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Multiple Teacher of the Year recipients honored by local VFW

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW), throughout many counties in the United States, offer citizens and students

the opportunity to recognize those educators whom they feel have displayed excellence in teaching.

The local Craig Valley VFW Post 4491 has been participating in this special recognition for several years and is excited to present Teach-

ers of the Year for 2021 to Craig County Public Schools: Rachel Arthur, High School Teacher of the Year; Olivia Lee, Middle School Teacher of the Year; and Karen

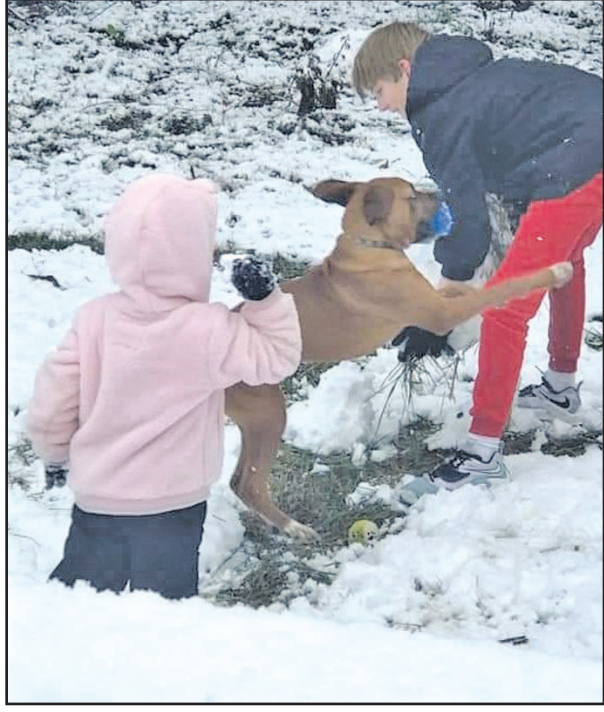
See Teachers, page 5



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Craig Valley VFW Post 4491, led by Commander Billy Lee, recently honored three Craig County Teachers of the Year - Karen Jones (elementary school), Rachel Arthur (high school) and Olivia Lee (middle school).

First snow of the year falls in Craig County



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Kristin Fink took a picture of her children, Bradyn and Zoe, with their doggie Stryker as all three enjoyed the snow.



The initial snowfall also brought wintery chill where 14-inch icicles were seen hanging from people's roofs and even from the bottom of some vehicles. Some of the trees on the mountains were glistening as their branches were covered in ice.

Mays wins prestigious VT Art Contest

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

Art is a gift that is drawn out of many individuals who can see the beauty in drawings; sometimes not just seen by one's own self.

It is an avenue that Craig County tries to keep alive in their schools and community.

At the end of last year, Virginia Tech hosted its annual Agriculture in the Classroom, Thank a Farmer contest. This year's theme was "Healthy Foods, Healthy Families" and students were chal-

lenged to sketch, do basic art, 3D art or graphic art to create an art piece.

"The Women's Committee of the Farm Bureau shared the information about the art contest to the school, and asked if anyone would be interested in participating," said Mary Hunter.

Stacey Crowder saw the email and forwarded it to Sierra Frazier, the high school's art teacher.

"I had all of my students participate as a grade," Frazier shared. "I felt Maggie's was one of

See Art Contest, page 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Congratulations are in store for Maggie Mays, a tenth grader at Craig County High School, for being a recipient for the Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom 2021 Thank a Farmer Art Contest. Students this year were challenged for their submission to either be sketch, basic art, 3D art or graphic art. The theme was "Healthy Foods, Healthy Families."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The VFW Post 4491 recently awarded Craig County First Responders of the Year recipients. Pictured, from left to right, are Billy Lee (Commander VFW Post 4491), Jeffrey Bryant (Policeman of the Year), Trace Bellassai (EMT of the Year) and Bill Burleson (Quartermaster VFW Post 4491). Brad Lipes, Fireman of the Year, is not pictured.

VFW honors First Responders in Craig

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

If anyone understands the significance of responding to emergency calls, it is the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

On Tuesday, December 14, the local Craig Valley VFW Post 4491 honored Craig County's first responders, presenting them with appreciation awards.

Craig County is blessed to have the best of the best serve our community in the fire departments, emergency medical services and on the police force.

The VFW received submissions from citizens of first responders in each division, and chose one from each category. It is never an easy choice as all our First Responders de-

See First Responders, page 4



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Craig County Health Department is hosting a Share the Warmth event where everyone can share a little New Year cheer and clean out their closets and donate or purchase any item that can be used, such as a scarf, hat, coat, even a pair of gloves. Donations will be accepted through January 31.

Consider giving to the "Share the Warmth" project in Craig

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

We are graced with beautiful winter seasons in Craig County. Still, there is nothing better than having a coat, hat, and gloves when you step out into the freez-

ing cold to keep the chill off and a cold or flu at bay.

This year, for the first time, the Craig County Health Department is hosting a "Share the Warmth" program.

See Warmth page 4



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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.

EVERY SUNDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, 8 p.m. at New Castle Fire Hall.

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.

Be sure to
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on Facebook.

Roanoke College’s Dr. Liz Ackley recognized as one of Virginia’s outstanding faculty for 2022

Dr. Liz Ackley, the Brian H. Thornhill Associate Professor of Health & Human Performance at Roanoke College, has been recognized as one of 12 recipients of the 2022 Outstanding Faculty Awards by The State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV) and Dominion Energy. The award will be presented at an in-person ceremony on March 1, 2022. Ackley is one of only two professors at private Virginia colleges honored with the 2022 award.

“If we were to mint a professor who was designed to engage students in community-altering research, to inspire students through her instructional talent, to provide leadership to college and community in ample doses, the professor would be Dr. Ackley,” Michael C. Maxey, president of Roanoke College, said in the nomination of Ackley for the award.

Ackley, who joined the Roanoke College faculty in 2010, holds a B.S. in exer-

cise science from the State University of New York at Cortland College, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in health and human performance from Middle Tennessee State University.

“This honor is such a recognition of the teams who have supported my work over my career,” Ackley said. “I am celebrating with everyone who has provided support and collaboration. That includes students, faculty colleagues, the administration and community partners.”

“It’s also made me reflect on how lucky am I to be at Roanoke College and our mission of Freedom with Purpose,” Ackley said. “I am fortunate to work at a place that really believes in giving faculty and students the freedom to explore the world in a lot of different ways.”

The award recognizes outstanding faculty for their work in four areas: teaching, discovery, knowledge integration and service. The following

are excerpts from Ackley’s nomination:

Teaching
“Students and colleagues describe Ackley’s approach to teaching as engagingly dynamic and alive. She facilitates learning using unique materials, technology, and industry leaders as mediums for immersing students in critical inquiry and engaging students in learning with purpose.”

Discovery
“Ackley developed a novel health surveillance methodology to identify geographic inequities in the social, environmental, and economic factors contributing to health disparities in children. Her surveillance system, the Roanoke Valley Community Healthy Living Index, has since grown to become one of the largest, most successful translational research models of its kind.”

Knowledge Integration
“Dr. Ackley has spearheaded a number of efforts to bring together traditionally disparate academic disciplines, institutions of higher education, and community partners to develop experiential learning opportunities for students which emulate

the real world. She does this by convening partners around a shared equity agenda informed by her primary line of discovery.”

Service
“In addition to bolstering her professional reputation through service to her academic community, Dr. Ackley has advanced Roanoke College’s institutional goals, position within the community, and pursuit of becoming a top-100 liberal arts college...Her most visual service contribution came to fruition in 2018 when she single-handedly founded, funded, and institutionalized the Center for Community Health Innovation at Roanoke College, developing new pathways to student experiential learning opportunities through internships, service-driven research opportunities, and special projects with community partners.”

Dr. Matthew Rearick, Health and Human Performance department chair, said what separates Ackley’s “work from others across the state is how she manages to merge everything she does into a seamless pursuit. It is virtually impossible to see where one of her academic areas ends and another be-



Dr. Liz Ackley

SUBMITTED PHOTO

gins. This is her gift to her students, colleagues, and community.”

Student Kavya Iyer ’22, described Ackley as “an amazing mentor.”

“Dr. Ackley fosters a collaborative and interdisciplinary team of students from different majors, with various points of view, to tackle problems that ev-

eryone is proud to be a part of,” Iyer said. “She takes time to know what our future career plans and goals are and helps us target weaknesses to make ourselves more competitive applicants for future endeavors.”

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Art Contest

from page 1

the best so I entered it. Hers was actually a mixed media project that they worked on while I was on maternity leave, and they saved them for when I got back. Because it was a cow, it worked well for the farm contest.

Mays shared that she decided on a cow because, “I love them!”, adding, “I was very excited to find out I had won!”

“Congratulations to Maggie Mays, a tenth-grader at Craig County High School for being a winner in the Virginia Tech Agriculture in the Classroom 2021 Thank a Farmer Art Contest! Maggie received an Amazon gift card for her beautiful sketch of a cow,” shared the Farm Bureau Women’s Committee, “The Craig County Farm Bureau Women’s

Committee is so proud of Maggie and her awesome talent. We thank you for stepping up and taking the challenge to enter the contest and represent Craig County through the Virginia AITC. Your talent is amazing!”

Frazier was also very proud of Maggie and all of her students and continues to encourage them to pursue their talents.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13			14		15			
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49					50			51		52	53	54
56					57			58				
59					60				61			
62					63				64			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Requests
5. Calendar month
8. Invests in little enterprises
12. Bird sound
14. S. American plant cultivated for tubers
15. Car
16. Bullfighter
18. Hill (Celtic)
19. Strong criticism
20. Detector
21. When you hope to get there
22. Having the skill to do something
23. Legendary MLB broadcaster
26. Vulcanite
30. C. Asian mountain range
31. In a way, healed
32. Midway between east and southeast

33. Small appendages of insects
34. ___ Greene, “Bonanza” actor
39. A place to bathe
42. Postal worker accessory
44. Classical music
46. A way of wrecking
47. Terminator
49. You eat three a day
50. Pointed end of a pen
51. NATO official (abbr.)
56. Genus of clams
57. Boxing’s “G.O.A.T.”
58. A colorless, odorless gas used as fuel
59. Covered thinly with gold paint
60. Bachelor of Laws
61. Red fluorescent dye
62. Engineering group
63. Female sibling
64. Adjacent

CLUES DOWN

1. What a thespian does
2. Footwear
3. Adjust spacing between
4. Witnesses
5. Who shows excessive fondness
6. Distinct form of a plant
7. National capital
8. Hunting expedition
9. Related to medulla oblongata
10. European country
11. Cola
13. Excluded from use or mention
17. Speak
24. Bloodshot
25. Make better
26. Keyboard key
27. Type of degree
28. Paddle
29. Peacock network

35. Not young
36. Baseball stat
37. One’s grandmother
38. Breakfast food
40. Bathroom features
41. Disease-causing bacterium
42. NY ballplayer
43. Got up
44. Prophet
45. Part of the mouth
47. Unnatural
48. Acronym for brain science study
49. Three are famous
52. Languages spoken in Patagonia
53. Freedom from difficulty
54. Widely used OS
55. Many people pay it

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Call for organizations to help save lives on Virginia's roads

~ Highway safety grant fund applications accepted through February 28 ~

If your organization's passion is making a difference in your community and you want to save lives, consider applying for a highway safety grant from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Grants allow law enforcement agencies, nonprofit organizations, state and local government agencies, and colleges and universities, to implement innovative programs and campaigns aimed at preventing and reducing traffic fatalities, injuries and crashes in Virginia.

Interested applicants may apply from February 1 through February 28, 2022, and are required to complete a grant application training course.

Workshops begin in January 2022. For information about the course, guidelines for grant applications, and access to the application, contact the DMV program manager assigned to the area of Virginia where the applicant is located.

Grant-funded programs strive to increase seat belt use or decrease speeding; prevent drunk, drugged, drowsy or distracted driving; or promote motorcyclist, pedestrian, bicyclist, teen or senior driver safety. Additionally, objectives to measure the initiative's effectiveness are required, and funding is determined by the potential impact on these established performance objectives. Applications for pro-

grams that include Virginians of various cultures and ethnicities are encouraged. For more information, visit <https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/safety/#grants/index.asp>.

The funding period for approved applications is October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023. Applicants participate on a cost-reimbursement basis.

Here are three examples of grant-funded projects:

•A local law enforcement agency provides high-visibility enforcement (HVE) of alcohol-related traffic laws, including checkpoints and saturation patrols, to combat drunk driving crashes, injuries and fatalities. The agency

evaluates the crash data in its locality, including where and at what times of day the most incidents occur, and forms an HVE plan based on the data.

•Virginia GrandDriver provides safe driving resources and services to mature drivers, their caregivers, and the medical, law enforcement and legal communities. GrandDriver holds CarFit events across Virginia, a 12-point assessment that addresses issues such as foot positioning and mirror placement. Professionals conduct approximately 200 assessments annually that evaluate an older person's driving ability at Comprehensive Driver Assessment locations.

•Street Smart is a pedes-

trian and bicycle safety public awareness campaign in northern Virginia. Paid advertising displays on buses, at bus stops and bus shelters, on gas pump toppers and through social media, while law enforcement agencies spend overtime hours enforcing pedestrian and bicycle traffic laws, all during Daylight Saving Time.

For more highway safety information, visit <https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/safety/>. To learn more about Virginia's goal to achieve zero traffic deaths, visit tzdva.org.

Submitted by Jessica Cowardin, Communications Department

LewisGale physicians open new Sleep Center



SUBMITTED PHOTO

LewisGale Regional Health System includes 44 HCA Virginia Health System-owned patient care facilities including four hospitals, one freestanding ER, two regional cancer centers and affiliations with both employed and independent physicians.

LewisGale Physicians recently announced it has opened a new Sleep Center located on the LewisGale Medical Center Campus, in Medical Building C, 1st floor.

The Sleep Center, which includes three beds and Home Sleep Studies, is a comprehensive, outpatient sleep program designed to diagnose and treat sleep disorders under the direction of board-certified pulmonologists and sleep medicine specialists.

"We offer a comprehensive range of services and tests which will help us develop treatment

plans for patients suffering from sleep disorders," said Nelson Greene, MD, board-certified specialist in pulmonary diseases and critical care medicine. "There are a number of sleep disorders, with some of the most common being insomnia, sleep apnea, chronic fatigue, restless legs syndrome, sleep walking, night terrors, narcolepsy and snoring."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates over 70 million Americans suffer from a sleep problem, with 8.1 percent of the U.S. population who have been diagnosed

with Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA). In addition to OSA, there are nearly 85 known sleep disorders. Sleep insufficiency is linked to motor vehicle crashes, industrial disasters and medical errors.

Sufferers are also more likely to have chronic diseases like hypertension, diabetes, depression, obesity, and even cancer, according to the CDC.

For more information, visit LGPhysicians.com or call 540-776-2075.

Submitted by Christopher Finley, Marketing & Public Relations

Defense research opportunities for Historically Black Colleges and Universities expanded

U.S. Senators Mark R. Warner (D-VA) and Sherrod Brown (D-OH) recently announced that the Senate-passed FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) conference report includes a version of their bipartisan Building Equitable Access to Contribute to Our National Security (BEACON) Act, legislation to expand Department of Defense (DoD) research funding oppor-

tunities for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs). This includes Hampton University, Norfolk State University, Virginia State University, Virginia Union University, and Virginia University of Lynchburg in Virginia, as well as Central State University and Wilberforce University in Ohio.

The Department

funds basic research at institutions of higher education and Brown's legislation would ensure HBCU students get the resources and research opportunities to succeed in STEM and other related careers. Brown and Warner filed a modified version of the BEACON Act as an amendment during Senate consideration of the NDAA. The House included a version of the BEACON Act in the NDAA and the FY22 NDAA Conference Report retained a similar provision. The House-Senate NDAA conference report now

heads to the President's desk to be signed into law.

"This legislation will help tap into the enormous potential of Virginia's five Historically Black Colleges and Universities, which for too long received a disproportionately small portion of our nation's defense research funding," said Warner. "I'm proud to have fought for this provision, which will strengthen the STEM pipeline at our HBCUs and help ensure that these institutions can access the resources they need to bolster crit-

ical defense research."

"Historically Black Colleges and Universities, like Wilberforce and Central State in Ohio, are a critical part of our nation's higher education system and provide important research opportunities for students traditionally underrepresented in STEM careers," said Brown. "This funding will widen the talent pool and help elevate partnerships between the Department of Defense and these institutions for years to come."

Defense research is a vital source of innovation and a financial resource for our nation's universities, which received over \$4.6 billion from the Department of Defense in science and engineering funding in 2018. Yet, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) received only \$21 million – less than a half percent, of that funding. These disparities continue while Black individuals are underrepresented in the STEM labor force

by 53 percent and despite the fact HBCUs are a proven pipeline for diverse STEM talent, graduating 20 percent of all African American college students and nearly 30 percent of all African American STEM professionals.

An interim report from NASEM found that "limited set aside dollars and no requirements or incentives to increase their participation in non-targeted programs, [congressional] encouragement has not translated into significant capacity-building or sustained support." The report further found that "new funding streams may be necessary to expand opportunities to HBCU/MSIs" and "mutually beneficial partnerships may serve as a strategy for HBCU/MSIs to build and better utilize their current capacity to conduct DoD-funded research."

Submitted by Laura Dacy, Communications Office

MEETING NOTICE

Board of Supervisor Meeting
Scheduled for
Thursday, January 6th @ 6:00PM
POSTPONED

RESCHEDULED
Thursday, January 13th @ 6:00PM

TOWN OF NEW CASTLE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE – PROPOSED CIGARETTE TAX JANUARY 17, 2022 7:00 PM

PURSUANT to Virginia Code §15.1427, notice is hereby given of the public hearing to be held by New Castle Town Council, at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter as persons may be heard, on January 17, 2022 in the New Castle Town Hall, 33 9 Market Street, New Castle, VA.

The purpose of the public hearing will be to receive public comments on the proposed adoption of a cigarette tax of twenty (.20) cents per pack of cigarettes sold within the Town of New Castle, pursuant to Virginia Code §58.1-3830. Any person interested in the proposed tax may appear at the hearing to present their views.

The Ordinance will be prepared and will be available at a later date concerning the administrative mechanism for collection of the tax and other details.

By the authority of New Castle Town Council - John S. Johnson, Mayor (540) 864-7306
Persons attending the public hearing are encouraged to wear face covering and adhere to social distancing. Comments can be sent to Clerk, Nina Davis ninad628@swva.net; phone (540) 864-5380 or by mail to: P. O. Box 347, New Castle, VA 24127.

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Book Review by Denver Michaels (Author)

Library Corner
Empowering individuals to build a stronger community

Strange Tales from Virginia's Mountains: The Norton Woodbooger, The Missing Beale Treasure, the Ghost Town of Lignite and More – April 19, 2021

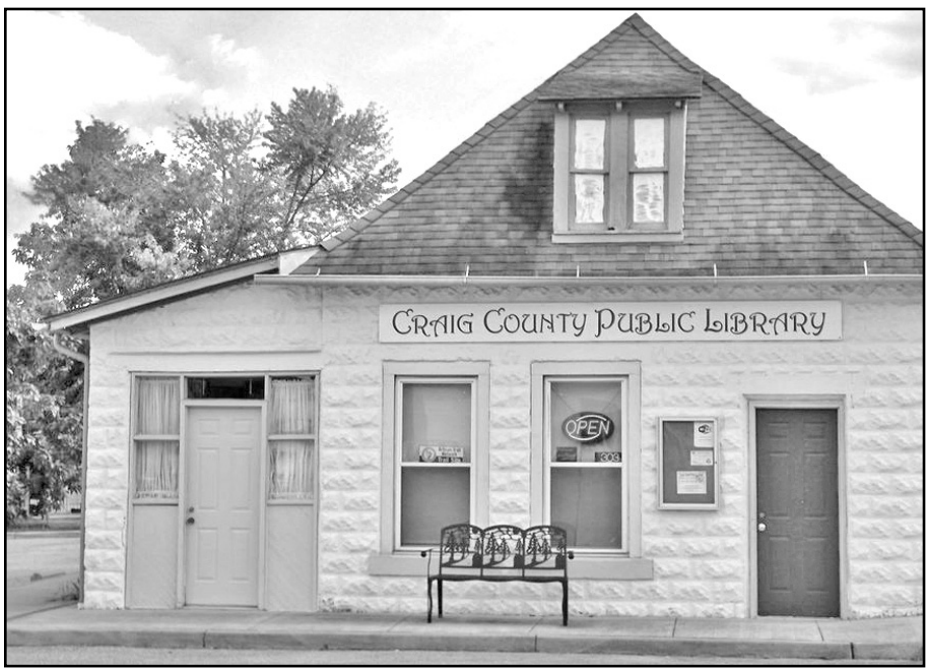
The stunning mountains of Virginia offer spectacular views and endless outdoor activities, yet they also hold secrets. A 19th-century cache of gold is buried in the hills. Nine-foot giants once walked the ridges, pre-Columbian explorers built homes on isolated mountaintops and a ghost

town lies deep in the Jefferson National Forest. The mountains conceal canines that walk upright, black panthers and a resurgent mountain lion population. The hide-and-seek champion of the world, Bigfoot, lurks in the dark hollows, phantom dogs pace the back roads and aggressive monkeys swing through the trees. UFOs crisscross the skies, and ghosts haunt the caverns below. Join Denver Michaels, local author and explorer of the unexplained, as he explores these mysteries and many more.

Denver Michaels is an author with a passion for cryptozoology, the paranormal, lost civilizations and ancient history, and

all things unexplained. In 2016, the Virginia native released his first book, People Are Seeing Something, which makes a case for the existence of lake monsters in the United States and Canada. Since then, he has gone on to author Giants: Men of Renown, Strange Tales From Virginia's Mountains and several other books covering cryptozoology and paranormal subjects.

Michaels and his wife sold their home in the spring of 2020 and now travel the country full-time in an RV. Michaels enjoys the outdoors, hiking, fishing, investigating the unexplained and working on new writing projects.



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

New isolation and quarantine guidance

Dr. Cynthia Morrow
Roanoke City and Alleghany Health Districts Health Director

The past two years have been a challenge for all of us, and even as we welcome a new year, the latest headlines reflect this stubbornly persistent pandemic. We continue to find ourselves

in difficult times, as cases, hospitalizations, and even deaths rise locally, across Virginia, and around the world. We know that the increased burden of COVID has increased the demand for testing. We are actively working on increasing testing opportunities locally. Visit www.vdh.virginia.gov/roanoke/ for the latest updates.

Despite these challenges, we know we are a resilient community. We have the

tools to fight this disease. Thanks to the gift of vaccinations (and boosters), as well as masking indoors when in public, maintaining six-feet of distance between ourselves and others outside our households, and handwashing - we know what to do.

Isolation and Quarantine:

You may have heard that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently updated isolation and quarantine guidelines. What do these guidelines mean for you?

Isolation: Regardless of vaccination status, if you test positive:

Asymptomatic individuals or those with mild symptoms that resolve within five days may end isolation on day five, followed by another

five-day period of strict mask usage when around others.

Symptomatic individuals, including those with fever or any other symptoms that are not improving by day five, should remain in isolation until symptoms have improved and/or the fever breaks without the help of fever-reducing medication.

Quarantine: If you learn that you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, the new guidelines for quarantine are:

People who have had their booster shots (after being fully vaccinated) should commit to a ten-day period of strict mask usage around others.

Unvaccinated and unboosted individuals should

quarantine for five days, followed by another five days of strict mask usage.

All individuals, regardless of vaccination status, should consider getting tested five days after the initial exposure. If at any point someone develops symptoms, they should seek testing and isolate pending the test results.

These updates are based on the most recent data which indicates that the majority of COVID-19 transmission takes place earlier after infection, typically in the first one to two days before symptoms appear and about two to three days after. It is important to note that people can still be contagious and infect others with the virus, even if their symptoms have improved or they had no symptoms,

for up to ten days, which is why it is so important to wear a mask.

We expect more guidance about how these new guidelines will be implemented in places such as schools and daycare centers. Many of our children are not yet vaccinated and younger children may have difficulty adhering to the very strict mask requirements. For these reasons, we recommend that schools and daycares continue their current quarantine and isolation protocols.

Best wishes for a new year of health, happiness and prosperity.

We can understand that the rise in cases and new information may generate some questions for you. Visit www.vdh.virginia.gov/roanoke/ for more details.

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

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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.

Warmth from page 1

“Pat Johnston, who was our beloved public health nurse for 29 years, saw on the news where another locality was doing the same project and thought it would be a great way to give back to our community,” Kelcey Boyd, Office Manager, said.

They are collecting winter clothing, including coats, scarves, gloves, socks, hats, and “anything that keeps you warm.”

New and gently used items are also being accepted.

Everyone can bring a little New Year cheer to the season and clean out their closets or purchase any item that can be used, whether a pair of gloves or a coat.

All is needed for both children and adults.

“We’ve had quite a few generous donations of adult size coats, but we haven’t had any donations in child sizes,” Boyd said.

The Craig County Health Department has partnered with the Department of Social Services and the Craig County Sheriff’s Office for this project.

The drop-off location is at the Craig County Health Department at 161 Main Street in New Castle. The last day of January is the final opportunity donate anything.

DSS & the Sheriff’s Office will also be distributing them to families they know are in need.

If you or someone you love could benefit from a donation, feel free to reach out to any of the agencies: Craig County Health Department (540-864-5136), Department of Social Services (540-864-5117) and the Craig County Sheriff’s Office (540-864-5127). All names, information and donations are confidential.

“It’s incredibly heart-warming to have so many people willing to take their time and resources to donate towards keeping everyone in our community warm,” Boyd said. “Hopefully, it means one less thing for the recipients to worry about this winter and will be able to put their limited resources towards other needs.”

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Teachers

from page 1

Jones, McCleary Elementary Teacher of the Year.

The National VFW shares that it recognizes and honors the top elementary (K-5), junior high (6-8), and high school (9-12) teacher of the year, “who teaches citizenship and education topics, and promotes America’s history, traditions and institutions. Attributes considered will be the scope of the teaching on both the students and the community.”

Post Commander Billy Lee presented each teacher with a Certificate that read, “Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States - National Citizenship Education Teacher Post Recognition Award, presented to (each teacher) in recognition for promoting citizenship education in your classroom and school.”

Each teacher also received a check from the local VFW Post 4491.

The nominee’s submission for Rachel Arthur as the High School Teacher of the Year stated, “Mrs. Arthur is a long-standing positive role model for all students, particularly the young females. She listens to the students and provides learned guidance to the ones who seek her opinion. She participates in the total school environment by sponsoring events participating in school activities, and providing leadership for curriculum development for the physical education department. She is one of the strong teachers in the school system that provides what strength the school system has established.”

Lee’s submission letter read, “She is the middle school teacher at Craig County Middle School and has been teaching there since August 2018. Ever since her first year of teaching, patriotism has been a part of her classroom. From a young age, with the influence of her grandfather who served in the Korean War, she has loved our country And, her love for her country does not stop at her classroom door. She has found that teaching patriotism is one of the most influential concepts. From Veterans Day to D-Day, her students learn about English and the United States of America. When the Olympics are on, she turns on the television and they watch and cheer on our athletes. Her students learn about World War II by creating poems that represent the pain and sacrifice of the soldiers. They also learn about the Vietnam through a nonfiction unity that uses primary sources. She has the Pledge of Allegiance every morning in her classroom and helps our VFW Post 4491 every year to get kids for the Patriot’s Pen contest. She often says, ‘I find that our

country’s history works in tandem with English. When I step into my classroom, it is always my hope that my students learn to love America, its citizens, and its military.”

Jones’ submission letter read: “I would like to nominate Karen Jones for Elementary School Teacher of the Year. She has been teaching for 25 years. Every Veterans Day, she has the kids draw and color cards, they then send them to all the Veterans in Craig County. She has the Pledge of Allegiance every morning before class starts. She also reads books for her read-aloud that reminds students who our Veterans are and what they have done for our country. Some of the books include: Tuesday Takes Me There, The Wall and Maya Lin Artist – Architect of Light and Lines. She is well liked by students and staff alike.”

The award is based on the nominees submitted. The local VFW Post chooses and recognizes one outstanding teacher in grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. The Post then submits their winning names and required documents to their District-level judging.

From there, the selected winners and required documents are forwarded to the state-level where they are judged. Those winners are forwarded to VFW National Headquarters for consideration in the national awards contest.

For the upcoming 2022 awards, if you know a teacher who plans field trips to city hall, organizes community volunteer projects or invites local Veterans to speak in class, anything to help students develop a better understanding of democratic values and beliefs, this award is for them.

•Step 1: In 350 words or less, describe why you feel your nominee is deserving of the award. Be sure to describe the teacher’s innovative teaching and resource development methods, as well as his or her dedication to education.

•Step 2: Download and complete the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award nomination form.

•Step 3: Submit the nomination form along with your explanation to your local VFW Post by Oct. 31 to Billy Lee Post Commander.

The local VFW chapter encourages the community to become involved in this great opportunity to award teachers who sacrifice so much to teach the kids of Craig.

Said Commander Lee, “We are happy to have such good teachers for our kids here in Craig. It is our privilege to honor them.”

OBITUARY

Hutchinson, Nellie Francisco

Nellie Francisco Hutchinson went to be with the Lord on December 29, 2021.

She was born on February 8, 1933, on Meadow Creek in Craig County to the late Archie Lytle and Letha Carper Francisco. She was predeceased by her husband, Willie B. Hutchinson, and lived many years in Catawba. She lived the last couple years at Salem Terrace in Salem. She was also predeceased by a brother, Robert M. Francisco, Sr., two sisters, Nadine F. Drummond and Lois F. Elmore, and an



infant sister, Judy Lane Francisco. She is survived by her son and his wife, Terry and Jennifer S. Hutchinson, cousin, Jerri Lawrence, brother-in-law, Craig Elmore and two nephews and two nieces.

The family received friends at Lotz Funeral Home in Salem on Sunday, January 2, from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. Funeral services were held on

Monday, January 3, 11 a.m. at Lotz Salem Chapel. Burial will be held at Huffman Memorial Cemetery on Route 42 in Craig County at a later date.

First Responders

from page 1

serve recognition.

Deputy Jeffrey M. Bryant was chosen as Policeman of the Year for the Craig County Sheriff’s Office.

“I am submitting Deputy Bryant for the VFW Public Award Citation as Policeman of the Year for the Craig County Sheriff’s Office. Deputy Bryant joined the department on December 1, 2017. He started the Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy in Salem in January of 2018 and graduated in May of 2018. Deputy Bryant has continued to excel at the Sheriff’s Office and has become certified in courtroom security and civil process. He has a strong work ethic and is very proactive in keeping our community safe. Deputy Bryant is also a member of the New Castle Volunteer Fire Department and can be seen responding for fire calls in his off time, as well as assisting on fire department calls while on duty with the Sheriff’s Office. Deputy Bryant is an asset to the Craig County Sheriff’s Office and our community.”

Replying with much gratitude, Bryant said, “I am very thankful for receiving this award. It is truly an honor to live in and serve a community that is so thankful for the Sheriff’s Office and their hard work.”

For EMT of the Year, Trace Bellasai was chosen.

The submission shared, “It is my pleasure to nominate Trace Bellasai for EMT of the Year in Craig County. As Chief of Craig County Emergency Services, I have seen Trace excel in EMS over the last year. He has great determination to make a difference in the field of EMS for the benefit of the citizens of Craig County. Trace has dedicated numerous hours to becoming a certified EMT and being cleared to run calls to assist those in need. He is currently working on his Advanced EMT to be able to provide even more care. Trace does this as a volunteer in addition to his full-time responsibilities. Trace is one of the first ones to assist if the situation arises, whether it is answering a second call due to the on-duty crew being out or coming to lend a hand on a critical call. Trace is not only a good EMT, he goes above and beyond the call of duty. He gives his all to each patient, on each call, it has been my pleasure to work alongside him and watch him grow in the provider he is. I look forward to his growth and being able to continue to serve alongside him.”

Bellasai added, “I was extremely honored to receive the award. I became an EMT after becoming a 911 Dispatcher and realizing how often we needed to call Roanoke because we didn’t have enough volunteers, I figured I should help be part of the solution so I joined the Rescue Squad and started EMT class a few months later. We have such an amazing group of EMS providers here in the county, so I certainly never expected to be picked for this award.

I’m just glad I am able to make some difference for our community.”

Brad Lipes was earned the Firefighter of the Year Award. Due to an illness, however, he was unable to make the awards ceremony.

The person submitting his nomination expressed, “I nominate Brad Lipes for the VFW 2021 Fire Fighter of the Year Award. It’s hard for me to pick out just one firefighter for this award because they all deserve it. They each spend countless hours of their own time volunteering each year to provide fire protection to the citizens of Craig County. This year, I had one call that stood out above the rest. Earlier this year, we were dispatched to a call that involved several structures, several vehicles and spread to a brush fire. When we arrived on the scene, there was a building that was on fire. Brad and another firefighter put on their air packs and went to work on the burning building. Brad led their attack on the building. They entered and were able to knock down the fire and put it out. This act of courage was instrumental in saving the building which had around \$20,000 worth of equipment and tools stored in it. As I thought about everything that went on throughout this past year and this was the one call that stood out above the rest. This act of bravery and courage deserves the award of Firefighter of the Year. Brad is a fourth-generation firefighter for Simmonsville Volunteer Fire Department. He has been a member for ten years but has been involved in the department for many years before. At age 12, we had a call for a house fire during the day in which most members work. I was the only member that responded to the fire that day. I took Brad with me just in case I needed help and that worked out as Brad was able to operate the pump on the fire truck as I put the fire out. This also resulted in saving a house. He is second Lieutenant for Simmonsville Volunteer Fire Department and helps conduct in house training for the members of the department. His dedication and leadership over the years has made him a major asset to the department.”

Lipes later replied, “I was honored to be chosen to represent the local Volunteer Fire Departments in Craig County. I was surprised that I was chosen. I appreciate the VFW for honoring the First Responders in our county for their hard work. And I would also like to thank the VFW for their service.”

Each person was awarded an embossed certificate from the VFW, presented by Billy Lee, VFW Post 4491 Post Commander, and a gift card.

“It is good to live in a county where First Responders and police have your back,” members of the VFW Post shared. “You can count on them to be there when you call.”

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CHESTNUT GROVE CHURCH

Duane Wente, Minister, Rt. 42, New Castle, 540-864-5692. Sunday: Worship 10:00 a.m.

CORNERSTONE CHURCH

Pastor Don Brown, Corner of Salem and Wagner, New Castle, 580-3228. Sunday Worship 10:30am (Children meet separately, Nursery provided). Bible Study - Wednesday 6p Teens - Wednesday 6p. Ministries: Men, Ladies, Young Adult, and Seniors. Times vary, call for details.

CRAIG HEALING SPRINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

Pastor - Kenneth W. Davis, Jr., 6 Grannys Branch Road (Johns Creek), New Castle, Phone: 864-6102. Sunday School at 10 am. Sunday Worship at 11 am every Sunday. Fellowship meal after Sunday Worship on second Sundays. Everyone is welcome!

CRAIG VALLEY BAPTIST

171 Salem Avenue, New Castle, 864-5667; Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m., Wednesday: Prayer Service and Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Youth Group 6:30-8:00PM, Bible Buddies at 6:30-8:00PM. Transportation provided - call the church. Hearing devices also available. www.craigvalleybaptist.com

CRAIG VALLEY GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP

HWY 621, Pastor Roy Lee Law Jr., “Jay”, 864-8984. Sunday School 10:00am; Worship 11:00am., Wednesday night Bible study 7pm, from HWY 311, up HWY 621, 8 miles on left.

CROSSROADS CHURCH

21892 Craigs Creek Road, New Castle. Pastor Gary Burch. 864-7520. Sunday School- 10-10:45AM, Sunday Worship - 11AM-Noon.

FIRST BAPTIST

Pastor Kevin Altizer, Corner of Main Street & 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.

GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

5530 Catawba Valley Drive, Catawba, VA, 540-384-7075. Pastor Loraine Taylor, agladypastor@msn.com. Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Evening service at 7:00 p.m.; Youth (ages 13-18) & Super Church (ages 4-12) Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. You can also watch on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m. www.graceassemblycatawba.org

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

159 Old Railroad Ave, New Castle, 540-864-PRAY, Sunday School 9:30AM, Sunday Worship Service 10:00AM, Wednesday Night Services 7:00PM.

HEBRON UNITED METHODIST

Pastor Rodney Longmire, Rt. 606, 1981 Caldwell Mt. Rd., New Castle, 540- 400-3419. Worship 11:15AM. LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST Rev. Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, & 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.

LEVEL GREEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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.

LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST

Pastor Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle, 540-525-7662. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, & 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.

MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN

4199 Craig Valley Drive, New Castle, 864-6622. Sunday: Worship Service 9:00 a.m., Children’s Church 9:15 a.m., Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

NEW CASTLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

“WHERE YOUR HEART CAN FEEL THE DIFFERENCE” 282 Salem Ave., New Castle; 864-5212; Sunday Mornings: 9 A.M. Contemporary Service and 11:00 A.M. Traditional Service with Sunday School at 10 A.M.; Wednesday night Bible study at 6:00 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; www.nc-cc.org.

NEW CANTERBURY PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP

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.

PAXTON CHAPEL

Pastor Kenny Davis, 17 Sage Brush Lane, New Castle; “Presenting God’s Word Faithfully”; Sunday School 10:00 AM; Sunday Worship Service 11:15 AM; visit us on the web at www.paxtonchapelchurch.com; email at paxtonchapel@yahoo.com.

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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.

NEW CASTLE UNITED METHODIST

Rev. Charles Slacy, 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.

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1. Consider the request of Scott A. Boggs, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 407 East Burwell Street (Tax Map # 120-1-5) from RB Residential Business District to TBD Transitional Business District.
2. Consider the request of Union Plaza, LLC, contract purchaser, and the City of Salem, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 630 Union Street (Tax Map # 160-11-2) from HM Heavy Manufacturing District to HBD Highway Business District.
3. Consider the request of 2936 Salem Inc., dba Sunshine Spa and 217 NY Ave Corp, property owner, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a massage parlor at 2936 West Main Street (Tax Map # 210-1-2).
4. Consider amending Chapter 106, Zoning, Article IV, Development Standards, Section 106-400 pertaining to site plan review.
5. Consider amending Chapter 78, Subdivisions, Article I Generally, Sections 78-103 and 78-105, Article II Administration, 78-201, Article III Definitions, Section 78-300, Article IV Review of Plats, Sections 78-402, 78-403, 78-406, 78-408, 78-416, and 78-421 of the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA pertaining to the review of subdivision site plans and plats.

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

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

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PHOTOS BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY

Hannah Ratliff shoots over a defender.



Madison Underwood drives to the hoop.

Busy week for craig County girls

After getting in just one game last week due to weather and COVID concerns the Craig County girls' basketball team plans to be busy this week. The Rockets have three games in four days.

Craig was scheduled to host James River on Monday, followed by a game at Highland County Tuesday in a doubleheader with the boys. On Thursday the Rockets are at Parry McCluer.

The girls are hoping to pick up a few wins this week after a 1-6 start to the season. In the only game they played last week among three scheduled the Rockets dropped a 48-25 decision to Giles in Pearisburg.

"It was a tough loss for us," said coach Brock Jones. "We played a great first half, trailing by just four, and we were playing good defense and great basketball not to have practiced for a week."

In the third quarter the Rockets went into a shooting slump and only scored three points while Giles picked up the pace with 13, opening a 14 point lead with one quarter to go.

"That hurt badly and we didn't have enough offense to overcome them," said Jones.

Lexxy Brookman led Craig with nine points and 10 rebounds.

"Lexxy was playing great and then, late in the second quarter, she took a fall to the floor and came up with a sore ankle that limited her the rest of the game," said Jones. "Nothing serious, but it hurt us offensively during

the game. She was on pace for a great scoring game."

Sara Jones, Maggie Mays and Anabelle Gregory had four points each and Hannah Caldwell had three.

"If we can play every game like the first 16 minutes of the Giles game we will be able to do some good things for the rest of the season," said Jones. "Our defense looked good and we were really moving our feet."

Jones cited lack of practice, for a variety of reasons, is a big reason for the slow start.

"The lack of practice is killing us right now," he said. "Not being able to install new stuff or work on our current game plans are hurting us badly. Thursday Practice was canceled due to weather and school was closed on Friday for weather so we were unable to practice since the game Wednesday. That hurts us badly, especially since we have three games scheduled this week."

"I can't emphasize enough how much we need to get practice in. I am sure the girls are loving it, it's got to be a high school student's dream to not have to go through practice but show up and play games, but as a coach we know how that can go. I stress the importance of practice all the time."

Jones took his travel team of middle school girls to Tennessee over the weekend. The girls lost to New River by five points and to Lee County by one, then beat Gate City by 14.

"It was a great experience," he said. "We're getting tougher for sure."

Rockets will host Parry McCluer In boys' basketball game Thursday



Colton Moore drives to the basket.



Mason Huffman takes a shot.

PHOTOS BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY

The Craig County boys will be looking to pick up a win when they play host to Parry McCluer in a Pioneer District showdown

on Thursday night.

The Rockets have a three game week after getting in just one of three last week, as games with Narrows and Covington were postponed. The Rockets did manage to get in a game with Giles at home, falling 60-41.

"It was a tough game for us," said coach Ryan Frazier. "Our last time together was one week before at the Montcalm game and we had not been able to practice or play since the 29th. It has been difficult to get into rhythm up to this point."

Freshman Matthew Lucas had 16 points to lead the team. Zachary Peters had seven points, Nathan Fisher had five, Dylan Crawford had four and Colton Moore, Mason Huffman and Lucas Taylor had three points each.

Craig trailed by seven at the half and kept it close

until Giles started pulling away late in the third quarter. The Spartans then outscored the Rockets 17-7 in the final stanza to win going away.

"We ended up shooting 11 for 21 from the free throw line," said Frazier. "I feel it was a game we could have gotten more out of, and I look forward to playing them again in a couple weeks to see what progress we have made."

The loss dropped Craig to 3-2 on the season and the Rockets were scheduled to play at Highland County on Tuesday. On Saturday Craig is at Montcalm for a noon jayvee start with the varsity to follow.


"For the next several weeks we play three games a week," said Frazier. "Hopefully this will allow us to get some momentum going for the main district stretch."

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