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THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



upside
AT BOTH LOCATIONS



POW/MIA Missing Man Table displayed for Memorial Day

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

It is a fact that no one can know the feelings someone goes through when they face excruciating situations or physical pains unless they have walked in the same shoes.

The same is said for those families who lost a loved one who battled to fight for the freedom of their country.

Here in the United States of America, Memorial Day is designated as a day to remember those men and women who never came home from war, or who did but still lost their lives from the measures it made on their bodies or minds.

At the Annual Memorial Day service



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING
The Craig Valley Daughters of the American Revolution shared the story of the POW/MIA Missing Man Table elements. Silence seemed to create an atmosphere of respect and love for those lost.

See POWs, page 3



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING
At the annual Memorial Day Service on the courthouse lawn in New Castle, the local Craig Valley VFW Post 4491 began the special ceremony with the posting of the colors. They also closed the ceremony with the gun salute and the playing of TAPS.

Waiteville Community Center holds Memorial Day dinner



It took many hands to organize the Annual Memorial Dinner at the Waiteville Community Center. Julie Pauley, Kathy Patton, Donna Hylton, Ruth Wrzosek and Cheryl Hunter assisted in serving the meal.



The walls were all laden with the plaques families had bought in memory or honor of their veteran as well as wall boards with pictures of veterans, families and lots of memories.



PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING
As people entered the building, there were also raffles and things for sale that community members had donated to help assist in the continuing upkeep of the building and the local cemetery. This year's turnout was quite a bit lower than previous years.

Honoring those who never came 'home'

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

Memorial Day offers citizens an opportunity to remember service members who have paid the ultimate price.

As people entered the courthouse lawn in Craig County on Monday, May 29, there were many handshakes and hugs amongst everyone, and especially those veterans in military attire or wearing their caps.

The patriotic music set the atmosphere of such a respectful and honorable day many Americans have come to appreciate.

The library set up a bake sale at the Hotel porch where they offered homemade items for a donation. Many partook of the delicious cakes, cookies and breads that were difficult to resist.

Memorial Day is set aside to remember those who lost their lives, fighting for the freedom of those who remain safe in the United States of America.

Still, many veterans who attend these services also grieve deeply as some had to watch their comrades die on the battlefield, or later hear of them not making it back "home."

Several wore their red, white and blue in honor of the deceased and the day. The Craig Valley Daughters of the American Revolution handed out U.S. flags for those to wave and to take home.

David Givens of Dave's Live Sounds had his sound system set up as Mayor Lenny MacDonald began the service, introducing Craig County's local VFW Post 4491, who did the Presentation of the Colors.

"The most important voice we will hear today will be from you," MacDonald shared. "As you gather here today in this courtyard, you are making a statement of the importance of the American experience and the love, and loyalty we share for those who have protected and died for it."

"You make a statement of who we are as a

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Fourth graders share why they love Craig County

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

When asking a child a question, one thing is certain, the truth will come out.

Jay Polen has asked students of Craig County's schools the same question for several years now. Polen represents the Retired Teachers Association as he goes to the schools and asks students this question.

This year he posed the question: "What do you love about Craig County?" to fourth graders.

"I like asking the students this question, as you get honest answers that are their ideas," Polen said.

"This is my home too!" Polen shared with a warm smile. "I love it here."

He has been asking students for several years this question and said that he thoroughly enjoys reading the answers of the students, "I love Craig County because..."

In the summer you can go fishing and swimming in your pool and it snows a lot in the winter and there is a lot of wildlife, and you can go hiking in the summer. Trinity

It has so much fun stuff. My family and friends are here. Summer days we jump in a creek. Craig county is a good school. I love Craig County sports. Craig county is fun. Bryan

I can get to Bibos walking. I love the wildlife, the mountains, and there is little traffic So I can go to the gas station to get a snack. Colton

The random house burnings, birds screaming at each other at 3:00 AM, jerks stealing cats and

random fireworks that sound like gunshots. It is really something else. Lily
I love all the fish, the land, the people that live here, my mom and dad. My favorite thing is the sights to see. Austin

The school is amazing, and you just got to get used to it. The stores got everything that you need and are friendly. James

I know a lot of people in it, the deer, foxes, bears and birds. It is where I love to be and of course my family! Emily

because I do demolition Derby in Craig County and I run Power Wheels and I watch my dad run full size. It is a blast and fun to run derbies! I ride my four-wheeler. I drift it. It is fun. Trever

I can see my friends and work and play sports with my friends. And all my teachers are really nice. Jayce

I can come to school and learn and have a teacher I can depend on and when I go home I can spend time with my family. I can come to school and if I need help my friends are there to help me. I love my friends and family and my teacher taught me a lot. I need to learn even though I didn't listen all the time but all the time I didn't do all I needed to do but my parents helped me through. Kamber

It's quiet, peaceful, everyone knows each other, you feel safe and there's a beautiful view of the mountains. Also in the summer you can swim in a Creek. McKenna

The creeks, the animals, my friends, the teachers, my dogs, my family, and the people that retired did a good job. Ellie

It is so silent. There is so much land everywhere. There are so many trees and animals that are good for food. I love to get to explore the forest! The Creek is full of minnows and crawfish. There are butterflies and plants! Ronan

All my church members and friends are here. I also like it because there is not a lot of cars around so I can walk around. I like Craig County the most because of the fresh air. Grace

It's very small and all my friends and family live here. The mountains look beautiful at sunset. It's never too hot or too cold and the wildlife is beautiful and all the teachers at school are so nice. Allie

It is so quiet, lovely, pretty, hot, cold and I can swim in the pool and Creek. I can go to the park and see my friends. I can go to school and learn. Skylyn

I have lived here my whole life and I love it. People are so nice, and it is private.

I can go to any place but Craig County is my favorite. Everything you do is amazing. It might be small but I call it home. Thank you Craig for being a place I can rely on. Braylon

The mountains, the view, and my school. I get to see my friends and I have a wonderful family and a small but happy town. Liam

It is a small peaceful place. What I love the most about Craig is my friends and family. The school is small but a great place. When I come in school I always look forward because I always know that they will brighten my day. That's why I love Craig

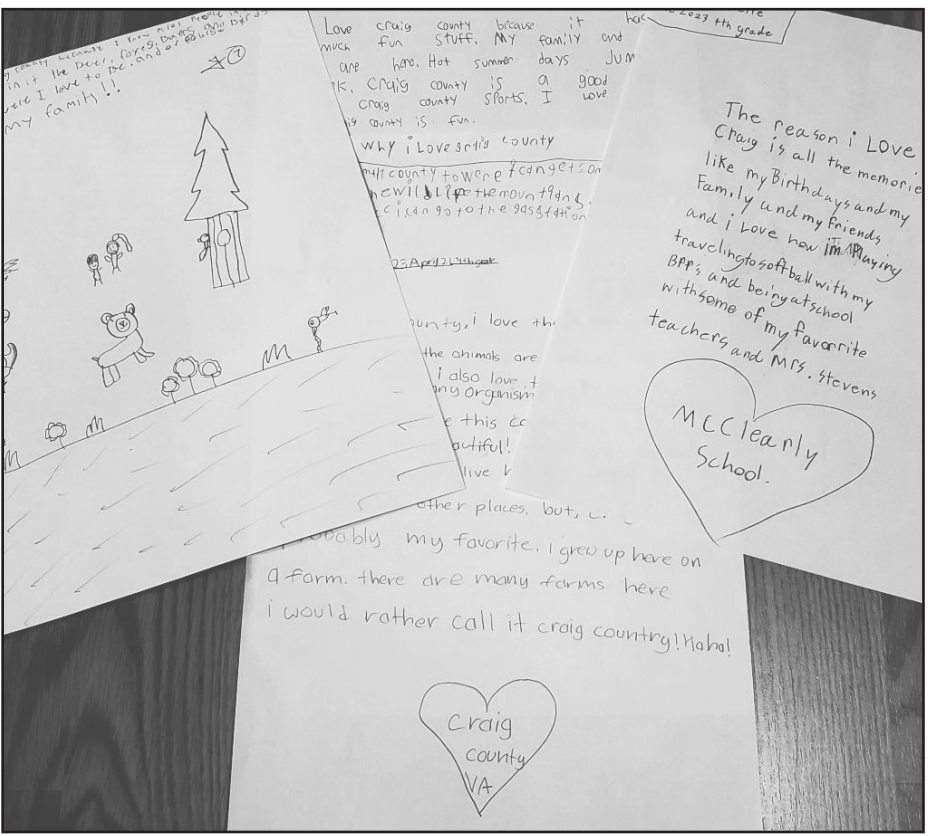


PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

The fourth grade students were asked the question, "Why do you love Craig County?" Their responses were both comical and touching.

County. Akira

I love going outside, seeing my friends, playing basketball and I love the scenery. It is a nice place. Easton

People are so nice here and the school is so lovely and it's so small and cute. I like how small it is and Craig is patient with you. This is the most best school ever. Kayla

I like it best because it has 3000 hunting and fishing spots. Micoln

The best place to be is in the mountain and you can walk. Our town is small but all the people are kind. Braxton

All the memories like my birthdays and my family and my friends and I love how I'm playing, traveling

to softball with my BFFs and being at school with some of my favorite teachers and Mrs. Stevens. Payton

I get to see all of my friends and family and have fun outside with my friends and family. I have been living here for 10 years and grew up here and I love my dogs and cats. Ainsley

Rose are red Violet or blue I love Craig County so do you. Dallas

Whenever I walk into town I always see some of my friends and just see so many kind people walking around Craig. I always need to say hello and I have so many memories and whenever I look up I get to see the beautiful view. Madalyn

It is a wonderful place

from long summer nights to short winter days from swimming in the pool. And my Girl Scout meetings, going to school to see your friends. Craig will always be my home. No matter where or when I go. Even if it is small it is the best of all. Anastasia

I have friends and family here. Camping in Craig with family is a lot of fun. I like the school in Craig County because I get to learn new stuff from nice teachers. Sarrina

It is peaceful and beautiful and the mountains are amazing the view. Kylee

My friends and family. My friends make me laugh

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Honoring

from page 1

community, that this little community has the heart of a lion ready to defend and die for our American ideals," he added. "For liberty, for freedom, for the idea that all men and women are created equal and have the same opportunities to take their shot at greatness."

In MacDonald's invocation, he shared, "This morning we reflect upon your goodness and the sentinels who have fought and died to protect it. Let their souls, and ours find peace in your presence on this occasion. May those who have lost loved ones to the ravages of battle be encouraged that their loss was not in vain, for our Nation who honors you is still intact. That they may know that the citizens of our community are grateful for those who gave everything so we might know liberty, and freedom and peace. Lord, let us continue to strive to be a beacon of hope in this world to those who do not know the freedoms that come to us at your hands. And this morning, on this solemn occasion, let us remember those who have protected our shores, and mountains and our way of life."

The Craig Valley Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution led the community in the Pledge of Allegiance. Respect seemed to permeate the air even through the mist of rain that continued to gently fall.

The DAR then honored the fallen by explaining the "Missing Man Table" that was set in front of the podium. Speaker Tina Crawford shared the meaning of each item.

Following, Ashlyn Stanley sang the National Anthem as all stood at attention, with hands secured over their hearts, watching Old Glory wave in the gentle wind that was blowing. Some sang along while others just gazed straightway at the flag.

The special speaker was retired HCMS U.S. Navy Veteran Paul Beaudoin. McDonald introduced him, sharing that he served as a Navy Medic for 20 years. Then Beaudoin worked at the V.A. for an additional 20 years, again, seeing firsthand the results of what war did to his comrades.

He began his speech with a question, "Would you like for me to blow smoke, or do you want me to tell you the truth?"

Many called back to him with no hesitation, "The truth!"

"To start off with two vets shaped my life and carried me through. The one showed me what it cost. My cousin Raymond Beaudoin, Second Lieutenant gave his life for his troops. They were under attack, and he ran up and took the fire and saved his men. I was about five or six and I went to the funeral. I was trying to figure out why someone die for others," Beaudoin shared. "Years later I am at a church and a priest comes out with a cross and I see hanging on the cross Jesus, and it dawned on me that those men and women sacrificed for us."

He asked the audience if they were aware that there has been 1.2 million who have given their lives thus far.

"If they could holler from their graves, they

would be telling each of us that, is it time for action!" he added. "20 years in the Navy taught me that men will give their life for me."

Beaudoin recalled, "I can remember being on a submarine at sea. The pressure went down. We did not know why but we knew 124 men died that day. We were put on alert. While I was standing in the missile compartment ready to shoot missiles if we had to, one of the officers looked at us and said, "We get two off." I asked what he meant by two. He said by the second round they got us and we are dead. But we all knew that."

"Understand that men and women all over the world know that they could be the first to be hit," Beaudoin said. "Our country has a whole lot of clocks ticking. We are out of fuel so we cannot fight a war. We are out of recruits because of getting rid of conservatives. There are teaching critical race theory. How do I know? My Granddaughter's husband is in the Marine Corps, and he is telling me that they are destroying our military and that is not good! And we are buying into this WOKE stupidity. You can get mad at me."

"I open my book which is my guide. When you realize there is a creator, there is an instruction booklet. It is amazing," he said. "I think that the only hope that we have is that we all have to take a stand."

Beaudoin shared stories of what he seen as a corpsman.

"What I am saying is I have seen all of the paths that women and men can take. Drugs, alcohol, and their list goes on," he shared. "At the VA I seen the ravages of war."

"Yet we have taken God out of everything," Beaudoin continued. "You have to take a stand. So, I want you to think about that today. All of those vets that died for our country, God, and country, if they saw you sitting on the fence and doing nothing, what would they say to you? Take that with you today. I think about all those vets that have passed away and I will open my mouth until he takes me home."

The VFW Post 4491 ended the memorial service sharing the gun salute and playing Taps.

While some stood as such attention they looked like statues, others dropped their heads as tears slowly caressed their cheeks.

The program that was handed out had a quote from President Ronald Reagan from 1986, "Today is the day we put aside to remember fallen heroes and to pray that no heroes will ever have to die for us again. It is a day of thanks for the valor of others, a day to remember the splendor of American and those of her children who rest in various cemeteries."

"We have had speakers, we have sung, and the taps have been played. What is left to do on this day?" MacDonald ended. "Today go to your homes and thank God for our men and women in the services of this Nation. Gather and be a proud American. Celebrate life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Live out the American dream and pass the ideas and importance of it to the next generation!"



Ashlyn Stanley led the community in the National Anthem, as people stood in respect, hands over their hearts, and attention to "Old Glory" that was waving in the wind.



PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING

Mayor Lenny MacDonald introduced this year's speaker, Paul Beaudoin, a retired Navy Veteran who shared his military journey as well as current information. He blew no smoke.

“DeRail the Trail” movement continues in Craig and Botetourt

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

There have been many comments, complaints and some approvals of the new trail being proposed from Craig County into Botetourt County.

The most outspoken group, however, seems to be against its approval.

The people in Botetourt County are speaking out.

“It all started at the end of January ’23, when the articles about a new trail hit the general public. A press release by the counties involved created a major stir among the residents, especially in the center of the proposed trail,” Jim Stadtlander shared. “At this epicenter is Oriskany, whose residents wanted to find out what was true in these articles, and what was false. Within a few weeks of that, “DeRail the Trail” was born, the idea being a spin-off from the group that fought the trail initiative 23 years ago and won. Can they do it again? That depends on the will power of the people of today. They are now seeking your help.”

The “DeRail the Trail” feels that this will affect everyone, not just the landowners along it, increasing property taxes throughout the counties.

“It’s using State money garnered through taxes,” Stadtlander said. “EMS, fire, and police services will be affected, having to either expand (adding cost to residents), or lose quality of response time for all as a result of calls into remote areas that will be converted to trail use.”

He added, “Perimeter country road traffic will increase, as well as the traffic on main roads going to New Castle and Eagle Rock, and the roads used for shuttles between the two towns. Safety issues will arise. Hunting areas will be affected. This list can go on and on. It will affect all of us.”

It has been stated that the current price tag for this, listed by the Commonwealth Transportation Board as of May 15, is at \$30 million and climbing.

“At this cost, it will have to pull in a lot of trail users in order to be successful. The officials driving this think it would be great if it could be like the Virginia Creeper Trail in Damascus,” he explained. “That trail gets 250,000 users per year. That’s around 700 people a day! Five times the population census count of New Castle, every day. How can that not affect our infrastructure? Do you really want to live in a tourist town?”

“But this is all speculation. Why? Those same officials have not bothered doing a feasibility study to determine how many people will use this proposed trail. They are making claims about how wonderful it will be without first getting that data,” Stadtlander asked. “The General Assembly has even decided to spend a million dollars (and is currently spending that) to develop

a trail plan, without this feasibility study. Wouldn’t you be required to know this if you were thinking of a business? Know your market?”

They question if there will be only 500 people who use it a year, or 250,000.

“The fact is, they want this trail. Doesn’t matter if it makes sense or not,” Stadtlander said. “Someone, in a high position, has decided that this is what the people want. “The State owns the property, and the State will do with it what it wants to.” They are forgetting that the State should be run by the people, for the people. Not by special interest groups. Was a poll taken of the people? No. They asked the county administrations. Did they in turn ask the residents? Did we miss that memo?”

He explained that the railroad bed is currently a roadway, or a good portion of it is.

“Within the 26-mile length, approx. 17 miles is used by vehicles. That’s more than just ‘some’ as early reports had indicated, and it’s far from being an abandoned railway,” he added. “Some of that roadway is narrow, one vehicle wide. The trail itself will be on these roadways, or so we’ve heard. There is no room for expanding to have a trail lane only. They are gravel roads, full of dust and what you should expect on any road. Eleven miles are actually in the state highway, secondary road system. Not the ‘greenway’ one expects when they envision a “trail” – far from it. VDOT actually has recommendations online for how to make a safe trail, but they are breaking their own rules to make this happen. So why create it?”

Residents of both counties know that the Craig Creek Rd (Rt. 615) is the only state road in and out of Oriskany.

“This road is often blocked off by fallen trees or by Craig Creek flooding. When the creek does flood, it covers Rt. 615 on both sides of Oriskany, leaving it as an island. That creates a scenario of more than 100 residents trapped in (or out),” Stadtlander shared. “Three miles of the railroad bed serves as an emergency road to get in or out when this happens. This section of the railroad bed is not in the state road system but should be. All of these residents are being threatened by a gate that would restrict its use to trail users only. A disaster waiting to happen.”

“DeRail the Trail” is not against horseback riding, bicycling or hiking.

They shared that a good percentage of its members participate in these activities.

“What we want is safe trails, responsible spending, and to maintain the same quality of life for everyone,” he said.

For more information about DeRail the Trail, contact the group on Facebook at DeRail the Trail // Oriskany, by website at www.DeRailtheTrail.org, or by email at DeRailthetrailOriskany@gmail.com.

POWs

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PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING

The DAR shared the meanings of each element that was placed at the table, including the table for one that is now empty.

in New Castle, the Daughters of the American Revolution of Craig set up the POW/MIA Missing Man Remembrance Table and shared the meaning of each item.

Tina Crawford was the spokesperson. She seemed to become a little emotional at times as she read the script that many military families almost know by heart.

“As I approached the courthouse this morning, you may have noticed a small table in a place of honor,” Crawford shared. “It is set for one.”

She explained that the table is a special way of symbolizing the fact that members of the Armed Forces are missing from our midst, commonly called POWs or MIAs.

“They were unable to be with us this morning and so we remember them,” she said. “When I note each item at the table,

I ask that the audience respond with ‘We will remember them.’”

Crawford continued with the emotional description of the table and its contents:

This table set for one is small, symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner alone against his oppressors. Remember them!

The tablecloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country’s call to arms. Remember them!

The single red rose displayed in a vase reminds us of the families and loved ones of our missing who keep the faith awaiting their return. Remember them!

The red ribbon tied so prominently on the rose is reminiscent of the red ribbon worn upon the lapel and breasts of thousands who bear witness to their unyielding determination to demand a proper accounting of our missing. Remember

them!

The candle is lit, symbolizing the upward reach of their unconquerable spirit. Remember them!

A slice of lemon is on the bread plate to remind us of their bitter fate. Remember them!

There is salt upon the bread plate, symbolic of the families tears as they wait. Remember them!

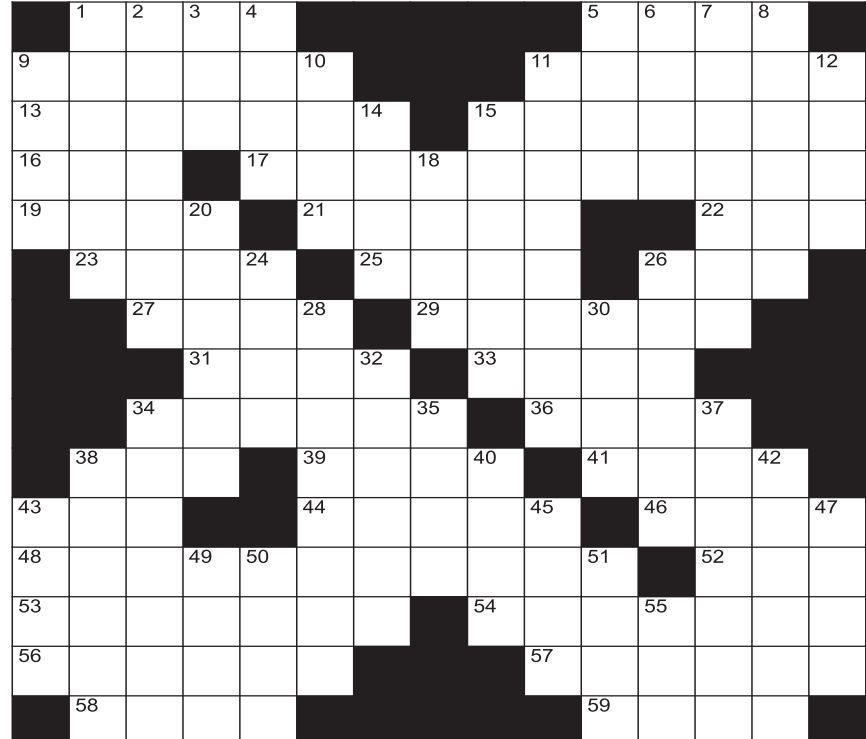
The glass is inverted as they cannot toast with us this morning. Remember them!

The chair is empty. They are not here. Remember them!

All of you who served with them and called them comrades, who depended upon their might and aid, and relied upon them, for surely, they have not forsaken you. Remember them!

After each, the audience somewhat quietly yet it seemed with conviction, said in unison, “We will remember them!”

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Slovenian mountain
- 5. Growl
- 9. Where things stand
- 11. Made a sharp sound
- 13. Female spirit in Irish folklore
- 15. Deteriorate with age
- 16. A way to save for retirement
- 17. The Big Apple
- 19. Intestinal pouches
- 21. City in New Hampshire
- 22. Giving a bad impression
- 23. Samsung laptops
- 25. Without (French)
- 26. Scientist’s tool (abbr.)
- 27. System of one more computers
- 29. Captures
- 31. Authentic
- 33. Female mammal’s

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Looks at for a long time
- 2. Solution for diseases
- 3. Belonging to a thing
- 4. Former Packers fullback
- 5. Contemptible person
- 6. One billionth of a second (abbr.)
- 7. Helps
- 8. Final section of the large intestine
- 9. Invests in little enterprises
- 10. Look for
- 11. Unbeliefs
- 12. Susan and Tom are two
- 14. Female sheep
- 15. A poet writes it
- 18. Affirmatives
- 20. “Full House” actress Barber
- 24. Traveled rapidly
- 26. Long upholstered

CLUES ACROSS

- 28. Set wages
- 30. Peter Gabriel song
- 32. Sides of a jacket
- 34. More beautiful
- 35. Actress Kate
- 37. Furniture with open shelves
- 38. Indicate
- 40. The cost of a room
- 42. Gets rid of something
- 43. Impudence
- 45. No No No
- 47. Drunkards
- 49. Middle eastern country
- 50. High energy lasers (abbr.)
- 51. Primary component of ribosomes
- 55. An informal debt instrument



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OPINION

Lots of Library News

Library Corner

By Marge Lewter

Congratulations from all of us here at the Craig County Public Library to all of the 2023 graduates! Welcome to adulthood! It's a wild and crazy ride, but you are ever so blessed to have a community that will always love and support you! We have watched all of you grow and mature over the years and we will all be here behind you as you take your first wobbly baby steps into the real world.

We are back into summer reading for everyone! Be sure to take advantage of the first Friday book sale! Grab one of our tote bags for \$5 and stuff it with as many books, DVDs, and audiobooks as you possibly can! We hope to see you! Our sale occurs every first Friday of each month from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Summer is also a good time to plan your next

barn quilt purchase. Barn Quilts for Books has supported our library for years, thanks to local artist Martha Dillard. These beautiful colors enhance our gorgeous countryside all year long. All have a story behind them!

Craig County Public Library has certified tutors free of charge available for grades K-8. We are seeking certified tutors for grades 9-12+. Please contact Letha Hibbits/Michaela Crawford for more information at (540) 864-8978 or craiglibrary@swva.net. Thank you!

Thank you to everyone that came out to the annual Friends of the Library meeting not only to support our little library but to support one of our local authors! Beth Macy was amazing and I personally can't wait to start reading Raising Lazarus! Huge thank you to Jasmine Brown and the crew of Lasterday for helping set up, clean up, and all of the delicious food!

Craig County Public Library has autographed Beth Macy books for

sale! Raising Lazarus hardback \$30 per book. Come by and grab your autographed copy today!

What is happening next at the library?! Household goods and swap day on June 24. Remember on swap day, everything is FREE! Browse our book sheds for your next good read and find that household item you've been needing! Bring some things you love that need a good home.

Summer is a great time for youth to volunteer at the library. It is great job training and experience for your resume someday. Everyone loves library volunteers! We can always use interested Friends of the Library to volunteer and we have great air conditioning! If you have limited time, we can use you on committee work and fundraising and library events. If you have more time, you can learn front desk skills to become a desk volunteer.

Thank you to everyone who makes our little library a special place to grow! We couldn't do it without you!

News from the 9th: The REINS Act



Morgan Griffith
Representative

Recently I voted against the Fiscal Responsibility Act, the debt ceiling legislation negotiated by Speaker Kevin McCarthy and President Biden.

As I've said before, I have long believed that Congress has a responsibility to the American people to "rein in" wasteful and excessive spending.

In late April, I voted to raise the debt ceiling by supporting the Limit, Save, Grow Act. Limit, Save, Grow was the House Republicans common-sense legislation to limit Congress' reckless spending, while raising the debt ceiling by \$1.5 trillion.

Unfortunately, not only were the reforms in the Fiscal Responsibility Act not anywhere close to those in Limit, Save, Grow, but it increased the debt limit by an additional \$2.5 trillion to \$4 trillion.

I could not justify voting in favor of legislation that raises the debt ceiling by a projected \$4 trillion without a majority of the spending reforms previously agreed to.

Specifically, I was disappointed that the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act was not included in this new

legislation, a provision I strongly supported in Limit, Save, Grow. The REINS Act requires economically significant regulations proposed by federal agencies, or those costing in excess of \$100 million per year, to be approved by Congress before taking effect.

Article 1 of the Constitution grants Congress the "power of the purse", giving Congress taxing and spending power and the authority to appropriate money collected by the federal government.

Historically, this power has been one of the main tools by which Congress has limited executive power. Unfortunately, over the years, Congress has increasingly given away this power to the federal branch indirectly through granting authority to the executive branch to pass regulations that can force spending by both the federal government and private enterprise without first obtaining congressional approval for said spending.

Many times, the agencies take authority not explicitly given to them. Just one example would be the recent decision by the U.S. Supreme Court overturning the interpretation of the 'Waters of the United States' made by the Environment Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers.

For example, during President George Bush's first year in office, his administration finalized 36 economically significant regulations, or major rules. In 2021, the Biden administration finalized 69 of these major rules. It is time we stop this trend.

This trend has led to a powerful administrative state of unelected bureaucrats. They often act outside the bounds of our Constitution framework and our country's democratic republic principles.

By requiring Congress to approve any major rule proposed by the federal branch, the REINS Act would

take a significant step in restoring Congress' legislative authority, as originally intended. Elected officials, not bureaucrats, should be in control of federal policy.

Moving forward, I am committed to finding ways to advance the REINS Act in the House and, eventually, get it enacted into law. We are scheduled to soon debate REINS. The House will pass the REINS Act and I call on the Senate to do the same.

It's not about Democrats or Republicans, it's about the legislative branch reasserting their authority over the executive branch.

D-Day

On another note, June 6 is the 79th anniversary of D-Day, the allied invasion of Normandy during World War II. More than 150,000 soldiers, sailors, and airmen were part of D-Day and the Normandy campaign.

With redistricting, the Ninth District has been expanded to include Bedford and Franklin Counties. This means that the District now includes the National D-Day Memorial, as well as the Bedford Boys Tribute Center. The Bedford Boys, otherwise known as the Virginia National Guard - Company A of the 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Division, were one of the American units at the forefront of the D-Day invasion.

When Company A stormed Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944, there were 35 soldiers from Bedford, as well as other men from counties across the Ninth District. By the end of the campaign, 23 of the boys from Bedford would be dead. Because of this, Bedford, Virginia had the highest per capita death toll of any town or city in the United States. This is what inspired Congress to establish the D-Day memorial in Bedford.

I encourage everyone to visit Bedford and stop by both the D-Day Memorial and the Tribute Center to learn more about the D-Day invasion and to honor the men who were the point of the spear in cracking through Hitler's "Atlantic Wall."

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

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

S	P	I	K			G	N	A	R					
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Upcoming public meetings in Craig Co.

June 1
The Craig County Board of Supervisors will hold its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. in the Craig County Courthouse.

July 6
The Craig County Board of Supervisors will hold its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. in the Craig County Courthouse.

June 19
The New Castle Town Council will meet from 7-8 p.m. at the New Castle Town Hall at 339 Market Street in New Castle.

July 17
The New Castle Town Council will meet from 7-8 p.m. at the New Castle Town Hall at 339 Market Street in New Castle.

June 20
Rep. Morgan Griffith will hold a citizen comment period from 9-10:30 a.m. in the courthouse breakroom.

July 18
Rep. Morgan Griffith will hold a citizen comment period from 9-10:30 a.m. in the courthouse breakroom.

June 21
A CPMT meeting at CPMT – Department of Social Services will be at 1 p.m.

July 19
A CPMT meeting at CPMT – Department of Social Services will be at 1 p.m.

Community events:
Ongoing
Every Friday, Craig County Genealogy Library is open 1 to 4 p.m. 152 Main Street. High school annuals, family histories and genealogy resources. Contact 540-864-7023.

June 24
Benefit Mud Bog for the family of Bucky Hypes will be at 12 p.m. in Ellison. It is sponsored by the Roanoke Valley 4-Wheeler Association.

July 4
Independence Day Parade from the Fairgrounds to the Courthouse at 10 a.m. Contact 540-864-6216 or CraigValleyChapterNSDAR@gmail.com.
-The New Castle Record

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and the view is really nice. I love my dog Bubba and my cats and my crabs. I definitely recommend coming to McCleary. Lily

The mountains, rivers, sunsets, the Friends I make, and the friendly citizens and the dogs that live in Craig County. Toby

There are rarely any crimes here. It's so peaceful and everybody's nice. Also the view here is terrific! Mountains and fields and forests everywhere! It's nice to take a walk around town. I enjoy places like mikes icehouse, Bibos, Subway, and Pinetop. There are so many places to go! And Craig is not too busy like Roanoke or Salem. The school here is amazing! You'll have friends here young or old that will always be by your side through thick or thin and you'll know when they'll be at school that day! Craig is the best! Mason

I love the scenery like the mountains, all the animals are amazing, like bobcats, deer and turtles. I also love Craig's Creek. It is home to many organisms like toads and fish. Many people love this county and I could agree! The views are beautiful and so are the sunrises. It is amazing to live here in Craig. I would love to visit other places but Craig is probably my favorite. I grew up here on a farm. There are many farms here. I would rather call it Craig country! Ha ha Emery

In reading their responses, many shared the same, yet others were very verbal and specific.

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V DOT ROADWATCH

INTERSTATE 81

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:

ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC IMPACTS:

TRAFFIC SHIFT ON WILDWOOD ROAD: Expect a traffic shift with narrow width on Wildwood road after exiting I-81 southbound heading towards Salem. Southbound and northbound I-81 exit and entrance ramp narrows possible at Route 311.

WORK ZONE SPEED: With narrow spacing in lanes due to barrier walls, lack of shoulders and lane shifts in various locations, drivers should adhere to posted 60 mph speed limits in the work zone and allow space when following a vehicle.

RAMP CLOSURES: Ramp closures are possible during nighttime hours, 12 a.m., to 5 a.m. Drivers should watch for message boards dates and times the ramp will be closed.

LANE CLOSURES: Alternating left and right lane and shoulder closures during nighttime hours between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, are possible. Lane widths will be reduced to 11 feet. Nightly lane closures may be in place along the right lane with possible nightly ramp narrows as needed for guardrail and shoulder strengthening.

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

I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY – Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the Montgomery/Pulaski County line. The old bridge is being demolished. Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder

closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 98 to 109. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by summer 2023.

SLOW ROLLS: A slow roll operation may be in place daily, Monday through Friday, between mile marker 101 and 105 northbound and between mile marker 109 and 105 southbound, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Slow rolls may be utilized periodically on both the northbound and southbound lanes from mile marker 98-109 for structural steel deliveries and setting beams.

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

ROUTE 605: Alternating lane closures and flagging operations will be present on Route 605, located under the New River Bridge, for work overhead on the bridge.

I-81 PAVING OPERATIONS – Weather permitting, crews will be performing paving operations along Interstate 81. Right and left lane closures may be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS – Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 170 to 95, right and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

INTERSTATE 581

I-581/220 EXPRESSWAY PAVING OPERATIONS – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

I-581/220 LANE & RAMP CLOSURES FOR PAVING AND MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS IN ROANOKE COUNTY– Weather permitting, crews will be milling and paving along Interstate 81. Right and left lane closures will be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours. Drivers should expect possible delays.

Roanoke City

13th STREET SE IMPROVEMENTS WITH DETOUR – A project to improve a portion of 13th Street SE in Roanoke is underway. Located in a residential neighborhood just east of downtown Roanoke, this project will improve traffic flow and connectivity along 13th Street SE from Tazewell Avenue to Norfolk Avenue. The project entails reconstructing about 0.2-mile of

13th Street as an improved, two-lane roadway with 10.5-foot-wide travel lane and a raised median. A new roadway will extend 13th Street to Norfolk Avenue and the intersection at 13th Street and Wise Avenue will be reconfigured to include a roundabout. Bike lanes, sidewalks, crosswalks and curb and gutter will also be added. Southbound 13th Street traffic has a detour in place using Norfolk Avenue onto 12th Street to Tazewell Avenue. This detour will be in place throughout the duration of this project. Signs will be posted to designate the detour route. Northbound 13th Street will remain open to traffic. Flaggers may be possible and the speed limit through the work zone is 25 mph. The project is expected to be completed in summer 2023.

LANE CLOSURES: Alternating lane closures maintained by flagging operations may be in place on Norfolk Avenue for concrete placement.

Roanoke County

STARKEY ROAD AND BUCK MOUNTAIN ROAD ROUNDABOUT – On Tuesday, March 14, a road project to construct a single-lane roundabout at the intersection of Route 904 (Starkey Road) and Route 679 (Buck Mountain Road) began. Drivers should be aware of a new three-way stop to be implemented in the work zone at the intersection. The new roundabout is expected to be open to traffic sometime this summer. Once the roundabout is open, drivers should still expect lane closures with flaggers controlling traffic for final paving, additional concrete pouring and pavement marking until the project is finished. Final completion expected in late spring 2024.

THREE WAY STOP: Stop signs will be in place on each road approaching the intersection. This means drivers on Buck Mountain Road who do not stop currently will be required to stop while the intersection is under construction.

FLAGGING OPERATIONS: Throughout the life of the project, flaggers may control traffic between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily so motorists should expect delays.

TRAFFIC SHIFTS: In addition, drivers should also be alert to traffic shifts and changing traffic patterns while the roundabout is under construction.

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY CLOSURE – The Blue Ridge Parkway will be repairing slope failures and a culvert failure at mile marker 127.9. A 15-mile stretch of the Parkway, mile marker 121.4 to 136, will be closed to all uses including cyclists, pedestrians and drivers. Detour signs to detour traffic around the Bent Mountain section of the Parkway will be in place. Traffic will be rerouted to Route 220 south to Route 419 north to Route 221 south. Traffic traveling north on the Parkway would be reversed. Detour is in place and expected to be in place until December 2023.

PAVING OPERATIONS – Weather permitting, crews will

pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place and flaggers may control traffic at times during daylight or nighttime hours. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

Botetourt County

READ MOUNTAIN & ETZLER ROAD CLOSURES - Route 611 (Read Mountain Road) will be closed on Monday, June 5 until work to replace shoulder stone is completed. Work will begin at 9 a.m. and be completed as soon as possible. On Friday, June 9, Route 672 (Etzler Road) will be closed until work replace shoulder stone is complete. Work will also begin at 9 a.m. and be completed as soon as possible. Residents of the area will be notified directly.

DALEVILLE INTERSECTION PROJECT FOR FIELDSTONE DEVELOPMENT ACCESS – Lane closures northbound and southbound on Route 220 in Daleville will be in place for construction of a median with crossover, a right turn lane and a new traffic signal. This work is associated with construction of the Fieldstone Development. Lane closures will be set up on various days in July 2023.

ROUTE 11 BUCHANAN BRIDGE PROJECT - A construction project on the Route 11 Bridge in the Town of Buchanan is underway. Water Street is closed for the duration of the project and drivers should expect periodic lane closures with flagging operations to be in place during daytime hours. Jacking project is underway through April 7 with work being performed during overnight hours, 9 p.m. to 4 a.m., Sunday through Thursday. Drivers should expect delays due to slow rolls being in place for up to 10 minutes at a time with lane closures periodically. Message boards are present to alert and update drivers. Expected completion in summer 2023.

PAVING OPERATIONS – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place and flaggers may control traffic at times during daylight or nighttime hours. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

Craig County

ROUTE 617 CLOSED FOR BRIDGE REPAIRS - Effective Monday, June 5, 2023, a section of Route 617 (Bethel Church Road) will be closed for bridge replacement. The closure is located approximately 0.70 mile east of Route 611 (Peaceful Valley Road) and 9.10 from Alleghany County line. Flagging possible. Work is scheduled to be completed on Thursday, June 8, 2023.

PAVING OPERATIONS – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place and flaggers may control traffic at times during daylight or nighttime hours. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

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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. San Kang.

CHESTNUT GROVE CHURCH

Duane Wente, Minister, Rt. 42, New Castle, 540-864-5692. Sunday: Worship 10:00 a.m.

CORNERSTONE CHURCH

Pastor Don Brown, Corner of Salem and Wagner, New Castle, 580-3228. Sunday Worship 10:30am (Children meet separately, Nursery provided). Bible Study - Wednesday 6p Teens - Wednesday 6p. Ministries: Men, Ladies, Young Adult, and Seniors. Times vary, call for details.

CRAIG HEALING SPRINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

Pastor - Kenneth W. Davis, Jr., 6 Grannys Branch Road (Johns Creek), New Castle, Phone: 864-6102. Sunday School at 10 am. Sunday Worship at 11 am every Sunday. Fellowship meal after Sunday Worship on second Sundays. Everyone is welcome!

CRAIG VALLEY BAPTIST

171 Salem Avenue, New Castle, 864-5667; Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m., Wednesday: Prayer Service and Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Youth Group 6:30-8:00PM, Bible Buddies at 6:30-8:00PM. Transportation provided - call the church. Hearing devices also available. www.craigvalleybaptist.com

CRAIG VALLEY GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP

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

CROSSROADS CHURCH

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

FIRST BAPTIST

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

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

GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

5530 Catawba Valley Drive, Catawba, VA, 540-384-7075. Pastor Lorraine Taylor, agladypastor@msn.com. Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Evening service at 7:00 p.m.; Youth (ages 13-18) & Super Church (ages 4-12) Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. You can also watch on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m. www.graceassemblycatawaba.org

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

159 Old Railroad Ave, New Castle, 540-864-PRAY, Sunday School 9:30AM, Sunday Worship Service 10:00AM, Wednesday Night Services 7:00PM.

HEBRON UNITED METHODIST

Pastor Rodney Longmire, Rt. 606, 1981 Caldwell Mt. Rd., New Castle, 540-400-3419. Worship 11:15AM.

LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST

Rev. Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, & 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.

LEVEL GREEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

3388 Cumberland Gap Rd. Newport, Duane Wente, Minister, 540-544-7179. Sunday School 10:00am, Sunday Morning Worship 11:00am, Children's Church 11:00am. Choir Practice, bi-weekly 7:00pm, Ladies meeting first Monday of each month at 7:00pm.

LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST

Pastor Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle, 540-525-7662. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, & 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.

MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN

4199 Craig Valley Drive, New Castle, Jonathan Lee, pastor, 864-6622. Sunday: Worship Service 9:00 a.m., Children's Church 9:15 a.m., Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

NEW CASTLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

"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.

NEW CANTERBURY PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP

Pastor John D. Abbott, Hwy 621 (10 miles), phone: 864-8242, Sunday Prayer 10:00-10:30 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday Service 6:00 pm.

PAXTON CHAPEL

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

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

NEW CASTLE UNITED METHODIST

Rev. San Kang, 364 Main St., New Castle, Va. Sunday School 10AM, Worship 11AM; UMW 3rd Wednesday@1PM, Youth and other programs, Bible Studies.

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SPORTS

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FITZPATRICK IS 12th IN STATE IN DISCUS



Craig County junior Tyler Fitzpatrick tossed the discus 116'9" to take 12th place in Class 1 at the Virginia High School League state track meet last weekend. The meet was held at James Madison University in Harrisonburg.

Tyler had three throws and fouled on two. His toss of 143'6" that won the Region 1C meet a week prior would have placed him fourth in the state. The winning effort at JMU was 161'6" by Reece Rhodes of Lancaster. Landon Steele of Patrick Henry-Glade Spring was second at 155'5" and Reece Kirkland of West Point High was third at 143'7".

Teamwise, Lancaster High School won the boys' state championship with 80.5 points, followed by Middlesex at 61. Auburn took the girls' championship with 70 points and Northampton was second with 66.5.

PHOTOS BY TONYA WOOLWINE
Tyler Fitzpatrick competes in the state discus event at JMU.



RC PHOTO
Curtis Campbell will be spearheading the addition of football at RC as the new athletic director.

COLLEGE NAMES NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

For the first time since 1989, Roanoke College has a new athletic director. The college named Curtis Campbell to succeed long-time AD Scott Allison, effective July 1.

Campbell, who was one of four finalists interviewed for the position, has 23 years of experience working in intercollegiate athletics. He is currently the director of athletics at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, a role he's held since 2020. Previously, he served as director of athletics at Western Oregon University, Tuskegee University and Stillman College.

Roanoke College is a charter member of the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC), and the Roanoke Maroons athletics program has 20 NCAA Division III teams that compete in the ODAC. Campbell will report to the president and serve as a member of the president's cabinet, providing visionary, strategic and student-centered leadership for Roanoke College's comprehensive NCAA Division III athletics program.

"After conducting a thorough national search, we are thrilled to welcome Curtis as our new athletic director," said RC President Frank Shushok Jr. "I am confident that Curtis will bring further excellence to Roanoke College, enhance our teams and our school spirit, and build on the Maroon pride felt throughout our community." Campbell's experience includes

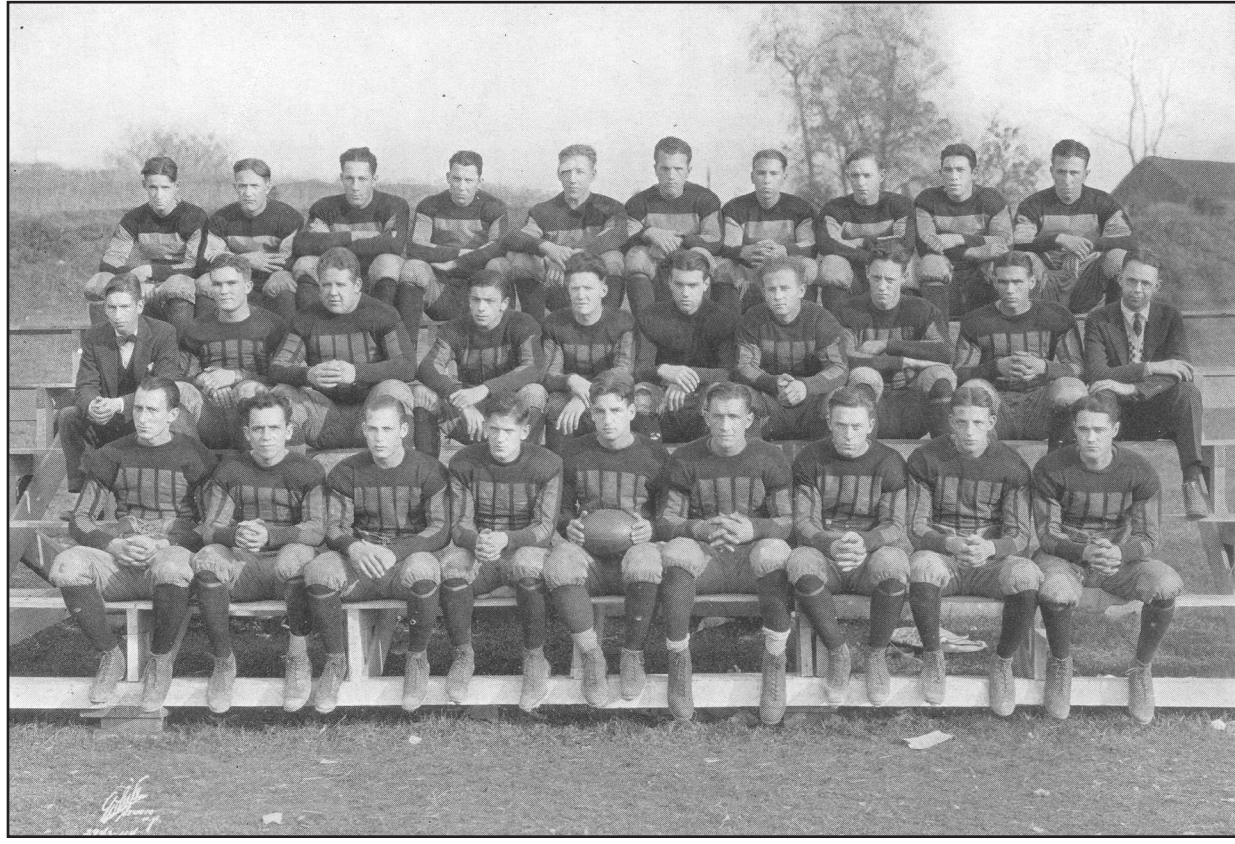
managing NCAA athletic departments at both DII and DIII programs. He has also served on several NCAA committees. Campbell is familiar with southwest Virginia as he holds a Master of Science in counseling and human development from Radford University and a Bachelor of Science in social work from Longwood University.

"I am grateful to President Shushok and the leadership at Roanoke College for selecting me for this opportunity," Campbell said. "Roanoke College is devoted to student learning, student success and athletic excellence. I am impressed with the outstanding coaches, staff and student-athletes who are competing for ODAC championships. The athletic history, incredible facilities and warm community all drew me to this position. There are many new and exciting things happening at Roanoke College, and I can't wait to get started."

Campbell will be a key figure in starting the football program at RC. The college recently announced they were reviving football, a sport that was discontinued during World War II. Curtis will assume the role as director of athletics from Allison when he retires at the end of June.

"I am grateful for Scott Allison's 36 years of service at Roanoke," said President Shushok. "Scott worked tirelessly to advance our athletic reputation, boost team spirit and improve the lives of countless student-athletes."

ROANOKE COLLEGE RAISES MONEY FOR FOOTBALL



RC PHOTO
This is a photo of a Roanoke College football team prior to the school disbanding the squad during World War II, most likely from the '30s.

It's official, football is coming back to Roanoke College after over 80 years.

The college has raised more than \$1.3 million in funding that will allow the school to move forward with plans to reinstate football as a varsity sport and add co-curricular varsity cheerleading and marching band programs. Approximately \$300,000 of the funds raised were contributed by local corporate sponsors. In April, the Roanoke College Board of Trustees approved a proposal to add the programs — on the condition that start-up funding of \$1.2 million was in place by June 1.

The College's current plan recommends minimizing costs with a conservative investment and upgrading existing underutilized facilities. Alumni Field will be used for practice and the Bast Center will be upgraded to accommodate locker rooms, training facilities, offices, and a weight room. The plan is for Salem Stadium, a 7,157-seat facility near Roanoke College's Elizabeth Campus, to be the site of future games. Salem Stadium is already the home of Salem High School's Spartans, and it hosted the NCAA Division III Football Championship, the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl, for many years.

A feasibility study implemented shortly after President Frank Shushok Jr.'s arrival at Roanoke College evaluated the possibility of adding football, marching band, and competitive cheerleading. The study showed that the programs would increase enrollment and student diversity, elevate campus spirit, attract more visitors to campus and build stronger bonds with the local community. The College has not had a football team since 1942.

Roanoke currently has a club cheerleading squad.

"The response to our fundraising has been incredible," said Kim Blair '93, vice president of advancement. "So many members of our community are energized by the idea of a new football team at Roanoke — plus the spirit that a marching band and cheer team can bring. Our Maroon community and local Roanoke Valley partners stepped forward in a big way with the investments we need now. We are thankful for their commitment to help us grow and thrive. We met our first goal, and I'm optimistic about what the future holds."

The initial funds raised will be used to hire coaches and meet start-up needs including equipment, uniforms, and renovation of space for the three programs. Roanoke College's athletic director will commission the process for selecting a football coach, and player recruitment will take place over the next year.

Earlier this week, Roanoke College announced that Curtis Campbell was selected as the new director of athletics. Campbell will work with college leadership, the Athletics Department, and other invested partners to reintroduce football in 2024. "I am thrilled to work alongside Roanoke College leaders to reinstate a successful football program, along with marching band and competitive cheer. One of the first things we will do is begin the search process for coaches and determine how best to maximize space and secure the equipment needed to launch successfully," Campbell said.

The football program will start as a club sport in the fall of 2024 and work toward becoming a

varsity program in 2025. The goal is to recruit 50 football players, 50 band members, and 30 competitive cheerleaders as part of the fall 2024 entering class. Roanoke College's incoming vice president of enrollment management, James Pennix, said, "I am confident that the addition of football, marching band, and competitive cheer can grow Roanoke's enrollment base, boost school spirit and attract new students. There is no better time to be joining my alma mater and the enrollment team. I am excited about these additions and the possibilities to impact the campus community."