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"The Voice of Craig County"

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

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D-Day in remembrance

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

For many years, I have visited the D-Day Memorial in Bedford to pay honor to those who sacrificed their lives for us to continue walking in our freedom every day. This year, their event was on the same day as our Memorial Day event in Craig, therefore I was unable to attend. However, the heartfelt honor is still extended.

In the speech that took the form of a prayer from President Franklin D. Roosevelt on the evening of the dreadful Normandy invasion, he shared, "God, they will need thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard, for the enemy is strong. He may hurl back our forces. Success may not come with rushing speed, but we shall return again and again; and we know that by Thy grace, and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph!"

Always, there are thousands in attendance at the Bedford D-Day Memorial Service.

As I would look around, I noticed that for many, words were of no value, when one watched the long line of World War II Veterans as they crossed the bridge in front of the 'Overlord' waterfall, to be honored with a medallion for their sacrifice and dedication, commemorating their valor, fidelity, and sacrifice during Operation Overlord.

Some walked; though slowly, they walked. Some with canes and walkers while many others were in wheelchairs. Some, of course, were unable to make the trip due to physical disabilities or PTSD.

No one seemed to complain



Thousands of troops stormed the beaches of Normandy on June 6, 1944.



At the Overlord arch at the D-Day Memorial in Bedford, the piercing shots are silenced each year when they honor the men and women who served during the horrible battle.

when the hot sun came out while the veterans were walking around the court that is laden with the likeness of that day in Normandy on June 6, 1944. During the presentations, the piercing shots into the water were silenced.

I have witnessed people standing for over an hour while many veterans were honored.

Tears flowed, hands were extended, pictures were taken, and salutes raised in respect. The quietness of the thousands created an honor-

See Remembrance, page 5



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

The Craig County Sheriff's Office. Front row from left to right: Geromy Nichols, Sheriff Trevor Craddock and Nathaniel Arthur. Back row, left to right: Jeffrey Bryant and Gregory May.

Craig Sheriff Craddock speaks on mental health resources

Alexander Shedd
alexander.shedd@ourvalley.org

In the past several months and years, mass shootings have been on the rise in the United States and in southwest Virginia in a major way. In 2020, the CDC reported that more Americans died of gun-related injuries than any other year on record. While these tragedies cultivate important conversations on gun rights, they also bring up major issues in mental health care and infrastructure.

On May 20, Craig County Sheriff Lloyd "Trevor" Craddock spoke on the need for mental health resources in an interview with local Fox affiliate WFXR News.

"A lot of the calls we go on, we do a lot of talking to people," Craddock told WFXR. "There are calls where we're dealing with people that are

just having a bad day and they need somebody to talk to."

Craddock said that his deputies are often required to respond to a number of different mental health situations that, while they are trained in dealing with mental health crises, they are not necessarily professionally equipped to resolve properly.

"When we have to take somebody in on a paperless ECO [Emergency Custody Order], that deputy is going to be gone from whenever time that happens, for eight hours or more, depending on when they can find a bed and when we can get them transported to that location," explained Craddock.

Craddock added that, since the Craig Co. sheriff's office is a small operation, he and his deputies are the only service currently available to call in a mental health crisis.

See Sheriff Craddock, page 5

Memorial Day at Waiteville Community Center



The Waiteville Community Center annually honors Memorial Day with a dinner. This year a new flag pole and U.S. Flag was erected as many saluted in pledge to the Flag.



PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING

The annual Memorial Day dinner was packed with no seats open, though some people mingled outside while others sat on the benches with the trays on their laps, enjoying the delicious dinner.

Sammy Huffman: A Tribute



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sammy Huffman made a great ole' St. Nick the year that the parade was canceled. Vehicles lined up around the fairgrounds for their kids to get to see Santa. Sammy made each feel special.

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

There is no more of a truer saying than "Bigger than life" when someone describes Sammy Huffman. Tragically, he unexpectedly left the world this year. Many hearts were saddened.

As our first derby is upon us, without Sammy as the wild emcee, many have talked about some tribute to him. As I looked through my notebook, I came across the paper

he wrote about being Santa, the year the New Castle parade was canceled due to the COVID pandemic.

I chose to share this with you, so even if you did not get the privilege of knowing the heart of this man, in reading this letter he wrote, you will.

Two Christmas' ago, the parade was canceled, and I had the idea of hosting a Santa at the Fairgrounds, where the people could drive through.

See Huffman, page 2



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Hiker in critical condition after fall from McAfee Knob

Alexander Shedd
alexander.shedd@ourvalley.org

A hiker in his 20s is in critical condition after falling approximately 50 feet from McAfee Knob on Catawba Mountain in the Masons Cove area

of Roanoke County. Roanoke Co. Fire & Rescue responded to the scene at around 6 a.m. on Sunday after receiving a report of a hiker fallen off the mountain. The crews reached the man nearly an hour

later and provided aid before carrying him to the summit. From there, the crew and man were taken by helicopter to Roanoke Memorial Hospital. Three all-terrain vehicles, and about 30 fire & rescue personnel

and three police officers were used in this rescue operation. The man, whose name has not been released, is still in critical condition as of press time.

McAfee Knob is a geological feature located

near the peak of Catawba Mountain with an elevation of nearly 3,200 feet above sea level. The area is highly popular with tourists and hikers, with McAfee Knob itself being famous for its stunning panoramic views.

Mountain hiking can be an incredibly dangerous activity and can result in serious injuries even when proper precautions are taken. Always be prepared when hiking and follow local safety guidelines and regulations.

New SWVA Concert Series kicks off in Abingdon

Submitted by Friends of Southwest Virginia

Friends of Southwest Virginia is proud to announce the LOVE SWVA Concert Series, presented by Tri-Cities Airport. The concert series will feature live music and exciting entertainment at the outdoor amphitheater at the Southwest Virginia Cultural Center (Heartwood).

The concert series kicks off on July 2 with a special Independence Day concert featuring a 40-piece orchestra from Symphony of the Mountains. The series will also include a concert in August and October. Performers will be announced in the coming weeks.

"We are excited to bring music concerts to the Cultural Center," said Kim Davis, executive director of Friends of

Southwest Virginia. "The amphitheater is an incredible venue for live music, and we know this series will bring some unique events to our region."

The LOVE SWVA Concert Series will kick off with a special Independence Day celebration with Symphony of the Mountains. The evening includes a celebration of our Independence weekend with a selection of patriotic music and family favorites. Following the National Anthem and a special American Fanfare, the concert evokes memories of Appalachian summertime, including a bit of thunderstorm music, garden bumblebees, park gazebo music, and a wonderful old hymn tune arrangement. The concert will continue with patriotic music, including "America the Beautiful" and "God Bless the USA,"



concluding with a tribute to our fallen soldiers and recognition of all veterans. A favorite encore will make attendees want to

get on their feet and start marching!

Gates and parking open at 7 p.m., and the show will begin at 8 p.m.

Please bring a chair for the event. A selection of beverages and food will be available to purchase. No outside food or drink

will be allowed. Additional shows in the concert series will be announced in the coming weeks.

Celebrate National Trails Day at a Virginia State Park

-Hiking, biking, birdwatching and water activities available -



Twin Lakes trail post with scenic trails in background.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Trail leading to the beach at Kiptopeke State Park.

Submitted by Virginia State Parks

National Trails Day takes place on the first Saturday in June and recognizes all the incredible benefits federal, state and local trails provide for recreation and exposure to nature.

"Getting families together for an opportunity to bond and build stronger outdoor skills is really important and National Trails Day focuses on that connection while educating park visitors about the wide variety of services the trail systems offer," Virginia

State Parks Director Dr. Melissa Baker said.

Trails provide access to waterways for canoeing and paddle trips, unique opportunities for birdwatching and learning land navigation as well as using the trails for hiking and biking.

Events are held at all 41 Virginia State Parks in order to promote awareness and to encourage people to discover their local trails.

"Virginia State Parks offer a range of programs to educate and connect with the local community that showcase the

state's scenic trails," Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park Manager David Gunnells said. "We are offering guests an opportunity to give back to the park and help clean up the trails with a Park Ranger on June 4. National Trails Day is a perfect way to combine enjoying the outdoors while cleaning up the trails you love."

National Trails Day is also an opportunity to thank the many volunteers, land agencies, trail developers, park employees and rangers for their help in developing and maintaining the trails.

Here are some events to consider:

- Trails clean up at Pochontas State Park in Chesterfield
- Hike to the falls at Clinch River State Park in Saint Paul
- Forestry trail hike at Chippokes State Park in Surry County
- "Hike" a water trail at Widewater State Park in Stafford
- Volunteer for litter patrol at Bear Creek Lake State Park in Cumberland
- Tunnel and cave tours at Natural Tunnel State Park

in Duffield

- Hoover Mountain Bike Trail Maintenance at New River Trail State Park in Allsonia
- Trail debris clean up at Staunton River State Park in Scottsburg

For more information about Virginia State Parks' activities and amenities or to make reservations in one of the more than 1,800 campsites or 300 climate-controlled cabins, call the Virginia State Parks Reservation Center at 800-933-PARK or visit www.virginia-stateparks.gov.

Huffman

from page 1

The kids could still get out of their vehicles and talk to Santa, as we had Sammy

(Santa Claus) on the stage and the kids stood below. Many community

members helped to bring this thought to reality on a greater scale than I even imagined.

Still, the greatest was Sammy as Santa. He told me he was nervous, but I couldn't see that, as he never was at a loss for words as he emceed the derbies.

As each kid came to the stage, he would ease their anxiousness, joke with

them, love on them, ask them questions and truly relate. He didn't seem to ask any of the kids the same questions. It was amazing to me. They left smiling, some jumping, and yes, with gifts from Santa as well.

Here is Sammy's letter he wrote to me about the privilege he felt he had in being the "Jolly St. Nick":

"I was asked a couple of weeks ago if I would be interested in donning the big red coat and filling in for Santa and talk to the children of Craig County. At first, I was reluctant because I didn't want to say something wrong or scare the kids, but the more I thought about it, the more I wanted to do it.

"Since our parade was canceled, this might be the only time some of these kids would get to see Santa and tell him what they wanted for Christmas.

"When the time came and cars started lining up to see old St. Nick, I was getting a little nervous. But, when that first kid stepped out from their SUV and walked over to the carpet that they were to stand on, a big smile came over his face and all my nervousness went away. We started talking about how good he'd been this past year and what he wanted for Christmas. This procedure went on

almost non-stop for the next two hours. Each and every child had a conversation with Santa and as they would leave, each child would receive a few presents and have their pictures taken.

"After a night of watching these kids smile with excitement and hope for the special gift from Santa, it made me wonder why I hadn't ever done this before. To see the look in these kids' eyes with all their innocence sure was very heartwarming and knowing that you brightened the hearts of these children is a feeling this ole Santa really enjoyed. I hope to get the chance to do this again next year because it sure was a lot of fun."

Though greatly missed, he added smiles and warmth to many paths he crossed, from derbies to being Santa, and just being a great friend. Here's to you, Sammy! Always remembered.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Craig County Board of Supervisors and the Craig County Planning Commission will conduct a joint public hearing Thursday June 9th, 2022 at 6 pm, at the Craig County Courthouse in New Castle, Virginia, to consider the application of Cory Trivette/Country Campground for a "Use Not Provided For" permit. An approved permit will allow the property owners to conduct a Mud Bog Event with camping, on June 18th, Noon to 10pm and August 27th, Noon to 10pm. This parcel is zoned RR, Rural Residential and is located at 202 Country Campground Road, New Castle, VA 24127, Tax map #87-A-5. The property contains 62.3 acres and is located in the Craig Creek District on the left side of State Route 311 approximately 4 miles south of the Town of New Castle in Craig County.

Public comment on the application may be submitted in writing to the County Administration Office, P.O. Box 308, New Castle, Virginia 24127, by calling 540-864-5010, or in person at the public hearing.

By Order of the Craig County Board of Supervisors and the Craig County Planning Commission, in accordance with Code of Virginia, § 15.2-2204

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8th Annual GAUNTLET Graduation and Awards Ceremony

- Over \$400,000 in cash, grants, & in-kind prizes awarded to local entrepreneurs -

Submitted by The Advancement Foundation

On Wednesday, May 25th, The GAUNTLET Business Program & Competition™ held the 8th Annual GAUNTLET Graduation & Awards Ceremony. The GAUNTLET class of 2022 attracted a record 153 entrepreneurs from communities across the Roanoke Valley, Shenandoah Valley, and Southside. After 10 weeks of classes, 66 businesses moved on to compete for their piece of over \$400,000 in cash, grants, and in-kind prizes/services.

The GAUNTLET Business Program and Competition™ is powered by the Advancement Foundation, a nonprofit founded in 2007, which serves as a catalyst to attract our region's assets with the commitment of partner agencies, economic developers, sponsors, donors,

grantors, GAUNTLET alumni, mentors, and regional innovators making this all possible.

Since the GAUNTLET classes began in February, our confident graduates have purchased \$760,000 in commercial real estate. Over the next 24 months, they will spend \$502,000 in leasing commercial

property; they will create 263 new full time jobs and create profit revenues of \$3,382,324.

At the end of the day, our communities are far better for having fostered diverse business development. Whether scalable high growth companies or Main Street enterprises, the vibrant quality of life, a robust and sustainable economy are all outcomes of this investment in business development.

GAUNTLET competitors receive awards based on a combination of their competition scores as well as their specific business needs. Cash and in-kind prizes are provided by numerous local sponsors, like Lead Sponsor State Farm, and regional partners who are committed to igniting the futures of local entrepreneurs.

For the first time ever, The GAUNTLET has two first-place winners - Natalie Ashton owner of Electric Iris 3D of Roanoke City and Natalie Hodge owner of Rudy's Girl Media in Uptown Martinsville.

Electric Iris 3D is shaking up the poultry incubator industry with their innovative poultry incubator accessories. The invention will help farmers raise new classes of

birds from quail to geese; and will help farmers raise more birds at one time by increasing hatch rates. This company will continue to scale into sales across the nation.

Rudy's Girl Media is a multimedia content developer company based in Uptown Martinsville, Virginia. Natalie has a master's degree from Cornell University, and has worked in the entertainment industry in New York and Los Angeles. Natalie has and will produce short films and a web based reality series about rural entrepreneurship called Hometown Hustle.

This is such an exciting time for business and community development across the region. On behalf of the Advancement Foundation, our sponsors, and community leaders, we offer sincere congratulations to each of The GAUNTLET 2022 participants!

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/TAFGauntlet> to watch the "Facebook Live" of the 2022 Ceremony and pre-ceremony Business Showcase.

For more information about The GAUNTLET: please visit www.TheAdvancementFoundation.org.



The 8th Annual GAUNTLET Graduation and Awards Ceremony occurred on May 25.

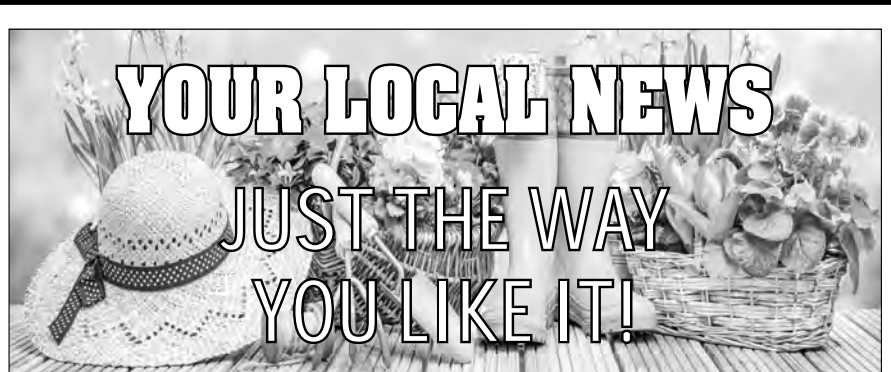
SUBMITTED PHOTOS

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59									60							
62									63							

- CLUES ACROSS
- Orator's podium
 - UK-Netherlands gas pipeline
 - Partner to "oohs"
 - African antelope
 - Indigenous Thai person
 - Monetary unit of Angola
 - Becomes less intense
 - Insurance mascot
 - Tech hub ___ Alto
 - Actress Tomei
 - Airborne (abbr.)
 - Type of smart watch
 - Natives
 - Incompetent person
 - Rare Hawaiian geese
 - Unspoken relationships
 - Passports and licenses are two
 - Claw
 - Status quo
 - Mimic
 - Fur-lined cloak
 - Ancient foreigner
 - In an angry way
 - Ill-intentioned
 - Monetary unit of Serbia
 - S. American plant
 - One or the other
 - Alias for Thor
 - Gratuity
 - In a painful way
 - French commune
 - Promotional materials
 - Greek city
 - Assistant
 - Confederate general
 - Former NJ governor
 - Broad volcanic crater
 - Not for
 - Blur
 - Tots
 - Acted leisurely
 - About the Alps
 - Gets out of bed
 - Town in "The Iliad"
 - Welsh given name
 - Remove salt
 - Calvary sword
 - Mental disorder concerning body odor (abbr.)
 - Keeps a house cozy
 - Ballplayer's accessory
 - Southwestern Russian city
 - Pro sports league
 - Congress investigative body (abbr.)
 - Stop standing
 - Utilize
 - Sign language
 - Famed ESPN broadcaster Bob
 - Being of central importance
 - Ruin environment
 - Dessert dish
 - Sea eagles
 - Fertilized
 - Jerry's friend Benes
 - Indian river
 - Pass into a specified state or condition
 - Nocturnal rodent
 - A way to travel
 - Iron-containing compound
 - Ancient Greek City
 - NFL signal caller Matt
- CLUES DOWN
- Used by gymnasts
 - "Luther" actor Idris



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Library Family Reunion

Library Corner
Empowering individuals to build a stronger community

It was a round table gathering of the Craig County Public Library Family, old and new, at the Old Brick Hotel. Food, stories and laughs were shared. But most importantly, we had a relaxed evening getting to know each other just a little better. We all differ in age, past and present experiences, and goals in life. The thing we found in common was a love for libraries, what they can do for our community and a collective passion to make a positive impact. The challenge for this

family mix is to tap into the many talents, respect each other's views, and have a willingness for a collective solution. That is what made the Library Reunion so much fun. As a result of this gathering, here are some upcoming projects we will be working on:

- Memorial Day Bake Sale at the Old Brick Hotel (Donated baked goods are welcomed)
- Friends of the Library Membership Drive: the month of June
- Seed Exchange Program
- Design a Volunteer Park
- Improve our technology to expand patron resources
- Focus on student outreach: daycare, public,

and home school

- Strengthen community connection: Swap Day, June 25, Household Goods

Leaving our Board this year is Carol King and Jane Henderson. They will not be at the head table but still in the room. Joining the Board is Kathi Toelke, Jill Templeton, and Anita Martindell. We applaud those who have served, beginning to serve and never stop serving. Their contributions nourish us all.

We are pleased to announce that all those collected plastics have resulted in a new bench in the garden facing the post office. Thanks everyone for your contributions. There was a big



discussion around making the bench available to our patrons. It was decided that we need to remove the sedum so we can seat them.

Equip Kids to Face Difficult News With Weekly Family Time

Submitted by Jehovah's Witness United States of America

The stream of tough topics for parents to explain can feel unending: social unrest, hate crimes, natural disasters ... the pandemic. Many children and teens have struggled to process what they see at school, in their neighbor-

hoods and on the news. The Clarke family confront this challenge every Thursday evening at their well-worn dinner table. "We talk about what we're facing and what we can do to address it," said Kai, 16, of this weekly family discussion hour. "It definitely provides a sense of security for me and for my parents."

That sense of security was tested when a gas station went up in flames just a block from the Clarkes' home in Minneapolis during the protests that erupted there in May 2020. Kai's father, Khari Clarke, recalled confronting the issues head-on. "God has taught us not to prejudge, not to stereotype," he said at that weekly session. "When we approach a situation with scriptures in mind about impartiality, then we're not walking into a situation already predisposed to be angry." In an ever-changing and challenging world, experts recommend regular family discussions to help young ones build resilience. "Good communication is essential for a child's survival in this world," said James Wright, a California-based family counselor and conflict resolution mediator. "Why not have a family discussion once a

week and talk about what's going on in your lives?" The Clarkes are not alone in holding to a set time to have family discussions. For nearly two decades, families of Jehovah's Witnesses like theirs around the world have been encouraged to make "family worship" an uninterrupted weekly routine. "For many of our families, their weekly discussions are among the most important hours of the week," said Robert Hendriks, U.S. spokesman for Jehovah's Witnesses. "It has brought thousands of our families closer together and helped children feel safe and loved." In hurricane-pummeled New Orleans, the Andrades address safety concerns with their two sons during their regular family worship night. "On one of our family nights, we were able to put our emergency go

bags together and practice what we would do if we were to get separated during a natural disaster," said mom Ashley Andrade, who safely evacuated with her family before Hurricane Ida uprooted trees and downed power lines on their street. Her family strengthened this routine in 2009 when Jehovah's Witnesses reduced their midweek meetings from two to one, freeing up an evening each week for families to enjoy such time together. "Meeting in large groups for worship is a Bible command, but the Bible also tells parents to make time to talk with their kids," said Hendriks. "The change to our weekly meetings helped families to prioritize unhurried Bible discussions tailored to their needs." For the Cariagas of Lomita, California, their weekly discussion pro-

vided a time to promptly address racism when their three girls saw news reports about hate crimes targeting their Asian community. "The articles on jw.org about prejudice and the video about anxiety were really helpful," said mom Lorrie Cariaga, referencing free resources on the official website of Jehovah's Witnesses, where they often turn for practical and scriptural solutions to family concerns. Along with serious topics, the Cariagas mix in singing, dramatic performances, and hiking in their family worship together. "Family time is like an open space; it's relaxed, and it's always fun," said Sophie, 14. Family nights forged something special for Kai too. "I see my mom and dad not just as parents," he said. "I see them as friends."

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Email letters to the editor to
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VDOT Road Watch: May 27 - June 3

Submitted by VDOT

INTERSTATE 81

(UPDATED 5-20-22) * INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXIT 137 TO EXIT 141 – A \$179 million design-build project to widen both directions of I-81 between mile markers 136.6 and 141.8 from two to three lanes is set to begin. Starting in February and continuing into the early summer, work will be performed on the inside and outside shoulders along a five mile section of both northbound and southbound Interstate 81 in Roanoke County and the city of Salem. The shoulders will be built up before barrier wall can be installed for road

crews to work behind. Barrier wall will be installed along the shoulders in the spring and summer. Two lanes of I-81 traffic in each direction will remain open during the project with periodic lane closures scheduled during nighttime hours or outside of peak travel times as needed. Drivers can expect the following lane closures and upcoming impacts on northbound and southbound I-81:

•BARRIER WALLS: Barrier wall installation is in process. Nighttime lane closures will be in place and lane widths will be reduced to 11 feet.

•TRAFFIC SHIFT: Drivers should expect a traffic shift towards the shoulder of the roadway the week of May 9 for southbound,

•From mid-March until mid-June, nighttime right lane and shoulder closures between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday

•From mid-May to mid-June, alternating left and right lane and shoulder closures during nighttime hours between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday

Nightly lane closures may be in place along the right lane with possible nightly ramp narrows as needed for guardrail and shoulder strengthening.

•Northbound I-81 lane closures from mile marker 138 to 142

•Northbound I-81 exit and entrance ramp narrows possible at Route 311.

•On April 5, the north-

bound Route 311 ramp will be closed from midnight to 5 a.m.

The project also includes replacing six bridges, widening two bridges, installing approximately 2.6 miles of sound barrier walls along northbound I-81, improving the southbound exit 137 off-ramp intersection at Wildwood Road and adding interchange lighting at exits 137, 140 and 141 are also included in the project. Expected completion in early 2026.

CRAIG COUNTY

(UPDATED 5-27-22) * ROUTE 311 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER MEADOW CREEK – On March 17, temporary signals began to control traffic across

the bridge and will be in place throughout the project. Construction will begin on the northbound side of the bridge and once completed, work will switch to the southbound side. In addition, a section of Route 646 (Allen Street) between Route 650 and Route 311 will be closed during construction and a signed detour will be in place. All traffic will be detoured to Marshall Street and Kanawha Street to access either 311 or the homes located off Allen Street. Speed limit will be reduced to 35 mph in the work zone with a width restriction of 9 feet. Drivers should expect delays and allow extra travel time through the work zone. The bridge is expected to be open to traffic by the end of 2022.

Remembrance

from page 1

able atmosphere.

Still, the common response of many of the WWII Veterans have echoed in the air, “I just did my job, I would do it again for my country” and “It’s what we do as military.”

The heartfelt comradery that extends amongst Veterans seems to pierce the souls of those around.

Hugs seem stronger, handshakes seem longer and looks between veterans are so deep that the words ‘honor’ and ‘respect’ seem to penetrate everyone’s soul.

In the military, D-Day is the day on which a combat attack or operation is to be initiated.

During World War II, the Battle of Normandy, which lasted from June 1944 to August 1944, resulted in the Allied liberation of Western Europe from Nazi Germany’s control.

Codenamed Operation Overlord, the battle began on June 6, 1944, when some 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces landed on five beaches along a 50-mile stretch of the heavily fortified coast of France’s Normandy region.

History tells us that the invasion was one of the largest amphibious military assaults in histo-

ry and required extensive planning.

Wikipedia shares, “After World War II began, Germany invaded and occupied northwestern France beginning in May 1940. In November 1943, Adolf Hitler (1889-1945), who was aware of the threat of an invasion along France’s northern coast, put Erwin Rommel (1891-1944) in charge of spearheading defense operations in the region, even though the Germans did not know exactly where the Allies would strike. Hitler charged Rommel with finishing the Atlantic Wall, a 2,400-mile fortification of bunkers, landmines and beach and water obstacles.”

General Dwight Eisenhower was appointed commander of Operation Overlord in January of 1944. He decided to carry out a massive deception operation intended to make the Germans think the main invasion target was Pas-de-Calais rather than Normandy.

History again tells us that in addition, they led the Germans to believe that Norway and other locations were also “potential invasion targets and that many tactics were used to carry out the deception, including fake equipment; a phan-

tom army commanded by George Patton and supposedly based in England, across from Pas-de-Calais; double agents; and fraudulent radio transmissions.”

Though the invasion was initially scheduled for June 5, due to bad weather, it was delayed a day.

Eisenhower gave the go ahead for June 6 and told the troops, “You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you.”

As history shares:

Later that day, more than 5,000 ships and landing craft carrying troops and supplies left England for the trip across the Channel to France, while more than 11,000 aircraft were mobilized to provide air cover and support for the invasion

By dawn on June 6, thousands of paratroopers and glider troops were already on the ground behind enemy lines, securing bridges and exit roads

The British and Canadians overcame light opposition to capture beaches codenamed Gold, Juno, and Sword, as did the Americans at Utah Beach

U.S. forces faced heavy



PHOTO PAM DIDDING

Whether they could walk or had to be pushed in a wheelchair, the veterans who served in Normandy continued their allegiance to the U.S.A., saluting their fellow comrades as they passed by.

resistance at Omaha Beach, where there were over 2,000 American casualties. By day’s end, approximately 156,000 Allied troops had successfully stormed Normandy’s beaches

According to some estimates, more than 4,000 Allied troops lost their lives in the D-Day invasion, with thousands more wounded or missing

In less than a week later, on June 11, the beaches were fully secured and over “326,000 troops, more than 50,000 vehicles and some 100,000 tons of equipment had

landed at Normandy.”

It is shared that the Germans suffered from confusion in the ranks and the absence of celebrated commander Rommel, who was away on leave. At first, Hitler refused to release nearby divisions to join the counterattack. Reinforcements had to be called from further afield, causing delays. He also hesitated in calling for armored divisions to help in the defense. Moreover, the Germans were hampered by effective Allied air support, which took out many key bridges and forced the

Germans to take long detours, as well as efficient Allied naval support, which helped protect advancing Allied troops.

One can only support our brave military men and women who sacrificed their lives and their families for our country.

Remember to give those Americans a sincere thank you and show your appreciation to our Veterans in Craig County who served, and to those families who lost their loved ones.

We live in the United States of America. May we forever stay united.

Sheriff Craddock

from page 1

“There’s no services here that we can call to come out to the scene and help assist with this mental health crisis,” Craddock said. “We deal with it.”

He went on to note his

wish for “mental health services that are here that we could call, that could maybe come to the scene and put their input in as to what type of help the person needs, and we

just don’t have that.”

Craig County is serviced by the Craig County Health Center, a subsidiary of the Monroe Health Center, whose website is monrohealth-

centers.com. Sheriff Craddock noted that he believes the center still has a counselor on staff who is available by appointment.

“We all know that

there’s a lot of mental health issues, and we need help and the people need help and they need access to this type of counseling and other services,” said Craddock.

“It would be a great help. I think our community and a lot of communities, as a whole in the rural areas, we just don’t have those services and they are needed.”

www.newcastlelrecord.com

God's House Is Always Open

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 VALLEY GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP

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

CROSSROADS CHURCH

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

FIRST BAPTIST

Pastor Kevin Altizer, Corner of Main Street & Boyd Ave., New Castle. Church phone 864-5919. Sunday School 10:00AM, Sunday Worship 11:00AM and 6PM. Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7PM, Youth Group

7:00PM, Reformers Unanimous Addiction Recovery every Friday evening at 7PM.

GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

5530 Catawba Valley Drive, Catawba, VA, 540-384-7075. Pastor 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) & 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 Service 9:00 a.m., Children's Church 9:15 a.m., Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

NEW CASTLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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282 Salem Ave., New Castle: 864-5212; Sunday Mornings: 9 A.M. Contemporary Service and 11:00 A.M. Traditional Service with Sunday School at 10 A.M.; Wednesday night Bible study at 6:00 P.M. for K-5; If you need a ride to church, please contact Calvin Duncan by 8 P.M. on Saturday at 864-5321; www.nc-cc.org.

NEW CANTERBURY PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP

Pastor John D. Abbott, Hwy 621 (10 miles), phone: 864-8242, Sunday Morning Lesson 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday Night Service 6:00 pm.

PAXTON CHAPEL

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

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.

CRAIG COUNTY COMMUNITY CHURCH -

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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.

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VIRGINIA TEAM ADVANCES TO NCAA DIVISION III SOFTBALL FINAL



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Left, Brooke Greaver(#32) of Virginia's Christopher Newport University is all smiles as she rounds first base after opening the bottom of the ninth inning with an extra inning "walk off" home run in the NCAA Division III softball tournament Sunday at the James I. Moyer Complex in Salem. Right, Captain teammates await Greaver at the plate in the 4-3 win over Texas Lutheran. With the win Christopher Newport, the number one seed in the tournament, improved to 44-1 on the season and advanced to the championship round against Trine University of Indiana. Both schools were unbeaten in the double elimination tournament through Sunday's action and were set to play a best-of-three for the championship, with one game Monday and two, if needed, on Tuesday.

FITZPATRICK QUALIFIES FOR STATE TRACK MEET

Craig County sophomore Tyler Fitzpatrick had a best throw of 119' 2" to finish third in the Region 1C track meet at Giles High School last week. That qualifies Tyler for the Class 1 state meet this weekend at James Madison University.

Craig had two boys score in the event, as junior Isaiah Garey finished sixth, just missing a chance to participate in the state meet, with a toss of 110'. The winning throw was 138'9" by Trey Orren of Parry McCluer, who edged Conner Lester of Fort Chiswell with a toss of 136'9". Orren also won the shot put by six feet. Isaac Morris also represented Craig County in the boys' meet. Isaac, a freshman, was ninth in the 800 with a time of 2:44.83 and ninth in the 1,600 at 5:53.99. Kovyk Chandler of Parry McCluer won both of those races.

Summer Huffman was the only Craig County girl to qualify for the region, as she qualified in both the shot put and discus.

Teamwise, the Narrows boys won the Region 1C title with 111 points, followed by Auburn with 105. Craig was 12th with seven points.

Auburn won the girls' championship with 149 points, followed by George Wythe with 82.

CRAIG SOFTBALL, SOCCER TEAMS OPT OUT OF REGION PLAY

The Craig County softball and soccer teams both were eligible to play in Region 1C tournaments last week but threw in the towel rather than take the field.

The softball team qualified for the third seed from the Pioneer District and was expected to play Auburn, the second seed from the Mountain Empire District, in the opening round of play. However, with several girls out of

town the Rockets decided not to participate and the third seed went to Eastern Montgomery, who Craig beat in the Pioneer District Tournament consolation game to originally earn that third seed.

The soccer team was scheduled to play George Wythe in the opening round of the region tournament. Again, the Rockets decided not to participate and their season came to an end.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE WINS NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP IN SALEM



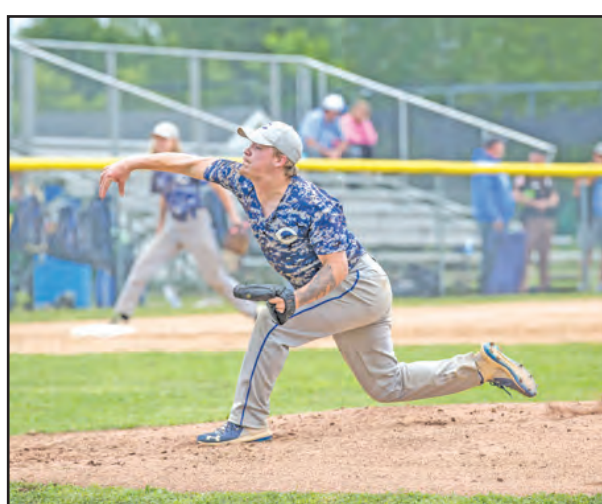
PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Middlebury College lacrosse players pose for a team photo after winning the NCAA Division III championship in Salem Sunday afternoon. Middlebury broke open a tight contest to score six unanswered goals to close out the game and take a 13-5 win in the championship game at Kerr Stadium on the campus of Roanoke College.

Send sports news and photos to bhoffman@mainstreetnewspapers.com

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ROCKET BASEBALL SEASON ENDS IN FIRST ROUND OF REGION 1C TOURNEY



PHOTOS BY JAMES PERKINS

Dylan Crawford pitches for Craig in last week's Region 1C baseball game.



Craig's Drew Duncan applies the tap at first on a successful pickoff play.



Zachary Peters bounces out from behind the plate to catch a pop up.

The Craig County baseball team drew a tough assignment as the Rockets traveled to Riner for the first round of the Region 1C tournament last week. Awaiting the Craig boys was Auburn, the top seed from the Mountain Empire District and the defending Class 1 state champions.

The host Eagles proved to be as good as advertised, taking an 11-0 win over the Rockets in five innings. Senior Dylan Crawford took the loss on the mound as he finished his high school career by striking out six in two and two-thirds innings. Junior Zach Peters came on to pitch the final inning and a third and he fanned two.

Offensively, the Rockets struggled against the talented Eagles. Auburn held Craig to just one hit, by Crawford.

"We were making contact with the ball but just always hit to an Auburn player," said Craig coach Zachary Peters. "Auburn's pitcher was the best we had seen all year, but the kids never gave up and kept playing their hardest."

The loss ended Craig's season but just having a team was a welcome site after missing the 2020 season due to COVID and the 2021 season due to lack of participation. The Rockets had just three seniors on the roster, Crawford, Nathaniel Sarver and Bryden Frango, and expect to return three freshmen, four sophomores and three juniors next spring along with some young talent coming up.

"I'm proud of the way the kids have played all year," said coach Peters. "They've shown heart all year long."

Back to School

If your child is entering 7th grade, they must have the Meningitis, HPV, and Tdap vaccines in order to enroll. Talk to your doctor and vaccinate them now!

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