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# THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

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## VBS kids collect pennies for missionary work in Africa

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

The Bible states, "Bring a child up in the way they should go, and when they are older, they will not depart from it."

Lighthouse Baptist Church seems to bring that scripture to life, as during their Vacation Bible School for the kids, they host an annual "penny war" to raise funds for missionaries.

"We have done these penny wars for years," Pastor Lee Looney shared. "I pick a missionary every year to send the money to for a special offering."

This year the monies went to James Ruckman in Uganda, Africa to drill a well for water in two villages.

"They haven't had water there for almost a year," Looney said. "This is a missionary that we support monthly, and he is a dear friend to me. He is also a Church Planter and before he went back to Africa, he and his wife planted a church in South Dakota."

Looney noted that he had the privilege to go out and help with that project.

Fun is added to the rules as the boys and girls try to outdo each other each night of VBS.

To add to the fun, Looney said, "We also pick a couple of women and men that are willing to get a pie in the face and at the end of the week if the boys won more the man gets the pie in the face if the girls win the women does."

He also said that the adults get pretty competitive with bringing their pennies as well.

"We do it by weight and this year

we raised \$910.26 worth of pennies!" he said happily. "The kids love it, and some actually save their pennies all year to bring them."

This year, the boys won. "As a pastor I love it! The kids get

excited about helping and also this gets the Gospel out," Looney shared. "The wells that will be providing water at the churches will also provide water for the peoples in the village which in turn opens the door for the

See **Collecting Pennies**, page 4



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING  
The Lighthouse Baptist Church annually supports a ministry through their "penny wars" during VBS. This year they raised \$910.26 to send to Uganda to dig new wells.



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

The Craig Valley VFW Post 4491 halted the July 4 parade on Main Street, displaying their true patriotic way by replacing the tattered United States of America flag at the courthouse with a new one. A hush fell over everyone as the old flag was lowered and the new flag raised. A prayer was written and read by Chaplain Ken Looney.

## VFW shows honor on Independence Day

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

Our Craig Valley VFW Post 4491 led the parade, stopping in front of the courthouse, to retire the tattered flag that was flying and replace it with a new one.

At first, people were unsure of what was happening, then it became obvious as veterans surrounded Old Glory and military attention was given.

As the flag was raised, honorary salutes were given and then a prayer was spoken, written by Ken Looney, Chaplain of Craig Valley VFW Post 4491.

"Heavenly Father, as we gather here today, on this Independence Day, to pay Honor and Tribute on the retirement of this 'OLD FLAG,' may we who cherish our Freedom, and our sacred Liberties, to never forget the high price, self-sacrifice, and

See **Independence Day**, page 2

## CCHS earns National Beta School of Distinction recognition

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

Who says small schools can't perform like larger ones? I for one am one who believes you can do anything you set your mind and will to do.

Thankfully, we have many teachers, staff and administration at Craig County Public Schools who believe this as well.

Last year, the teacher who had been the sponsor for the BETA Club for several years moved to another school. This left our Beta Club without a sponsor.

Principal Susan Stimeling shared that she was able to encourage Alivia Garman to be the new sponsor this year.

"She put in all of her effort and heart into this, being a former Beta Club member herself and now has made our school a National Beta School of Distinction," Stimeling said.

Stimeling read the letter from the National Beta Club: "Congratulations to the National Beta Sponsor and Beta students in your school for achieving National Beta School of Distinction status. This National Award speaks highly of your commitment to academic excellence and dedication to prepare your students for their future. National Beta is the nation's largest independent non-profit educational youth organization. We are committed to recognizing and promoting high academic achievement, rewarding,

and nurturing worthy character, improving student leadership skills and encouraging students service to others. The students in your school understand the importance of these qualities and exemplify the Beta motto, 'Let us lead by serving others.' Thank you for all you do as an administrator in supporting the success of your staff and students. A National Beta Club in your school provides an experience that allows

students to achieve lifelong goals. We appreciate your continued focus on fostering activities that ensure that all students can achieve success."

Stimeling presented the new banner to Garman, sharing, "I take no credit for this award."

Superintendent Jeanette Warwick added, "We very much appreciate your dedication and sponsorship, being your first year of teaching. Congratulations."



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

Principal Susan Stimeling presents first-year teacher Alivia Garman with the newly earned National Beta School of Distinction status, which she pursued with her students this past year and achieved. An impressive feat for a first-year teacher to take her students to such high levels. Congrats!

## Great Race winners - Stahl and Hull Take home "Big Birds"



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

Their "Stars and Stripes" 1932 Ford Speedster traveled the easy roads and the really bad bumpy roads across several states in their push for the win.

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

Racing has different meanings to many.

For Trevor Stahl and Josh Hull, it's a cross country race in a 1932 Ford Speedster against 167 other beautiful older vehicles.

Since 2015, Stahl and Hull have been running The Hemmings Motor News Great Race in their 'Stars and Stripes' car.

Stahl actually got hooked on the race in 2014, when

he joined his parents who were racing in it. He hooked up with them from Maine to Florida, and in just seven years is now making history.

Craig residents follow their race, as Hull used to be a part-time paramedic in Craig County. Many of the EMS providers still enjoy following Hull and the American car on their annual excursions throughout the week-long race.

Jim Cady, a long time EMS member in Craig shared, "Josh has been a first

See **Great Race**, page 4

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

Second annual Car Show Fund-raiser hosted by the Upper Craigs Creek Volunteer Fire Dept - Held at Fairgrounds, July 17, 3-8 p.m. Trucks, tractors, bikes and cars welcome. \$10 entry fee. First, second

and third place awarded. Sign up early or just show up. (540) 588-7158 for more info. Hot dogs, chips and drinks will be available. Stop by and support your Fire Dept volunteers!



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

**The Upper Craig Creek Volunteer Fire Department has truly exploded in their youth squad. Even the littlest of ones are wanting to join, as this little fella, a little over three feet tall, grabbed a uniform at the recent Mud Run, showing others his outfit and genuine "wanting-ness" to join. Their Second Annual Fundraiser Car/truck/tractor/bike Show this Saturday, July 16 at Fairgrounds, 3-8 p.m.**

## Great Race

from page 1

responder in Botetourt County for over 20 years. He is a great young man. He chose to be a Roanoke City firefighter/paramedic for a career. When our Volunteer Rescue Squad was having difficulty covering our calls and the County had to hire some part time paramedics, I asked Josh if he would pull some duty days and he gladly did and worked for us for several years."

Cady also said that Hull was a great helper as their on-duty EMS personnel worked to convert the old high school agriculture building into a rescue squad building.

"During that time I think he began competing in The Great Race and we have enjoyed following his success!" Cady added. "Each year he got closer, and I kept telling him he will get it and we will be cheering him on!"

"I wanted to be a firefighter since I was a kid," Hull shared. He started volunteering at age 17, went to college and was hired on to Roanoke City in 2007.

Hull got hooked on The Great Race the moment he found out about it. Now, he and his best friend and navigator Stahl are celebrating their first win.

Stahl is still local as well and owns the Blacksburg & Roanoke Fit Body Boot Camp.

Hull and Stahl seem to truly have the same passion for enjoying the many beautiful states they drive through during the race, though they are limited as all eyes, ears and attention has to be focused on the car, their speed and the detailed time factors they are limited to, in order to win this race of over 2,300 miles.

"I don't really look at the road because my eyes are locked on the speedometer," Hull said. "I have to keep the speedometer at the exact speed to complete that leg of the race and my navigator is busy calculating our exact speeds as we look for markers to turn."

This year, they started at Rocky Point State Park in Rhode Island; drove through Windsor Locks, Conn.; then Montgomery, N.Y.; Binghamton, N.Y.; Wellsville, N.Y.; Erie, Pa.; Medina, Ohio; Perrysburg, Ohio; South Bend, Ind.; Plainfield, Ill.; then through Sun Prairie, Wis.; Chippewa Falls, Wis.; and through Duluth - Brainerd and Detroit Lakes, Minn.; and finally to the finish line in Fargo, N.D.

167 participants were driving, from

a 1916 Hudson Hill Climber to a 1974 Plymouth Bluesmobile.

They share that it is a grueling marathon for the drivers, navigators and the vehicles, and that is why Hemmings came up with the motto, "To Finish is to Win!"

The purse structure keeps the competition fierce, vying for more than \$150,000, among five divisions, with \$50,000 going to each overall Grand Champion winner as well as bumping them into the Grand Championship division.

"This year, the team of Hull and Stahl stayed in the lead for the majority of the event," Hemmings shared. "As part of the Stahls' team, this car and this team has been improving year over year and have finally reached the pinnacle of Great Race competition."

They added that their 1932 Speedster "wears our nation's colors and it held together very well, despite the demanding conditions of quick stops, hard acceleration and challenging maneuvers."

"My favorite place we visited this year was before the race started," Stahl said. "We went to Newport, RI for lunch and to see the Newport Car Museum which just happened to be the same day as the start of the Newport to Bermuda sailboat race. What a fun little town and spectacle of boats. If I had to pick a day during the race, driving on the historic road course at Watkins Glen, would be a highlight!"

On day one, they started off with a 5 second day and 2 aces as they shared, "We were beat out for the top score of the day by our good friends in a 41 Pickup Truck."

Stahl explained one shaky incident in New York: "Each morning we have a tire warm up and speedo calibration where we go 50mph for 'x' amount of miles. When we got off the exit at the end, Josh mentioned he had no brakes. We pulled into the gas station and immediately went to work to see where we were leaking brake fluid. Thankfully we were able to spot the issue, pull a screw out of the exhaust and plug the hole. We bought all the brake fluid the gas station had, filled up the reservoir and went on our way. At least we had breaks!"

Quickly adding with a laugh, "Our car did great overall, considering they try to find the bumpiest back roads in America to

See Great Race, page 3



The Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Center in Abingdon, where PBS Appalachia will be headquartered.

# PBS Appalachia to begin broadcasting for Southwest Virginia

Submitted by Blue Ridge PBS

Blue Ridge PBS is creating a first-of-its-kind, all-digital television station dedicated to serving Southwest Virginia. PBS Appalachia|Va will serve 13 counties in one of the only areas of the country not currently served by a PBS station. We will tell the stories of our communities, celebrate our heritage, highlight our people, and look forward to our region's growth; all through the lens of industry-leading equipment and the eye of award winning producers.

Over the next year, PBS Appalachia|Va will create a state-of-the-art studio, headquartered in the Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Center in Abingdon, VA. This partnership will allow the two non-profit organizations to not only showcase the region through video but draw more visitors to the area to tour the station and see television production as it happens.

"Blue Ridge PBS covers a staggering 42% of the geographic Commonwealth, including rural Appalachia, an often-overlooked region. Due to limited resources, those areas have been underserved," says William Anderson, president and CEO, Blue Ridge PBS. "We know we must be where other media outlets are not and provide the content that they won't or can't."

PBS Appalachia|Va has key personnel

in place. Julie Newman is vice president and general manager of the new station. She has earned four Regional Emmy Awards and has 23 years of broadcast and public television experience; most recently as news anchor for News 5 WCYB in Bristol, VA. Jacob Dellinger is executive producer of PBS Appalachia|Va. He is a three-time Regional Emmy winning cinematographer, director and producer covering Southwest Virginia.

"PBS Appalachia is the answer to a critical need! Producers at this new digital station will create educational and community content that is relevant and vital to our region, giving a positive voice to this underserved region like never before," says M. E. Marty Hall, Jr., chairman of the Governing Board of Directors, Blue Ridge PBS.

PBS Appalachia|Va is expected to launch June 10, 2023. The digital station will deliver the full PBS schedule and local stories that matter on any smart TV connected to WiFi or Broadband and will also be offered to local cable stations. It will also be on streaming services such as YouTube TV, Roku, DirectTVstream, Amazon Fire, and Apple TV, as well as on a new mobile app available in conjunction with PBS.

For information on the PBS Appalachia|Va, contact Julie Newman, Vice President and General Manager jnewman@blueridgepbs.org.



PBS Appalachia Vice President and General Manager Julie Newman



PBS Appalachia Executive Producer Jacob Dellinger

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

# Virginia Bear Hunters Association awards scholarship to CCHS grad

Submitted by the Virginia Bear Hunters Association

Mason Carter Huffman, a 2022 graduate of Craig County High School, was awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship by the Virginia Bear Hunters Association (VBHA). Mason is the son of Tim and Angie Huffman of Newport and members of the VBHA. Mason plans to attend Virginia Western Community College

and pursue a career in Physical Therapy.

The Virginia Bear Hunters Association is a statewide organization dedicated to the preservation of hunting bear with dogs and to sound wildlife management principles. The Association's annual scholarship is open to members and their families and is awarded based on academic achievement, planned course of study, community and association participation, honors and awards, and an essay.

# Independence Day

from page 1

shed blood, paid to ensure us these Freedoms, because we know all too well that 'Freedom is Not Free.'

"Though this 'FLAG' is tattered, frayed and battle weary, it still demands our highest Honor and Respect, as it brings back our remembrance of all our Nation and what this flag stands for, and also for the Blessings of our God to live in the Greatest Nation Ever created.

"So, this 'OLD FLAG' has well-earned its time of

rest, as we lower it in time-honored respect, and raise up a NEW FLAG to stand in its place.

"May we, a people PROUD and FREE, pay our highest respect to our 'OLD GLORY,' and may our God continue to Love and Bless our Nation, THE United States OF AMERICA. May GOD BLESS AMERICA, in whose Nation we stand, forevermore! Amen."

A quiet respect filled the

air, until the veterans gave their final salute and walked back to their truck.

A respectful applause followed, as many who attend these events understand that many of our veterans share much more of a relationship with "Old Glory" than can ever be written on paper or spoken in words.

A special "thank you" to our veterans and active military of Craig County, for your service and continued care for our community.

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# Good Reads for Children: Picture Books

## Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community

Animals in the Sky by Sara Gillingham

This simple, dazzling board book will help young readers learn to identify six of the most recognizable animal constellations from The Great Bear to The Southern Fish. Ages 2-4

The Little Mermaid by Jerry Pinkney

A vivid reimagining of the Hans Christian Andersen classic fairy tale from a celebrated author/illustrator. In this version, the mermaid befriends a human girl instead of falling for a prince. Ages 4-7

Sugar in Milk by Thrity Umrigar

"When I first came to this country, I felt so alone." A young immigrant girl struggles to adjust to her new country in this story about the power of diversity, acceptance, and resilience. Ages 4-8

I Talk Like a River by Jordan Scott

"I wake up each morning with the sounds of words all around me. And I can't say them all..." A boy who stutters learns to find his voice in this immersive picture

book. Ages 4-8

Black is a Rainbow Color by Angela Joy  
"My color is black . . . And there's no black in rainbows." A child reflects on the meaning of being Black in this moving and powerful anthem about a people, a culture, a history, and a legacy. Ages 4-8

¡Vamos! Let's Go Eat by Raúl the Third

Peppered with Spanish vocabulary, this glorious celebration of food, like quesadillas with red peppers and Mexican-Korean tacos, will leave readers hungry. Ages 4-8

All Because You Matter by Tami Charles

A lyrical, heartfelt love letter to black and brown children everywhere: reminding them that they have always mattered and assuring them that they always will. Ages 4-8

The Arabic Quilt by Aya Khalil

Kanzi's family has moved from Egypt to America, and on her first day in a new school, what she wants more than anything is to fit in. But after her mom shows up at school, she's not sure if she ever will. Ages 6-8

Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks by Suzanne Slade

A picture-book biography of the first Black

person to win the Pulitzer Prize. Poet Gwendolyn Brooks wrote about "real life" subjects, like love, loneliness, family, and poverty. Ages 6-9

Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera by Candace Fleming

Get up close and personal with a honeybee, as she embarks on her journey through life, complete with exquisitely detailed illustrations. Ages 6-9

Chapter Books:

Loretta Little Looks Back by Andrea Davis Pinkney

Through an evocative mix of fictional first-person narratives, spoken-word poems, folk myths, gospel rhythms, and blues influences, this novel illuminates the history of sharecroppers in the rural South. Ages 8-12

A Whale of the Wild by Rosanne Parry

A young orca whale leads her brother on a tumultuous journey to be reunited with their pod. This gorgeously illustrated animal adventure novel explores family bonds, survival, global warming, and a changing seascape. Ages 8-12

Class Act by Jerry Craft

This moving and funny graphic novel tells the story of Drew, an

eighth-grade boy from the Bronx who faces the distinct challenges of being one of the few kids of color in a prestigious private school. Ages 8-12

Mañanaland by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Eleven-year-old Max longs to know more about his mother who disappeared when he was a baby. So he sets out on a perilous quest for answers. This powerful fantasy rings with resonant truths about compassion and our shared humanity. Ages 8-12

Prairie Lotus by Linda Sue Park

A powerful, touching, multilayered book about a young half-Korean girl living in a small town in America's heartland, in 1880. Determined to fit in and realize her dreams, Hanna's wry, observant voice resonates with readers. Ages 10-13

We Dream of Space by Erin Entrada Kelly

Cash, Fitch, and Bird Thomas are three siblings living in Park, Delaware in 1986. As the three wait expectantly for the launch of the Space Shuttle Challenger, they exist in their own orbits, circling a tense and unpredictable household. Ages 8-12

When Stars Are Scattered by Omar Mo-



hamed and Victoria Jamiesson

Inspired by the recent wave of activism for racial justice, civil rights icon Ruby Bridges—who, at the age of six, was the first black child to integrate an all-white elementary school in New Orleans—shares her story. Ages 10 and up

From the Desk of Zoe Washington by Janae Marks

What does a girl say to the father she's never met, hadn't heard from until his letter arrives on her twelfth birthday? He's in prison for a terrible crime—a crime he says he never committed. Zoe decides to launch her own investigation. Ages 8-12.

A good read takes you on adventure so pick up a book and dive in!

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A good read takes you on adventure so pick up a book and dive in!

## Collect Pennies

Pastor and others at the Church to share the gospel. "We never know the impact that we can have!" he added. "I believe when we get to Heaven we will see just how much."



The boys won this year during Lighthouse Baptist "penny wars," therefore the ladies got the pie in the face. However, one lady got two...what fun!

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# Two easy flowers from seed

By Erica Jones, Newport Resident

Starting flowers from seed might seem like a difficult thing to do, but there are some that are pretty easy. They fill in that awkward season between the spring bulbs and shrubs, and annuals like zinnia, marigold, petunia, etc. The catch is, it is easier to start in the fall for these.

Poppies got a bad name from the opium poppy (*Papaver somniferum*) which is technically illegal to grow, but only if you are growing them to make opium. Beside that species there are two other species that also grow as annuals but do quite well in our area and are planted by seed, outside, in the fall. These three species produce flowers about 24 inches tall which come in bright shades of pink, white, burgundy and purple.

Since you are “direct sowing,” i.e. putting the seeds on the ground, you need to start with a weed-free area that has been well watered and gets full (all day or at least 8 hours of) sun. You do not need to till the area, but the ground should be fairly loose. If the soil does not have any texture – tiny lumps – the seeds will just wash off when it rains. Dragging a garden rake over the weeded area should be sufficient soil preparation. When you rake, do the final rake across the slope of

the ground so the seeds will accumulate in the furrows. Starting with very damp soil will keep you from washing the seeds away with the hose.

In theory you can plant the seeds in very early spring, but I like the fall approach. Some form of marking the area (sticks, rocks or boards) can help delineate the area.

After they bloom you can either let the interesting seed pods mature (the seeds are black when ripe) or simply pull up the plants. They will not re-bloom. If you let the pods mature and scatter the seeds you should get another crop, although they may not be the same colors, and may revert to a single form. *Papaver somniferum* are good for cooking.

Another very easy to grow from seed flower is forget-me-not, or *Myosotis sylvatica* (my-oh-SOH-tiss sil-VAT-ih-kah). These are true biennials in that they need to be planted at least by early summer for blooms the following year. Again, they are easiest to plant in a place out in the garden where you hope they will bloom the following year. They bloom mid-spring, combining well with spring bulbs.

Some gardeners will find that they reseed too enthusiastically while the let-live gardeners like their ability to show up in sunny nooks and crannies.



The biennial forget-me-not.



These (double) poppies were blooming in June at the Maywood Garden Triangle.



PHOTOS BY ERICA JONES

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**CHESTNUT GROVE CHURCH**  
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**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.

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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**  
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**NEW CANTERBURY PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP**  
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118 Main Street, New Castle. Service Times: Sunday, Bible classes-10 a.m., Worship-11:00 a.m., Evening Worship-6 p.m.; Wednesday, Bible classes - 7 p.m.

**NEW CASTLE UNITED METHODIST**  
Rev. Charles Slacy, 364 Main St., New Castle, Va. 864-5242; Sunday School 10AM, Worship 11AM; Monday Adult Choir 7PM, UMW 3rd Wednesday 7PM, Youth and other programs, Bible Studies.

**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.

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### Legals - Botetourt County

#### Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§1-211.1;8.01-316, -317,20-104  
Case No. CW21000078-00  
Botetourt One West Main St, Suite 120, Fincastle, VA 24090  
Commonwealth of Virginia in re MICHAEL DEWEY MYERS, DECEASED. The object of this suit is to LOCATE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MICHAEL DEWEY MYERS, DECEASED. It is ORDERED that ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interest on or before JULY 29,2022. Dated JUNE 17, 2022  
Tommy L. Moore, Clerk.

#### Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. Code Ann. §§8.01-316, -317  
**Case No. 22-7**  
Botetourt County Circuit Court  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re **James Daniel Hull Amy Diane Hammond, Stephen Holloway Hammond v. James Brandon Hull**  
The object of this suit is to: Adopt James Daniel Hull by stepparent, Stephen Holloway Hammond. It is ORDERED that James Brandon Hull, whose location is unknown appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before August 15, 2022.  
Signed and dated- Tommy L. Moore, Clerk 06/24/2022

### Legals - City of Radford

#### ABC NOTICE

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

### Legals - City of Salem

#### Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§1-211.1;8.01-316, -317,20-104  
Case No. CL20000259-00  
CITY OF SALEM 2 East Calhoun Street, Salem VA 24153. **RICHARD HARDY V. MIA WALK-HARDY.**  
The object of this suit is to: TO OBTAIN A DIVORCE. It is ORDERED that MIA WALK-HARDY appear in the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before AUGUST 5,2022. Dated JUNE 7, 2022  
Stacy L. Owen, D.C., Clerk

### Legals - Montgomery County

#### Notification is given

that Skyline National Bank, 113 West Main Street, Independence, Virginia24348 has filed an application with the Comptroller of the Currency on July 12, 2022, as specified in 12 CFR 5 for permission to establish a full-service branch at 1206 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060. Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing with the Northeastern District Office, Comptroller of the Currency, Director for District Licensing, 340 Madison Avenue, Fifth Floor, New York, NY 10173-0002 or by email to [NE.Licensing@occ.treas.gov](mailto:NE.Licensing@occ.treas.gov) within 30 days of the date of this publication.

July 13, 2022 Skyline National Bank Independence, Virginia

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# SPORTS

Send story ideas & announcements to [bhoffman@ourvalley.org](mailto:bhoffman@ourvalley.org)

## NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AT CRAIG COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Craig County High School welcomed a new athletic director this week as Stephanie Blevins takes over the reins of the Rocket program. Stephanie's first day at Craig County High was Monday of this week.

Blevins will replace former acting athletic director Carrie Hutton, who did a terrific job filling in as athletic coordinator before being named athletic director. Carrie will remain with the school and continue her role as a secretary.

Blevins comes from Floyd County with 24 years of teaching experience. She was a cheer coach for five years and serves on the Board of Directors for the Floyd County Boosters Club. A native of Front Royal, VA, she's seen all sides of a sports program.

"In high school, I was the wrestling manager and soccer manager," she said. "I also filled in as our mascot, Willy

the Wildcat, at different sporting events. I didn't really become involved in sports until I started teaching and had my own children."

Stephanie is a 1992 graduate of Warren County High School and a 1997 Radford University grad with a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies and a minor in English and Psychology. She has a husband of 19 years and they have three daughters who have played sports since they were five years old, twin girls who will be going into their junior year at Floyd County High and a third daughter who will be a sophomore for the Buffaloes.

"They have participated in softball, volleyball, track and basketball," said Blevins. "One twin has cheered for the past four years, and the other had played basketball until this year and has now fallen in love with running. This year she will be on the cross

country team, indoor track team and outdoor track team.

"My youngest currently plays basketball on a travel team and will continue on the varsity basketball team for Floyd County. She will also throw discus and shot for the outdoor track team. They keep us pretty busy."

Stephanie is excited about joining the Craig County family and has been studying up on the area.

"When I was first hired, I asked for a yearbook," she said. "It is important to me to learn about the culture of the school. I know that it is a close community of students and staff. Many students are involved in different activities in the school and the community. I am excited to learn more about the school and about becoming a Rocket."

Blevins feels she has a lot to offer the school and being a part of the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**New Craig County Athletic Director Stephanie Blevins, left, with daughter Sabrie at the Run for the Roses travel basketball tournament in Louisville, KY.**

sports program is right down her alley.

"What led me to apply was the opportunity to step into a new leadership role," she said. "I initially was interested in the assistant principal role. However, getting to step into the role of AD is exciting. High school athletics have

been a major part of my life over the past few years. I did not miss a basketball, football, cross country or track meet last school year.

"I am excited about learning more, participating in and planning the different events for Craig County. I see the chance to encour-

age more students to be involved and to take part in the different opportunities provided for them. I believe that being part of a team is so much more than winning or losing. It teaches teamwork and time management and builds confidence."

## ROANOKE VALLEY SPORTS CLUB WILL FEATURE HIGH SCHOOL COACHES

The Roanoke Valley Sports Club will meet on Thursday next week instead of their usual Monday night meeting, and five local high school football coaches will be featured. Salem High's

Don Holter, Glenvar's Kevin Clifford, Hidden Valley's Scott Weaver, William Fleming's Lamar Lovelace and Alan Fiddler of Patrick Henry will each make brief presentations and field

questions at the dinner meeting at the Salem Civic Center.

Social time begins at 5:45 pm with dinner at 6:15 pm and the program is scheduled to begin at 7 pm. Cost is \$22.50 for mem-

bers and \$28 for non-members.

Reservations are required, and due to meal guarantees all reservations must be made online or received by mail prior to 4 pm on Monday, July 18. No

walk-ups or pay-at-the-door will be accepted.

To sign up online go to the Roanoke Valley Sports Club website at <https://roanokevalleysportsclub.com/>.

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT WHEN SCHOOL IS OUT

It seems like sooner or later we're going to have just one legitimate conference of 40 or 50 schools in the NCAA, and then we'll basically have no conferences at all.

When the "Big 10" added the University of Southern California and UCLA to their conference a couple weeks ago it will give them 16 schools when the two California teams officially start play in 2024. Obviously that's more than 10, and has been, so what problem would it be to change the name? Maybe of the 16 schools only 10 are considered "BIG." Is Rutgers a big school?

The Southeastern Conference (SEC) currently has 14 schools and word has it they'd like to add a few more to keep up. Raiding our local Atlantic Coast Conference seems like a possibility, although "local" is a stretch since schools like Pittsburgh and Boston College joined. Do you remember when all the teams were somewhat in proximity to the "Atlantic Coast?"

Virginia Tech fans have to be wreatin' this one out. When the Hokies joined the ACC Tech was assured a great schedule of football and basketball games every year, but what if the "Big 10ish" and SEC start enticing the likes of Clemson, North Carolina, Florida State and others. The Hokies could be left with a football schedule of Akron and Old Dominion instead of Notre Dames and Clemsons. Unless, of course, the Hokies can hitch their wagon to one of the two ever increasing mule trains that threaten to ruin college sports as we know it.

Of course, Stevie Wonder can see this is all about football. My question is, will USC and UCLA be playing the other Big 10 schools in ALL the sports? No other sport makes as much money for the school as football. Basketball is next, but sports like cross country and field hockey most likely don't bring in anything at all. And, with Title 9 that could be a problem.

With that in mind I googled Penn State's field hockey schedule. The Nittany Lionesses have non-conference trips to

Virginia, William & Mary, Lafayette and Princeton, with the longest trip being about a five or six hour bus ride to Williamsburg. However, they have eight games against Big 10 opponents, including games at Iowa and Michigan State and home games against Northwestern and Michigan. Those are pretty long trips for teams that don't bring in any money.

Enter two teams from California. According to my "Google Maps" the distance from State College, PA to Los Angeles is 2,570 miles. That's a 38 hour drive by car with no traffic, and add some hours by bus. Of course you wouldn't be taking a bus, so if Penn State plays USC or UCLA in one of several non-revenue sports it would entail a plane flight and hotel expenses.

I imagine the Big 10 could split the conference into two eight team divisions, but are you really in the same "conference" if you never play teams in the other division? And you have to be very careful with the Title 9 stuff. Why would the Penn State football team fly to games in LA and the women's volleyball team would not get to make those trips?

I really don't like the way these two conferences are sucking the others dry. Soon all the teams capable of winning the football championship will be stacked in just two conferences, if it's not like that already.

Maybe it's the conservative side of me, but I liked things the way they were with a bunch of conferences, geographically compatible with traditional rivals and a sense of stability. That scenario may soon be gone forever.

### GRINER'S IN A TOUGH SPOT

I feel bad for Brittney Griner and would love to see her back home, but I wonder what she was thinking when she took cannabis oil to Russia? Did she ever see the movie "Midnight Express?"

Midnight Express is a 1970 movie about the true experience of Billy Hayes, who wrote a book about his arrest and in-



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carceration after being caught with hashish in Turkey. Just watching the movie made my heart beat fast as the Turkish police searched his bags. Hayes was sent to a hellish prison for a long sentence, but eventually escaped. After watching that movie I vowed to never smuggle hash into Turkey. Maybe IN a turkey, but only in this country and with a medical waiver.

I know kids make mistakes, but Brittney Griner is 31 years old and should have known better. You don't take that kind of chance in foreign countries, especially a place like Russia. Does she watch the news?

Also, why was she going there in the first place? The Russians had already invaded Ukraine, so she had to know that Americans were going to be especially scrutinized. Apparently she made a lot of money playing basketball in Russia, but what good is that money doing her now?

I find it strange that these golfers who have signed up for the LIV tour are being criticized for taking money from Saudia Arabia, but I haven't heard anyone question why Griner was making money in Russia while the Russians were wiping out entire cities of innocent Ukrainian people.

Now she's written a letter to President Biden begging for help to be released from prison. Maybe she should have written a letter to Biden asking him if it was a good idea to take cannabis oil into Russia while we're sending military aide to a country they're destroying.

Don't get me wrong, I feel bad for Griner and would love to see her back home safe and sound playing in the WNBA. However, when you go through the gate that says "Beware of Dog," don't act surprised when you get bit.

### DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

I was listening to sports talk radio shortly after the 4th of July and they were debating whether or not Joey Chestnut should be considered an "athlete." My question is, is this even reason for debate?

Chestnut, as you likely know, is the legendary "competitive eater" that is featured every 4th of July in the Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest in Brooklyn. This year he won the contest for the seventh consecutive year, eating 63 hot dogs in 10 minutes. That was 15 and a half hot dogs better than the second place eater!

Seven consecutive Nathan's titles is impressive indeed, you can't argue with that. Tom Brady has won seven Super Bowls, but not seven in a row. I don't think the New York Yankees, in all their glory, ever won the World Series seven straight times. UCLA won seven straight NCAA basketball championships from 1967 to '73, and they're often mentioned in the same sentence as Joey Chestnut. People say, "Joey Chestnut, he's no Kareem Abdul-Jabbar."

But is Chesnut an athlete? The argument for him being one is that he has to train to be able to down all those hot dogs, and he's a competitor. No denying that, but does that make him an athlete? Chris Farley trained to be an actor. Minnesota Fats was a competitor in billiards. I'm sure John Daly has practiced a lot of golf, but I don't consider any of the three to be athletes.

What Chestnut is, to me, is a fascination. Why would anyone even want to eat 63 hot dogs in 10 minutes? Is it for the money?

Well, I did a little research on that. The hot dog eating winner gets \$10,000, and Joey has won it 14 times. So, his 14 championships have earned him \$140,000, not a lot for 14 years of consumption. Ken Jennings made more than that in a week playing Jeopardy, and he's not an athlete either.

Chesnut also won a pumpkin pie eating contest in 2021, downing almost 17 pounds of pie in 11 and a half minutes. He's made some money from

endorsements, mostly from food companies and even one from Pepto Bismol, which makes more sense. Do you remember, "I can't believe I ate the whole thing!?" That was for Alka-Seltzer, but you get the idea.

Blue ribbons and upset stomachs aside, the question of whether he's an athlete is no question at all. LeBron James is an athlete, Joey Chesnut is a sideshow that has captured the imagination of folks not much different than the sword swallower at the traveling carnival.

"I can't believe he swallowed the whole thing!!"

### STILL FUN

As I just espoused, you don't have to be an athlete to be a competitor.

The first week of July my wife and two of my grandsons accompanied me on a trip to Pennsylvania to watch the Phillies play baseball against the Cardinals. We stayed at a hotel and the TV in the room "only" had about 40 channels instead of the hundreds I get here in Virginia with DirecTV. And don't laugh if you remember when there were two channels here in the valley and a snowy Channel 13 from Lynchburg, if you could get it.

As we were scrolling through the options we came across a professional "corn hole" tournament. After watching for a minute or so I became engrossed in the game. While these weren't athletes, there was certainly a skill involved and the competition was keen.

At one point a woman competitor put 27 of 28 throws in the hole, and I know that's not easy no matter how much you practice. We ended up watching the tournament for almost an hour and, I must say, I enjoyed it.

Do you remember when the pandemic hit a couple years ago and "corn hole" was a regular event on ESPN with most of the normal sports shut down? I never considered watching it at the time, but last week I realized I can enjoy just about anything when people who really care about what they're doing are competing.

I think I just described most of the Winter Olympics.