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Mud Run drivers make a muddy splash in Craig

Pam Dudding
 Contributing writer

As kids, we all enjoyed running barefoot in the mud. Well, adults enjoy it too, just a little differently. This year, Corie Trivett and friends had a Craig County Mud Run at the Country Campground, and it was truly muddy! Cars from regular SUVs to jacked-up vehicles, dune buggies and specially designed 4x4s tested their skills. The track was thoroughly watered down by the Upper Craig Creek Volunteer Fire Department. In fact, so well

that some splattered mud flew well into the spectators' sitting area of about 30 feet (They thought they were in the safe zone, but not in Craig!). Metal Carnage TV was on site to video the event and sadly got pelted quite a few times before the event was over. Mike's Dog House and Mark Surface served people food as fast as they could. Tim Leftwich was the emcee, announcing the times as well as playing some great bluegrass and country music in between class runs. The track was secured, the clock was set and Trivette and his crew closed the gates

for safety. Over 600 spectators were there to watch the event including many who had camped there for the weekend. People were lined up all the way along the track and another set of spectators, on a hill above the track. Excitement was in the air. The mud was deep, especially at the end of the track, but the 51 registered drivers showed their "stuff" in going through it (no drivers names were announced). The Metal Carnage vehicle started the Mud Run, doing a little fishtailing in



"Dog Gone Crazy" gave great runs every time! Of course, it no longer looked this pretty!



At Craig's first Mud Run, the "Cars" movie car got a lot of applause from the kids, as it not only survived Radiator Springs, but the Craig County Mud Run, and did great!



One vehicle didn't have a windshield and the driver got terribly pelted by his own mud splattering, but that didn't stop him, and he's a teen that built his own truck with a friend. They grow them determined in Craig!

PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING

Independence celebrations in Craig

Pam Dudding
 Contributing writer

Everyone loves to celebrate Independence Day, our federal holiday in the United States of America commemorating the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. History states, "The Continental Congress declared that the thirteen American colonies were no longer subject to the monarch of Britain, King George III, and were now united, free, and independent states." Therefore, Craig will have three events to attend! On Saturday, July 2, Wilderness Adventure at Eagle Landing will have live music by The Kind, a folk-rock band from 6:30 until 9:30. Afterwards a great fireworks display will be presented by Master Displays. Also, the Outpost Kitchen will be serving food and craft beer. There is a \$10 suggested donation. For more info, visit www.wilderness-adventure.com/events. On Monday, July 4, the Craig Valley Daughters of the American Revolution will be hosting their first Annual Patriotic Parade and they encourage everyone to enter and decorate their float, vehicles, pets, etc in patriotic attire, as Uncle Sam will be there too! The most patriotic entry will be judged by a panel of members from the Alleghany DAR chapter in Blacksburg. That winner will receive a souvenir plaque to take home (correction from last week's article info). The Patriot's Cup awarded to first place, will be engraved with the winner's name, then put on public display, initially at the hometown Emporium General Store. Children's entries will be judged separately. Those winners will receive Declaration of Independence kits and participation medals.



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

Independence celebrations in Craig: July 2 - 6:30 9:30 p.m. live music, and afterwards a fantastic fireworks display. July 4 - 10 a.m. Patriotic parade from fairgrounds to main street and food sold afterwards. July 4, noon, Paint Bank Fire Department having their fundraiser chicken/ham dinner and at 2 p.m. an auction. Celebrate them all!

All participants are encouraged to be at the Fairgrounds before 9:30 as judging will take place at the Fairgrounds between 9:30 and 10 a.m. Prizes and gifts will be awarded in the yard of the courthouse at the close of the parade. The parade will leave from the Fairgrounds at 10 a.m. Parade route will be Rt. 311 through the center of New Castle will be closed to thru traffic. Main Street will be closed, but you may park on 311 to view or park outside of Main Street and bring your chairs. Parade announcers will be at Farm Bureau. For more information and to enter the parade or to volunteer, contact Tina Crawford at 540-765-9913 or CraigValleyChap-

terNSDAR@gmail.com. Businesses open on July 4 will include, The Emporium, Food Country, and restaurants with extended hours are Bibo's Pizzeria and Mike's Ice House. Also, immediately after the parade, the Historical Society will sell a hot dog lunch and the Public Library will have a Bake Sale on the porch of the Old Brick Hotel. At noon in Paint Bank the Paint Bank Fire Department will have their annual chicken or ham dinner and at 2pm, an auction to raise funds. The address of the firehouse is 15998 Paint Bank Road (Rt. 311), across from the Swinging Bridge store. "Get your Red, White & Blue on!" the DAR shared.



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

Dawn and David Halmat of Lemon & Vale Cakery will be hosting their first Market Pop-up on July 9. Aside from their delicious sweets, they have nine other artisans joining them that day, and maybe a few surprises

Local pop-up market to be great event for artisans

Pam Dudding
 Contributing writer

Homemade baked items are a temptation for almost all of us, but add to that crafts and other art items, and it's a great happening! Dawn and David Halmat, who own the business Lemon and Vale Cakery, have purchased the old Briz's. And many have seen the outside already change into a beautiful olive green. "It is one of my favorite colors," Dawn said. "To me it's calm and soothing and reminds me of nature, my favorite place to be." Though their grand opening isn't set yet, they have decided to host a "Pop-up Event" for local small businesses, and of course they will feature their own delicious baked items. The Pop-up Market will be on Saturday, July 9, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The address is 457 Salem Avenue (The old JC's Depot building

across from the Fairgrounds). "We are thrilled to announce that we have collaborated with some incredibly talented local artisans that will be joining us at our 'future bakery' for a Market pop-up," Dawn shared. "You're not gonna want to miss this talent! I have several of these vendors' phenomenal work in my home. "I was talking with another baker who is in a similar situation of working on their brick and mortar, not quite ready to open but wanted to utilize the space she has and also support other small businesses," she added. "David and I thought it was such a great idea and opportunity to give back to the community." Dawn added that they are hopeful that "this amazing community will join us to not only support fellow local small businesses, but to make this something we can continue to have even after the bakery is open".

See Pop-Up Market, page 4



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UPCOMING EVENTS

VBS "Kookaburra Coast - Awesome Adventures in God's Glory" at Craig Valley Baptist, July 18-22, 6-8:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. They will have puppet shows,

music, Bible story time and crafts. Ages 3-5th grade. Friday's celebration will include hot dogs, snow cones, popcorn, cotton candy and games. All are welcome!

Love SWVA Concert Series kicks off in Abingdon July 2

The LOVE SWVA Concert Series kicks off this summer with live performances at the Southwest Virginia Cultural Center's on-site Amphitheater-

Submitted by Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Foundation

Friends of Southwest Virginia is proud to announce the LOVE SWVA Concert Series, presented by Tri-Cities Airport. The concert series, which is also sponsored by the Virginia Tourism Corporation, 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 that will feature Bluegrass Pickin On Classic Rock with Ironhorse. The October show will soon be announced.

"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.

Special thanks to our presenting sponsor, Tri-Cities Airport. Also, special thanks to Food City, Virginia Highlands Community College and Virginia Tourism Corporation for helping making this event possible.

For more information about the LOVE SWVA Concert Series, visit the website or call 276-792-2400.

About the Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Foundation and Friends of Southwest Virginia: The Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Foundation is the coordinating body for cultural heritage tourism and economic development efforts fostering Southwest Virginia's creative economy. Through a supporting nonprofit, the Friends of Southwest Virginia, the combined entities help localities, businesses, individuals, artists, nonprofits, and entrepreneurs mobilize and succeed. A multifaceted plan identifies the cultural and natural assets of the region; coordinates initiatives, organizations, and venues engaged in cultural and natural heritage toward more efficient operations for all partner organizations; and develops a comprehensive strategy and capital improvements plan to maximize the impact of state investments in this significant restructuring effort. For more information about the Friends of Southwest Virginia, visit FriendsOfSWVA.org.

Feeding Southwest Virginia CFO awarded Best Small Nonprofit CFO award

Submitted by Feeding Southwest Virginia

On June 16, fifty-one CFOs from around the Commonwealth gathered in Richmond and were nominated for four award winning categories, representing a variety of nonprofits, government agencies, and for-profit businesses, both public and private.

Feeding Southwest Virginia's CFO, David Argabright, won the award of Small Nonprofit/

Government Virginia CFO of the year.

Virginia Business President and Publisher Bernie Niemeier said during the

award ceremony, "The job of chief financial officer is a challenging one. They champion both growth and downsizing; they take on risk through acquisitions. They must have the highest degree of

accountability, and they must provide CEOs with solid advice, whether the news is good or bad. Recognition and support from above is always important."

We at Feeding Southwest Virginia are thankful for David Argabright. He has been stewarding his role for seven years.

Feeding Southwest Virginia is a member of Feeding America®. For the last

four decades, the Food Bank's ultimate mission is to: nourish neighbors, engage community partners, and develop solutions to address food insecurity. The primary function of the Food Bank is to secure and distribute large quantities of food for our neighbors. Approximately

\$30 million worth of food and grocery-related products are channeled annually through more than 380 partner feeding programs in our 26-county, 9-city region. Visit www.feedingswva.org/ for more information or like us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @feedingswva.

Forest Service invests \$574,900 for improvements in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests



Sherando Lake Recreation Area

Submitted by the USDA Forest Service

The USDA Forest Service will invest \$574,900 into four backlogged maintenance projects on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. These investments are part of the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund, established by the Great American Outdoors Act, and will be undertaken in Fiscal Year 2022, which begins October 1.

"Great American Outdoors Act funding helps the forest address aging infrastructure visitors have

really noticed in recent years," said Forest Supervisor Joby Timm. "This fiscal support will help us offer opportunities for exploring the outdoors, including many beautiful trails, campgrounds, and recreation areas."

This year's funding will invest in multiple-year projects at Sherando Lake Recreation Area in Augusta County, known locally as the "Jewel of the Blue Ridge Mountains," and the Virginia Creeper Trail on the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. Other projects funded include replacing the road bridge which accesses the

Roaring Run Recreation Area in Botetourt County and replacing the Comers Creek Appalachian Trail bridge in Smyth County.

For additional information about the Forest Service implementation of the Great American Outdoors Act, visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/gaoa>. For more information about the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, visit our website <https://www.fs.usda.gov/gwj> and follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/GWJNF> and Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GWJNF>.

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VDOT Road Watch

Submitted by the Virginia Department of Transportation

CRAIG COUNTY (UPDATED 6-24-22)

* **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. Weather permitting, the bridge is expected to be open to traffic by the end of 2022.

INTERSTATE 81 (UPDATED 6-24-22)

* **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.

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

See VDOT, page 5

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Mud Run

from page 1

the deep mud at the end but made a good run and continued throughout the day. Many drivers did a bit of fishtailing down the track but maneuvered to the end. It was so much fun to watch!

Rusty Off Road made a good runs with mud flying!

One driver revved his motor high as he pushed hard to the end. He received lots of hand claps as he stuck his hand out the window and waved.

The black truck with the white door, #11, had to slow down as there was no windshield and the mud was pelting the driver pretty hard inside the vehicle, but that didn't stop him as he continued to run. I got a few mud pelts myself, one in the face. A nice lady offered me a wipey!

Many other spectators wore a lot of mud home as souvenirs.

A few vehicles spun mud over 30 feet high and way into the spectator's area, covering them in wet mud. One lady said, "It looks like a cow let loose on us!" as several laughed.

The Rebel Flag truck slung mud on everyone near the end of the track where Metal Carnage was recording. Their cameras had to be wiped off often. One vehicle driver tried to clean their windshield with their wipers to little avail.

Another female driver, on her first run, started going sideways but fishtailed her way out to the end with great driving skills!

Some spectators called the light blue truck "Pretty Girl Blue". The pawpaw yelled out as it was passing them, "Let 'er rip tater chip!" Another lady yelled, "Go, baby go...go...go!" at the top of her lungs. It did!

Corie and his staff had to stop the runs a few times to clean off the eye of the clock timer as it got covered in mud.

The blue truck with its "Let's Go Brandon" flag revved really high, hit the pedal and didn't let off til the end. Then Stomper, a green vehicle spun and gave everyone a good shower of mud as he didn't let up!

The kids yelled out gleefully as they watched the red car pull up and run, designed from the Disney movie Cars. It looked like a Mazda RX-3 sitting on a Ford chassis. The car went sideways but got straightened out quickly on the first run; the rest of the day, it did great. Its license plate read, "I survived Radiator Springs." Its later run was under four as he got used to the track.

The orange bronco

revved high and didn't let up, with mud slinging all the way down.

A gray truck hit the pedal and didn't stop, going up on the side but coming off fast.

The black half bronco went straight all the way with a great run, barely over four seconds on early run and under four later.

The #219 black truck pulled its front end off the ground, having a great time a little over four seconds. A guy yelled out, "When you pull a 4x4 in the mud off the ground, you got something!"

A 1400-horsepower vehicle hit the track and never let up at all on the way down. The crowd went wild—"That's that Chevrolet power for you!" a Chevy spectator said with a grin. He ran a little over three seconds.

As everyone waited, listening to a truck revving its engine. One guy stated, "That's him revving up to get the nitrogen level right."

One spectator hollered out, before he ran, "I bet he'll be in the low 3s!" The truck drove up to the line "Dog Gone Crazy" with a dog house in the rear. The sound made you know it was going to be fast and he hit the pedal, shooting down the track and yes... the spectator predicted right in the time. Real low and didn't disappoint the entire event.

During the event, only a couple vehicles went sideways into the bank, but everyone was able to get out without any assistance.

A younger boy built him a truck (green) pretty much from scratch. "I traded some stuff for it," he shared, as he then showed what a teenager could do on the track.

The dune buggies had good runs and were fun to watch. Some did a little fishtailing, but great runs. One looked like it had two radiators; it was ready for anything!

In between runs, the crowd was entertained by UCCVFD member "Toad" and kids who danced to the funky chicken. Some spectators even stood and joined in. Laughter was abounding at the fun.

The winners of each class were:

4/6 cylinder: 1st - Jackson Songer, 2nd - Matt Depriest and 3rd - Brendon Dent

Street: 1st - Chris Kerns, 2nd - Bucky Hypes and 3rd - Gary Kinder

Mod: 1st - Justin Ratliff, 2nd - Nathan Atkins and 3rd - Seth Grimmert

Hot: 1st - Nathan Atkins, 2nd - Justin Ratliff and 3rd - Seth Grimmert

Open: 1st - Bucky Hypes, 2nd - JD Campbell

SxS: Adam Loomis
Trivette shared, "Each class was 100% payout, and we had an anonymous sponsor for the 1st place driver in Open, Hot, and Mod."

"It was a super nice place with a great family atmosphere!" Bucky Hypes shared. It was an awesome track, and everyone is talking about it and making plans to attend the next one. Great seeing a venue here in New Castle for families to look forward to and putting money back into the county. Hopefully it is a turnaround for our lil' town. The younger generation desperately needs some action besides a telephone."

He added, "Several others have already reached out to some sponsorship deals with the events to come. I believe it is here to stay!"

The next Mud Run is already scheduled for August 27. Info on the next Mud Run and how to pre-register or for information will be on their Mud Run facebook page.

The CCHS football team sponsored a 50/50 raffle and were thankful that they raised close to \$500.

It seemed everyone enjoyed the Mud Run, even all the spectators that got pelted several times. Trivette said that he was so very grateful to everyone who attended and helped.

"Where do I start? First of all, I want to thank everyone who was a part of getting the first New Castle Mud Run together." Trivette shared. "I would have never been able to do it without all of y'all! Next, I want to thank everyone who took the time to bring the family out to have fun!!!!"

He added, "The trucks were awesome and put on a great show! I can't thank them enough. There were a few learning curves that are going to get straightened out for next time, but I promise it will be bigger and better than ever. We are getting the next event page together so all of y'all can mark your calendars!"

He encourages anyone who missed the event or would like to watch it again, to check out the Facebook and YouTube pages of Metal Carnage, who took pictures and videoed. "They are great people doing amazing things for all of us!" he exclaimed.

He also shared that there will be "BIG NEWS" coming for the next event on August 27 as well as several big surprises for all the spectators and drivers that will be here.



The Rebel truck was another one that drove straight through the mud giving a great show as well as everyone a mud shower!



Many vehicles gave great runs with mud flying high!



During intermission, Toad from the UCCVFD and his little buddies danced the Funky Chicken.



Blue Waffle kicked mud everywhere as he drove to the end.



PHOTOS BY PAM DIDDING

Over 600 spectators lined the track on both sides as others sat further back, thinking they were out of mud-showering territory.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <p>1. Basics</p> <p>4. In a new way</p> <p>10. ___ Paulo, city</p> <p>11. Jailhouse</p> <p>12. Expresses surprise</p> <p>14. Trigraph</p> <p>15. A small stream</p> <p>16. Dissimilar</p> <p>18. Promote</p> <p>22. Gives a boost</p> <p>23. Lawmaker</p> <p>24. Orthodox Jews</p> <p>26. Actor Harris</p> <p>27. Wild cherry</p> <p>28. Participate in democracy</p> <p>30. Opposite of begins</p> <p>31. A Brit's mother</p> <p>34. Set of moral principles</p> | <p>36. Very fast airplane</p> <p>37. Czech river</p> <p>39. Private school in New York</p> <p>40. Israeli dance</p> <p>41. Electron volt</p> <p>42. Adjusting</p> <p>48. Duct by the bladder</p> <p>50. Small burger</p> <p>51. Begin again</p> <p>52. Unstuck</p> <p>53. Jai ___, sport</p> <p>54. Get free of</p> <p>55. For instance</p> <p>56. Hotel chain</p> <p>58. A team's best pitcher</p> <p>59. Extracts from various sources</p> <p>60. Indefinite period of time</p> | <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <p>1. St. Francis of ___</p> <p>2. Supported</p> <p>3. United in working</p> <p>4. It cools your home</p> <p>5. Predicting</p> <p>6. Irritated</p> <p>7. Popular talk show host</p> <p>8. Fabric edge</p> <p>9. A resource for employees</p> <p>12. Broadway's Jackman</p> <p>13. Small water buffalo</p> <p>17. City of Angels: ___ Angeles</p> <p>19. Asteroids</p> <p>20. Tailless amphibians</p> <p>21. German expressionist painter</p> | <p>25. What drives you</p> <p>29. N. Vietnamese ethnic group</p> <p>31. Gold coin used in British India</p> <p>32. Have deep affection for</p> <p>33. Ponds</p> <p>35. Breaks between words</p> <p>38. Hairstyle</p> <p>41. Print errors</p> <p>43. Family of iron alloys</p> <p>44. Sidelined in bed</p> <p>45. Many couples say it</p> <p>46. Brazilian hoopster</p> <p>47. Allman Brothers late frontman</p> <p>49. German city</p> <p>56. One hundred grams (abbr.)</p> <p>57. One billionth of a second (abbr.)</p> |
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Libraries promote literacy for all ages. Libraries are a dynamic resource for everyone to use for free! You can join others who support education and commitment to children's advocacy. Your small contribution makes a big difference when added to the many others who care about your local library.

Friends of the Library is a non-profit fundraising group that supports library programs and children's activities. Libraries promote profes-

sional development and employment for adults, too. Libraries support college classes and GED preparation for students.

Our Friends bake for bake sales, donate to swap days, show up and help with book sales and Fall Festival, participate in maintenance and beautification of our library. Our Friends find common ground through a love of books and have fun working together. If you just register as a Friend, you help us by your financial contribution and adding your name to the list. The more Friends we have, the greater the message to our county officials that people care about keeping our little

library going and that it has value in our community.

Anyone can become a Friend of the Library and businesses can support us with a business membership! We love to support our local business people and promote shopping local. It's a win-win for you as a business member.

July is the beginning of a new fiscal year and the start of a new year for Friends of the Library. New Board of Trustees members are taking their seats and will be guided by the ambition and volunteerism of the Friends of the Library. Thank you for supporting your local library!



PHOTO BY MARGE LEWTER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Calling All Conservatives

By James Tweed, Salem, Va. Resident

Dear Editor,

Calling all Conservatives. The real ones. Not the phonies. Ones whose cornerstone values are the Constitution, the rule of law, and institutions that make those possible. When are you going to take your Party back?

Yes, you who used to call yourselves Republican before your brothers and sisters swallowed the Kool-Aid of Putin's puppet. And you, who still hold onto the Republican label, just because you have no place else to go. A political party without a moral core grounded in reality, not self-delusion, eventually self-destructs.

I am not a fan of Joe Biden. But

he did identify Vladimir Putin as a war criminal. Donal Trump called him a "genius." What do you think?

The big lie that Trump won the election worked well. Now it's a litmus test for "real" Republicans. It didn't matter when it came time to produce evidence in open court; there was none. Believing mattered more than evidence. Intelligence had

nothing to do with it.

Why was selling the fraud so easy? Because the lie was aimed at minds who want to be lied to. Even Donald Trump was booed when he told people to get vaccinated. When you invite people like that into your party, the lunatics eventually take over the asylum. The ones who know better but are in the game to get power have no choice but to

bobble their heads along with the loonies. Courage only makes you a target. Just ask Congresswoman Liz Cheney. That is why the Republican Party today has so few moral leaders. Who's following them?

The joke is anyone who challenges the delusion is called a "RINO" (Republican In Name Only). The fact is: many real Republicans have already left.

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

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The New Castle Record encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Record reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length content and style. News of public interest is solicited from all sections of the county.

Pop-Up Market from page 1

"Supporting local-small businesses and artists is our passion!" they also shared.

They said, "We feel that as long as we have the resources and ability to support one small business in the tiniest way, by providing a place for them to be seen and promote their business, it's the very least we can do. It's our way of paying it forward."

She and David are working on mastering recipes for some new Sweet and Savory baked goods that they will have for sale as well.

Owning this business has been a life-long dream of theirs and is coming to fruition "with tremendous community support and a huge leap of faith," they said. "It's still a leap not knowing how things will go with this economy, so we're taking it one day at a time."

They will initially have a menu of sweet and savory baked goods and plan to expand once they get a feel for things and what their customers prefer.

It all started with a passion for sweets and a post on the New Castle page offering pumpkin carrot cakes for sale during the 2020 holiday season. Requests bom-

barded them and Dawn found herself cooking 'til dawn.

However, they have learned that starting and owning a small business is much harder than they ever anticipated.

"It comes with many obstacles and challenges, and it forces you to wear many hats, work long hours and put your personal life on the back burner- but it is so rewarding. I often (half) jokingly say my cake business is harder than my regular job as a nurse," Dawn said. "Of course, there are obviously different obstacles between the two, but it's not uncommon for me to work 20-plus hour days back-to-back at my current in-home bakery."

"We're truly humbled and grateful to this community for the support we've received in helping our dreams flourish. We are also very hopeful that our first pop-up market will not only be successful in helping these artisans gain more growth, but also be an ongoing way that we can give back to the community," they added. "We're very excited for our first market and we're looking forward to seeing familiar and new faces."

They currently have 9 artisans joining them. Their exciting lineup for the first

pop-up includes: Poppy & Co, LLC, Celeste Luna Studio, The Catnip Fairy, Savage Acres, Booth's Woodworking, Quiet Revelry Studio, Central Va. Honey Bees and Paper Pleasures.

"They have a wide range of goods from local honey, artwork, stationary, woodwork, catnip toys, local maple syrup, apothecaries, leatherworks, jewelry, fresh vegetables in addition to our baked goods and so much more!" Dawn exclaimed. "We'll have breads, pastries, and some of my regular items like cake pops and cupcakes. We're also looking at having locally roasted coffee to order, but we're still working the details out on that- so it's not a guarantee."

They are hopeful for a great turnout as well as to add other artisans as well to their future Pop-Up Markets.

If someone is interested in joining, they can message them on their Lemon & Vale Cakery facebook page or email at Lemonandvalecakery@yahoo.com.

"Participation in our pop-ups is absolutely free!" Dawn and David shared. "Just one small business supporting another small business."

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VDOT

from page 2

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 northbound 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.

(UPDATED 6-24-22) * I-81 TROUTVILLE REST AREA CLOSURE - The Troutville Rest Area located on southbound Interstate 81 near mile marker 158 in Botetourt County is currently closed from late May 31, 2022 until September 2, 2022. Signage indicating the closure has been posted in the rest area. During the closure, a temporary concrete barrier wall will be installed in front of the facility. The rest area facility, ramps and parking lot will be closed to the public. This project will extend the ramp into the rest area by 500 feet and the ramp out of the rest area by 2,100 feet. It will also include expanding the truck parking area at the facility by about 10-13 spaces. Work is expected to be completed in early fall 2022.

REST AREA OPTIONS: While the Troutville Rest Area is closed, southbound I-81 drivers can use

the Fairfield Rest Area at mile marker 195 in Rockbridge County or the Radford Rest Area at mile marker 108 in Montgomery County. In addition, the Troutville Weigh Station, located on southbound I-81 at mile marker 149, will have portable toilets and parking will be temporarily available for commercial vehicles.

(UPDATED 6-24-22) * INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION EXIT 141 TO EXIT 143 - A project to widen the lanes on I-81 in Roanoke in both northbound and southbound directions between Exit 141 to Exit 143 has been underway. All lanes now open and will remain open through winter with periodic lane closures at night as needed. The final surface paving and markings for northbound will resume this summer. Drivers can expect rough pavement. Estimated completion date of the project is summer 2022.

PAVING OPERATIONS: As of June 20, during nighttime hours 8 p.m. to 6 a.m., drivers may see paving operations in place for the next three to four weeks. Weather permitting, this paving operation will finish the project with final paving that will smooth out the rough surface.

(UPDATED 6-24-22) * I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY - Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the Montgomery/Pulaski County line. Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound

lanes from mile marker 98 to 109. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by summer 2023.

LANE CLOSURES: Nighttime alternating lane closures will be in place on I-81 northbound between mile markers 104-106 from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

SLOW ROLLS: Slow rolls may be utilized periodically on both the northbound and southbound lanes from mile marker 98-109 for structural steel deliveries and setting beams.

(UPDATED 6-3-22) * I-81 PAVING OPERATIONS - Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

(UPDATED 4-1-22) * I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS - Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 138 to 152, right and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

(UPDATED 4-1-22) * I-81 POTHOLE PATCHING OPERATIONS - Weather permitting, crews will patch potholes along southbound and northbound Interstate 81. Mobile right and left lane closures will be in place and moving along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

OBITUARIES

Huffman, Michael Allen

Michael Allen Huffman ("Mike"), 75, passed away on Thursday June 23, 2022 after a multi-month battle with kidney cancer. He was preceded in death by his parents, Grover W Huffman and Nedra G Huffman (Frazier) and his sister-in-law Shelia Brumfield Huffman.

Mike was born in Narrows, VA, on June 15, 1947. He grew up in Roanoke and graduated from William Fleming High School. After he graduated he spent some time in the Army. Following that, he had many different jobs, including working on a fishing tour boat in Florida, working as a hunting guide in Idaho and also in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area in Montana where he met his wife, Betsy. After they married he first worked in restaurant management and then had his own construction company. He built their family home in the Little Cuba section of Craig County and lived there until his death. He was an avid hunter and trout and bass fisherman in his younger years and loved playing golf with his cronies. Later in life Mike was an active member of the AMVETS Post 40 in Roanoke, VA and found fellowship with those who attended. He loved his extended family and had an open door and empty seat at the table for those who wanted

to visit. Few things brought him more joy than hosting large gatherings of family and friends on his birthday, Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve. He made certain no one left with an empty stomach.

He is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Bertha Clendinning Huffman ("Betsy"), his two sons Robby and James (Britney) Huffman, and his two grandsons Remington and Barrett Huffman as well as his sister Beverley (Butch) Ewers, and brothers Rick, Chuck, and Jeff (Katie) Huffman. He also leaves behind numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Mike had many friends and acquaintances including lifelong friends Victor and Cyndee Hamblett. The family would like to express a special thanks to the nursing staff of Unit 4 at Salem Health and Rehab as well as the many other healthcare professionals there who assisted the family at the end.

Services will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 30th, at New Castle Christian Church in New Castle, VA with a short family visitation afterwards in their fellowship hall. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to New Castle Volunteer Fire Department, St. Francis of Assisi rescue animals, or the charity of your choice.

Fisher, Benita Sue

Benita Sue Fisher, 59 of New Castle, went to be with the Lord, Thursday, June 9, 2022. She was preceded in death by her father, Walter Ray Fisher and grandmother, Ethel Slusser Broughman.

She is survived by mother, Lillie Fisher; brother, Darrell Fisher (Ann); sister, Teresa Fisher; special aunt, Jean Hartman; special nephew, Justin Duding; and many aunts, uncles, nieces,



nephews, & cousins.

A Funeral Service will be held 2 p.m. Saturday, June 11, 2022, at Paitself Funeral Home with Pastor Don Brown officiating. Interment followed at Huffman Memorial Park. The family received friends one hour prior to the service at 1-2 p.m.

Arrangements by Paitself Funeral Home. www.paitselfh.com

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SPORTS

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Craig ballplayers compete in youth tournaments



Natalie Fisher slides home with a run for Craig.



Craig catcher Mason Ouellette attempts to tag a sliding Salem player as Brayden Jones rushes to assist.



Elyssa Dewease takes a cut for the Rockets.



Jenna Boitnotte pitches in the RAYSA tournament.



Sawyer Rutter cuts loose at the plate.



Malachi Beaudoin pitches in the Dixie tournament.



Annika Zimmerman guards the plate.



Brayden Howell reaches for a wide throw at first.



Craig County youth softball players compete in a game.

Craig County had youth teams entered in softball and baseball all-star tournaments last week in Roanoke County. The girls played in the Roanoke Area Youth Softball Association (RAYSA) U-13 tournament and the boys competed in the Dixie League Minor District tournament.

The girls opened with a win over South County White in the open-

ing game of the U-13 tournament at Darrell Shell Park in south Roanoke County last week. In the second round the Craig girls lost to the eventual winner, South County Red, sending them to the losers' bracket of the double elimination tournament. Craig then fell to Mount Pleasant on Thursday of last week and was eliminated.

The Dixie League Minor tourna-

ment, for 10 and under players, was held at Green Hill Park in west Roanoke County. The tournament was a three team round robin with the Rockets, Salem and Glenvar. Craig lost to Salem on Friday and Glenvar on Saturday and was eliminated. Salem beat Glenvar on Sunday night and the two were scheduled to play again Monday, with Glenvar needing a win to stay alive.

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PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN
Malachi Beaudoin pitches in the Dixie tournament.

CORRECTION

In last week's sports section the names under the photos for Craig County All-Region softball players Sara Jones and Kylee Clifton were mistakenly reversed.