by the trip to Highland on Thursday.



**PHOTOS BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY**  
**Hannah Caldwell makes a return over her head.**



**Kylee Clifton dives for a dig while Randalyn Taylor(#13) looks to assist.**



**Coach Suzanne Crawford coaches the team while the reserves cheer on their teammates.**

## New name for Washington football team

Watching the Washington Football Team play last Thursday Night Football last week I was interested to see if anyone slipped up and called them "Redskins" by mistake. If it happened, I didn't hear it.

Prior to the season it was announced that fans will no longer be allowed to wear Native American inspired ceremonial headdresses or face paint at home games. I guess shirts and hats with the old logo were still permitted, and I really don't see how you could stop it. Once it gets cold are you going to tell people they can't wear their coats and jackets with the name Redskins or the logo associated with the team for so many years? I think there must be some kind

of constitutional right that covers that. Is there a "freedom of apparel" amendment?

I was watching closely last Thursday to see how many old logos I could see in the crowd. At one point Terry McLaurin scored a touchdown and jumped into the crowd behind the end zone. I freeze-framed the TV to see how many Redskins logos I could see and you know how many I found? "None," to my surprise. Oh well, it's still not cold.

Within the past couple weeks the final choices for the new Washington team came to light. Apparently the final eight are, in alphabetical order, Armada, Brigade, Commanders, Defenders, Presidents,

Redhogs, Redwolves and, alas, the current name Washington Football Team.

I'm not sure which one I'd prefer if I were a fan of the team. "Washington Football Team" is gaining some momentum, but the word is that won't be the choice. To me it sounds like a soccer kind of name, where many of the teams don't have nicknames. Did anyone suggest "Washington United"?

My favorite, which didn't even make the top eight, was "Red Tails." It was the name given to the all-black Tuskegee Airmen from World War II. It kept the "Red" in there and honored a group of heroic pilots. I thought it was a good name, but apparently it didn't draw a lot

of favor with the people who get to decide.

It's important to get a name that will make for cool uniforms. I expect they'll keep the burgundy and gold color scheme, and why wouldn't you? Even the current Washington uniforms, without a nickname, are pretty classy, even

though they look like Brookville. When I see Logan Thomas out there he doesn't look much different than when he was a Bee.

It will be interesting to see which name the team picks, but they better be careful. You can find something wrong with just about anything these days.



# Big Buck Contest from page 1

left behind contest' as I have divisions that cover everything," Phillips said.

He continued, "Just take a picture of your big buck and send it to Star City Whitetails anytime during the contest season. I immediately file each picture into its appropriate category. Later, I narrow the pictures to biggest bucks I have kept in my folders for all the divisions. Then, at the end, I go through and pick the best bucks. This starts the contest that takes about a week. I will post 10 deer at a time. I give people a few hours to vote in each post, then continue on each round until we finish. Then the one with the most likes will move on out of each round, until the best is chosen by the Facebook community."

He added that in order to keep a level of honest integrity intact the only votes that count are from the people who have liked his page prior to the contest at the beginning. He also asks people not to share once the contest starts and noted that almost everyone is on board with the rules.

Born and raised in Roanoke, Phillips started hunting and fishing at a young age with his grandfather (his

mom's dad) at Smith Mountain Lake. That's why I called it Star City Whitetails.

"That's where I got my passion," Phillips said. "He and I were very close. He was the man in my life for many years. Though he passed in the 90s, my passion has never left. It is as big now as it has ever been. I give credit to God and to my grandfather."

He added that no one else in his family hunted.

Phillips recalls the time when the main newspaper printed hunting pictures and before opening day, they designated two pages to the season's forecast.

"This is one of the reasons I started this page. I thought, I'm not going to let this die. I will create my own little Facebook page. Then it grew into 30,000 followers," he said. "I had no idea people from the Beach and Tazewell would view. This contest, I will have 70,000 viewers who will see and follow this contest."

Phillips has also done much writing on his passion.

On his website, StarCityWhitetails.com, he has all the photos from previous years that people have sent and alongside, he has written over

100 articles, starting in 2012, his first year where he had only 17 hunters enter the contest.

"The guy had a huge buck over 200 inches," he recollected. "I called him on the phone and the story was so fascinating that I shared it. It was the first article I ever wrote and since then, I have covered every winner."

He has also been published in the North American Whitetail, the biggest deer hunting publication in the USA.

Last year, he had over 4,000 entries to filter down.

"I know that is a lot of hunters, and outdoor enthusiasts will be excited about this opportunity. Still, at the end of the hunting season, it is a place for people to share and gather information on our hunting tradition, so I share every picture," he said. "But at the end of the season, I have to choose the top 300 to 400 from thousands of deer."

Phillips sends his appreciation out in advance to all who have "generously donated prizes whether companies or individuals. It is because of people who have donated their time and efforts that has made this contest what it is."

Included, is a local Craig

business. "Big appreciation to Angie Guthrie-Ponton and Bub Ponton and Guthrie Insurance company as they are giving \$20 to the 'Top Ten' in the youth division," he added.

On Saturday, September 25, Star City Whitetails, Buckmasters & Sportsman's Warehouse will be hosting a great "Buck Scoring Event" at Sportsman's Warehouse in Roanoke.

"Doors open 9 a.m. so bring the bucks, sheds that you would like to have scored. I'm sure y'all have some that have never had tape put to them," Phillips excitedly shared. "We will measure until about 3 p.m."

The fee is \$10 per head which will go toward a drawing from Buckmaster's and being entered into their record book if the following scoring requirements are met: 140 without spread (Firearms), 105 without spread (Archery) and 75 (shed antler). The Buckmaster's scoring system truly focuses on giving credit to the buck for every inch it grows.

The official scorers, Anders Blixt, will be traveling from Eastern Virginia and Wayne Cox will be coming from

North Carolina.

Sportsman's will be giving out gift certificates to the Top Scoring Bucks in the following divisions: men's, women's, youth and archery, as well as an additional \$100 gift certificate to the overall top-scoring buck of this event.

"Don't miss this great event and a unique opportunity to have your bucks, sheds scored," Phillips said. "Bring in your harvests from yesterday and present and the public is encouraged to come by the store to view some of the Best Bucks Virginia has to offer."

Tyler Clark will have his Pulaski County buck at the event. It won the overall State Championship in Richmond.

For more info, <https://www.facebook.com/SportsmansRoanoke/>

"I had no idea what this would become such a blessing with all the opportunities and the friendships I've made along the way. It is a lot of work as I don't have another administrator, but I answer to any errors," Phillips shared. "I love it as much now as I did when I first started, and I hope others enjoy it as well."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ FOURTH ANNUAL ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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**Stay at least 6 feet away from others**



**Avoid crowds**



**Find your free vaccine**

We're all tired of COVID-19. But with new and more dangerous variants of the virus here in Virginia, we have to stay committed to stopping the spread. Please do your part by following the steps above. Find your free vaccine at [Vaccinate.Virginia.gov](https://Vaccinate.Virginia.gov) or learn more by calling **1-877-VAX-IN-VA**.

## We're not finished yet.



