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"The Voice of Craig County" Wedness

Wednesday, May 4. 2022

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New Castle Garden Club holds successful annual plant auction

Pam Dudding Contributing writer

When spring arrives, many people think of beautiful flowers. The New Castle Garden Club helped to accentuate that feeling by hosting their annual plant auction.

On Thursday, April 28, over 50 people entered the New Castle Christian Church fellowship hall to bid on what seemed like a couple hundred different plants. There were men, women and younger kids there to take part in the event.

A delicious buffet of snacks were free for all to have during the auction, which lasted over two hours. They also had a table of freebies for people and a silent auction. A great assortment of plants were donated by club members. "These are grown in Craig, therefore we know they will flourish in this ground," the club shared.

Beautiful flowers such as periwinkles and black-eyed Susans, as well as house plants and herbs were auctioned, and as a few garden plants. There were hostas, Christmas cactus, shamrocks, creeping yellow Jennys, Solomon seal, aloe and snake plants (which I learned are also called Mother-in-law's tongue!).

They had many shrubs and small trees such as lilacs and red buds, and even an ornamental peach tree. Also auctioned were a gorgeous variety of day lilies, from the original orange bloom to more unusual types and colors such as well-known deep purple with a yellow beard, to the award winning "dancing with giraffes" daylily (I personally was waiting on

See Garden Club, page 4



As Tommy Elmore and many others paid when they left, it seemed everyone was happy to not only pay for their plants, but to give the club a nice thank you for a great evening of fun and fellowship.



PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING

Ag teacher Emily Nolen spoke to New Castle Garden Club in Fall 2021, explaining the new Land Lab Ag program which would introduce high school students to basic farming skills. Pictured between officers Carolyn Fleming and Darlene Charlton, Nolen received a nice donation for the Land Lab.



Craig invited to Newport's Farmers Market

Pam Dudding Contributing writer

\$1.00

Craig and surrounding counties are known for their exceptional gardening abilities. Recently, there has been discussion on how to help citizens "market" their vegetables and fruits. Carol Grippo, president of the board at the Newport Recreation Center, saw an interest on Facebook about a farmer's market for Newport. She quickly responded, taking the idea to the next board meet-

ing. "It was agreed that we would facilitate a market, so I posted invitations to our April meeting on every Giles County page I could find on Facebook," Grippo shared. "Several people showed up and were very excited."

The next step taken was for them to introduce the idea and get permission from their county executive, Chris McKlarney. "He and John Ross, our zoning official, both felt it was a great idea," Grippo said excitedly. "I met with John Ross, Cora Gnegy, our tourism and economic development official, and Perry Martin, Newport's member of the Board of Supervisors on April 19." They were given the "go ahead" to start planning.

Since, they have also chosen to include people in Craig County as well,

See Farmers Market, page 2

First t-ball game of the season brings community together



PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING

Dancing in the rain, the little tikes still enjoyed their t-ball game. The batter would hit, and the opposing team would run after the ball and stop it. The kids grinned from the cheers from parents and spectators as they crossed the home plate.



The boys were hitting hard at their first game on Saturday. Rain or shine, they played through it.



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The Rose Family of Paint Bank, VA

Authored By: Julie Michelle Wilson, Great-Granddaughter of Kenneth Watson Rose and Gladys Gwendolyn (Caldwell) Rose, Granddaughter to Robert Wesley and Carolyn R. Simmons, Daughter to Walter E. and Brenda S. Wilson Contributions By: Chalmus Bryan "Bobby" Rose

In the Allegheny Mountains of southwest Virginia, between Potts Mountain and Peters Mountain in Craig County, at the intersection of State Route 18 and State Route 311, you will find the historic frontier town of Paint Bank. Its name originated from Native Americans using iron ochre and red clay taken from the banks of Potts Creek, as war paint, and for pottery. Later the clay was used in commercial paint and red bricks for permanent buildings. In the early 1900s, during the mining and timber boom, well over 2,000 people lived around Potts Creek, with the Virginia Iron, Coal & Coke Company (I.C. & C. Co.) being the largest employer, mining iron ore and magnesium and using timber for props in the mines. A hotel, hospital, schoolhouses, and many stores and homes were constructed to accommodate the bustling town. The Potts Valley Branch line of the Norfolk & Western

Railway had daily trains that carried out minerals and timber, and brought in passengers and goods. The Rose family, consisting of Kenneth Watson Rose, Gladys Gwendolyn (Caldwell) Rose, and children, Carolyn, Christine, Chalmus Bryan "Bobby," and Kenneth C. (who did not survive infancy), were a part of the community during this time. Kenneth was the Postmaster and Manager of four stores in town: the Paint Bank General Store, Service Station, Commissary, and store in the Paint Bank Hotel.



General Store

W.L. Bryan built the General Store, and leased it to C.J. Casdorph & Son from Ronceverte, who already had 19 grocers in West Virginia. This would be his only location in Virginia. He hired Kenneth to manage the store which included accommodations of living on the second floor above the General Store. In the 1930's the store was not self-serve as today. He was the clerk who would collect the items you needed per trip to the store. They primarily sold dry and canned groceries, candy, and tobacco. In the store they had metal barrels of loose beans, lentils especially. There was a feed room for cow and horse feed, and they sold horseshoes. Most everyone grew their own vegetables in gardens at home. Bobby said if you didn't grow it, you didn't eat it, it was that simple. He



Brenda S. Wilson standing in front of the Paint Bank General Store in 2002 remembers the family garden contained: tomatoes, potatoes, beans, onions, lettuce, cabbage, cucumbers, sweet corn, turnips, and radishes. Thev raised their own apples and pears up on the mountain in the orchid. To preserve the fruits and vegetables (potatoes especially) they would dig a hole up on the mountain, place them inside, and then cover them over with hay. On Wednesday Kenneth afternoon's would close the store and drive to Covington

buy fruits. He would buy bananas by the stalk, which Bobby found to be impressive. Gladys always accompanied Kenneth on these buying trips for the store, and would check out the latest fashions while in town. Interestingly, they did not sell milk in the General Store, as everyone had access to a cow, and refrigeration was a premium. The electricity for the General Store came from Tingler's Mill. Carolyn's husband, Robert Wesley Simmons's, Great-Grandfather, Henry Tingler, built the mill in 1873. Robert and Carolyn's daughter, Brenda, remembers playing upstairs in the General Store; looking through the cracks in the floor, she could see and hear all the town gossip! She also had fun lending a hand in the store, and was allowed to select one treat a day for her efforts, preferring the hard candy sticks or ice cream. The whole family worked the store stocking shelves, assisting customers, and accepting deliveries. The General Store was the place of many wonderful family memories, and several sad memories with the passing of William C. and Nora Rose (Kenneth's parents), and Oscar Ferdinand Wiley Craig Caldwell (Gladys's Father) in the private residence on the second floor. Kenneth was the Manager of the General Store for 37 years.

Schoolhouse

The Paint Bank Schoolhouse, located up on the hill along Route 311, served the community from 1910 until the 1960s. During the mining boom, 135 children were educated at one time in this schoolhouse. The building was heated; however there was no inside plumbing or water. Carolyn told stories of walking two miles to school every day even in the snow, as school was never closed due to weather.



The schoolhouse had two classrooms on the first floor; one taught 1st-3rd grade, and the second room taught 4th-7th grade. Each room had its own teacher, instructing on all major subjects including English, math, and history. The second floor had a



large room with a stage area for performances. Mother Maybelle Carter and the Carter Sisters (Helen, June and Anita), Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs entertained there in

Farmers Market from page 1

and welcome them to the next meeting, to get their input. They hope to make this a larger event, maybe even to include more than food, but it will all be up to the people who participate. Ideas are welcome!

They will meet on May 2 at 7 p.m. in the library at the Newport Community Center and meetings thereafter will be the first Monday of each month.

"There are two main goals for this farmer's market for our communities," Grippo shared. "One is to make this an event to look forward to and enjoy and the second is to give our community a place close to home to shop so if someone doesn't want to go to Blacksburg they don't have to."

The May meeting will be their first true meeting as the April meeting was meant to determine if there would be enough interest to move forward. For more information, you may contact Carol Grippo at cgrippo912@ gmail.com or message her on Facebook.

She added, "Anyone who is interested in helping us get this market started or to sell at the market is welcome to attend the meetings.'

In Loving Memory **Brenda S.Wilson**

S. Wilson, Brenda 74, passed away age on September 4, 2021, surrounded by her loving husband of more than 52 years, Walter, and her only child, Julie. Brenda was born in Roanoke, VA, on July 23, 1947 to Carolyn (Rose) Simmons Robert Wesley and Simmons. As a young Brenda enjoyed girl singing in the choir at

Humphreys Chapel United Methodist Church, minding the General Store with her Grandfather Kenneth Watson Rose, and tending the vegetable garden with her Grandmother Gladys Gwendolyn (Caldwell) Rose in Paint Bank, VA. Brenda grew up in Arbutus, MD, graduating from Catonsville High School where she met her beloved Walter. She competed in the Miss America beauty pageant as Miss Arbutus. Brenda graduated from the John Robert Powers Modeling Academy. Her fashion career consisted of photographic and runway modeling. She attended Strayer Business College, and had a career spanning over 35 years in the medical field.

Brenda and her daughter created a ballroom dance dress company called Encore Ballroom Couture, a ballroom dance dress cleaning company called The Dress Spa, a charity program benefiting Walter Reed National Military Medical Center called Toppers for Troopers, a donation program benefiting a youth dance charity program called Gold Stars, and a seasonal fashion editorial called Hairpins to Hemlines. Their company is home to the Dancing with the Stars Costume Museum featuring original showpieces from the hit ABC show.

She was an avid tennis player and co-captained two USTA tennis teams. Brenda managed a tennis flight at the



local athletic club where she was a member for over 30 years. Brenda was a member of the Henry Clay Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and Martha Washington Chapter, of the Order of the Eastern Stars.

In addition to her husband and daughter, she leaves behind her Mother and an extended family. She is preceded by her Father, Robert Wesley Simmons.

Visitation took place on Sunday, October 10, from 1 P.M. until 7 P.M., with a 7 P.M. Ceremony featuring the DAR and Eastern Stars. Visitation also took place on Monday, October 11, from 11 A.M. until 2 P.M., with Funeral Service at 2 P.M. All events took place at Annandale United Methodist Church, with Sr. Pastor Charlie Wood officiating, and Reverend Clarence Brown celebrating the sparkling life of Brenda with a moving eulogy. Penelope Gross, Mason District Supervisor, presented a beautiful plaque encouraging a day of remembrance on her birthday, July 23. There was a butterfly and dove release, and the church dedicated the bench on the front porch to Brenda with a photo and plaque. Brenda was laid to rest in a family plot at the Annandale United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Please make all charitable contributions to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, alexandriaanimals. salsalabs.org/memoryofbrendaswilson. To date, over \$5,000 has been donated in memory of Brenda. The animal shelter is planning to dedicate the front gardens and entryway in her honor this spring.

For more information please see: BrendaSWilson.com

Paint Bank School Baseball Team of 1938. Bobby is seated third from the left.

the 1940s. Carolyn, Christine, and Bobby attended grade school in this schoolhouse, and Bobby was on the school baseball team. He was also on the Paint Bank Baseball Team which played games on the weekends against teams from Wakefield, WV, Sweet Spring, WV, Union, WV, and Gap Mills, WV. They practiced and played behind the train depot, with a concession stand that served refreshments during games, still present today. The siblings graduated from

New Castle High School, and all went on to higher education: Carolyn, Radford College; Christine, Business School; and Bobby to Emory & Henry College.

Humphreys Chapel United Methodist Church

If the General Store is the town hub, Humphreys Chapel is its heart. It was built on land donated by William Harve Humphreys and dedicated in his honor in 1917. The Rose family was very involved with the construction and purchasing of materials to build the church. Bobby has check stubs going back to the 1800s showing the cost and payment of materials. Building supplies at that time were carried over the mountains on



horseback. The church is traditional in design, classic white, with a bright red door. The tower has a cast iron bell rung from a rope before service each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. In the 1920s, and 1930s the church was packed with people every Sunday, most

having walked to church. All were wearing their Sunday Best, including full suit,



nice dress, hat, gloves, jewelry, and a shine on their shoes. Kenneth was the Sunday School Superintendent for 57 years at Humphreys Chapel. Robert and Carolyn's daughter, Brenda, sang in the choir, while Robert played the piano and organ by ear during services. Gladys routinely made aprons to help raise money for the church. She would sell them for 50 cents apiece. Baptisms for the Rose family took place in Potts Creek. All three siblings were married in Humphreys Chapel by Reverend Charles Snead, who also presided over the Rose family funerals. Additional family weddings have taken place at Humphreys Chapel; it remains an important symbol of faith to the Rose family.

Robert Wesley Simmons in Humphreys Chapel United Methodist Church in 2002

Past, Present, Future

The Rose family plot is located in the Paint Bank Community Cemetery located on a hilltop with scenic views of the Appalachian Mountains.

Carolyn passed December 30, 2021. Her funeral in February paid tribute to her outstanding civic leadership in Maryland. Christine is currently 94 years old, enjoys working puzzles, watching baseball games (Go O's!), and trips to the Williamsburg Premium Outlets. Bobby is 93 years old, very active with his local Methodist church, enjoys watching baseball games (Go Nats!), and going out for dinner. Christine and Bobby are both still living in Virginia, and visit each other often. Every year it is tradition for the Rose family to head back

to Paint Bank for the 4th of July picnic at the Fire House.

The Rose family tree continues to extend its branches with the births of new generations. We are very proud to have Paint Bank running through our veins. It remains the compass for our family, reminding us of the simple things in life. Where you grow your own, make your own, do for your family and community, and love one another as much as you can. It's a slice of the past that we proudly carry with us into the future.



Carolyn R. Simmons, Chalmus Bryan "Bobby" Rose, and Christine R. Looney, taken in 2014, at Bobby's 80th Birthday celebration

Carolyn R Simmone

Carolyn R. Simmons, age 95, passed away of natural causes in her sleep on December 30, 2021. She was born on August 12, 1926 at home in Paint Bank, VA to Gladys Gwendolyn (Caldwell) Kenneth Rose and Watson Rose. Her parents managed the Paint Bank General Store, and her father was the Postmaster. Carolyn attended grade

school in a two-room school house in Paint Bank, graduated from New Castle High School, and attended Radford College where her studies focused on accounting. Carolyn had a long career working as an accountant for private clients and businesses.

Carolyn married Robert Wesley Simmons on August 20, 1945, at Humphreys Chapel United Methodist Church, enjoying a loving 59 year marriage. While Robert was serving in the Army, Carolyn worked at the C&P Telephone Co. They celebrated the birth of their only child, Brenda, on July 23, 1947.

Once the family moved to Baltimore, Carolyn began her civic work for the city of Baltimore, and the State of Maryland, while her husband worked for General Motors. She was the President of the Women's Civic League for consecutive terms, and a member for over 60 years. She worked closely with Mayor Kurt Schmoke, consecutive Baltimore Mayors, and Governors, starting with her close friend Governor William Donald Schaefer. Carolyn was the Chairman of the Breakfast of Flowers event held at the Sculpture Court at Walter's Art Museum, and Agora at the Marburg Mansion. She enjoyed hosting "A Day at the Races" at Pimlico Racetrack,

handing out the winning trophy on behalf of the Women's Civic League. A tree has been planted in Carolyn's honor at the Women's Civic League Headquarters, on 9 Front Street, in Baltimore, Maryland. As a cherished Civic Leader, Carolyn focused her life on celebrating community, her love of Maryland and Baltimore, and all of its people.



Reflections cookbook with proceeds benefiting Flower Mart. Carolyn was honored with the Volunteer of the Year Award, for her outstanding work and devotion to the Flower Mart.

As a travel agent, Carolyn took many cruises to the Caribbean on the QEII, her favorite ship. She especially enjoyed day trips to the beautiful islands and the friendly hospitality of the people.

Carolyn is preceded by her husband Robert Wesley Simmons, and her daughter Brenda S. Wilson. She leaves behind her granddaughter Julie Michelle Wilson, son-in-law Walter E. Wilson, siblings Christine Rose Looney, and Chalmus (Bobby) Rose. As head of the Rose Family, she leaves behind many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Visitation took place on Tuesday, February 22, at Gary Memorial United Methodist Church, at 10 AM, Funeral Service followed at 11:30 AM. During the Funeral Service Carolyn was praised for her dedication to city, state and country by Larry Hogan, Governor of Maryland; Brandon Scott, Mayor of Baltimore; Calvin B. Ball, Howard County Executive; and Amelia Campbell, President of the Women's Civic League. Her casket was draped with the Maryland State flag. She was laid to rest next to her loving husband Robert, at Crest Lawn Memorial Gardens, on Tuesday, 2/22/22 at 2:22:22 PM, celebrating being "Together Forever."

Donations may be made in Carolyn's memory to the Gary Memorial United Methodist Church. https://www.carolynrsimmons.com/donate

For more information please see: CarolynRSimmons.com

Roanoke PRIDE returns to celebrate 30 years



PHOTOS BY ALEXANDER SHEDD

Reverend Catherine Houchins of Metropolitan Community Church opened Sunday's festivities with a prayer.



These moms were giving out free hugs as part of a campaign to raise awareness of issues faced by LGBTQ+ children.

Alexander Shedd alexander.shedd@ourvalley.org

In a joyous display of music, costumes and rainbow flags, Roanoke PRIDE, Roanoke County's annual LGBTQ+ community festival, returned for its 30th anniversary after a twoyear hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The three-day event began on Friday, April 29 and concluded on Sunday evening, May 1. The weekend was filled with live music and drag shows, and included appearances from special guests Morgan McMichaels, Detox and Jackie Cox of RuPaul Drag Race fame.

The majority of events were held in the rain on rently running for reelection. After opening remarks, a prayer, and a rendition of the national anthem by "Mister Gay Roanoke" J.P. Gulla (better known by his stage name Big Daddy), Councilman Cobb read a proclamation by Roanoke City mayor Sherman Lea on behalf of the City Council dedicating the weekend to the LG-BTQ+ community and the event.

"We're a resilient group," Cobb said during the event. "We'll show up in rain, sleet, snow, whatever. We've got to celebrate these occasions in our lives and be together. I wish I could say all the challenges were behind us, but they're not." The small area covered roughly two blocks in downtown Roanoke and included over a dozen tents set up by local vendors and sponsors, including the Roanoke Diversity Center, which was also advertising for its upcoming Pride Month event on

Saturday, June 11. Many stands featured various LGBTQ+-themed gifts such as clothing, mugs, stickers and local crafts, as well as a highly popular "Free Mom Hugs" tent hosted by an LGBTQ+ child advocacy group of the same name (more information is available at FreeMomHugs.org). The festivities concluded Sunday evening with an afterparty featuring more music and drag.

Roanoke Diversity Center President Peter Volosin said in an interview with NBC10, "Virginia's a great place and we are able to make these advances with the Virginia Values Act. I think we saw a lot more LGBT folks being more open because of that. We are seeing things like in Texas and Florida that are putting people back in the closet and we don't want to see that happening here." Texas and Florida, among other states, recently passed state bills considered discriminatory against



The Roanoke Diversity Center held an active tent at PRIDE.



The rain couldn't stop the fun at Roanoke PRIDE 30.

transgender people, including a new executive order in Texas mandating that child protective services investigate families who provide gender-affirming medical care to children.

Volosin continued to speak in reference to the center's Campbell Avenue location. "When people are coming out or are unsure of their sexuality, it's hard for them. That's why it's great to have a community center where people can be themselves and learn about themselves. That allows them to be open and honest with who they are. Both with the families and out in

the public."

LGBTQ+ is the acronym that refers to the sexual minority community. It stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer, with the plus sign representing the other countless identities held by sexual minorities around the world.

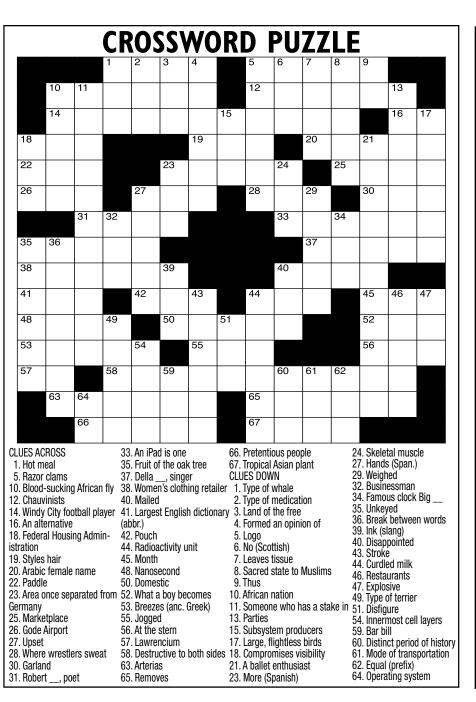
Craig New Castle Public Service Authority

Proposed Rate Increase Effective July Billing 2022

Type of Service	Old Rate	Proposed Rate
Residential Water	\$18.93	\$19.88
Residential Sewer	\$32.15	\$33.76
Commercial Water	\$21.23	\$22.30
Commercial Sewer	\$36.71	\$38.55
Intuitional Sewer	\$143.44	\$150.62
Non-Metered Service	\$51.63	\$54.22

Sunday at the festival's location on Salem Avenue SW in downtown Roanoke, with festivities being opened by Reverend Catherine Houchins of Metropolitan Community Church and Reverend Joe Cobb, Roanoke's openly gay city councilman cur-

***The new residential minimum for water & sewer current \$51.08 proposed \$53.64 for 2,000 gallons of water used
***The new commercial minimum for water & sewer current \$57.94 proposed \$60.85 for 2,000 gallons of water used
***The non-metered service - customers on sewer only – current flat fee of \$51.63 proposed \$54.22
** A Public hearing is scheduled for July 5th, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m. in the Courthouse.





Three Ways to Give Back

Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community

There are many ways to give back to your community. Some take very little effort and can make a big impact on a small organization. Joining forces where many pitch in to help makes larger goals seem attainable keeps your library financially solvent. Here are some ways you help that will allow the library to continue to serve the community with free media, computers, assistance, tourism information, and entertainment.

The first way is to become a Friend of the Library. For only \$5 you can become a voting member and have input on our future. It is a way to show your support year after year in the importance of libraries in the world. You can join by filling out a donation form at the library.

Secondly, you can link your Kroger card to Kroger Community Rewards. Just go to the Kroger Community rewards website and select CCPL as your charity of choice! A portion of your purchase goes to us and it does not impact your fuel points or other benefits.

Thirdly, you can list us as a charity on the Amazon Smile website. Here you have the same process and same items as the regular Amazon website, but a portion of your purchase price goes to charity. We know you shop on Amazon, so get some of that money back into the community where you live!

There are lots of other ways to participate in library activities from volunteering at events, donating books, and passing along your great ideas. Brainstorming with us to create fun children's programs, running for a board position, and becoming a trained desk volunteer are all ways people keep the library going. Thank you to all those who have helped in the past and continue to pitch in when you are called upon.

Library News:

May 7, 2022: Farm day event at CCHS. Look for our library table where there will be books on the subject of agriculture. Thank you to volunteer Linda Calderon for arranging this!

May 19, 2022: CCPL Friends of the Library Party at the Old Brick Hotel at 6 p.m. The Board invites you to join us in celebrating the efforts of all who make out little library a success.



Garden Club from page 1

the "Double My Sunshine" daylily, which was auctioned at the end, but I got it!).

"Daylilies are known for their low maintenance and showy color during the hot weeks of summer," Diane Givens shared. Carter Bank donated two huge peace lilies, which were already in beautiful pots and received many bids.

Member Carolyn Fleming assisted by telling people what areas around a home you could grow them in, as well as other specifics. She has an elaborate array of flowers she grows at her own home.

The club welcomed the return of volunteer auctioneer Virginia "BlueBell" Mc-

Whorter. She had helped ond Vice President Linda for many years, only taking Calderon; Recording Sectime off during the pan- retary Barbie Winstead; demic. Her wit and smile Corresponding added much fun to the en- tary Karen Walker; Treatire evening as she told her surer Carolyn Fleming; own little stories.

and people held their num- Crenshaw. bers high to bid on their favorites they hoped to areas in Craig, including take home to add beauty to maintenance of the planttheir personal yards. In the ings at New Castle Post absence Darlene Saunders, Office, the cabins on Court Anita Martindell emceed. Street as well as other me-Martindell added a lot of morial plantings in the fun by announcing three door prizes every fifteen minutes, which were related to planting and miniature yard art.

It seemed most everyone bid, even the members, and most everyone had something in their hands when they left. Everyone left smiling, some more than others, as they needed a lot of help carrying their "lot" out.

"The Plant Auction has been a primary fundraiser for the Garden Club, which is marking 83 years since its organization with the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs," Givens said. "The Garden Club was founded in 1939."

Secre-Historian Tina Crawford The auctions went fast, and Parliamentarian Sue

The club cares for many

area. The club also supports the 4-H summer camp program, the public library, local first responders and the new Land Lab at Craig County High School. They shared that they donated to the Land Lab last fall and will be working their plant sale on Saturday, May 7.

Again, as most can see, the monies combined with the club members' hard work goes right back into Craig to add to its beauty throughout the county.

Their meetings are the first Thursday of each month, which varies between afternoon and evening, mostly held at the Craig Valley Baptist Church. To join, contact Sue Helems at (540) 864-5593 or write newcastlegardenclub@hotmail.com.

Currently, the club has 27 members, but welcome anyone who wishes to join to learn about God's nature and to add their knowledge and love for plants as well.



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www.ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, Publisher

Alexander Shedd, Editor alexander.shedd@ourvalley.org Brian Hoffman, Sports Editor bhoffman@ourvalley.org

Lynn Hurst, General Manager lhurst@ourvalley.org

Randy Thompson Advertising Consultant advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view: newcastle@ourvalley.org

To subscribe: 540-389-9355

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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.

The current New Cas tle Garden Club officers are: President Darlene Charlton; First Vice President Anita Martindell; Sec-

PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING The annual plant auction did not disappoint anyone as there were so many plants, flowers, bushes and trees to bid on. Auctioneer "BlueBell" added laughter and fun to the evening with her wit, contagious smile and little stories.



School Board addresses Spring Break calendar change

Pam Dudding Contributing writer

Two of the most discussed issues are currently being tabled at the school board's meetings: budget and calendar dates. Attending were Jeanette Warwick, superintendent; Trace Bellassai, chairman and representative for Craig City District; Darren Gilreath, Simmonsville; and Walter Marsden, New Castle. Faye Powers, vice chair representing Potts Mountain was on teleconference and Kevin Altizer, Craig Creek, was unable to attend.

At the previous two monthly meetings, the budget has been discussed, yet final decisions cannot be made until the board know the monies that will be appropriated to the schools by the government and the county.

It was strongly noted that thousands of dollars are currently "on the table" to be given to Craig County, but only if they can get the "matched" funds. The topic for the school calendar was to change Spring Break from the normal Easter week to the last courses that the students week in March.

As of this year, BTEC Technical (Botetourt School) changed their Spring Break to the week at the end of March to align with college Spring Break. Currently, CCHS has 24 Craig County students attending, therefore causing them to possibly miss two weeks of classes: one week where BTEC is closed and the second week that CCHS is closed.

Warwick recommended a change from the 2022-2023 calendar. "This goal is to align our calendar BTEC," she shared. "We want our students who attend BTEC to only miss a minimal amount of instruction."

The subject brought much deliberation. Gilreath made a motion to keep the schedule as is, adding, "I do not see a reason to change the Spring Break as I think they will only be missing one week." Marsden asked if the school was offering transportation for the week that Craig County has Spring Break. "We had an administrative meeting today and Ms. Stimeling is reaching out to the parents and students to see where they are in this situation," Warwick shared. "Many students will be out of town with their family on vacation.'

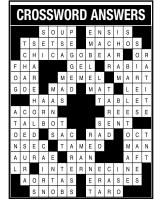
However, she noted that once they have that information, they can reevaluate what Craig County can possibly do. Gilreath questioned how many students it would affect.

It was reported that this year there are 27 students; however for next year they have over 70 applications for BTEC as they now allow tenth graders to attend.

"Because of this change, that is why the increase in applications for next year," Principal Susan Stimeling shared. "They were taken on a field trip through the school to see everything and the students were greatly impressed."

She also noted that the will be missing during Spring Break will count as two credits, essentially missing 10 hours of instruction. Warwick added, "This is why we are reaching out to make a good plan for the students to be successful. This is brought to you as an option and certainly we can leave the calendar as is."

Inquiries were made if the school could assist in transportation for those students during that week. Warwick assured that even now they are doing as much as possible



Tickle Oil & Propane



Samuel Foster shared the reasoning behind BTEC's new spring break calendar change at the April School Board meeting.

for the students. Foster reiterated that this was the first year that BTEC had changed their schedule from Easter week to a previous week not aligned with Easter vacation.

He added that the reason BTEC changed was to be in line with colleges who have Spring Break the last week of March therefore being the same week every year versus around Easter, which changes annually.

Foster noted that the positive to this change would be that it would give teachers and students the same amount of time every year between Spring Break and SOL

standardized testing. The timetable is given a year in advance.

'This also gives the students more study time and teachers can plan more efficiently each year to prep the students for SOLs," Foster said. He explained that the SOL tests of reading, math and science are for accreditation and for federal purposes.

"If we do not provide the students with the proper instruction then we will not be accredited," he added.

Foster also noted that bad weather affects school closings. "If we can have more time after the last

week of March, it assists the students in better grades for their SOLs, as well as relieving some of the pressure off of the teachers in not having a short time span to prepare the students," he said.

It was also noted that students who are taking cosmetology and nursing have set hours that they have to take. "For example, with cosmetology if they do not have 700 hours in their two years, they will not get their certificate and nursing has clinicals," he said. "Therefore, even their absences cause problems for them as taking care of an absence from school is

not as difficult as taking off a whole week from classes."

After much discussion, Marsden suggested to table the issue until next month, saying, "Missing classes is very important and if we have 70 students next year that is a large increase from the 27 this year," he said.

Warwick assured the board that all media avenues will be used to connect with the parents and students. Parents are encouraged to send their suggestions to the school and/or attend the May board meeting on May 10 at 5:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

TOWN OF NEW CASTLE <u>PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE - BUDGET PROPOSAL 2022 – 2023</u> MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022AT 7:00 PM

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2506 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, notice is hereby given of the public hearing to be held by New Castle Town Council on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023. The hearing to receive public comments is scheduled for Monday, May 16, 2022 at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter as possible in the NEW CASTLE TOWN HALL – 339 Market Street. A copy of the proposed budget can be obtained for public review by contacting: Town Clerk, Nina Davis, at (540) 864-5380.

Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 58.1-3005, 58.1-3000, 58.1-3506B, and 58.1-3008 the proposed tax levies per \$100 of assessed value are Real Estate & Mobile Homes \$0.04, Merchants Capital \$0.50, No change in tax levies from previous budget year.

(GENERAL TOWN REVENUE ESTIMATES:

BEGINNING BALANCE (FROM CURRENT BUDGET) 83,790.00 LOCAL REVENUE (Property Tax, Franchise Tax, Sales & Cigarette Tax, Interest) 117,500.00 STATE REVENUE (Fire Grant Funds; Communication Tax-Cable TV) 18,920.00 TOTAL REVENUE ESTIMATES 220,210.00



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CENEDAL TOWN EVDENDITUDE ESTIMATES.

GENERAL TOWN EAFENDITURE ESTIMATES:	
GENERAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION & INSURANCE	\$ 14,000.00
GENERAL FINANCIAL	\$ 13,250.00
CLERK-TREASURER & ADMINISTRATIVE	\$ 14,100.00
(Compensation, Advertising, & Office Expense)	
PUBLIC SAFETY - (Volunteer Fire Dept., EMS)	\$ 50,000.00
PUBLIC WORKS – (Operating Expenses, Street Lights, Mowing, Library Support,	\$ 53,860.00
Refuse Collection, Park & Sidewalk Maintenance, etc.)	
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS – Park Equipment & Sidewalks	\$ 55,000.00
CONTINGENCY FUND – Unallocated expenditures	<u>\$ 20,000.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES	\$220,210.00

By the authority of New Castle Town Council - John S. Johnson, Mayor (540) 864-7306 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.



BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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.

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 VĂLLEÝ GÓSPEL 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 10:00ÅM, 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.graceassemblycatawaba.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 Ser-

vice 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 FELLOWSHIF

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.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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 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.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

99 2nd Street, New Castle. Rev. Stephen McNally. 540-473-3691. Mass is on Sunday at 11:15 AM.

CRAÍG COUNTY COMMUNITY CHURCH -'WELCOME HOME!'

Sunday service 9-10:15am at the VFW building in New Castle. Casual dress if you desire and contemporary praise and worship. If you don't have a 'home' church, please join us at ours with Pastor Gary Burch. Check us out on facebook or contact us at: craigcountycommunitychurch@gmail.com.

ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH

Located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

> If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com



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SPORTS Send story ideas & announcements to bhoffman@ourvalley.org

LOCALS WILL RUN IN COSMOPOLITAN TRACK MEET



Craig's Isaac Morris runs the 1,600 meters at Cave Spring.



Tyler Fitzpatrick cuts loose in the discus event at Cave Spring.

The Craig County track team will send athletes to the annual Cosmopolitan Club Track meet in Roanoke this weekend. The three day meet is held at William Fleming High School.

The middle school field events and running trials will be Thursday. Junior Division athletes, in ninth and 10 grade, will have field events Friday at Fleming along with trials and some senior running trials. Senior field events, for juniors and seniors, will be Saturday morning and all running finals, for all three classes, will begin at 11:30 am Saturday.

The Rockets competed in the Knights Track Classic at Cave Spring High School and a rainy day last Saturday. The Pulaski County boys and Jefferson Forest girls were team winners at the meet,

which attracted close to 320 schools.

For the Rockets, Isaac Morris had a personal best with a 2:39 in the 800 meters. Isaiah Garey and Tyler Fitzpatrick had respectable throws of 98 feet and 107 feet in discus. In shot, Tyler put the heavy ball 34.3 feet and Isaiah tossed it 34 feet. Summer had a throw of 23ft 11inches in the girls' competition.



Summer Huffman puts the shot Saturday.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

ROCKETS WIN SOFTBALL SLUGFEST AT EASTERN MONTGOMERY

The Craig County softball teams went back and forth with the host Mustangs in a softball game in Elliston last Thursday, but in the end the Rockets ended up on top for a 16-12 win.

Sara Jones pitched the whole game for the Rockets, giving up only six hits and allowing just two earned runs. She

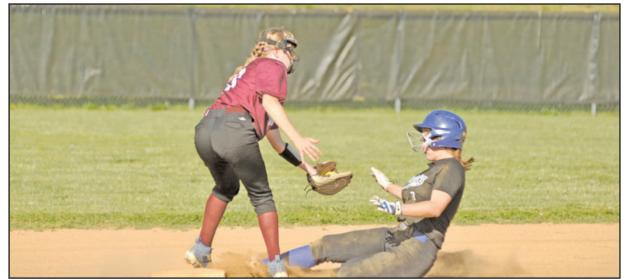
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Karly Potter started the game pitching and Jones came in for the fourth. Karly only gave up two hits in her three innings pitched.

"We're working on building consistency, but she's been effective even against stronger teams," said Wolfe-Carper.

tinues this week as the to host Altavista Mon- Today the Rockets are Thursday they go to Rockets were scheduled day and Giles Tuesday. home to East Mont and

Narrows.



had 11 strikeouts.

"Fielding errors hurt us, but our batting really picked up this game," said coach Elaina Wolfe-Carper.

Lily Hutchison was three-for-four with three runs scored and two RBIs for Craig. Kylee Clifton was threefor-four with three runs scored and three RBIs and Jones led the team with five RBIs, and she also scored three runs herself.

A day later the Rockets dropped an 11-1 game in Parry McCluer, as the Blues broke open a close game in the sixth inning. The Rockets trailed just 5-1 after five

Jones had three strikeouts in three innings and allowed one earned run.

"Defensively, the girls played the best I've seen them play until the bottom of the sixth," said Elaina. "Errors allowed the score to jump from five to 11. Parry Mc-Cluer has an excellent pitcher and the girls did well getting the bat on the ball, but they're a solid defensive team as well."

Jennifer Fitzpatrick and Jones had Craig's only two hits of the game. Jones had a triple and scored Craig's only run on a passed ball.

A busy schedule con-

Craig's Hannah Ratliff slides into second to break up a potential doubleplay.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Catcher Lily Hutchison reaches for a throw at the plate.



Jennifer Fitzpatrick fires one in from left.

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