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THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



GOPHER MARKET

GO ROCKETS!




As many arrived early, the little kids had fun. Piper put on gloves and went around as Elsa from the movie "Frozen" and was freezing people.

Old Salem Church potluck brings heritage to life

Over 60 attended annual homecoming

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

For many people, old-fashioned potluck dinners have always been a favorite.

The Annual Old Salem Church Homecoming Potluck is one of those. This year over 60 people attended, as some thought the weather would rain it out, but it didn't.

Gleeful chatter was heard from beginning to end and smiles and hugs were of abundance.

The afternoon started with a warm welcome from organizer, Jean Bradley.

The tables were laden with a smorgasbord of delicious homemade foods and desserts, as everyone seemed to get all they could eat and take some to the elderly who weren't able to make it.

Many years it has been hot or rainy but this year there was a cool breeze which made the day very comfortable for most.

It has never seemed to bother anyone that there is no water or electricity at the old church, so only a one-seater outhouse is available.

People sat under the trees at tables, while others brought their own chairs to enjoy the outdoors. Some were able to get a seat on the picnic tables under the pavilion.

After dinner, there was a service in the church which was decorated in Black-eyed Susan's and Queen Anne's lace was placed in quart canning jars by LeeAnn Mattox.

Jean Bradley's granddaughters, Kallie and Kammie Fisher, read special devotions.

Bradley reported that they are still working on some things in the church, as donations had come in for more repairs to be able to be done. Also, to pull a tree out and put in a Christmas tree.

She also announced that



PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING
Several years ago, the old tree that grew beside the church fell over and went through the roof. This piece of rafter was saved. Written on it is: "This timber, an original stood the brunt of a direct hit by a large red oak tree toppled across the church roof by a fierce hurricane named Hugo in October 1989."

her project this year was to get pictures of any couples who had been married in the little church. There were two present, Ann Looney and Virginia Veasey who were great friends and seated together at the service.

The ladies tried to remember their dates. Looney was married Sept. 2, 1955 and Veasey got married June 29, 1951.

See Potluck, page 3

Craig County girls win gold in Lynchburg



Three Craig County girls took the gold home for the Commonwealth Game Championship. Pictured are Kammie and Kallie Fisher, Kailyn Jones with assistant coach Tommy Fisher and coach Brock Jones.



Kailyn Jones said that playing with this team pushed her to be a better player and she showed her talent in the games.

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

Craig County basketball enthusiasts have cause for celebration. Three girls' basketball players from the county recently played in, and won, the Virginia Commonwealth Games in Lynchburg.

Brock Jones shared that in late

June/early July, Chad Bouchard from Natural Bridge reached out to him on Facebook saying that he saw the videos of his daughter, Kailyn Jones, and wanted to know if she wanted to come up and try out for the VA Bandits AAU 14U Basketball Team. It is a USSSA-sanctioned program which he coaches.

"I let him know that we would

be up and if he had room on the roster, I wanted to bring two more girls along to try out. After talking to Chad, he said 'absolutely,' Jones shared. "I got with Tommy Fisher, who is my assistant coach for the high school and that coach's middle school and JV girls basketball."

See Craig Girls, page 2

Boyd assumes editorial oversight of papers



Aila Boyd has assumed the role of executive editor over Virginia Media, Inc.

As part of her duties, she will serve as editor of The Salem Times-Register and The New Castle Record. Additionally, she will oversee the editorial content of The Fincastle Herald, The Vinton Messenger, Radford News Journal and News Messenger.

"Community newspapers are the heart and soul of our communities. My goal going forward is to strengthen our editorial content. I will be working with the editorial teams at all of our papers to make sure we are providing our readers with the type of robust coverage they deserve," she said.

Boyd, a veteran journalist, previously worked for the company between 2018 and 2020. She served as the editor of The Fincastle Herald and The Vinton Messenger.

"It's great to be part of the Virginia Media family again," Boyd said. "I enjoyed my first stint with the company and couldn't be more thrilled to be back."

Most recently, she was the editor of The Franklin News-Post and Laker magazine, a glossy lifestyle magazine at Smith Mountain Lake.

Boyd, who holds a terminal graduate degree in writing, has also worked extensively in education. She has taught English at a number of colleges and universities.

-The New Castle Record

Roanoke College report shows Virginia consumer sentiment rebound Gas \$3.39 a gallon in New Castle this week

Aila Boyd
a Boyd@ourvalley.org

Consumer sentiment in Virginia is up for the third quarter, according to an Aug. 23 report from The Institute for Policy and Opinion Research at Roanoke College.

The rebound comes after heavy losses over the first half of 2022.

"Consumer sentiment turned a corner in the third quarter of 2022, moving up more than in the last four years," Alice Louise Kassens, a senior analyst at the college, said in the report.

Inflation, the report noted,

had been the primary drag on sentiment. When gas prices started to fall in July, the relief translated to increased optimism.

The price of a gallon of regular gas at Gopher Market on Main Street in New Castle Monday was \$3.39.

Analysis provided in the report indicated that supply chain issues are sorting themselves out. If the issues continue to be resolved, prices should continue to decline.

In addition to simply alleviating the pain at the pump, the report said lower gas prices should translate to lower food

prices because of decreased shipping costs.

"Hopefully, this will continue, and we will trend upwards. Strong consumer confidence highlights how consumers feel about the economy and can also impact the future," Kassens said. "It can become a self-fulfilling prophecy, and we can push ourselves into a recession."

She also noted that the labor market remains strong, which has been aided by the pullback in quarantine recommendations for school-age children. Parents have had more freedom to pursue job openings.



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County encourages residents to sign up for alert system

Craig County announced in a release that it is utilizing CodeRED Alert System to inform citizens and property owners when there may be an incident where

safety and welfare is concerned. Home phone numbers are prepopulated into the system. Individuals that use cellphones need to sign up for this free ser-

vice. The link to sign up can be found on the Craig County government website: craigcountyva.gov. On the home page, click "CodeRED Emer-

gency Alert System." The county said sign up information will be kept private. The Craig County Sheriff's Office and Craig County Emergency

Management said that they encourage everyone to sign up. "The system allows for countywide alerts and can also be utilized to map out a certain section

of the county where the incident is taking place for notifications," the county said in the release.

-The New Castle Record

Craig Girls from page 1

Jones explained that he called Tommy on a Monday and asked him what he was doing the next day besides working.

"He said, 'that's about it I believe,' and I said, 'good, we're loading up and going to Natural Bridge's old high school and taking your twins, Kallie and Kammie, and my kid, Kailyn, to try out for an AAU team!'" Jones added. "It was a short notice and not much time to think about it, but Tommy's used to the way I operate, and he was on board."

Jones noted that Kallie will be on the varsity team for sure this year as a freshman.

"I told Tommy I want to push her as much as we can to see how she reacts to better competition that's around her age," Jones said. "Also, Kammie has potential to make varsity as a freshman as she has probably the strongest basketball IQ out of all the girls. She's always in position and does all the small things right. She knows everyone's position and is a floor leader when she's vocal."

He added, "We don't call Kammie the Walking Encyclopedia for nothing! LOL!"

Jones was appreciative that Fisher is always on board and stated that he knew he could count on him with anything to do with these girls and basketball.

"I couldn't ask for a better assistant coach!" he explained. "Him and Leanne Mattox are great for our high school program! So off we went to Natural Bridge to try out."

Jones shared that all three girls, Kailyn, Kallie and Kammie did great, and that Bouchard was pleased with their performance, and offered for the girls to play with the VA Bandits.

He added that Bouchard also needed help coaching and offered he and Tommy the privilege of assisting the team along the way. Needless to say, they gleefully accepted.

The girls played the first tournament with the VA Bandits team on July 2, and won first place, bring-

ing home a USSSA Ring. They were all elated.

Then Bouchard asked if the girls would be interested in playing with the team for the VA Commonwealth Games at Liberty University July 22, 23 and 24.

"Commonwealth Games are top notch AAU for the state and teams have a chance to win a gold, silver, or bronze medal," Jones shared. "The VA Bandits are made up of a group of girls from all over the valley."

These girls represented seven different schools that competed during the Commonwealth Games, including four different Pioneer District Schools of Craig, Covington, Bath and Parry McCluer.

"This was awesome!" Jones shared. The girls were,

Craig County – Kailyn Jones, Kallie, and Kammie Fisher

Covington – Jakara Heighter and Gracy Proffitt

Parry McCluer – Emory Slagle, Kayleigh Ramsey, and Janie Ramsey

Rockbridge County – Abigail Bouchard and Brooklyn Beverly

Bath County – Trinity Forbes

Harrisonburg – Sierra Cain and Alyse Sheffey

Fluvanna – Sophia and Janie Brennan

The VA Bandits team went on to win the gold medal at the Commonwealth Games posting a 4-1 record overall.

Brock gave specifics, "They won the first game against Hoye Elite (team from Bedford) with 29 - 22. Kailyn Jones led the Team with 10 points followed by Abby Bouchard with nine points. In game two the VA Bandits suffered their only loss of the tournament to the Lynchburg Ballers 22 - 32. The girls got down 11-0 in the first 5 minutes of the game and couldn't make the comeback. Kailyn led the team in stats this game as well with 10 points and 13 rebounds. Sierra Cain from Harrisonburg also pitched in 11 rebounds this game. The Bandits bounced back winning game three, which was the elimination game, 'WIN

OR GO HOME', against Xtreme 38-21. Sierra Cain led the team with 12 points. Kailyn Jones turned in another double-digit scoring game with 10 points. Kallie Fisher pitched in two points and gave numerous assists to Cain and Jones. Kammie Fisher played great defense and pitched in with a couple rebounds. The fourth game was a rematch with the number one team, the Lynchburg Ballers. Again, 'WIN OR GO HOME.'"

Jones added that with this win, the girls earned a place at the championship game and got to play for the gold.

The girls went on win the gold title game with a 34-29 win.

"At half time the score was 17-16 (the good guys), and the atmosphere of the game felt like what I imagined to be a state title game being played. Chad gave a motivational speech to the girls at half time and told the girls this was their time if they wanted it, and to go and get it!" Jones shared. "After the half the game was going back and forth and Lynchburg ballers hit a three pointer and were leading 27-25 about halfway through the second half. The VA Bandits responded well, ending the game with a 9-2 run closing out the game and catching the win!"

He said that Sierra Cain led the team with 12 points and 16 rebounds. Abby Bouchard pitched in nine points, "draining three three-pointers from deep distance, looking like Steph Curry!"

They then got a six-hour break before the gold championship game and play the PSB Richmond. Jones excitedly shared that the girls went on to beat Richmond and win the gold medal by a score of 34-24.

"The score was 19-13 at half time and the VA Bandits were ahead. The girls weren't about to let this one slip away and jumped all over the PSB Richmond team and had a lead of 32-16 with five minutes left in the game!" he said. "Cain led the team with 10 points and 10 rebounds. Abby Bouchard pitched in with 10 points.



COURTESY PHOTOS

They won the championship, bringing home the USSSA ring that comes with it.

Draining a couple more Steph Curry Threes."

Jones commended Bouchard for being a wonderful guy that Kailyn, Kammie and Kallie all enjoyed working with and playing on his team.

"They got to laugh around and joke with him and they enjoy making new friends with his daughter Abby, and everyone else that was on the team. They are super proud to be a part of the team and glad that Chad has accepted their skills to be able to compete," Jones added. "I know Kailyn enjoys texting and messaging with Chad and giving him a hard time. I am glad the girls get to have relationship with other kids outside of our small school system and get to build on the sport they love and are committed to."

All the girls were elated to have been asked to join the team and are excited about their basketball season at home.

Kailyn shared that she has been playing basketball since the fourth grade. When asked about what she thought as they kept winning their games, getting closer to the gold, she said, "I thought to myself that we actually were going to be Commonwealth Game champions! I knew how bad all of us wanted it."

She added, "Winning the finals to me meant that I pushed myself really hard for myself and my teammates. I was really excited but also was in shock that we were Commonwealth Game champions!"

Kailyn said that she is excited for next year. "I know if we push ourselves just as hard, we could get the gold again."

She said that in joining the team, at first, she did not think she was going to like it because she is not good at meeting new people. "But I actually really love the team I have and enjoy playing with them," she added. "Seeing their teamwork and support for each other really made me want to stay on the team."

"I would like to thank my dad for teaching me everything I know about basketball. I don't tell him enough how grateful I am for him," Kailyn shared. "I am also thankful for Chad. He never gave up on me even when I did. I couldn't have asked for a better coach."

Kammie has played basketball "ever since I could," she shared. "All the way from rec to now, almost nine years." She started travel basketball two years ago.

She said that as they won one game at a time, it got very exciting. "We knew we had a good chance of making it, so winning games kept our spirits up."

Kammie added that this was the biggest tournament game she's played in so far.

"Winning the final meant a lot and getting closer to my teammates," she said.

As far as next year, she said that she feels they have a lot of work to do, and hopes she still has a chance to keep playing

and working on her skills.

"You never know when you will get the chance again, so take it even if you are scared," Kammie said. "I've made so many new friends and the team is great! Chad, the coach, is friendly but pushes us. All my teammates are really nice, and it has been great to get the chance to meet them."

Kallie has been playing close to eight years, including recreation ball. She also has been with travel ball for about three years.

In the excitement of playing and winning, she shared, "We did end up losing one game, before the actual playoffs, but ended up turning around and beating them. It was a very exciting experience watching the team climb higher up in the bracket and seeing the opportunity of being in the championship. Winning the final meant so much, even though I have not played too much with the Bandits. It was very exciting and a once-in-a-lifetime experience!"

Kallie said that she is ready for the upcoming basketball season and being able to progress and grow and learn more.

"I want to thank the whole Bandits team, since we would not have won without the team there, if they were either on the bench cheering on the team and the girls on the floor. I also want to thank my parents for driving me to practice and to tournaments," she said.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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53				54		55					56		
57				58		59				60	61	62	
		63	64						65				
									67				

CLUES ACROSS

1. Currency of Guinea
5. Avert something bad
10. Sounds
12. Immediate dangers
14. Legendary Tar Heels coach
16. Californium
18. Work standards government dept. (abbr.)
19. Coastal Scottish town
20. Triangular lower back bones
22. Trouble
23. A way to smile
25. Something that is not what it seems
26. Of she
27. Temporary living quarters
28. Bag-like structure in a plant or animal

30. Indicates near
31. Spiritual leader
33. Soup dish
35. Philippine island
37. No longer fashionable
38. Peaks
40. Alabama football team
41. ___ King Cole
42. Digital audiotape
44. Open trough
45. The woman
48. Cools down
50. Turkic language
52. Body part
53. Pulse steadily
55. Embedded computer hardware company
56. Indicates shape
57. Thou (plural)
58. Odd and remarkable
63. An evening party

65. National capital of Zambia
66. Tantalizes
67. Dark brown or black

CLUES DOWN

1. Not naturally going
2. Exclamation of pain
3. Polynesian garland of flowers
4. Surrounded by water
5. Church towers
6. Hot beverage
7. Body parts
8. Travel documents
9. Railway
10. Gradually wear away
11. Measuring instrument
13. Minor dust-ups
15. Strongly alkaline solution
17. Extreme scarcity of food
18. Dash
21. Philly culinary specialty
23. Popular lager ___ Adams

24. Snitch
27. Trimmed
29. Greek god of desire
32. Take to the limit
34. Cool!
35. Sound mental health
36. Native American group
39. Test for high schoolers
40. Rocky peak
43. Preferences
44. Bother
46. Call attention to (slang)
47. Snake-like fish
49. Bulgarian capital
51. Don't know when yet
54. Italian Seaport
59. Brooklyn hoopster
60. Where to bathe
61. Equal, prefix
62. Beverage container
64. Denotes openness

V DOT ROADWATCH

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY: To make travel easier this coming Labor Day weekend, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will suspend many highway work zones and lift most lane closures on interstates and other major roads in Virginia from noon Friday, Sept. 2, until noon Tuesday, Sept. 6.

INTERSTATE 81

(UPDATED 8-26-22) * 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:

- Nighttime lane closures may 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

- 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

See For a full VDOT Road Watch list, visit The New Castle Record website.

Be sure to 'Like' the
New Castle Record on Facebook.

Virginia Western business science building renamed

ROANOKE – Virginia Western Community College held a ceremony Aug. 23 that recognized the generosity that Edwin C. Hall, of Roanoke, and his family have shown towards the college. During the ceremony, the college re-named its Business Science Building the Hall Family Center for Business Science. The

building, which opened in 1988, houses the college’s new networking and cybersecurity labs, the Whitman Theater and the Student Commons. Hall is a former president of the Virginia Western Community College Education Foundation Board. He currently chairs its scholarship and grants committee.

Hall is the founder of the Roanoke-based real estate firm Hall Associates, Inc. He pledged a multigenerational planned gift in 2021 to the college’s education foundation. The initial gift is valued at \$1 million, which will support the Virginia Western Forward Permanent Endowment Fund. The Virginia Western

Rapids Response Student Emergency Fund also received \$250,000. Hall previously gifted more than \$1 million for other initiatives at the college. “Ed’s belief in the college runs deep, President Robert H. Sandel said. “He has mentored our students. He has guided, pushed, advocated,

defended and rallied our vision and our growth. There is no one more dedicated to our mission, our values and our ultimate success. He’s now shared that commitment with his family, which will only magnify his overall impact to the college.”

-The New Castle Record



Ed Hall is pictured during the ceremony with his daughter, Nicole Hall-Smith.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The college’s Business Science Building has been renamed the Hall Family Center for Business Science.

Virginia Western reports enrollment uptick

ROANOKE – Virginia Western Community College announced late last month that it is projecting a 5.9% increase in its key enrollment category of full-time equivalencies for the fall 2022 semester.

A release from the college said that the news follows a trend from the summer semester, which also saw a 6.4% increase in overall student enrollment. “The trendlines are looking good,” Robert H. Sandel, president of the college, said. “We are so excited to see classrooms filling up and our campus coming to life again. Students are enrolling in more

hours and finding a class schedule that works for them.” In the release, Sandel said he believes the increase can be attributed to a number of factors, beginning with the COVID-19 pandemic shifting to a new phase. But he also praised the entire college commu-

nity for coming together and offering creative ideas on how to reach more prospective students and retain those already enrolled. Additional factors the college attributed to the enrollment uptick include increased awareness of the financial support available to students, a new strate-

gic initiative to increase in-person outreach in the community, more advisors to help on-board new students, scheduling that offers greater flexibility and the launch of new physical therapy assistant, surgical technology, biotechnology and agriculture science programs.

“They all took the message to heart – at every level of the college – that when our enrollment is down, people in the community are missing opportunities to improve their lives. I’m so proud of what’s happening here.”

-The New Castle Record

Potluck from page 1



From their picture on the front church steps, these little girls are now young women who still help with the annual homecoming event. Pictured are Miranda Bradley, Ashlyn Bradley, Lauren Bayne McAllister and Leeann Mattox.

“I would like to have a 5x7 print of everyone married in this church to put up on the wall,” Bradley said.

his excitement, he hid it and went and sold everything that he had to buy the land. Again, the kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant who is on the lookout for a choice pearl. When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything that he had and bought it.”

Bill Frazier, current pastor of the New Castle Christian Church, delivered a special message. First, he shared a story about a man who called a church, asking to speak to the head hog at the trough. The secretary responded, “Excuse me?” He repeated himself that he wanted to speak to the head hog at the trough. The secretary wasn’t sure she heard correctly, but said to him, that if he wanted to speak to our preaching minister, you will have to show a little respect and dignity and call him Mr. Frazier or Preacher Bill. The man said again that he wanted to speak to the head hog at the trough. The secretary told the man he couldn’t speak about him like that. The man responded that he had a donation of \$10,000 to give to the church. The secretary immediately responded, “Hold on just a second, I think the big fat pig just walked through the door.”

He added that the Kingdom of Heaven is “that valuable”. “We search for so many things in life, but some things are in our own back yard,” Frazier added with another story. He talked about the Sinking Creek valley and its beauty. And, he talked about how many churches have now closed their doors in Craig. Churches that were once alive and serving people in the community.

“We sometimes forget about what is most important, souls. All people are precious in God’s sight,” Frazier said. “I remember when I was a part of the rough bunch, but God can do something with any of us.” He read Matthew 19, which said that Jesus traveled through towns to announce the good news of the Kingdom of God, healing all illnesses. When Jesus saw crowds, He had compassion on them.



Ann Looney and Virginia Veasey were both married in the Old Salem Church back in the 1950s.

“Jesus has compassion on us,” Frazier said. “The most important thing is the relationship with Jesus Christ; therefore, we have to pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send more workers into the field to share the Good News.” He continued, “That is what our job is, to be a witness. To be human as Jesus became when He

came to us.” Frazier quoted the scripture in the Bible that he said he doesn’t like that Jesus said, “When I come back to earth, will I find faith?” He concluded that all be a part of spreading the Good News so that no more churches close and all will have the opportunity to be saved.



There is always a smorgasbord of food and desserts at the Annual Old Salem Church Homecoming Potluck where everyone gets plenty to eat.

Upon dismissal, people continued to enjoy socializing for quite a while. Bradley announced that pending the CO-

VID-19 virus in Craig, they will decide in a couple months if they will have the annual Candlelight Christmas Service at the church in December.

LAND FOR SALE



The Craig County Board of Supervisors is offering land for sale: Tax Parcel 47-A-38, known as the Camp Mitchell Property, located off State Route 689 on Camp Mitchell Road, New Castle, Virginia. All Sealed bids must be submitted for the entire parcel with “Camp Mitchell Bid” clearly printed on the envelope. The “County reserves the right to reject any bids and also reserves the right to engage in negotiations with any offerors or other interested parties.”

Please submit sealed bids, by Noon, September 14, 2022, to:
R.R. Dan Collins, County Administrator
County of Craig
P.O. Box 308, 108 Court Street
New Castle, VA 24127

Requests for additional information, please contact the County Administration Office by calling (540) 864-5010 or in writing to P.O. Box 308, New Castle, Virginia 24127.

CodeRed Emergency Alerting System



The Craig County Sheriff’s Office and Craig County Emergency Management is using CodeRed Emergency Alert System to notify county residents and property owners of Emergency situations in the county that effect the citizens safety and welfare. **Individuals must register to receive the alerts.** The following web address is where you need to go to register for these alerts. Notifications can be received by home phone which is already pre-populated into the CodeRED alert system, cell phones need to be registered to receive a call and text message and notifications will be put on the Craig County Sheriff’s Office and Craig County Emergency Management Facebook pages.

<https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/BFABF602CCC2>

The information you enter is private. We encourage all citizens to sign-up for this very important alerting system.

News from the 9th: Great job news

The celebration of Labor Day on the first Monday in September is an occasion to celebrate American workers and all they have done to create the greatest economic power in history.

In our region, this upcoming Labor Day would be a good time to note a recent spate of good news for workers, job growth, and opportunity.

Companies announcing that they are newly locating to Virginia's Ninth Congressional District or growing in the area are events to celebrate, not only for the companies and the workers who will gain jobs but for the surrounding communities which will gain more investment, nearby shops and restaurants which will enjoy more customers, and local governments which will collect more tax revenue to pay for services.

On August 23, Coronado Global Resources announced plans to expand in Buchanan and Tazewell Counties, a

\$169.1 million investment that will create 181 new jobs. Coronado's announcement comes as demand surges for the metallurgical coal it produces.

Metallurgical coal is an essential product for the steelmaking process. Central Appalachia happens to be home to some of the world's major metallurgical coal reserves, so when steel is in demand, our region can benefit.

Coronado's announcement was a welcome one for the miners who will earn wages well above the median in the region. It was also a reminder that, with its various uses, coal is not going away.

In Big Stone Gap on August 25, I was present for an announcement by the Chesterfield County-based firm Paymerang that it was locating a hub in the town and would create 50 new jobs in the area.

This opportunity meets Southwest Virginia's enduring assets – a low cost of living and a



Morgan Griffith
Representative

high quality of life – with recent technological developments. Improved internet access gives more employees the ability to work from home. We hope that will lead to more people calling Southwest Virginia home or staying in our region. They can enjoy expanded possibilities for employment without sacrificing proximity to our great outdoor recreational activities or paying the exorbitant rent or house prices of urban areas.

I hope Paymerang's announcement is only among the earliest of its kind to offer distributed work positions or other similar opportunities in our area.

Job growth is not only about

increasing the number of positions now. It is about improving workforce skills so that more jobseekers are matched with quality jobs.

This is the purpose of a new program at the Tazewell County Career and Technical Center, with a ribbon cutting for it on August 30. The U.S. Department of Labor's Workforce Opportunities for Rural Communities awarded a \$1.4 million grant to the center to pay for modern computerized welding equipment and staff and instruction on how to use it. Skilled welders are highly sought-after, and training them in our area will benefit both those who take up the trade and those looking to employ them.

Virginia's Ninth District has plenty of assets to attract workers, including affordable living and access to great natural and recreational locations. We can create more opportunities by renewing or redeveloping parts

of the old economy. This is the purpose of the Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) program, formerly the AML Pilot Project. When the federal program was first created, Virginia was not eligible, so I successfully added an amendment to include Virginia.

AMLER can be applied to a variety of uses to reclaim old mine lands, including preparation for industrial sites. Russell County's Project Reclaim is one such location, a 67-acre industrial site which received AMLER support to remove old mining structures and reclaim the land. Prepared industrial sites can attract new enterprises that will hire workers and become important economic drivers.

The hardworking people of our part of Virginia are being rewarded with new opportunities for well-paying jobs. We can all celebrate this progress.

Contributing writer attends State Fair of West Virginia

Contributing writer Pam Dudding recently attended the State Fair of West Virginia in Fairlea. According to the fair, over 170,000 people attended this year. "Despite a few days of heavy rain, we ended up having one of the

best fairs we've ever had," State Fair CEO Kelly Collins said. "The number of people that came through the gates aside, the true success can be seen in the community and economic impact of this event."
-The New Castle Record



Pam Dudding, a contributing writer to The New Castle Record, enjoys a homemade cinnamon donut while watching the draft horse pull.

The kids were lined up at every ride, with smiles, giggles and some jumping up and down awaiting their turn. Olivia rode a ride with her 6-year-old son, Brayden. The Sizzler went around in a circle and increased in centrifugal force to the point her son, Bub was squished up against her. They both appeared to love it.



The grandstands are packed every year for the annual draft horse pull at the State Fair of West Virginia. The horses, Red and Dan, impressed the crowd more than once. However, on their final pull, Red fell. The sounds from the grandstands were concerning. Immediately, the owner and others ran over to help. They unhooked Red from Dan and made sure he was OK. After several minutes, the owner told Red to get up and he did. The crowd stood to their feet, happy that he was not hurt. They took home first place! Red and Dan's owner is Phillip Burton, of Columbia, Kentucky.

Email letters to the editor to
aboymd@mainstreetnewspapers.com

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Craig County Fall Festival set for Oct. 8

The next Craig County Fall Festival is set for Oct. 8.

Main Street and Court Street will be lined with a variety of booths. About half of the space has already been rented. Crafters and community nonprofits are encouraged to contact Robyn Foster to reserve their space by calling 540-977-8395

The Marshall Reynolds Antique Car Show will again be staged on Middle Street. Registration will cost \$20 this year and all participants will receive souvenirs of the event. David Reynolds of South Main Auto Service in Blacksburg is sponsoring the show. Contact Jackie Taylor at 540-520-5555 for information.

Forms for both vendor spaces and the car show can usually be found in the in-

formation rack on the porch of the Old Brick Hotel.

The hotel will be open all day for tours and both breakfast and lunch are being planned in the hotel dining room.

Three restored cabins, all fully furnished with Craig County antiques, will also be open to visitors.

Opening ceremonies will be at 9 a.m. and a full day of live music is being planned, including both new groups and some traditional favorites. Both a flat-foot contest and a jitterbug contest will be scheduled during the afternoon.

The festival has been sponsored for 39 years by the Craig County Historical Society, which has recently purchased the old Clifton's Cash Store building on 148 Main Street. Renovation work began the

first part of August, under the supervision of contractor Robert Welch.

Other society news:

The most recent publication of the society is a novel found in the papers of Helen Looney, founding member and long-time officer. Looney's story is called "The Blue Locusts" and tells what might have happened to families who lived along what is now Rt. 311 in June 1864, when 18,000 Union troops retreated through Craig County. Her story highlights the hundreds of descendants of the James Abbott family and others. The society is using the printing of this book to pay tribute to Helen and her many contributions to the county.

Raffle tickets are being sold by society members for a quilt handmade by Ruth

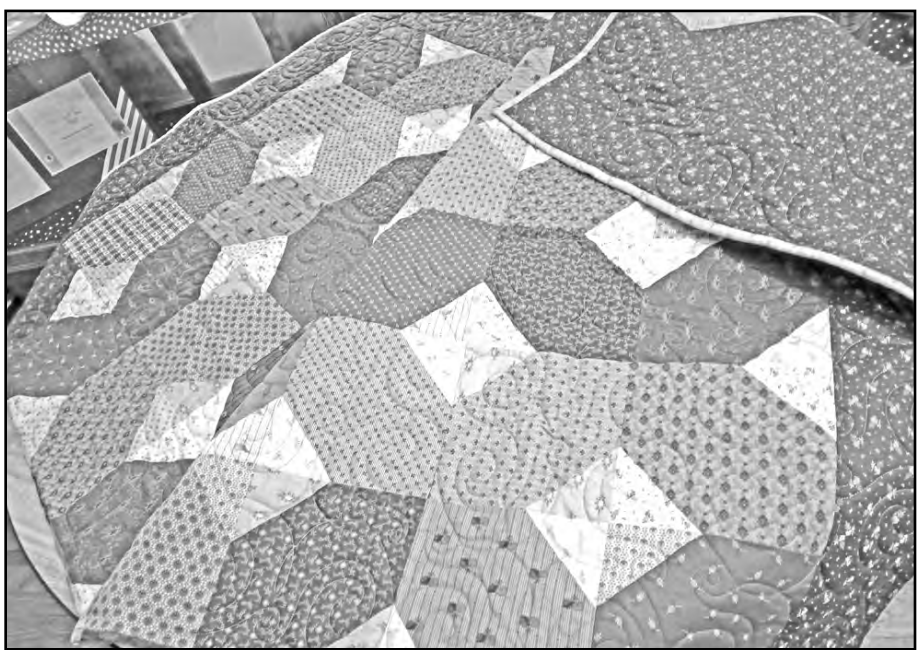
Lazott, whose family migrated in the late 1800s from Craig to Oregon. Also being raffled is a treasure chest box of over \$500 in cash and change. Look for members at the entrance to Food Country, or come by the Genealogy Library at 152 Main Street.

Recent programs at historical society meetings have discussed how to properly preserve paper documents and photos and also sites in Craig County which are on the National Register of Historic Places. A program is scheduled about Indian artifacts by Clayton Abbott which will be in conjunction with the monthly meeting Nov. 28.

-Submitted by Craig County Historical Society



The Blue Locusts can be purchased at the Old Brick Hotel for a donation of \$20. Contact 540-864-7023 or craig.historicalsociety1981@gmail.com



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

This fall-colored quilt was hand-pieced and sent from Oregon to help with Society fundraisers. Tickets are \$2 each.

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<p>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.</p> <p>CHESTNUT GROVE CHURCH Duane Wente, Minister, Rt. 42, New Castle, 540-864-5692. Sunday: Worship 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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!</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CROSSROADS CHURCH 21892 Craigs Creek Road, New Castle. Pastor Gary Burch. 864-7520. Sunday School- 10-10:45AM, Sunday Worship - 11AM-Noon.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>7:00PM, Reformers Unanimous Addiction Recovery every Friday evening at 7PM.</p> <p>GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD 5530 Catawba Valley Drive, Catawba, VA, 540-384-7075. Pastor Loraine Taylor, agladypastor@msn.com. Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Evening service at 7:00 p.m.; Youth (ages 13-18) & Super Church (ages 4-12) Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. You can also watch on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m. www.graceassemblycatawaba.org</p> <p>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.</p> <p>HEBRON UNITED METHODIST Pastor Rodney Longmire, Rt. 606, 1981 Caldwell Mt. Rd., New Castle, 540-400-3419. Worship 11:15AM.</p> <p>LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST Rev. Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, & 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST Pastor Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle, 540-525-7662. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, & 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>NEW CASTLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH "WHERE YOUR HEART CAN FEEL THE DIFFERENCE" 282 Salem Ave., New Castle; 864-5212; Pastor Bill Frazier. Sunday Service: 10 A.M.; Wednesday night Bible study at 6:00 P.M. for K-5; If you need a ride to church, please contact Calvin Duncan by 8 P.M. on Saturday at 864-5321; www.nc-cc.org.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>NEW CASTLE UNITED METHODIST Rev. San King, 364 Main St., New Castle, Va. 864-5242; Sunday School 10AM, Worship 11AM; UMW 3rd Wednesday@1PM, Youth and other programs, Bible Studies.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CRAIG COUNTY COMMUNITY CHURCH - 'WELCOME HOME!' Sunday service 9-10:15am at the VFW building in New Castle. Casual dress if you desire and contemporary praise and worship. If you don't have a 'home' church, please join us at ours with Pastor Gary Burch. Check us out on facebook or contact us at: craigcountycommunity-church@gmail.com.</p> <p>ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH Located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).</p>
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ROCKETS OPEN FOOTBALL SEASON WITH WIN OVER BLAND



Alex Drake avoids a Bland defender to pick up yardage.



Craig's Carter Calfee makes a saving tackle.



Doug Hutchison(#56) and a host of Rockets block the Bears.



Rocket quarterback Zachary Peters dives for extra yardage

PHOTOS BY CHELSEA LOUTHEN

Craig County got the football season off to a flying start with a 20-14 win over Bland County at Mitchell Field last Friday. The Rockets pulled off the win despite having several key players miss the game with injuries.

"It was a great first win," said Craig coach Jimmy Fisher. "We have a lot of work to do but we'll get better with time. We are young and inexperienced but the light

is coming on for several of our players that don't have much experience."

The Rockets trailed 7-0 at the half in a game that saw both teams leave some points on the field.

"We struggled a lot on both sides of the ball and could have easily been down 14-0 at the half," said Fisher. "With that being said, we also dropped a ball at the one yard line and missed on another pass when we were 10 yards behind

the defense. So, we could have easily been up 14-7 at half."

Fisher and his staff made some adjustments at halftime and had a big third quarter. The Rockets received the second half kickoff and drove down for a touchdown. Bland fumbled the ensuing kickoff and set Craig up with a short field and the Rockets were able to take advantage and score again. Craig then had a successful inside

kick and got the ball on Bland's side of the field, taking it in for the third touchdown of the quarter. The Rockets completed the two-point conversion for a 20-7 lead in a third quarter that saw them on defense for just one play.

Alex Drake and Zach Peters led the Rockets with 87 yards rushing each and Bryce Drake added 66 yards on the ground. Peters had two rushing touchdowns and

was four for seven passing for another 55 yards and a touchdown. Bryce Drake caught all four passes and scored the receiving touchdown.

Peters also had a solid game defensively while freshman Carter Calfee had seven tackles, Isaiah Garey had six tackles and Nicholas All played well on defense with another half dozen. Josh Craft added four tackles, including a sack.

This week the Rock-

ets will travel to Auburn to meet the Eagles. Craig beat Auburn at home last year, 26-7, behind a big rushing game from graduated Dylan Crawford. Fisher expects the Eagles to be much improved.

"We will be challenged this week defending Auburn's spread offense," he said. "We have to get some pressure on their quarterback and keep all the completions in front of us."



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Front row, left to right: Maria Foster, Emily Smith, Rae Stamper, Madelyn Day and Abigale Belcher. Back row: Alivia Fowler, Addisyn Higgins, Natalie Fisher, coach Cindy Fowler, Dixie Wyrick, Laiken May and Bryanna Mitchell.



JUNIOR VARSITY

Front row, left to right: Brook Wright, McKenna All, Nevaeh Hypes and MaKenzie Lucas. Back row; coach Debbie Boitnotte, Carsyn Mabes, Keyona Strickland-Smith, Kailyn Jones, Felicity Fisher and Kammie Fisher.

BUSY WEEK FOR CRAIG COUNTY VOLLEYBALL TEAM

The Craig County volleyball team will be looking to pick up some wins this week as they play three matches, including one at home. The Rockets dropped their two season opening matches last week.

Craig opened the season at home with Christiansburg and lost in three sets, 25-6, 25-7 and 25-14. On Thursday they played at Staunton River and lost in three again despite taking the Eagles to a 27-25 score in the third set.

"We didn't win but the girls played great against Staunton River," said coach Suzanne Crawford.

The Rockets were scheduled to play at North Cross on Monday, and they have back-to-back matches beginning today. The Rockets return the trip to Christiansburg Wednesday then host Staunton River in New Castle Thursday. Then, next Tuesday, they open their district schedule at Parry McCluer.



ROCKET VARSITY

Front row, left to right: manager Emmett Crawford, Erin Snider, Britney Brookman, Annabelle Gregory, Jenna Boitnotte and Daileigh Donithan. Back row: coach Suzanne Crawford, Randalyn Taylor, Karly Potter, Cheyanne Bell, Kallie Fisher, Ashlyn Keen, Maggie Mays, manager Tyler VanDyke and assistant coach Carrie Hutton.