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**THE NEW CASTLE RECORD**

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**CCHS elects new principal and assistant principal**



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Superintendent Jeanette Warwick (center) recently announced Principal Appreciation Week. McCleary Principal Gerri VanDyke and Susan Stimeling, the newly elected high school principal, were presented with Governor Ralph Northam's proclamation declaring January 9 - 14 Principal Appreciation Week.**

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

When it comes to having the the best principals around, Craig County Public Schools have been blessed in to employ such individuals for many years. Principal Appreciation

Week was January 8 - 14. McCleary Principal Gerri VanDyke and newly elected high school principal, Susan Stimeling, were recently presented with Governor Ralph Northam's proclamation.

Shared Superintendent Jeanette Warwick,

"This week provided an opportunity to recognize the hard work of Virginia school principals and to recognize the importance of principals in ensuring that every child has access to a quality education."

See CCHS, page 2

Recently, with the retirement of Melissa Whiting, a new principal and assistant have been selected at the high school.

Mrs. Stimeling was named the CCHS Principal and Kellie Stevens was named the CCHS Assistant Principal.

Stimeling is a native of Craig County and was first employed by the CCPS in 1993.

"I am blessed to have two sets of parents, Linda and Charlie Stull and Wesley (Sonny) and Donna Stimeling," Stimeling said. "I am a third-generation graduate of New Castle High School, the Class of 1984. I did my undergraduate work at VPI and SU and earned my graduate degree from Averett University."

Stimeling said she chose to work at CCPS because of the love for her home and the wonderful community in which we live.

"I first taught at CCPS from 1993 through 1998



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**The Emporium on Main Street of New Castle is honoring our first President, George Washington, by flying his headquarter flag and giving away copies of Washington's Rules of Civility and Washington's Farewell Address for the week of February 20 - 26. Everyone is invited to stop in and browse the huge bookstore as well as enjoy the fresh foods and other wonderful items they keep on hand.**

**The Emporium honors George Washington's birthday**

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

George Washington Carver served as a General and Commander-in-Chief of the colonial armies during the American Revolution, and later became the first President of the United States of America, serving from 1789 until 1797.

He is noted for many famous quotes which regularly get repeated. One such example: "Be Americans. Let there be no sectionalism, no North, South, East, or West. You are all dependent on one another and should be one in union."

In one word, be a nation."

The owner of the Emporium General Store located on Main Street in New Castle has a tremendous love for books and especially our American history.

Phil Spence is celebrating Washington's birthday the week of February 20 - 26 and has an open-door invitation to all, giving away free copies of Rules of Civility - a book of good manners that Washington practiced all his life as well as Washington's Farewell Address.

Spence shared that he feels his insight into the potential

See Washington, page 3

**VDOT updates Meadow Creek bridge work**

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

The Meadow Creek bridge has been supporting Craig County traffic for many years. It has finally lost its strength as pieces have

been found by neighbors along their creek banks.

When you look at the side of the bridge, it is noticeable that areas are starting to deteriorate. Neighbors shared this information with VDOT over a year ago when

the flood came in that creek and moved the rocks and pounded out the sides of the road, almost flowing into the road now.

At the January Board meeting, VDOT representatives Ray Varney (Salem

Resident Engineer) and Ashley Smith (Assistant Resident Engineer for Craig County) shared that this project is still on schedule to starting in March, stating, "Route 311 (New Castle) Bridge Replacement over Meadow Creek (UPC 110596) - Construction is scheduled to begin in full measure in March of 2022."

Smith added they had a pre-construction meeting scheduled at the end of January and that "notifications will be put out before any construction starts."

Collins asked if message boards would be put out and Smith assured them that they

See VDOT, page 3



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**The much-needed bridge going over Meadow Creek, going out of the town of New Castle will finally get its reconstruction as VDOT has already started its preliminary measures.**

**New cigarette tax to fund EMS in Craig**

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

With much discussion and debate at the January Board of Supervisors meeting, the majority of the County Board of Supervisors voted to keep the 40¢ per pack tax that was imposed to start January 1, 2022.

County Administrator, Dan Collins gave a summary on the Cigarette Tax Amendment.

•August 5, 2021, meeting - conducted a public hearing as appropriately advertised

•Following the public hearing, the Board adopted the Cigarette Tax Ordinance at 40¢ per pack

•Ordinance became effective on January 1, 2022

The BOS approved the Cigarette Tax Ordinance to assist in funding Emergency Services with estimated revenues between \$94,300 to \$104,800.

The Board votes were as followed: Rusty Zimmerman (yes), Jason Matyas (no), Carl Bailey (yes) and Jesse Spence (yes).

"With increased demand for

Emergency Services, the estimated revenues from the cigarette tax would offset the increased expenses for operational costs," Collins shared. "Estimated new cost for emergency services is greater than \$78,272, for three additional paid EMS staff."

During the December 2 Board meeting, a request was made to reduce the tax rate from 40¢ to 30¢ per pack.

Collins noted that the average per pack in the surrounding localities is \$37.71 per pack, a 7.71 cents per pack difference.

"As reported by the CDC, approximately 15 percent of all Virginians smoke," he said. "That would be approximately 760 residents of Craig County (5,064 Population X 15 percent = 759.6)."

Following discussions with both the Commissioner of the Revenue and the Treasurer, Collins determined that the tax rate should remain at 40¢.

"The cost of reducing the rate would be approximately \$7,000. In addition, I believe it would be wise to delay any adjustment to the rate

until we have a 12-month history to reflect actual revenues," Collins said. "When cigarettes cost approximately \$7.40 a pack, I have doubts that an additional 40¢ would discourage a smoker from purchasing a pack of cigarettes."

It was added that additional cost to fund the additional three EMS positions would be greater than \$78,272, including benefits.

"Offsetting funds are the proposed cigarette tax revenues which could be designated for public safety use," he said. "The estimated annual cigarette tax revenue is \$94,000 and \$104,000 at the current rate and the proposed 30¢ per pack rate would be \$75,000 in tax revenue."

Collins said he asked the Commission of Revenue, Elizabeth Huffman and the Treasurer, Jackie Parsons, how they would go about reducing the tax and refunding the money that had already been paid and the analysis came to approximately \$7,000.

Huffman and Parsons submitted very detailed lists of costs from office supplies, Abatement mask se-

l-ment, training, mailings, audits and travel/lodging/meals. This did not include any possible overtime. Huffman's estimate was \$6,129 and Parsons was \$880. They also explained in great detail what their jobs would entail for each.

Collins continued, "My personal belief and two constitutional officers, the commissions of revenue and the treasurer all agree that we really should have a 12-month history, so we know how these taxes actually work. We barely have a month. Some of these stores and owners pick up the stamps and some are a little delayed. So, the physical impact of the \$100,000 would drop to \$75,000, as it is per quarter at the tax rate and that doesn't include the \$7,000 impact."

"My recommendation is that we should have at least a 12-month history before we adjust any ordinance, not just the cigarette tax ordinance and see how it is working. It is another reason why we did it in January instead of making it effective immediately. We will have a half-years by July 1," he said. "I don't think that's enough, so I rec-

ommend not to change the rates, however, the amendment does have two things: changing the rate from 40¢ to 30¢ and then adding the tax stamp. The attorney said we would fix that so that the Commissioner of Revenue would select approved stamps so no matter how it changes, she will be able to adopt that. I recommend approving the stamp portion of the amendment but leaving the tax the same."

The public hearing was open for comments for or against.

Richard Carper presented a petition to the Board with 492 signatures of customers and citizens who requested that the tax be reduced.

"I can tell you that we are only two weeks into this, this week's cigarette order was about \$2,000 less than it typically is. That is just at one store, The Gopher Market," Carper said. "We usually get about \$10,000 worth of cigarettes and this week we got \$8,000. We have had multiple customers that since they go to Roanoke anyway, that is where they get them."

See Cigarette Tax, page 5



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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY

The Craig County Public Library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The library is located at 303 Main St. in New Castle.

For more information, call (540) 864-8978 or visit [www.craiglibrary.org](http://www.craiglibrary.org).

## EVERY 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.

# New Castle Church hosts annual Hearts Party



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The New Castle Church has hosted their annual Hearts Party for over 50 years. The 2022 winners were: Kammie Fisher, Tasha Hannah, Kallie Fisher, Tommy Zimmerman and Blake Hannah. All the children were given boxes of candies and enjoyed a table of great snacks after the 'Hearts' dice games were over. The adults who got to play greatly enjoyed themselves too.

## CCHS

from page 1

and returned in 2017 as a middle school teacher. I have also served here as the Middle School Coordinator and Assistant Principal," she said.

"My greatest task here is to continue to work to provide all of our students with the skills necessary to be successful after high school. I am so very grateful for this opportunity

provided by Superintendent Warwick to serve in this position of leadership," Stimeling shared. "My love for our students, our work community, and Craig County as a whole is unbounded and unlimited."

Stimeling is known for her positive outlook and innovative ideas she brings to the table.

"I wish to bring my own

positive personal energy and professional experience to strengthen and support the CCPS initiatives already in place as well as challenge our school community to imagine a future where all of our students grow to be successful adults," she explained. "I am so very blessed by so many here in Craig County, but I want to especially thank my moth-

er, Linda Huffman Stull, for her unwavering support throughout my life and career. She has been my sternest taskmaster as well as my greatest cheerleader. Thank you, Mom!"

Stevens is originally from Bedford County, where she returned to teach for 11 years.

"My family and I have lived in Botetourt County for about 11 years now. My husband Brian and I have been married for almost 24 years and have three children: daughter Taylor (22), daughter Morgan (21), and son Brady (9)," she shared.

Stevens explained that CCPS was recommended to her by a friend who was once employed by the school system.

"I have heard so many wonderful things about the people and students in the county and I am looking forward to being a part of the community," she added.

Stevens earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Radford University and a master's degree in Educational Lead-

ership from Virginia Tech. She then taught for 11 years in Bedford County and joined Roanoke City in August 2021.

With her contagious upbeat spirit, she shared, "I hope to bring a friendly face, a positive attitude, and hard work to the school. I have core values that I hope can be shared with the faculty and staff that focus on putting the needs of our students first and making decisions based on what is best for them."

She noted that she is most excited about meeting the students and faculty at CCHS.

"I look forward to watching the students grow. From the time I first meet them, to the time they walk across the stage at graduation," she added. "As an avid sports fan, I also look forward to being on the sidelines cheering for our teams!"

When asked what she feels can be the most challenging things she and the administration will face in the upcoming year, she replied, "First and foremost,

everything related to COVID. Whether it's continued absences and missed work that are creating new educational deficits, or the need to fill in the gaps that formed during the past two years because of the inconsistency in attendance and educational opportunities, we must find a way to help our students get back on track after these two years, while also continuing to give them what they need to keep moving forward."

She added, "We also have to find a way to fully support our teachers and staff as they work tirelessly, in and out of their classrooms, to help make sure our students succeed."

These two ladies have visions and goals that align with the CCPS motto, "Every child a graduate, Every child prepared for life."

Warwick was happy to announce their new positions and looks forward to working with them, continuing to make the school's motto a reality for our kids in Craig.



Precision Fabrics, manufacturer of high-performance fabrics for highly technical applications is currently seeking quality people for multiple positions at our weaving facility.

### Openings:

Precision Fabrics Group is currently seeking experienced Weaver and Loom Technicians as well as other support positions for our facility located in Vinton VA.

### About Us:

Precision Fabrics was founded in 1988 as a spin-off of Burlington Industries. The Company has evolved from a traditional textile company into an engineered materials business, focused on highly technical, high-quality fabrics. The success of our business is built upon the loyalty and quality of our workforce. The average seniority of a Vinton employee is 20 years! We are looking for employees who have a career in mind!

### The Positions:

The successful candidate for any of the positions will have basic math skills and a mechanical aptitude.

- Most positions are 7pm – 7am and a 3-2-2 schedule
- Excellent attendance is a must.
- Most support position/entry level positions start at \$15.68/hr
- Salary for Weavers is currently \$19.50/hr
- Salary for Maintenance Technicians \$19.50/hr - \$21.42/hr

### The Facility:

Precision Fabrics facilities are non-smoking; Health and Safety are of utmost importance. To support the health and well-being of our employees we have a Nurse Practitioner on site. We also have an award winning safety program. The lunchroom contains market style vending, microwaves, icemaker, TV and free Wi-Fi access. We also have indoor and outdoor areas for employees to enjoy on breaks. The manufacturing areas are climate controlled.

Our Vinton VA plant is located at 323 West Virginia Avenue, Vinton VA 24179. (From I581, take Elm Ave toward Vinton. (Elm turns into Bullitt Ave, then into Dale Ave and then finally West Virginia Ave –just stay straight) The "Welcome to Vinton" sign is in our front yard.

### Why Should You Apply?

Precision Fabrics offers employees a competitive benefit package including:

- Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance
- Short Term Disability, Long Term Disability and Accident Insurance
- 401K with employer match
- Advancement Opportunities
- Life Insurance
- 80 hours of vacation after 90 days
- Referral Bonus
- Retention Bonus - \$300 after 120 days, \$1200 after 1 year

### Interested?

To apply, submit an application or send resume to [sharon.pandolfini@precisionfabrics.com](mailto:sharon.pandolfini@precisionfabrics.com).

Contact Human Resources at 540-343-4448 X1130 or 540-339-2337 if you have any questions.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
11					12						13	14	15	
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56		57				58					59			
60					61	62						63		
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													65	

- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Remain as is
  5. Functional
  11. News magazine
  12. Popular treat
  16. Area units
  17. Artificial intelligence
  18. Marten valued for its fur
  19. Forms of matter
  24. Home of the Dodgers
  25. Bordering
  26. Part of the eye
  27. It might be nervous
  28. Visualizes
  29. Crest of a hill
  30. Measures engine speed (abbr.)
  31. Tears in a garment (Br. Eng.)
  33. Not easily explained
  34. Song in short stanzas
  38. Detonations
  39. Intestinal
  40. EU cofounder Paul-Henri
  43. Balm
  44. New Mexico mountain town
  45. Gobblers
  49. Insecticide
  50. Golf scores
  51. Has its own altar
  53. "Pollock" actor Harris
  54. Being livable
  56. NHL play-by-play man
  58. "The Great Lakes State" (abbr.)
  59. Unpainted
  60. Swam underwater
  63. Native American people
  64. Containing salt
  65. Exam
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Small bone in middle ear
  2. Long, angry speech
  3. Move out of
  4. Male organ
  5. Two-toed sloth
  6. Making dirty
  7. Article
  8. Oil company
  9. Emits coherent radiation
  10. Amounts of time
  13. Unit equal to one quintillion bytes (abbr.)
  14. Forbidden by law
  15. Drains away
  20. Not out
  21. Sea patrol (abbr.)
  22. Bird genus
  23. Gratuity
  27. \_\_\_ and feathers
  29. Spiritual part of an individual (ancient Egypt)
  30. Hot beverage
  31. Pouch
  32. It followed the cassette
  33. Large northern deer
  34. Ones who offer
  35. Famed genie
  36. Bequeathed
  37. Skeletal muscle
  38. Atomic #56
  40. Silk garment
  41. They deliver the mail
  42. Equally
  44. Check
  45. Light-colored breed of hound
  46. Drug that soothes
  47. Railroads
  48. Most slick
  50. Jacket
  51. A radio band
  52. Hello
  54. His and \_\_\_
  55. Supporter
  57. Popular software suite (abbr.)
  61. Railway
  62. NY coastal region (abbr.)

# Washington

from page 1

problems of the developing new nation are remarkable. "We have many of the problems he warned about confronting our government in this day," he said.

As you look around the Emporium you will see many books and pictures of the First President and others.

"From the age of 16, when he first started surveying the frontier lands, his life became entwined with the emerging Virginia colony and the struggle for independence," Spence shared. "The founding of the United States was unlike any seen before in history and Washington would become its first President."

Noting that today, the most powerful city in this country, Washington D.C., is named after him, George Washington. Also, the National Cemetery is linked to him, which was a gift from George Washington to Robert E. Lee's wife.

Spence added that he believes the country needs more people like Washington, explaining, "His values and self-sacrifice for what he believed should be a model for all Americans. At one time in our history, he was the role model that all aspired to."

Washington himself said, "Observe good faith and justice toward all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all."

"When we think that one person does not matter and one person's contribution is insignificant, just ask – what if there had been no George Washington?" Spence asked. "His accomplishments and failures are too many to recount in a small article."

You will find a treasure chest of books to read and learn about this President in the Emporium's book room, from Farmer and Soldier to Virginian and American. "All these things encompass the George Washington that we remember," Spence added.

"They are still relevant today and we would do well to teach them to the next generation," Spence said.

In fact, Washington said, "The future of this nation depends on the Christian training of our youth."

Here's another powerful George Washington quote: "It is impossible to govern the world without God. It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits and humbly implore his protection and favor."

Washington was known for his faith. He shared, "Let me live according to those holy rules which Thou hast this day prescribed in Thy Holy Word...direct me to the true object, Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life. Bless, O Lord, all the people of this land."

Washington was home-schooled as his father died when he was just 11-years-old.

"His mother was very possessive of him," Spence continued. "He was a head taller than most people he was around and was obvious in a crowd so they say for him to overcome that, he became extremely mannerly, quiet and reserved as that was a way, he could deal with it. He portrayed this image of being a gentle giant, but he was really a tough guy that lived outdoors, having some fantastic adventures in his life, including close escapes."

Thus, Washington got the name "bullet-proof."

"He was one of the few people in American history that was never touched by a bullet," Spence shared. "In one battle with General Braddock the British General where he led an expedition against the Indians, Washington had six bullet holes through his clothing and two horses shot from underneath him, but he was not touched by the bullets. So, the Indians started this legend about him that he was 'bullet-proof' and he had big power and they would not attempt to kill him after that because they called him 'big medicine.'"

Continuing, Spence

added, "Everything he did, he addressed God. He lived it, but did not preach it. He wasn't a good public speaker as he did not like to do that, though he was in the House of Burgesses. People of high society back then were expected to serve without pay. They were trained to do that. Most plantation owners were highly intelligent, running a small community of their own, making all the decisions for them there."

"Also, he was a big military guy. When it came to the Revolutionary War, he was asked to command the Continental Army and he stated that he was not sure he was up to this, but agreed to do his best and he served the entire war," Spence explained. "All the other founders went home to their families and businesses, but he stayed with the Army for eight years and never went home. His wife came to visit him a few times. He was always in the field. He did all of that at no pay. He said he would keep a track of his expenses and 'when you can at some point in the future, you can reimburse me,' even when he was President (though he did not want to be)."

When the war was over, he went back to Congress and presented his sword as, "the war was over, the country was safe, and his job was done and he's going home."

Spence shared, "When King George of England heard of this, he said, 'This one act will make George Washington the greatest man who ever lived.' Washington was offered to be King twice and turned it down, stating, 'that is not why we fought the revolution.' This is a person who had become world famous at 22 years of age. If he associated with something, it was a good thing. The guys who were trying to make things better, that if you couldn't get Washington to be a part of it, no one else would go along with it. So, they had to get him to the Constitutional Convention and elected him



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**With a huge variety of books about President Washington and other great Americans, Spence added that he believes the country needs more people like our first Commander-in-Chief, explaining, "His values and self-sacrifice for what he believed should be a model for all Americans. At one time in our history, he was the role model that all aspired to."**

President of the Convention. Again, he went home."

The electoral college was set up and he still stands as the only President in American history where 100 percent of the votes went to him - twice.

Spence also added that when Washington was President, there was no White House or "place" set up for the President and all expenditures came out of his pocket to host anything at this home.

"Washington had been an outdoorsman all his life and it was said he was the most accomplished horseman of his generation and extremely athletic, having great physical strength of what he could do and stand," Spence added. "When Washington was in the Virginia Militia, there was a string of forts approximately every 20 miles, that went all the way up what we know as Route 460, including one in Salem, where Andrew Lewis built a fort, Ft. Lewis. Everything west of 460 was Indian territory. He spent time in this area and riding those forts to keep them ready in Indian attack. Washington did that for over three years."

The Washington Headquarter flag would be posted at the place he was at the time, with its deep blue background and 13 brilliant white stars.

Neither he nor Martha were poor from the begin-

ning. He also inherited Mt. Vernon from his half-brother and that is where he made his home.

Spence added, "One story was when he had over 2,900 men at Valley Forge Camp at Christmas. Washington sent a letter to Congress saying they were 'unfit for service as they had no shoes or otherwise naked.' Congress gave him nothing, but Washington refused to pillage from the surrounding peoples, instead he gave them letters of credit. That is why people loved him so as he had the right to just take from them, but he would not."

Another very interesting fact was about Chinese Chairman Mao.

"When he took over Chinese Communist, he had a library full of books on Washington and his tactics and studied every battle and emulated Washington dealing with the peasants. He would not take their stuff as he saw that actually worked and wanted to turn public opinion to him," Spence shared.

While you are in the Emporium, you may wish to check out some of their items including, high-quality supplements to fight off the viruses that has plagued our nation, Big Spring Mill products, Watkins, cheeses of champagne, smoked gouda

with bacon or bacon ranch, Maple-flavored bacon, Amish butter and even Lebanon bologna. He also has a huge variety of unique beers and wines and other food items. They carry many cooking utensils, lanterns, knives and axes. And when you leave you can grab an original glass bottle of Dr. Pepper, Ginger beer, or a variety of other drinks and an old-fashioned Moon-pie or Zero bar!

Their mission statement mirrors their heart to serve: "We endeavor to honor our customers with the highest quality products, excellent customer service along with a fun and delightful experience. We are honored that you have chosen us, the Emporium General Store, for your quality purchases. We welcome you not only as a customer, but also as a new member of the ever-growing Emporium Family."

Phil and Debbie welcome all to the Emporium General Store where you will find almost anything you need and much of what you want. Join them for a free cup of coffee, hot chocolate or tea and meander throughout the store or sit for a spell in the book room. Hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

## VDOT

from page 1

would be.

Neighbors have shared that they have seen various representatives visiting the site.

Craig County will have to conduct some preliminary work on the power lines going over the creek as they hang down very low and will be in the area of construction. These measures are already being reviewed and electric power lines and poles will have to be moved before construction can begin. New poles are already being placed so powerlines can be moved by AEP.

Communications manager Jason Bond was available to answer some questions about

the upcoming Meadow Creek Bridge replacement project.

He noted that the work is being completed under a \$1.9 million contract. A.R. Coffey and Sons from Buchanan is the contractor and VDOT will administer the project.

A small breakdown of the project will include the two-lane bridge being replaced one side at a time.

"A temporary signal will be installed to control traffic with two-way traffic alternating using the southbound side of the bridge while the northbound side is demolished and replaced first," Bond explained. "Two-way traffic will then

be switched onto the new northbound side of the bridge sometime in late summer while the old southbound side is demolished and replaced."

He added that the intention is to activate the signal and reduce traffic across the bridge to one lane beginning in early March and suggesting that drivers should allow extra travel time.

Bond shared that the initial work on the bridge will include widening the pavement a bit at the bridge to accommodate the one-lane traffic pattern across the bridge.

"The survey work, installing the signage and temporary signal will be completed first," he added. "Next, the signal

will be activated to reduce the bridge to one lane."

They shared that in addition, Route 646 (Allen Street) will be closed at the intersection with Route 311 traffic needing to access Allen Street turning on to Route 665 (Kanawha Street) and driving around the Craig County Fairgrounds to Route 650 (Marshall Drive) onto Holcomb Avenue to reach Allen Street.

The summary of the project includes:

- Work to replace the bridge which will begin in February with traffic across the bridge reduced to one lane starting in March
- Two-way traffic expected

to be switched onto the new northbound side of the bridge - late summer (August)

- The new structure should be completed with the signal and detour removed - mid-December

- There will be incidental work and seeding to take place - early 2023

- Final completion date - spring 2023

When asked if the creek will be adjusted back to its original flow after they finish the bridge, Bond replied, "Relocating or modifying the stream is not a part of this project."

The citizens may note also, that when the lane closure is in place, there will be a nine-foot width restriction on Route 311 over the bridge and the speed limit will be reduced to 35 mph in the work zone.

At the Board meeting, VDOT also reported on other projects, land development projects, and land use permits:

- Middle and Main Drainage Project - we have been notified that the federal funding has been committed to this project. Based on our current estimate, we have sufficient funds to proceed with this advertisement and are completing the design docu-

ments for advertisement

- Land Development Projects - no reviews

- Permits issued between 11/17/2021 - 12/20/2021 None issued

- Area Headquarter Upcoming Projects

- Mowing/Trimming and Mow Trimming on Route 621

Grading gravel roads and adding stone, working on roads throughout the county adding stone as needed, applying dust control as needed

Upcoming pipe replacements: Route 673, Maple Avenue, Route 632, Johns Creek Road (2 pipes)

- Completed projects:

- Cleaned and opened pipes on Routes 604, 605, 611, 617, 623, 624, 625, and 626 and spot ditching on Route 18

Shoulder work on Route 311 - the north side of Potts Mountain

- Bridge Projects

- Route 311 (Paint Bank, VA) Superstructure Replacement Structure over Potts Creek (UPC 110619). Construction complete

Craig residents are pleased that these important bridges are being replaced before detrimental damage created non-traffic issues.

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## PART TIME JOB

The Craig County Solid Waste Office is seeking applications for a part time position at the Craig County Convenience Stations. Selected candidate must be dependable, possess basic understanding of mechanics, good communication and problem-solving skills and available to work:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,  
and Thursday 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM  
Friday 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM  
Saturday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Be in good general health including ability to lift heavy objects and have current valid driver's license. The candidate will be trained to operate compactors and backhoe. Apply by requesting application: [abryson@craigcountyva.gov](mailto:abryson@craigcountyva.gov) email or at the County Administrator's office, 108 Court Street, New Castle, VA 24127. Applications will be received until the position is filled. Craig County is an equal opportunity employer.



# New Murder Mysteries at your Library by Diablo Mesa

## Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community

J.D. Robb-Abandoned in Death James Patterson-Steal J.A. Jance-Nothing to Lose Jonathan Kellerman-City of the Dead Gregg Hurwitz-Dark Horse Preston & Child-Diablo Mesa

#1 New York Times bestselling authors Preston & Child continue with the wildly popular series featuring archaeologist Nora Kelly and FBI Agent Corrie Swanson.

Lucas Tappan, a wealthy and eccentric billionaire and founder of Icarus Space Systems, approaches the Santa Fe Archaeological Institute with an outlandish proposal—to finance a careful, scientific excavation of the Roswell Incident site, where a UFO is alleged to have crashed in 1947. A skeptical Nora Kelly, to her great annoyance, is tasked with the job.

Nora's excavation immediately uncovers two murder victims buried at the site, faces and hands obliterated with acid to erase their identities. Special Agent Corrie

Swanson is assigned to the case. As Nora's excavation proceeds, uncovering things both bizarre and seemingly inexplicable, Corrie's homicide investigation throws open a Pandora's box of espionage and violence, uncovering bloody traces of a powerful force that will stop at nothing to protect its secrets—and that threatens to engulf them all in an unimaginable fate.

City of the Dead by Jonathan Kellerman The past comes back to haunt psychologist Alex Delaware and Detective Milo Sturgis when they investigate a grisly double homicide and uncover an even more unspeakable motive in this riveting thriller from the #1 New York Times bestselling master of suspense.

Los Angeles is a city of sunlight, celebrity, and possibility. The L.A. often experienced by Homicide Lt. Detective Milo Sturgis and psychologist Alex Delaware, is a city of the dead.

Early one morning, the two of them find themselves in a neighborhood of pretty houses, pretty cars, and pretty people. The scene they encounter is anything but. A naked young man lies dead in the street, the apparent victim of a collision with

a moving van hurtling through suburbia in the darkness. But any thoughts of accidental death vanish when a blood trail leads to a nearby home.

Inside, a young woman lies butchered. The identity of the male victim and his role in the horror remain elusive, but that of the woman creates additional questions. And adding to the shock, Alex has met her while working a convoluted child custody case. Cordelia Gannett was a self-styled internet influencer who'd gotten into legal troubles by palming herself off as a psychologist. Even after promising to desist, she's found a loophole and has continued her online career, aiming to amass clicks and ads by cyber-coaching and cyber-counseling people plagued with relationship issues.

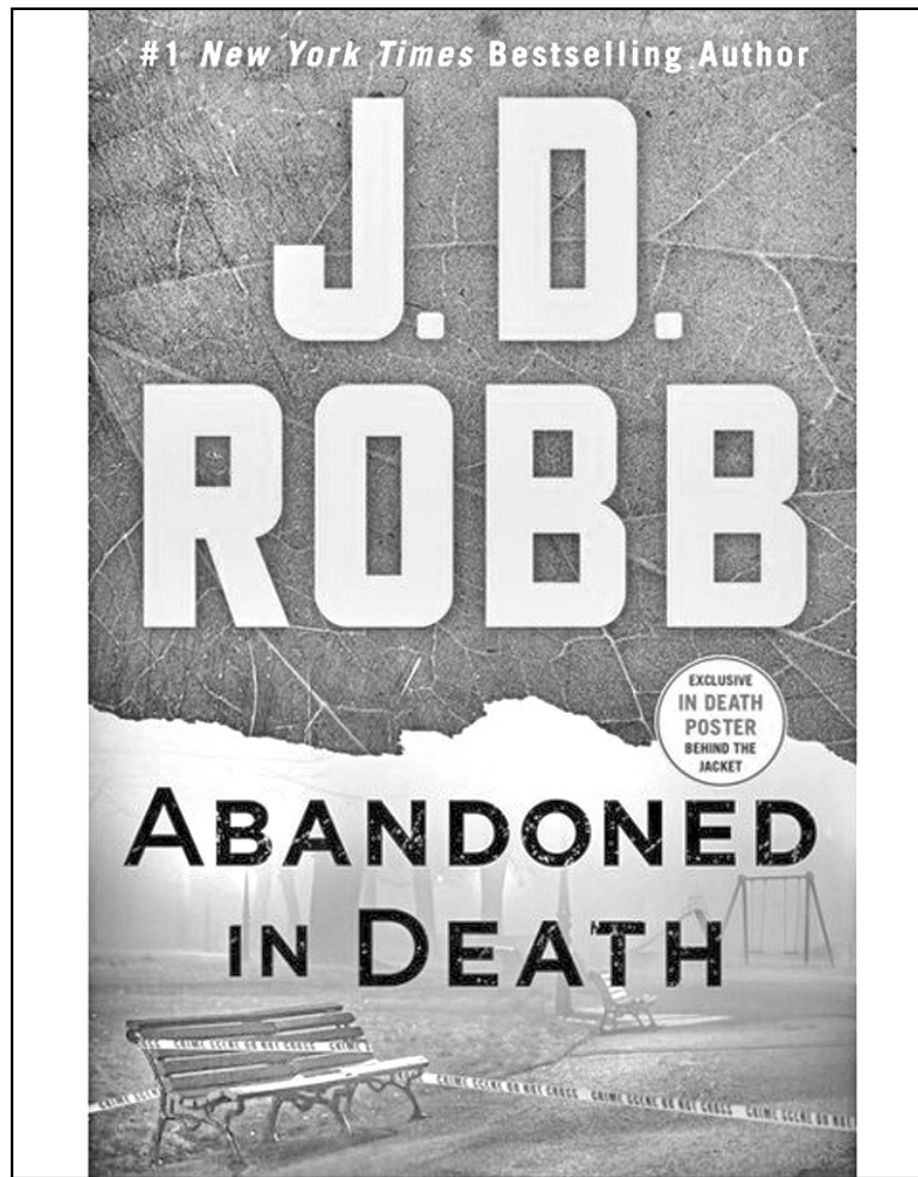
But upon closer examination, Alex and Milo discover that her own relationships are troublesome, including a tortured family history and a dubious personal past. Has that come back to haunt her in the worst way? Is the mystery man out in the street collateral damage or will he turn out to be the key to solving a grisly double homicide? As the psychologist and the detective explore L.A.'s meanest streets, they peel back layer after layer of secrets and encounter a savage, psychologically twisted, almost unthinkable motive for violence and bloodshed.

This is classic Delaware: Alex, a man Milo has come to see as irreplaceable, at his most insightful and brilliant.

Abandoned in Death by New York Times bestselling author J. D. Robb.

Homicide detective Eve Dallas must untangle a twisted family history while a hostage's life hangs in the balance.

The woman's body was



J.D. Robb's book Abandoned in Death.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

found in the early morning, on a bench in a New York City playground. She was clean, her hair neatly arranged, her makeup carefully applied. But other things were very wrong—like the tattoo and piercings, clearly new. The clothes, decades out of date. The fatal wound hidden beneath a ribbon around her neck. And the note: Bad Mommy, written in crayon as if by a child.

Eve Dallas turns to the department's top profiler, who confirms what seems obvious to Eve: They're dealing with a killer whose childhood involved some sort of trauma—a situation Eve is all too familiar with herself. Yet the clues

suggest a perpetrator who'd be roughly sixty years old, and there are no records of old crimes with a similar MO. What was the trigger that apparently reopened such an old wound and sent someone over the edge?

When Eve discovers that other young women—who physically resemble the first victim—have vanished, the clock starts ticking louder. But to solve this case she will need to find her way into a hidden place of dim light and concrete, into the distant past, and into the cold depths of a shattered mind.

### Library News:

Library Board meetings are on the second Monday

of each month at 6 pm, and when the weather is nice, the meetings are on the library patio. The public is invited. If you ever considered joining the Library Board of Trustees, come to some meetings and see how board members manage the functions of your community library. New programs and volunteers are always welcome! High schoolers, it looks good on your resume to be a public library volunteer!

Stay tuned for the next Swap Day focusing on plants!

Book sales are always going on. Just ask a desk volunteer for the key to the book barn and browse away!

## 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.

Email letters to the editor to [shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org](mailto:shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org)

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# Cigarette Tax

from page 1

Jesse Spence shared that this was a process the Board started working on last year.

"At that time, we considered adopting the ordinance as a way to help us fund our emergency services costs because those have continued to increase annually," Chairman Spence said. "Many people may or may not realize that most of the calls are run by paid staff now. Volunteer staff do help some, but the major-

ity of the calls are covered by paid staff. And there really isn't a lot we can do about that because when people call up and someone needs to be there to help them."

Spence explained that he viewed the last few budget years.

"It cost the Emergency services ambulatory services \$358,000 in 2018-2019 and last year \$524,000," he said. "That is probably not going

to drop and likely to continue to increase gradually because we need a couple more people. Therefore, we adopted the ordinance solely with the intent to use the revenue for the emergency services and no one on this board was in disagreement and no one showed up at the public hearing. In July of last year, no one said anything one way or another that I remember."

Board member Rusty

Zimmerman said, "I know the Carpers are concerned of loss of revenue and loss of tax base and so on and so forth. But I know as the board, one of the things we are burdened with is how to pay for stuff and how to fund emergency services and other projects throughout the county. As much as we hate to raise taxes, it is a necessary evil. We come up with this idea as this became recently available due to some other legislation. Dan brought it to us, and we thought it would be a good way to generate some revenue without raising tax base for everything."

He added, "It is unfortunate and for us as a board determined it was the lesser of two evils. This \$100,000 that 40¢ per pack will raise will save us approximately two cents on the dollar on tax base. Yes, it will be an inconvenience and a burden to some, but they have the option not to buy them. But the rest of us that live in the county that pay taxes, it will relieve some burden from that. I personally feel we should keep the 40¢ and revisit at the 12-month."

Collins did note that he had conversations with the county attorney who represents several towns and counties.

"He said that he knew of two jurisdictions, when they adopted theirs that the convenience store owners were concerned about sales loss," Collins stated. "He said the managers of those two locations went back one year later and sales were virtually the same. No scientific data, but that is what he said."

"I think personally a lot of it is education, as Roanoke County just went to 25¢. We are talking a 15¢ difference and Roanoke City and Salem is higher than us. I feel if we educate the public, I personally think it was kind of handled a little bit wrong. We are talking 15¢ and if the public knows this is going to emergency services and to provide for the county, as well as an effort to keep taxes to a manageable base, I think more people would be a little less upset about it," Zimmerman added. "For the 492 names on there, I think if we could explain to them a little different way, maybe they would be a little less apt to sign that. It's very disheartening to see things on Facebook bashing these five people when we are trying to make the best educated that we can. Not that I am concerned about Facebook, but people should be educated more before they have a reaction."

"We did advertise this ordinance last year with our regular budget session," Spence said. "It was a little bit surprising to see so much reaction after the ordinance has been adopted. I would expect this kind of reaction when we first proposed the ordinance."

Discussion was made on the avenues the BOS took to advertise: the BOS web-

site, the courthouse, and the newspaper, noting that out of the 492 signatures of Craig County citizens, only a handful frequented the courthouse, unless necessary, or visited the website or read the notices in the paper.

It was suggested that they use more direct avenues such as posters on the Food Country bulletin board, at the convenience stores, etc.; places where Craig County residents who this would affect would actually frequent, stressing that Craig County residents wish to work together on decisions and not create dissension.

It was also noted at the meeting that the merchants have contacted the town to see if it would like to have a tax as the code of Virginia allows them to have a tax, just like the county.

The code states, "Any county cigarette tax imposed shall not apply within the limits of any town located in such county, now or hereafter imposes a town cigarette tax. However, if the governing body of any such town shall provide that a county cigarette tax, as well as a town cigarette tax, shall apply within the limits of such town, then such cigarette tax may be imposed by the county within such town."

"So, I would request by the Board by motion for the town to consider putting that provision in their ordinance should the town adopt the cigarette ordinance," Collins stated. "Without that provision, we cannot have ordinance."

The Board then made a motion to make a request to the Town of New Castle, that if they adopt the cigarette ordinance that they will allow the county to leave theirs in place.

Collins added, "The administrative cost to run this thing is about \$10,000 to \$12,000 for the county, but would be less for the town. It is not cost-effective for the town."

Another issue was the merchants having to individually put a new audit stamp on each cigarette pack which took a long time per pack, for cigarettes already in merchants' inventory. Carper shared he had 9,634 packs as of December 31 that had to be individually stamped with a special gun.

"The way they are positioned, you can't even put one on a package easily. You have to manipulate this sheet carefully, so you don't accidentally get two stamps," he said. "It's

not about paying the money; you can take a check tomorrow for the whole thing for \$3,900 for the tax."

His concern was having to take days to stamp all cigarettes immediately. Also, at the time that many stamps were not available at the courthouse, but Parsons explained that the actual distributors were supposed to buy those and apply them to the packs, which they did not, therefore making our county merchants responsible for having to do this individually which was a much more difficult task with their types of stamps they were provided.

Parsons shared that this information was sent out in October and the stamps were in her office in November so that the distributors could have purchased and placed them on the packs by January 1.

"This distributor did not come to my office and buy stamps, so this is the reason why a couple of these stores have all this inventory with no stamps, because the distributor did not come to us and now the burden is on our local businesses," Parsons added.

She is also working with the merchants in trying to make their mandatory stamping as easy as possible.

Collins reiterated that there was no grace period to put the stamps on and Spence added that it would take two months to change the rulings to add one.

Huffman took the podium quickly explaining that she thinks there is a way to solve the issue, reading an article in Section 38-349.

She and Parsons will be working closely with the merchants to help make the transition as smooth as possible.

However, moving forward, they shared, "The stamps have to be on the packs. It is the only audit trail without going back and making a huge inconvenience for both the merchants and our offices. To my knowledge, all the distributors that do business in our county have now purchased stamps."

As of February 10, 2022, the Carpers have noticed a 20 percent reduction in their sales. Food Country added that they also have seen a drastic decrease in sales by an extreme and disappointing 35 percent.

## OBITUARIES

### Wolfe Jr., Homer Lee

Homer Lee Wolfe, Jr., 55 of New Castle, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, February 6. He was preceded in death by parents, Homer Lee Wolfe, Sr. and Eva Joyce Wolfe; daughter, Heather Elaine Wolfe; and father-in-law, Jay Wolfe.



He is survived by his loving wife of 31 years, Susan Elaine Wolfe; son, Anthony Lee Wolfe and fiancé Marissa; daughter, Jayda Wolfe; grandkids, Adie Wolfe, Tylor, Emma, and Mya Quarles; sisters, Joyce Medley and Gary and Michelle Phoenix and Ricky; brother, Kevin Wolfe; mother-in-law, Janice Wolfe; and numerous nieces, nephews,

aunts, uncles, brother-in-laws, sister-in-laws, family and friends.

Family was the most important thing to Homer. He was a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather. He worked for over 30 years with the Forestry Service and loved to be outdoors hunting and fishing.

A Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 16, at Paitsel Funeral Home with Raymond Christian officiating. The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m. before the service.

Arrangements by Paitsel Funeral Home. www.paitselfh.com

### Sarver, Susan Walker

Susan Walker Sarver, 72, of Catawba, Virginia, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Saturday night, January 22, 2022.



She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Juanita Walker and brother, Douglas Walker.

She leaves behind a husband of 51 years, Sheldon Ned Sarver Sr.; two sons, Sheldon (April) Sarver and Matthew (Kimberly) Sarver; six grandchildren, Jacob, Tanner, Landon, Addyson, Sadie, and Zachary; four siblings, Ann (Carl) Easter, David (Karen) Walker, Brenda (David) Craft, and Norma Walker; her nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews; and many friends.

Susan was vibrant, full of life and made a positive impact on every person she met. She loved and served the Lord with her many talents and whatever she did, was determined to do it 100 percent. She loved her family deeply, especially her grandchildren.

Her favorite pastime with them was playing games, playing guitar, singing songs and talking to them about Jesus. Her greatest desire was for them to grow up loving and serving the Lord with all their hearts.

The family would like to thank each one who came to spend time with Susan in her last days as well as the doctors and nurses who took such great care of her at Lewis

Gale Hospital. Due to extenuating circumstances surrounding her husband, the family will have a Celebration of Life Service at Christian Life International Church at a later date.

Susan dedicated much of her time in the Music Ministry and Operation Christmas Child Ministry at CLI Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Christian Life International Church, 1 CLI Way, Salem, VA 24153, earmarked "Music Ministry" or "Operation Christmas Child."

### Hollins, Lillian Irene

Lillian Irene Hollins, age 82, of New Castle passed away peacefully on Feb. 12, 2022.

She was the devoted wife of 48 years of the late Don Hollins; beloved mother of Donna Jacobus (Jamie) of Johnstown, OH, and Ray Hollins (Ann) of New Castle; loving grandmother of Stacy (Ryan), Rowan (Grace) and Seth (Aislinn).

Born on May 5, 1939, Irene lived in Mercer County, WV, until meeting Don and moving to Alexandria, VA. They raised their children in Lorton, VA, and eventually settled in New Castle.

Irene was a devout Christian who loved the Lord first and was tirelessly dedicated to bible study.

Throughout her life, Irene was a beacon of service in each community she was a part

of, notably at Silverbrook United Methodist Church in Lorton where she was a pillar for many years. Many people benefitted from her boundless support and hospitality, as she and Don took those in need into their home and hearts. Her home in New Castle was a favorite gathering place for her grandchildren and many of their friends. She had countless friends and maintained special connections with many of her aunts and cousins. Her door was always open and it would be impossible to describe the number of lives she touched.

A memorial celebration will be held on Saturday, February 19, at New Castle Christian Church, 282 Salem Ave, New Castle. Family will be available for visitors at 12 p.m., with a service following at 1 p.m.

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I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, phone calls, visits, food and flowers before and after Mary Jane's passing. She was very blessed with all her family and friends.

Thank you and God bless all,  
Gene Kendall & family

# God's House Is Always Open

<p><b>BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 11599 Cumberland Gap Road/Rt. 42, New Castle, 864-5242; church phone:544-7040 Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m., Sunday School 10:30 a.m., Choir Tuesday 7:30p.m., Youth Outreach and Missions Program. Rev. Charles Stacy.</p> <p><b>CHESTNUT GROVE CHURCH</b> Duane Wente, Minister, Rt. 42, New Castle, 540-864-5692. Sunday: Worship 10:00 a.m.</p> <p><b>CORNERSTONE CHURCH</b> Pastor Don Brown, Corner of Salem and Wagner, New Castle, 580-3228. Sunday Worship 10:30am (Children meet separately, Nursery provided). Bible Study - Wednesday 6p Teens - Wednesday 6p. Ministries: Men, Ladies, Young Adult, and Seniors. Times vary, call for details.</p> <p><b>CRAIG HEALING SPRINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)</b> Pastor - Kenneth W. Davis, Jr., 6 Grannys Branch Road (Johns Creek), New Castle, Phone: 864-6102. Sunday School at 10 am. Sunday Worship at 11 am every Sunday. Fellowship meal after Sunday Worship on second Sundays. Everyone is welcome!</p> <p><b>CRAIG VALLEY BAPTIST</b> 171 Salem Avenue, New Castle, 864-5667; Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Sunday worship 11:00 a.m., Wednesday: Prayer Service and Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Youth Group 6:30-8:00PM, Bible Buddies at 6:30-8:00PM. Transportation provided - call the church. Hearing devices also available. www.craigvalleybaptist.com</p> <p><b>CRAIG VALLEY GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP</b> HWY 621, Pastor Roy Lee Law Jr., "Jay", 864-8984. Sunday School 10:00am; Worship 11:00am., Wednesday night Bible study 7pm, from HWY 311, up HWY 621, 8 miles on left.</p> <p><b>CROSSROADS CHURCH</b> 21892 Craigs Creek Road, New Castle. Pastor Gary Burch. 864-7520. Sunday School- 10-10:45AM, Sunday Worship - 11AM-Noon.</p> <p><b>FIRST BAPTIST</b> Pastor Kevin Allizer, Corner of Main Street &amp; Boyd Ave., New Castle. Church phone 864-5919. Sunday School 10:00AM, Sunday Worship 11:00AM and 6PM. Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7PM, Youth Group</p>	<p>7:00PM, Reformers Unanimous Addiction Recovery every Friday evening at 7PM.</p> <p><b>GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b> 5530 Catawba Valley Drive, Catawba, VA, 540-384-7075. Pastor Lorraine Taylor, agladypastor@msn.com. Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Evening service at 7:00 p.m.; Youth (ages 13-18) &amp; Super Church (ages 4-12) Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. You can also watch on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m. www.graceassemblycatawaba.org</p> <p><b>GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 159 Old Railroad Ave, New Castle, 540-864-PRAY, Sunday School 9:30AM, Sunday Worship Service 10:00AM, Wednesday Night Services 7:00PM.</p> <p><b>HEBRON UNITED METHODIST</b> 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, &amp; 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.</p> <p><b>LEVEL GREEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> 3388 Cumberland Gap Rd. Newport, Duane Wente, Minister, 540-544-7179. Sunday School 10:00am, Sunday Morning Worship 11:00am, Children's Church 11:00am. Choir Practice, bi-weekly 7:00pm, Ladies meeting first Monday of each month at 7:00pm.</p> <p><b>LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST</b> Pastor Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle, 540-525-7662. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, &amp; 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.</p> <p><b>MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN</b> 4199 Craig Valley Drive, New Castle, 864-6622. Sunday: Worship Service 9:00 a.m., Children's Church 9:15 a.m., Sunday School 10:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>NEW CASTLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> "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.</p>	<p><b>NEW CANTERBURY PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP</b> Pastor John D. Abbott, Hwy 621 (10 miles), phone: 864-8242, Sunday Morning Lesson 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday Night Service 6:00 pm.</p> <p><b>PAXTON CHAPEL</b> Pastor Kenny Davis, 17 Sage Brush Lane, New Castle; "Presenting God's Word Faithfully"; Sunday School 10:00 AM; Sunday Worship Service 11:15 AM; visit us on the web at www.paxtonchapelchurch.com; email at paxtonchapel@yahoo.com.</p> <p><b>THE CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> 118 Main Street, New Castle. Service Times: Sunday, Bible classes-10 a.m., Worship-11:00 a.m., Evening Worship-6 p.m.; Wednesday, Bible classes - 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>NEW CASTLE UNITED METHODIST</b> Rev. Charles Stacy, 364 Main St., New Castle, Va. 864-5242; Sunday School 10AM, Worship 11AM; Monday Adult Choir 7PM, UMW 3rd Wednesday 7PM, Youth and other programs, Bible Studies.</p> <p><b>ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 99 2nd Street, New Castle. Rev. Stephen McNally. 540-473-3691. Mass is on Sunday at 11:15 AM.</p> <p><b>CRAIG COUNTY COMMUNITY CHURCH - 'WELCOME HOME!'</b> Sunday service 9-10:15am at the VFW building in New Castle. Casual dress if you desire and contemporary praise and worship. If you don't have a 'home' church, please join us at ours with Pastor Gary Burch. Check us out on facebook or contact us at: craigcountycommunity-church@gmail.com.</p> <p><b>ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH</b> Located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttfc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershsberger, L on Hubert to 4910).</p>
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**Large Items Sale: Exercise Bike, Chipper/Shredder, Leather Recliner, Bikes**  
 Items available for view from 9 am to 2 pm Feb 19/20  
 Call 540-750-6142 to confirm time/location (Troutville area)  
 Shipping/delivery unavailable unless asking price paid in full  
 Cash only

**LiveSTRONG Recumbent Exercise Bike**  
 Mod no LS6. OR, manual included; condition - as is, very light use  
 Price: \$150.00  
**Troy Bilt Chipper/Shredder**  
 Mod No CS 4325, 250 cc Briggs & Stratton engine 5 bushels, Reduction Ratio 10-1; max 3" branches, 13 ga hopper 10" x 4" tires; owner's manual included; condition - never used, no fluid in engine  
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 Price: \$150  
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 Usage: men's - light, women's none; condition - needs minor work  
 Price \$60 each, \$100 for both

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**Legals - Botetourt County**

**ABC NOTICE**  
 Garrett's Bistro and Spirits LLC, trading as Garrett's Bistro and Spirits, 19386 Main St, Buchanan, Botetourt County, Virginia 24066.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Wine, Beer, Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Daniel Garrett, Member

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

**Legals - City of Radford**

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION**  
 COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
 VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.-317, 20-104  
**Case No. CL21006521-00**  
**Radford Circuit Court**  
 619 SECOND STREET, 24141  
 KESSINGER, JOSEPH L. v. KESSINGER, PATRICIA G.  
 The object of this suit is to: TO OBTAIN A DICORCE FROM THE BOND OF MATRIMONY  
 It is ORDERED that PATRICIA G. KESSINGER appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before APRIL 5, 2022.

February 8, 2022  
 Angel Turpin  
 Deputy Clerk

**Legals - City of Radford**

**Notice**  
 ESTATE of Charlie Preston Hall (11/27/1935 - 03/09/2021)  
 Seeks Biological Children or Possible Heir(s) of Mr. Hall's estate to contact 540-392-8445.

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION**  
 Commonwealth of Virginia VA CODE § 8.01-316  
**Case No. JJ018698-15**  
 Montgomery County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court MCDSS  
 v. Charles E. Barkley, Jr.  
 The object of this suit is to: Terminate the residual parental rights of Charles E. Barkley, Jr. legal parent of James Barkley a minor, in that said parent has, without good cause, failed to correct the conditions which resulted in the child entering foster care and it is not reasonably likely that they will be able to do so in a reasonable amount of time, failed to maintain continuing contact with the child and substantially plan for the child's future. Residual parental rights include, but are not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition.  
 It is ORDERED that Charles E. Barkley, Jr. appear at the above-named Court and protect her interests on or before March 14, 2022.

2-1-22  
 Amie Blankenship  
 Clerk

This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservations of record which affect the property herein described including but not limited to those recorded in Plat Book 71 at Page 234.

IT APPEARING that an Affidavit has been made and filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the identity and location of certain parties to be served, that the last known addresses for the Respondents herein are as follows: James W. Dean and Betty Dean Family Trust, whose last known address is unknown; and that any officers, heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the Respondent named herein are made parties Respondent to this action individually and/or by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties herein and all Parties Unknown and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before March 7, 2022 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Montgomery, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause.

Entered on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

Robert M. D. Turk  
 Judge

I Ask For This:  
 John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805)  
 Jeffrey A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591)  
 Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409)  
 Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No. 86372)  
 Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609)  
 Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. (VSB No. 37158)  
 Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC  
 P.O. Box 31800  
 Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800  
 Phone: (804) 545-2500  
 Facsimile: (804) 545-2378  
 TACS No.: 742177

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA,**  
 a Political Subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia,  
**Case No. CL21001960-00**  
 Complainant, v. JAMES W. DEAN AND BETTY DEAN FAMILY TRUST, Respondent(s).

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION**  
 The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Complainant, County of Montgomery, Virginia, for delinquent real estate taxes against certain real property located in the County of Montgomery, Virginia, described as follows:  
 Tax Map No. 287- A 87  
 Account No. 004809

All that certain lot or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Town of Blacksburg, Montgomery County, Virginia, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin the west side of Water Street Extended, at the northeast corner of the Lot, now or formerly owned by, Pauline Bowles Dillon; thence, with the line of said lot S. 49 degrees 20'E. 80 feet to an alley, a corner; thence, with said alley N. 49 degrees E. 200 feet to Water Street, Extended, a corner; thence, with said Water Street Extension, N. 38 degrees 20'W. 80 feet to the point of beginning.

And being the property conveyed to James W. Dean and Betty Jane Dean Family Trust, from James W. Dean and Betty Y. Dean (Also known as Betty Jane Dean), husband and wife, by Deed dated September 1, 1994 and recorded September 30, 1994 in the Montgomery County Circuit Court Clerk's Office in Deed Book 853, Page 634.

**Legals - Town of Vinton**

**LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
 TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, the **Planning Commission** of the Town of Vinton, Virginia hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on **Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia. The Planning Commission will also hold a dinner on February 24, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., immediately followed by a work session at 6:30 p.m., prior to the public hearing.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments concerning:

An ordinance repealing in its entirety the Vinton Town Code, Appendix B - Zoning Ordinance as adopted by Ordinance 634, enacted December 19, 1995, with amendments, and adopting by reference the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Vinton, Vinton, Virginia.

Further information concerning this public hearing may be obtained in the Planning and Zoning Department located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, VA 24179, (540) 983-0605, between 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Interested persons may be heard at the above public hearing.

Given under my hand this 3rd day of February, 2022.

Anita J. McMillan  
 Planning and Zoning Director  
 Secretary, Vinton Planning Commission

**Legals - Town of Vinton**

**LEGAL NOTICE OF INTENT TO COMPLY WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.**  
 Reasonable efforts will be made to provide assistance or special arrangements to qualified individuals with disabilities in order to participate in or attend the meetings. Please call (540) 983-0605 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting so that proper arrangements may be made.

**LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Please be advised that the Vinton Town Council will hold a public hearing at its meeting on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia, concerning the proposed amendment to the Town of Vinton's FY 2021-2022 budget to appropriate funding as follows:

1. From the FY21 Federal and State Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)/Road Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) for the Gus Nicks Boulevard Midblock Pedestrian Crosswalk Project in the amount of \$403,912.00.
2. From the FY20 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) for the Hardy Road Midblock Pedestrian Crosswalk Project in the amount of \$497,911.00.
3. From the General Fund \$307.00 transfer to the Stormwater Fund for local matching requirements.

**Legals - Town of Vinton**

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2. From the FY20 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) for the Hardy Road Midblock Pedestrian Crosswalk Project in the amount of \$497,911.00.
3. From the General Fund \$307.00 transfer to the Stormwater Fund for local matching requirements.

Any additional information on this public meeting is available in the Town Manager's Office, located in the Vinton Municipal Building, (540) 983-0607. Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate at this public meeting should contact the Town Manager's office at (540) 983-0607.

Susan N. Johnson  
 Town Clerk

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# SPORTS

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PHOTOS BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY

Mason Huffman handles the ball for the Rockets.



Matthew Lucas looks for a teammate.

## Rockets needed win Tuesday to qualify for region hoops

The Craig County boys were home to Highland Tuesday, needing a win to qualify for the Region 1C basketball tournament. The top four teams from the seven member Pioneer District advance to the regional.

Craig is the fourth seed in the district tournament, drawing fifth seeded Highland in the first round. If the Rockets won Tuesday they advance to the district semifinals tonight and clinch a spot in the regional. The Rockets would play top seeded Parry McCluer tonight in Buena Vista, as the 2021 Class 1 state champs had a first round bye. The Pioneer District championship game is Friday at the highest remaining seed and there's also a third place game.

The Rockets finished the regular season at 8-9 after going 1-2 last week. They opened with a 59-38 win over Bath County last Monday, February 7.

"I was pleased with the team effort at Bath," said coach Ryan Frazier. "We played hard, with solid defense and pushed out to a 33-8 halftime lead. When the first group comes out and sets the tone it allows us to get guys minutes in these games, which I think is important."

Colton Moore led the Rockets with 15 points, followed by Matthew Lucas with 14. Zachary Peters had nine, Mason Huffman had eight, Nathan Fisher had seven and Dylan Crawford had half a dozen.

A night later the Rockets were at Parry McCluer and dropped a 68-35 decision to a very tough Fightin' Blues squad. Parry McCluer is undefeated in district play.

"We started off very sluggish and on the back foot," said Frazier. "We dug ourselves into a hole early, but we got a little confidence and played some better basketball in the second half. At the end of the day they were just too strong."

The Blues' 6'11" center, Spencer Hamilton, was hard to match up with and scored a game high 27 points.

"Hamilton is really some player for them, and we just couldn't match up well," said Frazier. "The only consolation is that just about every team in the region has the same problem when playing them."

Lucas led Craig with 14 points and Moore had nine.

On Thursday of last week the boys were at Covington for a key game

against the Cougars. The Rockets were looking to take the third seed in the district with a win but instead came out on the short end of a 48-47 score.

"That was a heartbreaker," said Frazier. "As frustrating a loss as it was, we had some positives in the game. We were down 11 points down the stretch in the fourth quarter and battled back to tie the game, and had a few opportunities to take the lead and possibly clinch the game."

With the loss Craig dropped the home-and-home series with Covington despite being outscored by a total of three points, having lost by two at home, in overtime, and by one point in Covington.

"They were both great games, and ones you want to be a part of," said Frazier. "We just wish the outcome would have went our way. We will use it to get better, and I hope to see them in the tournament for another shot at them."

Lucas had 15 in this one, Fisher had 13 and Crawford scored 11 points.

"We still have a chance to qualify for a region birth, but we have to take care of business this week to make that happen."

## Craig girls are fifth seed in the district



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Hannah Ratliff drives around a Bath County defender



Maggie Mays shoots a jumper against the Chargers.

The Craig County girls were in Covington Tuesday hoping to make the Region 1C basketball tournament. The girls needed a win over the Cougars to keep their season alive.

The top four teams in the district advance to the region, and Craig is the fifth seed for the Pioneer tournament. Covington is the fourth seed, and the winner of that game advances to tonight's semifinal against top-seeded Parry McCluer and is assured a spot in the regional.

While Covington is a higher seed than the Rockets, this was expected to be a tossup game. Last Thursday at home the Rockets dropped a 49-46 decision to the Cougars that cost the girls a district tournament opening home game.

"We played hard Thursday," said Craig coach Brock Jones. "I thought we really would have had that game. It hurt when Lexxy Brookman fouled out. She had six points, 10 blocks and 10 rebounds and was owning the paint most all the game."

Annabelle Gregory played great defense and finished with 12 points and four steals. Sara Jones had 10 points, five rebounds and four blocks and Maggie Mays added nine points.

"Hannah Caldwell had a tough assignment, guarding Covington's best player, Persinger," said Jones. "She held her to four points at the half. The last time we played she had 24. I think she finished with 16 for the game but Hannah did an outstanding job and we were on top of our game. Hannah had six

steals."

The game was tied with 25 seconds left when Covington hit a three from the corner. Craig's Annabelle Gregory almost tied the game with a three but it wouldn't drop and the Cougars got the ball back and fouled.

"They missed and we got the rebound and came up court," said Jones. "Calling a timeout we set up a play with 2.5 seconds left. Sara Jones received the ball and was about eight feet behind the three point line when she released the ball, right in front of me. I said 'holy cow it's on target to go to overtime,' but the ball came up short and missed the rim by about six inches. It was the best game we played all year."

Gregory finished with 12 points, Sara Jones had 10 and Caldwell and Maggie Mays had nine each.

"The score changed left and right and the girls kept fighting and pushing," said Jones. "We have gotten so much better in the last few weeks of the season. I hate that it's coming to an end."

The game was the third of the week for the Rockets, who opened with a 47-27 win over Bath County at home. Sara had 12 points, 10 boards and four blocks for Craig while Caldwell had eight points, 11 rebounds eight steals and four blocks.

"We looked decent on the offensive end and were pushing and moving the ball up the court well," said Jones. "Sara shot really well this game and she's been playing great the last few weeks.

Definitely needed this for a confidence booster. She has been huge for us this year."

"Hannah has had multiple games with great stat lines outside of just scoring. She's our most athletic player everywhere on the court. She played a really great all around game."

A night later the girls played host to Parry McCluer and dropped a 62-24 game to the top team in the district. The Blues were 18-1 coming in with their only loss to Northside early in the season.

"They won state in 2017, 18 and 19 and lost in the elite 8 in 2020 and will most likely be back in the final 8 this year," said coach Jones. "They are tough. They are long, fast, can shoot and really get after you on defense. Luckily they are graduating eight seniors. They are by far the best team we have faced all year."

Sara Jones led Craig with seven points and sophomore Randalyn Taylor had her best game to date with six points.

If Craig won at Covington Tuesday they will be playing Parry McCluer again tonight, but with a Region 1C tournament in hand. If the Rockets lost Tuesday their season is over.

The district championship game is Friday at the highest remaining seed, and there is also a third place game for regional seeding.

"It looks like the fourth seed from the Pioneer would travel to Auburn," said Jones.

## Cook will speak at Roanoke Valley Sports Club Monday



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Murray Cook spoke at the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame banquet in 2020. He'll be the guest speaker at the Roanoke Valley Sports Club meeting next Monday.

### Doug Doughty Contributing writer

Murray Cook, who built the "Field of Dreams" baseball diamond in Iowa used for the White Sox and Yankees game last summer, will be the guest speaker at the February meeting of the Roanoke Valley Sports Club next Monday, February 21.

Cook turned the site in Dyersville, Iowa from a tourist attraction into a big league ballpark. The original field was the setting for the movie "Field of Dreams," starring Kevin Costner. The big league game was a big hit last August, drawing international attention.

Cook, who grew up in Salem, is the official field consultant for Major League Baseball and is the president of BrightView Sports Turf Division. It's a far cry from his days in Salem, when he lived just off the Boulevard, which runs parallel to the stadium now known as Salem Municipal Field.

"My granddad took me to the games there when I was nine, 10, 11 years old," he said. "I started working there when I was 13."

He worked on the grounds crew and was among the first responders in the summer of 1974, when Salem outfielder Alfredo Edmead was killed in an on-field collision with teammate Pablo Cruz. It's hard not to be sentimental when he drives past the old ballpark.

"I just love it," he said. "I've been to so many fields that they've torn down. You know the Olympics that we've worked on in Beijing, Athens ... those baseball fields have all been torn down."

He did not play baseball at Andrew Lewis High School. From there, he went to North Carolina Wesleyan.

"I pitched there for a couple of years," he said. "It's funny because I walked on. All I had done before that was pitch batting practice to the guys in Salem. I could throw strikes."

By Cook's count, he has been to 62 countries. In 2014, he was at the season-opening game between the Los Angeles Dodgers and Arizona Diamondbacks in Sydney, Australia.

"It meant flipping a cricket field into a baseball field," Cook said. "That was probably the big develop that kind of said. 'This was kind of cool. What else can we do?'"

"The next thing you knew, the powers that be in the commissioner's office and players union got together and said, 'Let's pick some more sites.'"

A game between the Atlanta Braves and Florida Marlins in 2016 at Fort Bragg was the next choice. Cook and his associates turned an old

golf course into a 12,500-seat baseball stadium in 120 days.

"We also had to do the locker rooms, clubhouses, media tent and all the broadcast compound areas," Cook said. "Moving along, we said, 'OK, we haven't played in Europe yet. We've been looking at London for a while.'"

That turned into a series featuring the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox in 2019.

"They turned Queen Elizabeth Stadium into a baseball park in 22 days," Cook said. "The first 16 days it rained. That was a tough one."

The Cardinals and Cubs are scheduled to play in London next year.

In recent years, he has been involved in the MLB Little League World Series that had Pittsburgh and the Chicago Cubs play in Williamsport, Pa., on the same day as the Little Leagues.

"We took a minor-league ballpark and turned it into a major-league ballpark for 2,500 people," Cook said. "That's for all the players, coaches and families of the Little League World Series."

It's at Bowman Field, the second oldest minor-league field in the country and home to the Williamsport Cross Cutters, the Philadelphia Phillies' Double A affiliate.

"We had to build tent structures to support batting tunnels and all of the other things that a major-league ballpark would need to put a game," Cook said.

It's hard to say exactly where Cook acquired his expertise.

"I worked at a lot of minor-league parks," he said. "When I moved to Florida in 1989 and took over the job at the Braves-Expos complex, that's when things really kicked off."

"There were hard times. There were glory times, too. That was the first dual-use spring training complex. From that point on, whenever they build a new spring training facilities, it's for two teams. It's cheaper."

Sometimes he's accompanied by his wife, Donna. They have three children all between 33 and 30. They also have taken part in foster care.

"I enjoy what I do," said Cook, who occasionally stops by Salem Memorial Stadium and offers feedback when asked. "What we do is create a lot of good times for a lot of people and it's fun."

Cook is a member of the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame, and an accomplished banquet speaker. Anyone who would like to hear him speak on Monday and is not a member of the Roanoke Valley Sports Club can go to the club's website to sign up at [roanokevalleysportsclub.com](http://roanokevalleysportsclub.com).