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leann@guthrieinsurance.net
www.guthrieinsuranceva.com
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THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

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"The Voice of Craig County"

Wednesday, December 29, 2021

\$1.00



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A group of ladies recently decided to join the beginner's quilting class with Mary Hunter from Farm Bureau Women's Committee and learn the long-lost art of quilting. Their first project was a table runner.

Learning an old art to create new beauty

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

(Published on March 24, 2021) In years long ago, ladies kept their hands busy in the evenings, as they would have to make colorful quilts to keep their families warm and cozy, as there were no Belk's or Walmart's to pop into to purchase one.

That long-lost art is emerging again, and the ladies of the Farm Bureau are taking full advantage by offering a beginner's class to those who are interested in learning.

The Craig County Farm Bureau Women's Committee started the weekly class

on February 28 at 2:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Craig Valley Baptist Church.

The fee for the class is a non-refundable \$25 donation to the Craig County Farm Bureau Women's Committee. The donated funds will be used to support agriculture education and provide scholarships to students within the community.

Instructor Mary Hunter recently gave each new lady a student miniature hand-made quilted chick.

"Have you always wanted to learn how to make a quilt or just want to brush up on

See **New Beauty**, page 2

"Just A Hand" found a permanent home

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

(Published on January 6, 2021) Throughout 2020, many people have extended their hands, regardless of how little they felt they had to share.

Last year, a new service blessed Craig County residents with a building full of clothes, books, toys, and household goods at Club Camp Mitchell. People that heard, flooded in, and picked out their necessities for their children and other neighbors.

This event, "Just A Hand," is a non-profit organization created by Lynn and Bill Morgan of Spotsylvania, Virginia. It was brought to Craig by Nichole Persinger who organized the connection with the Morgan's and her son

Dustin Persinger, a CCPS School Counselor.

Locals who attended were seen and heard and expressed how thankful they were.

This tugged on their hearts and they went to work searching for a permanent place to house such a wonderful idea.

This week, Derek Persinger announced that "Just A Hand" officially has a home.

"Starting this month, we are located at 1945 Craig Valley Drive in the Former Craig Printing Building," he said. "With the help of many individuals from the community, our non-profit organization is off to a great start."

The goal of Just A Hand is to help support families in communities by offering free access to clothing,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Just A Hand has finally found a home in New Castle in the former Craig Printing building.

See **Just A Hand**, page 4

Feeding America is back in Craig

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

(Published on February 17, 2021) Because of the coronavirus pandemic, many families have struggled when it comes to consistently putting food on the table.

The blessing of having the Feeding America truck delivery back in Craig was more than a welcome to many.

The New Castle Christian Church continues to host the huge amount of food that Feeding America brings to the community.

"They delivered 240 pre-packaged boxes," Pastor Sheldon Cosma said.

It included fresh vegetables such as some loose cabbage, red potatoes, sweet potatoes, onions and carrots.

Even with the cold and

rainy weather, the faithful volunteers showed up to help box up the vegetables and bring some extra healthy foods to Craig residents this month.

"It was a little cold and wet, but I hardly noticed because it warms my heart to spend time around such great servants of Christ," Cosma said. "And yes Jean (Bradley), sometimes I do not have enough sense to get in out of the rain."

With boxes securely placed in everyone's vehicle as they drove around the block for the drive-through pickup service, many thanks and lots of smiles were expressed to the volunteers.

Hopes are that the truck will continue monthly on the second Wednesday. However, keep in touch with the Facebook notifications just in case changes

are necessary.

"I love my church family," Cosma said as the day ended.

Many residents added the same sentiments as they drove off with a box of quality food for their families.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Despite cold weather, faithful volunteers came out to pack the vegetables left by the Feeding America truck and loaded them into vehicles as citizens drove by.

A Veterans tribute on Armed Forces Day

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

(Published on May 19, 2021) There are many military Veterans living in Craig County and they have countless stories to share. Some do not mind doing so, while others cringe at the thoughts of horrific times in service and in war that they experienced.

Still, it is real. War is real. Serving your country is real. Life is real and sometimes not pleasant to the eyes or the heart.

In asking several Veter-

ans about their memories of serving, some opened up and shared the following.

"I was recently asked if I would write an article on Armed Forces Day. Our hometown reporter, Pam Dudding, said she knew that I was a career military man, and an active member of VFW Post 4491, so she thought that I might be a good candidate to give any input on this subject," Kenneth Looney, AECS (Retired) United States Navy, said. "Knowing how much Pam respects, honors and supports our local vet-

See **Tribute**, page 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Honoring the Veterans who have served or are currently serving for their sacrifices is something that the Craig County community takes tremendous pride in.

Jesse Carper Musky tournament scheduled for May 1 and 2

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

(Published on April 21, 2021) For some, memories have a way of conjuring up great times together of fun and laughter.

Even though Jesse Carper is no longer on this earth, many friends and family still have fond memories of him, including a special friend, Luke Kessler who is keeping Jesse's favorite pastime alive, Musky fishing, with the Jesse Carper Memorial Tournament that takes place annually.

This year's tournament dates are May 1 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, May 2, from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Not only was Jesse an advent fisherman, but he also enjoyed hunting and had a voice that most people felt would have hit the charts in Nashville.

Kessler shared, "What gives me the drive to continue this yearly tournament is that it is a great cause for a great friend."

Many have echoed those same words, "Any-

See **Tournament**, page 3



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jesse Carper could make anyone smile, if not with his wit and warm smile, then his melodic voice always got the job done. The Seventh Annual Jesse Carper Memorial Musky Tournament will be held this year on May 1 and 2. The goal is to raise \$5,000 to be able to help other events and groups in the future.



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Library returning to normal with a Swap Day

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

(Published on June 23, 2021) The library is back to regular hours. This means appointments are no longer necessary, and no more restrictions on the number of patrons.

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

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

Jane Henderson, Treasurer of the CCPL, Inc Board, said, "Previous library plant Swap Days have been great, and the library would like to continue Swap Days as a regular activity. It's a fun day of sharing with people from

the community and others from outside New Castle."

She noted that on their Swap Day, anyone can bring household items they want to give away.

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

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

"I have lots of nice used games and toys. I'd rather just give them to people in the community as opposed to giving them to Goodwill where they get sold or thrown away," Toelke shared. "If you have had time for spring cleaning and want to clear out no longer used household items, join us for the day. We can

help you find a new home for your things. You may find some treasures you can take home for free also."

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

They had their kick-off at the start of June by inviting everyone to become a supporting member of the Library, whether they would be a new member or renew their membership. (These small funds make a huge difference in helping the staff run the facility and provide more for the patron of Craig.)

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

"Please consider additional support dollars," they asked. "With new laws increasing the salary of our dedicated staff, our cost of operations is increasing and please know that any gift is greatly appreciated."

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



SUBMITTED PHOTO

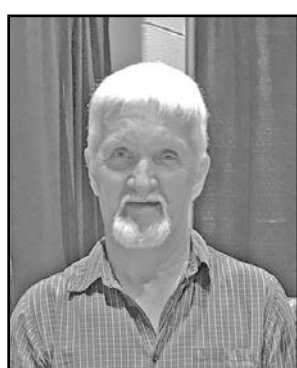
The New Castle Library is excited to announce there are no more COVID restrictions and will be celebrating with a Swap Day on Saturday, June 26. They invite others to set up as well.

OBITUARY

Hypes, Perry Wayne

Perry Wayne Hypes, 65, of New Castle, VA went to be the Lord on Wednesday, December 22, 2021. Perry's loving parents, Robert F. Hypes and Ruth K. Hypes along with his brother, Larry R. Hypes were waiting with open arms for him at the 'Pearly Gates'.

Perry was a devoted husband, father, and PawPaw whom will be greatly missed. Perry is survived by his loving



wife of almost 42 years, Sheila Hypes; his children, Tomika Peters (Tom Spence), Robert Hypes (Melissa Bellasai) and Elizabeth Hypes (Dale Waldron), and Tucker (his fur baby) all of New Castle. Seven grandchildren, Ashleigh, Reann and Zachary Peters, Skyler Hypes, Grayson and Payton Trivette and Kylie Waldron. Sisters, Linda (Che Che) (Dille) Caldwell of New Castle, Beverly Frango of New Castle, Peggy (Wayne) Linkous of Newport. Sister-in-Law, Wanda Hypes of Roanoke. Numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. A special nephew, Bucky Hypes whom Perry loved as his own.

Perry so loved watching his grandchildren

along with other children playing their favorite sports, he loved the outdoors, hunting, porch sitting with his loving wife watching birds, and let's not forget his love of the mud bogs and his Mud Mafia family. 'Ole Blue' was his pride and joy that will remain in his family forever. Perry's contagious smile and laughter would make anyone smile

with him. Let's not forget he ALWAYS had snacks to share.

Special Thanks to our earthly Angel, Gina Smith, whom went above and beyond for our family.

A celebration of Perry's life will be held at 12 p.m. on December 29, 2021 at Patsel Funeral Home in New Castle, with Reverend Raymond Christian officiating. Burial will follow at the Brickey Cemetery.

Friends may visit with the family from 11 a.m. until the service hour at the funeral home.

Patsel Funeral Home of New Castle is serving the Hypes family.

New Beauty

from page 1

your skills? If so, this is the class for you," Hunter said. "We will go over all the steps for making a quilt from start to finish but on a smaller scale so that it's not so intimidating by making a very simple table runner instead of a full-size quilt."

Hunter included the techniques of how to choose fabric for a quilt, piece the top, prepare it for quilting, how to quilt it with simple stitches on the sewing machine and apply binding to finish up the quilt.

The nice thing is that no one needs any quilting experience to take this class, only a sewing machine to and the "ability to be able to sew a fairly straight line with it."

Added Hunter, "In our first class we'll talk about tools, supplies and the fabric to make your quilt and how to sew a quarter inch seam. The following Saturday we will take a field trip to purchase your materials and then in our next class we'll cut out the

top and start sewing it."

Another group of experienced quilters recently attended as support, and worked on their full-size quilts, which were absolutely beautiful.

The new quilters are almost complete. The first set of classes are scheduled at the end of March.

"We are excited about having these younger girls in our group now and learning this craft," Hunter said. "They will be ready to tackle the next class which will be a larger project, the Curved Log Cabin Quilt."

To sign up for future classes and pay the class fee (which ensures your space) or get more information, email Mary Hunter at huntermd56@gmail.com or call 540-309-2525.

"The class does have limited space, so it's first-come, first-serve," Hunter said.

Tribute

from page 1

erans year after year, I said yes. Yet, after the conversation had ended, I asked myself, "What have you just done?"

He continued, "Armed Forces Day is not one of the most celebrated, or most well-known holiday's that we observe, so I dare say that most of us don't know much about it. I will be honest, and I will confess, that I had to do some research on this topic before I could write anything on the subject. After a good bit of time spent on the computer, I think I can now give it my best effort to help enlighten those of you, who are like me, who were standing in the shadows, when asked to talk about this special day."

Armed Forces Day is the day where Americans celebrate the military. It is held annually on the third Saturday in May and has been observed since August 31, 1949.

Looney noted that unlike Veterans Day, which honors those who wore the uniform and served to defend our nation's causes, and Memorial Day, which honors those who lost their lives in the defense of our nation at war, Armed Forces Day is the proper day to honor all of the men and women currently serving. The same goes for those who have served and sacrificed to defend our freedom too, both former and active, in the reserves, National Guard, or on active duty at this time, and in any support role defending our Nation.

"I only recall one Armed Forces Day celebration, which was held in Pensacola, Florida, in 1967, when I was a fresh boot Airman (E-

2), and scared to even smile, and not even smart enough to know how to shave properly, according to their standards," he shared. "Being a Navy newbie, I was ordered to stand at attention in the very hot Florida sun, for four hours, and hand salute anything thing that moved, up to and including, the Marine Corps Bull-dog mascot. So, you can probably guess, I wasn't fondly looking forward to the next Armed Forces Day celebration. But it came and went, and then just became a humorous memory."

His thoughts continued, "But who would have thought that a young, naïve, backwoods, Southwestern Virginia country boy, would stick it out in the United States Navy for 23 years, and rise up and be promoted to, the rank of Senior Chief" (E-8) Petty Officer."

His story gets exciting when he was selected number three of 13, out of the eligible candidates, who were striving to claim the title and the promotion to the top enlisted rank of Master Chief Petty Officer (E-9).

"I was very honored and excited to have been selected, but sadly and reluctantly, had to decline the promotion because of government financial constraints. Had I accepted the promotion, I would have been transferred to San Diego, California, and my family to my home of record, here in Virginia," Looney explained. "It was a very tough decision, but I give praise, honor, and glory to the good Lord leading me, and I chose family, over career, and I have never looked back or ever regret-

ted it."

Looney said that he shared his life's history, not to brag on his success, or to be prideful, but "because I just wanted to share with you, and show you, that you can do it as well."

His statement, "The only thing holding you back is you," rings a bell in the hearts of many.

"Now I know that the military is not for everyone, and that's a good thing, but if you are out there and don't have a clue what your future may hold, then I suggest you give the military some thought. It was a good life choice for me, and that paycheck each month isn't bad either," Looney shared. "You may wonder why I choose the military for my career, and it is a very simple answer, patriotism. I was raised knowing that this wasn't just another word lightly tossed around, but it was a way of life for every red-blooded American citizen who loves this nation, and what it stands for. We were taught to show honor and respect to those in positions of authority, such as police officers, firemen, EMTs, medical staff, and most of all, to the members of the military."

Looney added that he and his peers knew at an early age the old saying of, "Freedom is not Free, but was paid for by our military, no matter the cost, up to and including, the shedding of precious blood or life itself, for the protection of our way of life."

He added another old saying that is totally true as well, when we think of our military, "All paid some, but some paid all."

"That's why we should always respect and pay honor to our military, and the sole reason that Armed Forces Day was created," Looney shared with passion. "So, the next time you see a military person, or police person, or some other person of authority, take just a moment and say to them, 'Thank You for your service' and shake their hand. Also, a most patriotic thing you can do to show your patriotism is to stop for a moment when you see our American flag, look up, and say loudly for all to hear, 'Thank You, Veterans, for your service.' Now that we know more on what Armed Forces Day means, let us remember to pay honor and respect to all our hero's, who at this very moment are serving to protect our way of life."

Along with many other Veterans in our community, Looney shared his appreciation, "I thank all Veterans for your dedication, your devotion to duty and your sacrifices in the defense of our freedoms."

Looney concluded with the adamant statement that, "Yes! It was my honor to serve God and Country, and I would do it all over again in a heartbeat. May God bless each of our Veteran's and their families and keep them in His loving care. God bless you and Happy Armed Forces Day to each of you."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	
11			12			13			14			
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55					56				57			58
59					60				61			
62					63				64			

CLUES ACROSS

- Loud cheer
- Defensive nuclear weapon (abbr.)
- Oblong pulpits
- Pitching statistic
- Uncommon
- Liabilities
- Thin, straight bar
- Oh goodness!
- Competitions
- ___ Jima, WW II battlefield
- Professional assn. (abbr.)
- Italian mountain range
- Taking possession of
- Used in cooking and medicine
- Water (French)
- Parent a child
- Sun-dried brick
- One point south of due east
- Female fashion accessory
- A way of making a copy of
- A way to debilitate
- Wings
- Social insect
- Dull brown fabrics
- Indian musical pattern
- N. England university
- Portable stands for coffins
- Iranian district
- Envision
- Passerine bird genus
- Container
- Falter
- Tunisian city

CLUES DOWN

- Cool!
- Passover offering
- Swedish rock group
- Collegiate military organization
- Large nests
- Beloved baked good
- 1980s pop legend
- Finger millet
- Hillside
- Surrender
- Midway between south and southeast
- Long, narrow strap
- Discount
- A type of cast
- Large, tropical lizard
- Half of "Milli Vanilli"
- Single
- Big truck
- Midway between east and southeast
- Et ___; indicates further
- Insecticide
- Luke Skywalker's mentor ___Wan
- Cast out
- Breakfast food
- By reason of
- One who makes thread
- Baseball stat
- Breezed through
- Frothy mass of bubbles
- Tony-winning actress
- Made of fermented honey and water
- Member of a Semitic people
- Monetary unit of the Maldives
- Run batted in
- Makes publicly known
- Disagreement
- Soluble ribonucleic acid
- Single-reed instrument

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School Board jump starting upcoming school year

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

(Published on August 4, 2021) With all Board members present, the July School Board meeting covered many topics pertaining to the upcoming school year.

Superintendent Jeanette Warwick reported that annually, Craig County schools get a special education performance report.

"This year our report was based on data from the 2018-2019 school year. There are 14 indicators, and we did not meet the state target for two," she said.

•Students with disabilities grades 7-12 who dropped out. Craig County was 1.69 and state target wants you to be under 1.40. Obviously if one child does not graduate, that is not ok with us, therefore we will be addressing that this upcoming year

•School age least restrictive environment for students served in separate public or private schools - children that need to go to a school due to a special nature of their disability. We have five percent. We only have three children and we do not send kids out of town unless we absolutely cannot meet their needs here

Warwick continued, "The Coalition of Small Rural Schools are sponsoring a 'Crumbling Schools Tour.'"

The notice stated that "This tour will allow decision makers to have a first-hand account of the conditions our students and staff endure on a daily basis. Unfortunately, rural, and high poverty areas have more than their fair share of school infrastructure needs. The goal of these tours is not to call out or cast blame, but to bring awareness to the difference in what is, compared to what could be. This issue cannot be solved by localities alone. This issue cannot be solved by the Commonwealth alone. The only real solution to this ever-growing problem is to combine federal, state and local resources to ensure that a student's zip code is not a predictor of the quality of the education they receive."

"In Region 6, we were asked to host this tour," Warwick continued. "There will be different legislators coming and the Board of Supervisors and the School Board were invited to come. This is to give them an idea of the things we are still in need of."

Craig County Public Schools (CCPS) were visited on July 22 at 10:30 a.m.

Trace Bellasai is the Board representative for Governor School and reported that they are still reviewing some of the guidance concerns for admissions and discussing a waiver. However, he reported that the good news is, CCPS is sending an additional student this year.

Warwick shared, "I have been so hoping to be able to give a definite answer about masks when school starts. However, the current Governor's order requires us to wear masks while children are here and on school property and on school buses."

This mandate expired July 28, therefore new mandates will be given, as school starts soon.

Warwick did add that temperatures checks are no longer required at the door, however, they still monitor symptoms, "just as we do during flu season."

Grading scales in schools are a consistent issue and Warwick shared that she has been approached several times over the last few years about the one at CCPS, requesting the ten-point grading scale.

Samuel Foster had conducted a survey with the teachers for their personal input, as Warwick wanted to hear the comments of every teacher, grades K-12.

Foster reported that the survey was conducted June 2021, asking teachers and staff about which grading system they preferred. They were asked to choose a grading scale, grades 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12. There were three possibilities given:

•seven-point scale (CCPS current scale) 100-94 = A

•ten-point scale 100-90 = A

•ten-point plus or minus scale (for grades 9-12) which is what most colleges use today

Forty-one responded. It was approximately 50 percent were high school, 20 percent middle school and 30 percent elementary school, which is the breakdown of their staff, therefore we have a good response across the division.

Foster then explained that one concern on the ten-point scale that has risen is, that students who have an 80 average receives the same grade as a student who has an 89-average grade.

"The plus and minus scale does break this down a little bit more and are similar to college grade scales," he said.

His reporting found the following:

•Grades 3-5: 77 percent

of all respondents would like a ten-point scale (most all elementary teachers and middle school teachers chose ten-point whereas the high school suggested to remain on the seven-point scale.)

•Grades 6-8: 91 percent of respondents ten-point scale

•Grades 9-12: 97 percent ten-point scale 68 percent prefer the plus or minus scale

Based on the results, Foster recommends the following for the 2021-2022 school year: grades 3-8 straight ten-point scale and grades 9-12 to do a ten-point plus or minus scale. The advantage here is it prepares them for college.

As you know, our mission statement is "Every Child a Graduate; Every Child Prepared for Life." So, we are preparing them.

Bellasai inquired of the survey information Foster had sent to the Board since the survey did not show a change in grades for students. He shared which gave a profile of another local school that moved from seven to ten-point scale. There seemed to be no difference, and sadly, the number of F students remained the same.

At the time, only CCPS and Salem were on the seven-point scale, all others schools have changed to the ten or ten-plus/minus scales.

Warwick added that she had been asked several times and Gina Smith noted, "Surrounding counties are also on a ten-point scale and also college is at that scale."

Explained Warwick, "I prefer the ten-plus or minus scale as the students who receive a higher grade need to be rewarded for that. If a student gets a 90.2, they receive the same A for the student who carries a 100 average. For the students who want to work and excel, I think it is a reward for them."

Bellasai added, "There are areas I think our standards could be better and the seven-point scale helps offset the fact, that it sets our standards a little bit higher."

Warwick replied, "Since 2016, we have worked diligently to expand many programs, including AP and dual-enrollment. We now have two math teachers who can teach dual-enrollment and have added additional AP classes, including AP Computer-Science class that Mr. Boyer started. He was one of the first teachers to start it in the nation. He has a great program for those students. We have AP English. We need to empower



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Craig County School Board was ready at the July meeting to jump-start the upcoming school year with many positive ideas. Samuel Foster, shown here, addressed many issues to the Board.

our teachers to move beyond multiple choice and go to more higher-level processes and then we will see what you are looking for."

Smith added that for VHSL, grades impact some of the cutoffs for sports participation.

Foster said that students must pass three out of four grades which would put our players on more of a level playing field with surrounding counties. "I think this grading scale gives our students a little more hope and they need that little bit more hope right now," he said.

The Board approved the recommendations. The Board also approved for CCPS to continue to not schedule practice and games on Sundays.

Warwick shared that families and staff had previously stressed that Sunday was to be a family day and students should not be forced to choose between religious services in order to participate in sports.

Smith inquired of what "emergency situations" would warrant a Sunday game and Foster explained that it is typically playoff games that could be weather-related in District and Regional tournaments with specific deadlines. "I feel like we have been doing good all these years, why do we need to change it?" he said.

High school principal Melissa Whiting said, "Parry McCluer was just in a situation in soccer with rain and they had to cancel a game and make up a game prior to deadline for the tournaments and had to contemplate a Sunday game."

Ultimately, the Board unanimously approved to not have Sunday games.

Warwick reported that there was an excess of fund for the 2020 - 2021 school year of \$454,000. Due to the amount of COVID-19 Response Funds CCPS received, many of the items

normally paid for out of the operating budget, were purchased with these funds. There was also an excess in transportation because they went from transporting students five days a week to four days a week.

"We have to turn this over to CC Board of Supervisors and it is placed in a capitol fund which have to be applied to specific areas," Warwick said.

Chairman Susan Crenshaw added that these funds had been earmarked for possible specific purchases, which Warwick said that the needed resurfacing of the parking lots was one of the areas the funds would be used.

Upon the meeting ending, Crenshaw addressed the many citizens that attended, "For everyone who came out tonight with concerned business, talk to your school personnel with any of your concerns."

Bellasai inquired about using some of the funds for the athletic areas that needed some serious attention.

Whiting said, "We have a 'parent posse' who has volunteered just what you have indicated and working with our newly appointed football coach. Great minds think alike."

Warwick added they would be sending the back-to-school schedules and she praised the summer staff. "Our kids have been loving coming to school. They are just happy, they are bouncing in. It is really nice seeing the children loving being here. A big shout-out to the staff, Mrs. VanDyke and Mrs. Whiting as well and Mrs. Stimeling."

Warwick assured the community that their concern for the students at CCPS was of top priority.

She stated, "There has been a lot of news media about the transgender policy that the Department of Education was mandated

by the General Assembly to put out this policy. However, we already have policies in place that protect all children from any discrimination. So CCPS will not be adopting anything separate from the policies we have that will protect our children against discrimination. I wanted to make that statement publicly because it is a lot to see in the media. It is a local school decision and the School Board in Craig do not see a need to adopt the model policy as we already have those policies."

Later, she added, "I would like to explain Craig County Public Schools' stance on these topics."

1. Virginia Code Section 22.1-23.3

The intent of the law is to prevent discrimination of transgender students. The school division already has approved policies in place to ensure non-discrimination of all students. Those policies meet the requirements of the Code. Therefore, it is not necessary to change existing policies or adopt the VDOE's Model Policy for the Treatment of Transgender Students. The division will continue to work with individual students, as we always have, to keep all students emotionally and physically safe at school.

2. Critical Race Theory

This term is not mentioned in the current Virginia Standards of Learning, nor in the curriculum. This includes the current standards and those standards that will be taught beginning in the 2022-2023 school year. We will continue, as always, to teach the standards prescribed by the Virginia Department of Education.

Warwick thanked everyone for attending the meeting, encouraging them to return for the August 10 meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Tournament from page 1

one who knew Jesse understood the bright-eyed look and mile wide grin he would give when he caught another 'big one.' Added many of his fishing buddies, "He was so much fun to fish with." Recently, his picture has been posted several times by friends and family.

Kessler set up a GoFundMe page for the Seventh Annual Jesse Carper Memorial Musky Tournament. The goal is to raise \$5,000. The fundraiser page is where people can go to register for the tournament.

Guidelines are open to Virginia and West Virginia open waters.

"This means one can enter the tournament for a \$25 donation and fish any waters in either state,"

Kesler said. "When a participant catches a fish, they must have a picture of the fish on a bump board (measuring device) and a picture of themselves with the fish. There's a code that's drawn live on Facebook the night before the tournament starts that has to be in both pictures."

Proceeds from the event will go towards the 'Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs' Program in Craig County and the Jesse Carper Memorial Youth Tournament that was started three years ago. Kesler also noted that if the VDGF musky biologists need help with something that does not get funding, "we try to help them out with preserving the sport Jesse loved so much as well." Adding,

"Other funds have been used for memorial plaques at some of Jesse's favorite fishing areas."

"Our favorite thing about the tournament is being able to give money to Hooked on Fishing in Jesse's name," Donna and Steve (Jesse's parents) said. "We are very 'grateful' that so many would work to make this annual event happen. It has shown us how much Jesse was loved and is missed. He met a lot of people in the business at shows. He had so many friends in the industry, as shown by the donations that are auctioned as well as prizes and trophies."

Kessler shared that his

best memory with Jesse was when they went bear hunting together with their dads.

"I'm humbled and truly honored to head this up," Kesler said. "I knew Jesse his whole life and our parents were longtime friends."

Trophies are awarded to first through third place winners and to the person who catches the biggest musky.

Last year's winners were:

•First - Jeremy Wagner with 3 fish 38.75 ,40.25 and 41.5 inches long

•Second and biggest fish - Eric A. Campbell with a 47.5-inch fish

•Third - Shannon Hill

with a 42.25-inch fish

"Every year we like to have a banquet at the Moose Lodge on 311 where we have several bluegrass bands play and all the fishermen/women come after fishing all day to register their fish and see who wins," Kesler explained. "We also have a silent auction of all kinds of custom baits that get donated from bait makers."

COVID-19 caused a

hiccup last year and is again in this years after-tournament event. However, Kessler is conducting online auctions for all the donated items and they are then shipped to the highest bidder.

Kessler invites anyone who loves musky fishing or first timers to join and enjoy the event, sharing, "Jesse was the one who got me started fishing for musky and I have loved it ever since."

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED CHANGE IN CIGARETTE TAX RATE

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 15.2-1427, the Craig County Board of Supervisors (the "Board") will hold a public hearing at 6 p.m., or as soon thereafter as persons may be heard, on January 6th in the Circuit Courtroom, Craig County Courthouse, 303 Main Street, New Castle, Virginia.

The purpose of the public hearing will be to receive public comment on the proposed reduction of the cigarette tax effective January 1, 2022 of forty cents (\$0.40) per pack of cigarettes to thirty cents (\$0.30) per pack on cigarettes sold in the county. Any person interested in the proposed tax reduction may appear at the hearing and present their views.

A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the office of the County Administrator of Craig County, 108 Court Street, New Castle, VA 24127, and is available for review during normal business hours. If you should need auxiliary aids, please contact the office of the County Administrator at least five days in advance of the public hearing.

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Just A Hand from page 1

kids' books and toys, household goods and other necessity items.

They are accepting donations and will officially open the doors to the public closer to the end of January.

"We would like to say thank you to quite a few individuals who have helped to see our dream realized," Persinger said. "Without the help of the founder Lynn Morgan, who started this non-profit in Northern Virginia from the ground up, we would not have the resources or the support to get this started and share something so great with our community."

He added, "Robin Nobles of Camp Mitchell provided a location for years before we were able to find a more permanent space. Without Robin and other individuals such as Stacy Fisher, Debbie Boitnotte, and Gina Smith who gave a hand to us when we needed it, we would not be able to pay it forward. We would like to say thank you to Jack Rankin for his support in lending us a more permanent space, which ultimately will allow us to house more items to eventually give back to the community."

"Lastly, during our first day of donations in the new location, one individual from our community saw our potential and has been working effortlessly to raise funds to further support our community. We are so very thankful to Jordan Labiosa for the kindness he has shown Just A Hand," Persinger mentioned. "We appreciate all of the individuals who are working to make our community a place where everyone can thrive."

Just A Hand is also on Facebook for the community to view.

<https://www.facebook.com/justahand>.

"We encourage those who are interested in donating or would like to know more about the organization to contact Dustin Persinger at dpersinger@craig.k12.va.us or look at the Facebook Yard Sale page with regular updates on when the shop will be open," he said.

Persinger also shared that when he was recently talking with another family who was visiting Just A Hand, the true goal came to life.

"Our goal is to create a space where families in our community can come and take what they need and leave behind something for someone else who may need it," Persinger shared.

Lynn Morgan, the Founder and CEO of Just A Hand, shares her story to Craig County.

"Hello to all in New Castle, Virginia! Thank you so much for welcoming Just A Hand. We are excited to have others learn about our efforts. Any assistance, be it word of mouth, volunteer-based, collection-based, fundraising or monetary donations is greatly appreciated and tax-deductible per IRS guidelines. Just A Hand is a 501(c)3 non-profit that I founded in Spotsylvania, Virginia in February of 2009."

"We collect new and used items year-round and specialize in helping new moms get everything they need for a great start. We clean and check items and make them as new as possible," she said. "Families are encouraged to return items still useable in exchange for the next size up. This allows the families to contribute and eases the feelings normally associated with needing help. It

often results in families collecting for us and volunteering in their community."

Morgan shared that in the past, they have hosted holiday giveaways and have been delivering to families to reach even more. They spearheaded multiple natural disaster relief missions with the help of their local communities. Because of this, their mission has inspired many new organizations to start, including their Sheriff's office hosting a Christmas event.

She believes that what has made their efforts extra special is the fact that they are an all-volunteer organization that is run and operated in her home without the need for high overhead and fundraising.

"My husband and I are able to meet the local demands for many families. Last year for Christmas, we provided toys for 146 children in December. When we plan larger events, our board of directors helps us to recruit volunteers to meet our needs. Our home has been filled at times and our days filled with sorting and preparing items for families. We recycle as much as possible," Morgan shared.

"Our overhead has been minimal, but with a building comes more needs for funding. Besides our basic needs of trash bags, bleach, wipes and things like corporation fees, P.O. Box, and phone bills," she added. "That is what we have paid in the past. Any funding that comes our way is used to purchase many items that we do not have in stock and are rarely donated. We make many of these purchases from on-line yard sales, auctions and store closeouts."

Morgan added that her connection to Craig County is family.

"It is always my heart. My father David Greenway (RIP) is somewhere in heaven moving things to help make this happen, I am sure of it! I am from Roanoke and was born at the old Lewis Gale and my mother's family ran the mail routes through this county so many years ago. She still resides in Roanoke. Most of my family either reside or are buried on or in these mountains somewhere," she said.

"We have just recently secured a much-needed space in Craig County. The plan is to house items for distribution to families in that community after a successful giveaway at Camp Mitchell showcased the greater need. My sister Nicole is helping to make this all possible and has no idea how much work it will take. Please, no one tell her," she jokingly said.

Morgan added that the building they have found has a reduced rent and are in hopes that they will have it for a while as it is for sale.

"We ask that those we help not sell any items they no longer need. They may return them or give them to someone else in need," Morgan said.

There are no income guidelines to qualify for help. Families will only need to fill out a brief sheet which includes their name, address, phone number, number of kids, ages and genders form and sign that they know items are used and must be checked for age appropriateness, cleanliness and safety.

Ideas for suggestions for kids donations are: clothing - birth to size 16 and diapers, outer wear-coats, hats, gloves, scarves, shoes

- (tennis shoes, play shoes, boots, dance and sport), books - (any and all including coloring books, school supplies), linens - (blankets, towels, sheets, bedding sets for crib, toddler, twin and full sizes, throw pillows, curtains, shower curtain sets, toys - (all types, games, puzzles, dolls, play sets, sports equipment, train tables, kitchens, doll furniture, barbie houses, dollhouses, Legos, chalkboards, musical instruments, craft kits, stuffed animals, art supplies), furniture - (cribs, crib mattresses and changing pads, changing tables, rockers, toddler beds, twin and full size beds, chests, nightstands, small desks, kids size table and chairs, bookcases, toy boxes and lamps) as well as baby Gear- all types (Pac-n-plays, bassinets, swings, car seats, boosters, baby gates, bouncy seats, potty seats, set me up seats, monitors, play yards, kid dishes, sippy cups, bobby pillows, bathtubs, strollers, humidifiers, breast pumps, bottles, baby bags, carriers).

Other donation items can be: clothing racks, metal free standing shelving, display racks, baskets, plastic hangers, re-useable shopping bags, folding tables, saw horses, large clean trash cans and laundry bins.

New or unopened items only of underwear, formula, baby food, wipes, Pedialyte, toothbrushes, snacks, cereal and canned goods may be accepted.

"Our mission statement is simple as are our goals," Morgan said. "Give of yourself and teach others to give. No matter how small the gesture, if you help to ease the burdens of another, you help to create a better place for us all."

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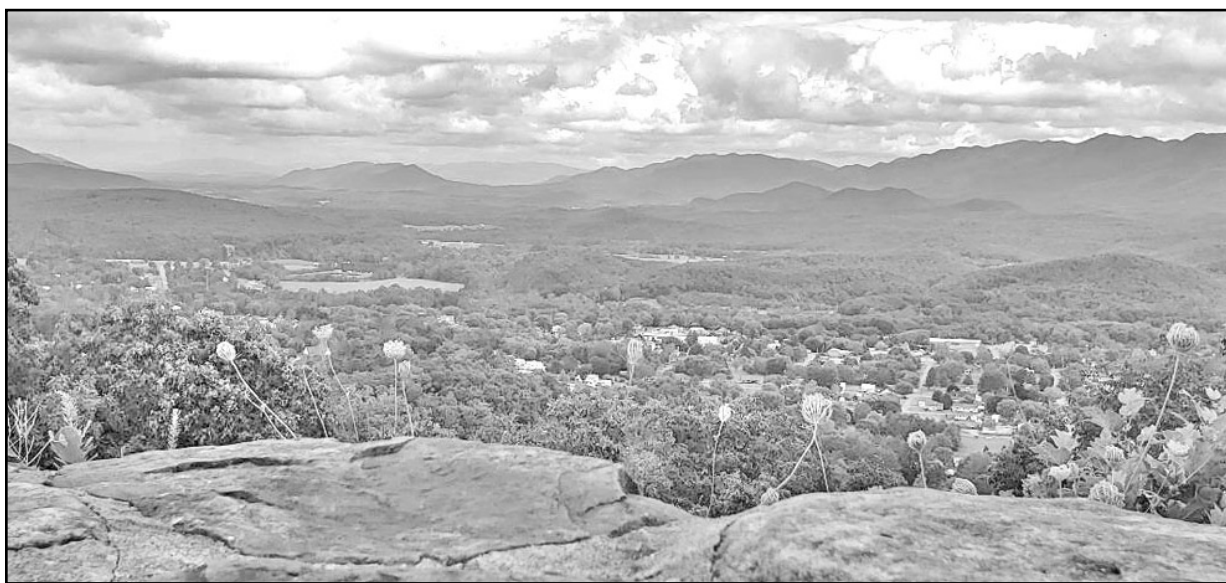
Michael Showell, *Publisher*
Shawn Nowlin, *Editor* shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org
Brian Hoffman, *Sports Editor* bhoffman@ourvalley.org
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The New Castle Record encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Record reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length content and style. News of public interest is solicited from all sections of the county.

One of the treats that Craig County offers is the Lookout view on Route 42



SUBMITTED PHOTO

(Published on September 1, 2021) As summer comes to an end, many are starting to make the drive to view the beauty of Craig County. At the Lookout on Route 42, the town of New Castle can be viewed in addition to many majestic mountain ranges that never seem to end.

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PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Matthew Lucas drives to the hole.



Maggie Mays looks for a teammate.



PHOTOS BY JIM AND REGINA DEVINNEY

Hannah Caldwell cans a jumper.



Coach Ryan Frazier watches the action.



Craig girls watch from the bench at a recent game.

Rockets wrap up 2021 with home games Wednesday

Craig County High School will cap off 2021 with a slate of four basketball games on Wednesday, December 29, at the high school gym.

Action begins at noon with a girls' junior varsity game against Auburn, followed by the varsity girls against the Eagles. The boys will take the floor with a jayvee game against Montcalm at approximately 3:30 pm, and those two schools will wrap up a busy day

with a varsity game to follow. Times could vary depending on the length of the games.

The girls come in with an overall record of 1-4 after losing at James River in the last game before Christmas, 46-32. The Knights jumped off to a 17-5 lead after the first quarter and the Rockets were never able to catch up. Sara Jones led the Rockets with 12 points while Hannah Caldwell and Lexxy Brookman had

six points each.

The boys are 2-1 and haven't played since defeating Eastern Montgomery in Elliston, 51-33, on December 17.

Both teams will open the New Year with Pioneer District games against Narrows on Tuesday, January 4. The girls will be at home and the boys will play at Narrows. Then, a day later, the boys are home against Giles and the girls go to Pearisburg to play the Spartans.

SALEM RED SOX 2022 SCHEDULE BEGINS APRIL 8th

Following an exciting 2021 season both on and off the field, the Salem Red Sox are excited to announce the 2022 season schedule.

Opening Day in Salem begins with a Battle for 460 against the Lynchburg Hillcats on Friday, April 8th. The 2022 home schedule boasts 66 home games, including 12 weekend series, an increase of six home games over the 60 in 2021. All series are six games, running Tuesday through Sunday, with the exception of April 8-10 and July 22-24, where the Red Sox will face the Hillcats during three game series.

Salem will host one Monday game on May 30th, featuring a Memorial Day home game. Additional home holiday dates during the 12th season of Salem Red Sox baseball include Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, Father's Day and Juneteenth.

April 8th will begin a 132-game slate that will conclude on September 11th, featuring 23 series. The Minor League All-Star Break will coincide with the Major League All-Star Break, July 18-21. The Salem Red Sox will welcome three new opponents from the Low-A East League including

the Charleston RiverDogs, Columbia Fireflies, and the Kannapolis Cannon Ballers.

"We couldn't be more excited to announce our 2022 season schedule to the best fans in Minor League Baseball who showed overwhelming support during 2021," said General Manager, Allen Lawrence. "We look forward to an even brighter future of baseball and family entertainment in Salem during 2022".

Following the restructuring initiative from Major League Baseball prior to the 2021 season, the Salem Red Sox are now part of the Northern Division of the Low-A East league, featuring a total of 12 teams. Additional Northern Division teams include the Delmarva Shorebirds (BAL), Fredericksburg Nationals (WSH), and Lynchburg Hillcats (CLE). The Central Division is comprised of the Carolina Mudcats (MIL), Down East Wood Ducks (TEX), Fayetteville Woodpeckers (HOU) and Kannapolis Cannon Ballers (CWS). The Southern Division includes the Augusta GreenJackets (ATL), Charleston RiverDogs (TB), Columbia Fireflies (KC), and Myrtle Beach Pelicans (CHI).

The 2022 promotional schedule, game times, single game ticket information and more will be available in the coming months. Visit Salem-Sox.com or call (540) 389-3333 for more information on 2022 Season Ticket Packages and Group Outings.

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