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# THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



**upside**  
AT BOTH LOCATIONS



## Boyer receives prestigious STEM-H Educator Award



COURTESY PHOTO

Teacher Geoff Boyer received the prestigious K-12 STEM-H Educator Award, which recognizes a K-12 educator in the Roanoke-Blacksburg region that promotes math, science, and/or use of technology in creative ways to transfer knowledge and help develop future technology leaders. Pictured are: Kim Snyder (KariVis), Eddie Amos, Angela Pope Dickerson (Bullish & Blacks in Technology SWVA), Shierod Russell (Intuitive Surgical), Chad Burchett (Trova Commercial Vehicles), Dr. Jessica Gilbertie (Qentoros), Dean Thomas (CytoRecovery), Martin Angst (Rendry, Inc.), Geoff Boyer (Craig County Public Schools), and Dr. Amy White (Virginia Western Community College).

**Pam Dudding**  
*Contributing writer*

Craig County Public Schools has teachers who have extreme educational gifts, which are shared and taught to the students in their classes. Geoff Boyer has been a teacher at CCPS for many years now and has always been a proponent of teaching his students not only knowledge to pass a class but to be successful in life.

Recently, he received the prestigious K-12 STEM-H Educator Award, which recognizes a K-12 educator in the Roanoke-Blacksburg region that promotes math, science, and/or use of technology in creative ways to transfer knowledge and help develop future technology leaders. The Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council is an affiliate of Verge, "a collaborative strategic alliance established to grow the region's

innovation economy, technology sector, life sciences/biotech, and professional communities." Erin Burcham, president of Verge and executive director of RBTC added, "The energy at TechNite reflects the energy our innovators and entrepreneurs pour into their work every day. It's a privilege to bring together our best and brightest from around the region and celebrate

See Boyer, page 2

## Weight room looking great but still needs some equipment

**Pam Dudding**  
*Contributing writer*

It is an unusual sound to hear students already at school at 7 a.m., starting their weight program for sports. Coaches Jimmy Fisher, Jayke Dowdy and Roland Donithan are excited that their football players are pushing themselves to be better athletes, which also requires discipline to arise early every morning for their workouts. Currently they have 7 a.m. workouts three times a week with Dowdy and Donithan. "The kids bought into the process and sacrificed sleep for a chance to get better," Dowdy shared. "Their hard work has paid off." He added that they had three players to make the 700-pound club which were Isaac Lucas, Noah Paxton and Josh Craft. They also had one player who has made the 800 club, Caleb Fields.

"We also saw everyone in attendance get much faster and more explosive!" Dowdy exclaimed. "I love the morning lifts because it allows them to play other sports or work in the afternoons without sacrificing weight training." He added, "If you look around the state, all of the well-run programs in every sport are in the weight room." "We are happy that we had enough donors and raised enough money to meet our obligations on the new racks that we ordered," said Fisher. "However, we still need another piece of equipment for this room and two to three more for another room. We also need bars, plates, belts, bands, Bumper plates, dumbbells, etc." Dowdy admitted that when they hit the new weight room, their grogginess wears off quickly when "the music starts blaring, and the kids absolutely get after it."



The Craig County athletes send their great appreciation to the donors who made the purchase of their new equipment possible, as they "enjoy" their 7 a.m. early morning workouts with Dowdy and Donithan.

See Weight, page 2



COURTESY PHOTO

## VBS continues to inspire local children

Vacation Bible school continued in Craig County as over 70 kids attended the week-long event at the Fairgrounds by the New Castle Baptist Church, enjoying Bible study, skits, games and even getting watered by the local fire department truck. Squeals and laughter permeated the air.

See VBS, page 7

## June 21 is United Way Day of Action in Craig

**Pam Dudding**  
*Contributing writer*

The old saying "Actions speak louder than words" has much meaning, especially in small communities such as Craig County, where people rely on one another. On Wednesday, June 21, the "United Way Day of Action" will take place, initiated by the United Way of Roanoke Valley and a group of Craig County community stakeholders. "On and around June 21, thousands of people across the globe take action to improve their communities by volunteering with United Way," shared Leslie Clark,

director family health strategies with United Way. "In 37 countries and territories across the world, United Way creates meaningful volunteering opportunities – both virtual and in-person – that make it easy for people and organizations to tackle some of the toughest problems facing communities." Clark shared that the United Way has been working in Craig County over the last few years, including the Craig County Child Care Center assistance through early learning strategies initiatives, COVID information and the remembrance event

See Action, page 7



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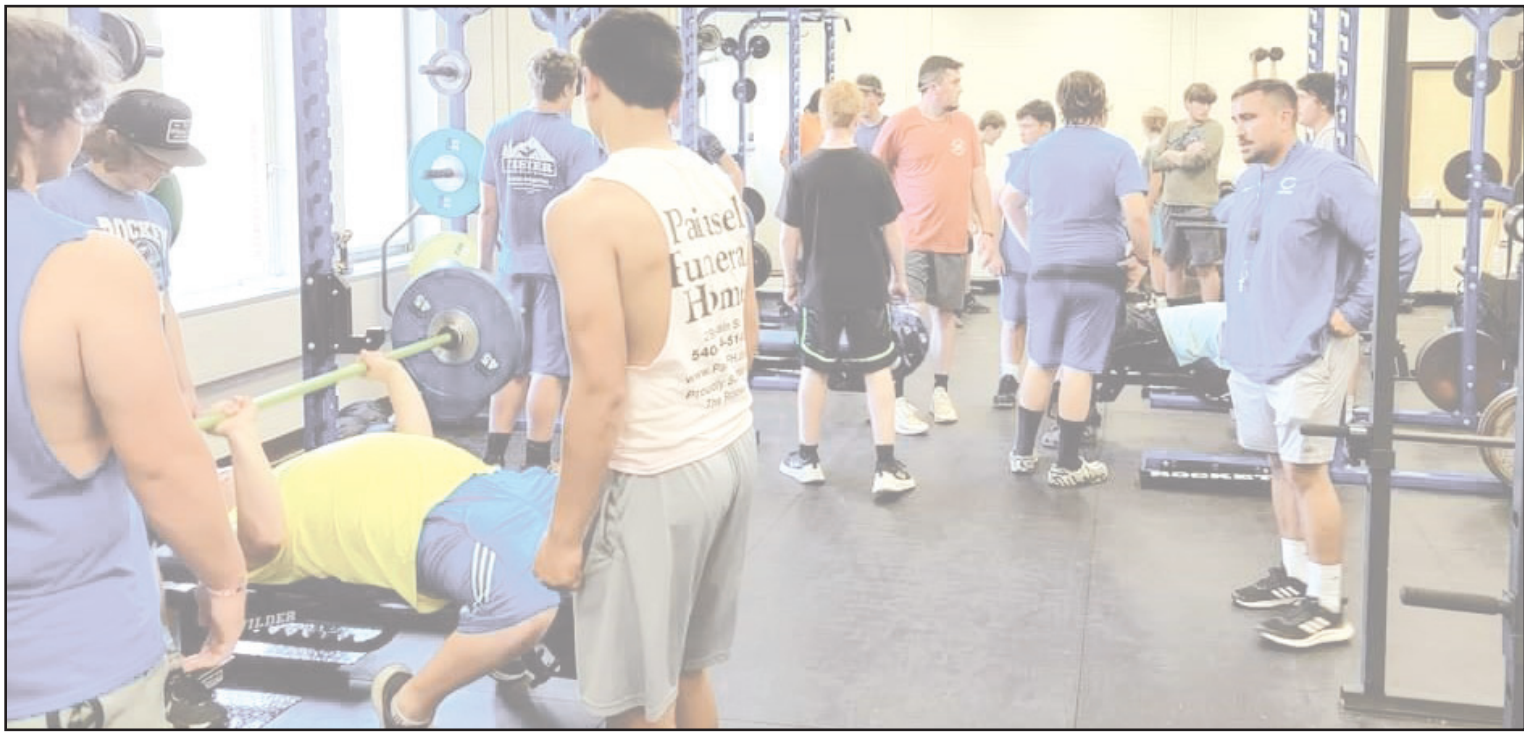
# Weight from page 1

“It’s something that will become an off-season rite of passage for the program moving forward,” Dowdy shared. “This groups of kids proved that it works and it’s worth it.”

“We are so appreciative of each donor, as it is the donors who have made all of this possible!” Fisher said.

However, their hopes are to complete the needs of the weight room for the athletes.

“Please consider donating if you have not already,” Fisher shared. “We hope to have the room completely done in time for the schools open house. This new strength training space would not be possible without each one of you who have already given.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Although they have this equipment, Fisher shared that they still need three or four more to complete their equipment needs, plus bars, plates, belts, bands and other needed things. “Our hopes are to have the rooms completely done in time for the school’s open house,” he shared.

# Boyer from page 1



Geoff Boyer was nominated by Morgan Romeo, who was delighted that he won the award.

the accomplishments that are changing the world right from the Roanoke and New River Valleys.”

They shared, “Craig County educator Geoff Boyer has dedicated 20 years to teaching math and computer science at Craig County High School. His students design and build portable gaming machines and learn to code using Arduino IDE. A master teacher with Mobile CSP, he travels around the country during the summers to train other teachers, empowering them to impact more students through STEM. In addition to teaching, Geoff also owns his own 3D printing business.”

Morgan Romeo, who is the executive director of the Greater Roanoke Workforce Development Board, nominated Boyer.

Boyer received the STEM-H Educator Award. “It is using technology in the classroom,” Boyer shared. “My students built keyboards and gaming devices to program.”

He added, “It was a very special honor that I shared with my wife, Pam and our school’s Susan Stimeling and Gerri VanDyke. I am so proud to represent Craig County and our students. We do a lot of great things with limited resources.”

In asking if there was anyone he felt helped him in receiving this award, Boyer responded, “Honestly, it’s the students who helped create all of the items we’ve made. Their inspiration and creativity shaped what we do, and they are motivated to work on their projects.”

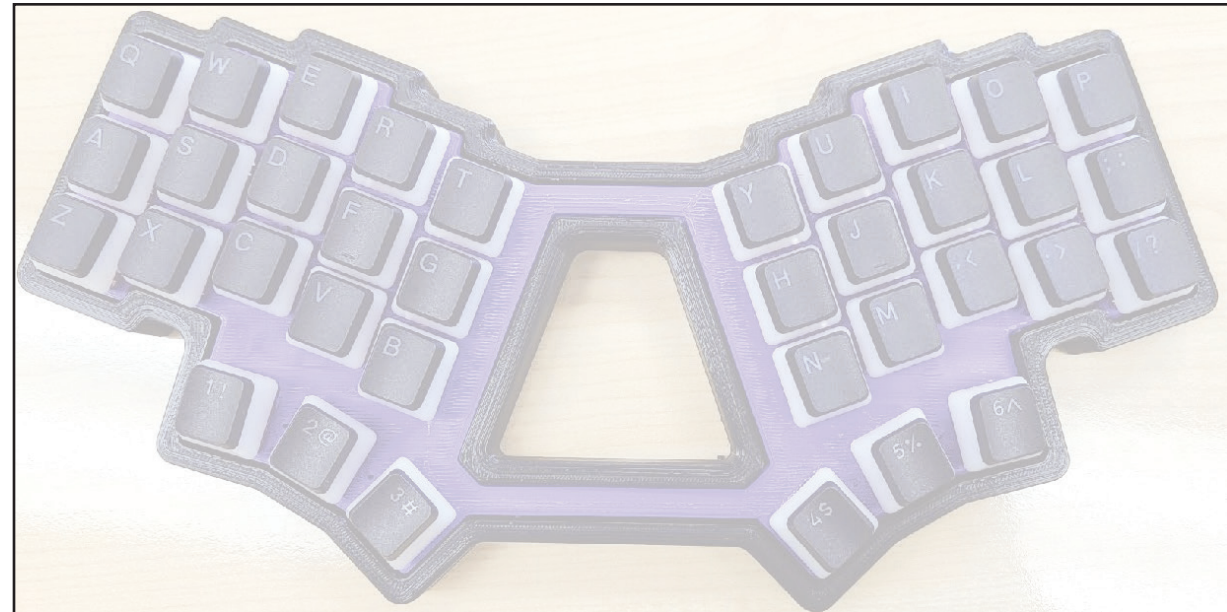
His students ranging from 6th through 12th grades were involved in this year’s projects.

Boyer has also done interviews for a magazine and newsletter.

“I have made some contacts in the business community and hopefully can leverage this to



“It is using technology in the classroom,” Boyer shared. “My students built keyboards and gaming devices to program.” The picture is of the Game Boy-style devices Boyer’s 1st block built. “These took about a week to assemble by hand... over a hundred solder points and are controlled by a Raspberry Pi Pico board. The students then used these to test programs that they made in class, including games they developed.”



COURTESY PHOTOS

The purple/black keyboard is a hand wired keyboard from Talon Ritter, who used a pro micro controller, copper wire, pudding keycaps, linear switches and the case and plate are 3D printed.

fund more opportunities for our students,” he shared.

“We are so very honored to have Mr. Boyer as

part of our educational community,” VanDyke shared. “We are blessed by his continued dedication to the betterment Craig County Public Schools.”

**BUCHANAN COMMUNITY CARNIVAL**  
 June 29th - July 8th • 6:00pm-11:00pm  
 Closed Sunday - July 2nd  
 Wristbands [www.colerides.com](http://www.colerides.com)  
 • Advance \$20 • On Grounds \$25  
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 Wednesday, July 5th and Thursday, July 6th  
 Wristbands \$15 - 6:30pm-10:30pm  
**Tuesday, July 4th**  
 Parade 5pm • Fireworks 10pm

**ENTERTAINMENT**

Thursday, June 29th – Pleading the Fifth	Wednesday, July 5 – Phlegar Hill
Friday, June 30th – Blue Connection	Thursday, July 6 – Live Tandem
Saturday, July 1 – Midnight Blue	Friday, July 7 – The Oddfellows
Sunday, July 2 – CLOSED	Saturday, July 8 – Wound Tight
Monday, July 3 – Glen Shelton Band	also Rebels of Rhythm Cloggers during music breaks
Tuesday, July 4 – Cimmaron	

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**In honor of 4th of July**

**OUR NEWSPAPER offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th, 2023 And will reopen on Wed., July 5th @ 8:30 a.m.**

**All ads for July 5th and July 6th papers need to be in our office by Friday, June 30 at 12:00 Noon.**

# 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.

**ROUTE 605** – There will be intermittent lane closures on Route 605 under the bridge and will be maintained by flagging operations.

**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. Alternating lane closures maintained by flagging operations may be in place. The project is expected to be completed in August 2023.

**ROADS CLOSED FOR PAVING:** Beginning Monday, June 19 through Thursday, June 22, Wise Avenue will be closed between 12th Street and 14th Street for paving. Westbound traffic will be detoured onto Norfolk Avenue and eastbound traffic will be detoured onto Norfolk Avenue or Campbell Avenue. 13th Street northbound will also be closed and southbound traffic will be detoured onto Campbell Avenue.

**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.

**LANE CLOSURES WITH FLAGGING OPERATIONS:** Beginning Monday, June 12, lane closures will be in place from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for the summer. Lane closure times of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. will resume on Monday, July 31 to allow preparation for school to begin.

**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.

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

**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

**ROUTE 615 CLOSURE FOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT** - Route 615 (Craig Creek Road) will be closed Saturday, July 15 through Sunday, July 16 to replace a bridge with a concrete slab located 1.40 from Route 743 (Draft Road) and 2.30 miles from Route 621 (Roaring Run Road).

**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 through a permit. Lane closures will be set up on various days and noise disturbances may be in place through 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. Work is being performed during daytime hours, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the week. Drivers should expect delays due to a single lane closure across the bridge with a flagging operation. The jacking and bearing replacements have been completed. Contractors are now applying protective paint underneath the bridge and will replace expansion dams on the bridge deck. Message boards are present to alert and update drivers. Expected completion in August 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

**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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**CLUES ACROSS**

1. \_\_ fi (slang)
4. Anecdotes about a person
7. Central Standard Time
10. Beverage receptacle
11. Football's Newton
12. Be in debt
13. Tattles
15. Musician \_\_ Lo
16. Arrange again
19. A binary compound of carbon with a metal
21. Brazilian futbol great
23. Feared
24. Annoy
25. Unit of heredity
26. Small freshwater fish
27. Muscular weaknesses
30. Fined
34. One-time EU currency

**CLUES DOWN**

35. Egyptian unit of weight
41. Increments
45. Abnormal rattling sound
46. Middle Eastern country
47. A type of greeter
50. \_\_ inning stretch
54. Reaches
55. More gray
56. Football term
57. Swiss river
59. Ninth day before the ides
60. Grow old
61. Don't know when yet
62. College hoops tournament
63. Japanese monetary unit
64. Medical device
65. Antidiuretic hormone

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Put fear into
2. Partner to corned beef
3. Interiors
4. Agrees to a demand
5. No (Scottish)
6. \_\_ Hess Corp.
7. Ornamental molding
8. Garment
9. Electric car company
13. Decimal digits in binary (abbr.)
14. Gibbon
17. Sun up in New York
18. \_\_ the line
20. A vale
22. Old Irish alphabet
27. A type of band
28. A team's best pitcher
29. Floor covering

**CLUES DOWN**

31. A \_\_ in the machine
32. Supplement with difficulty
33. Prosecutors
37. Place in order
38. Japanese lute
39. Mongolian city \_\_ Bator
40. Perceived
41. A cloth for washing dishes
42. Chocolate cookie with white cream filling
43. Grassy plain
44. Barometer
47. Father
48. Of the ear
49. Thomas \_\_, British dramatist 1652-85
51. After eighth
52. Where golfers begin
53. Time units (abbr.)
58. Basics

# OPINION

## Swap Day - Last Saturday in June

### Library Corner

By Kathi Toelke,  
Library trustee

On June 24 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. the Craig County Public Library is having a Swap Day for household goods. The event is free with free take-aways. Tables will be lined with household goods, (no clothes or large items,) available for rehoming. If you have items like this you want to contribute, please bring them. The book barns will be open so it's a great time to stock up on summer reading for you, your family, and friends.

Are you a member of the Friends of the

Library? We will have forms available to kick off the new membership year that starts in July. The cost is low and makes a difference in supporting the library. Each member, who signs up before June 30, is entered into a drawing for \$100 to use at any local business. Forms are always available at the library desk.

Raffle tickets will be on sale. This year the raffle is for nearly \$500 worth of Craig County farm produce: pork, lamb, beef, fish, berries, wreaths and more. There are two complete packets of these items so each ticket gets you two chances. Drawing will be at Fall Festival. You do not have to be present to win. Stop by the library to pick up tickets.

We hope to see you Saturday!



COURTESY PHOTO

Local veterans of VFW Post 4491 were presented the perpetual Patriot's Cup by DAR Regent Tina Crawford after their name was the first to be engraved on the front plate.

## Independence Day Parade set for July 4

The Second Annual Craig County Independence Day Parade will be Tuesday morning, July 4, rain or shine. The parade will leave the Craig County Fairgrounds at 10 a.m. and conclude at Craig County Courthouse.

Community organizations, businesses and families are encouraged to participate with a patriotic theme featuring "Red, White and Blue." The Patriot's Cup will be awarded to the entry selected by a panel of judges as "Most Patriotic." The cup will be passed from VFW Post #4491, whose truck covered with flags and filled with veterans was awarded the winning entry by judges in 2022. The name of this

year's winner will be engraved on the cup alongside VFW Post #4491, and they will have the privilege of holding the trophy until 2024.

Children 12 and under are invited to decorate their bikes, trikes and wagons for the children's brigade with all participants given participation medals or ribbons. The winner(s) of the "Most Patriotic" entry for the youth division will also receive prizes.

The parade is sponsored by Craig Valley Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American

See Parade, page 7

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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.

Email letters to  
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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ADOPTION OF PARKING ORDINANCE

The governing body of the County of Craig, Virginia will conduct a public hearing on the 6th day of July, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Craig County Courthouse, 182 Main Street, New Castle, Virginia, to receive public comments on an ordinance amending Chapter 42 of the Code of Ordinances of the County of Craig, Virginia. The proposed ordinance would add an article to the existing Chapter 42 to provide for specific parking violations and an enforcement process for such parking violations. A copy of the proposed ordinance is available for review in the office of the County Administrator, 108 Court Street, New Castle, Virginia. All interested persons are invited to attend and express their views. Those desiring assistance in accessing or participating may contact the County Administrator's office at the above address, or by calling 540-864-5590.

DAN COLLINS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE TO REPEAL MERCHANTS' CAPITAL TAX

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 15.2-1427 and 58.1-3509, the Craig County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on July 6th, 2023 at 6 p.m. in the Circuit Court Courtroom, Craig County Courthouse, 303 Main Street, New Castle, Virginia.

The purpose of the public hearing will be to receive public comments on the proposed adoption of an ordinance repealing the merchants' capital tax within the County and amending Section 38-1 of the Craig County Code, effective immediately. Any person interested in the proposed ordinance may appear at the public hearing and present their views.

A copy of the full text of the proposed ordinance is on file in the office of the County Administrator of Craig County, 108 Court Street, New Castle, VA 24127, and is available for review during normal business hours. If you should need auxiliary aids, please contact the office of the County Administrator at least five (5) days in advance of the public hearing.

# COMMUNITY SERVICE DIRECTORY

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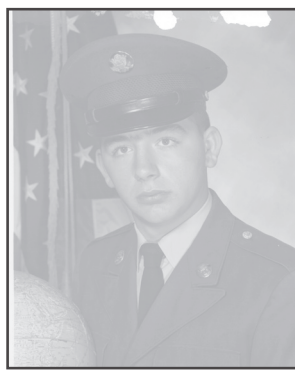
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# OBITUARIES

## Howell, William Wayne

William Wayne Howell, 65 of New Castle, entered into the presence of Jesus, June 14, 2023. He was in the U.S. Army Artillery for 17 years, and retired 1st Sgt.



Harlow, & Kathy Musgrove; special friend & brother-in-arms, Don Williams.

Funeral Services were held 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 20 at Paitself Funeral Home with Pastors Kevin Altizer and Lee Looney officiating. The family received friends one hour prior to the service 5-6 p.m.

Interment will be held Thursday, June 22 at 12 p.m. at Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery 5550 Bagging Plant Rd. Dublin, VA 24084 with Military Honors.

Arrangements by Paitself Funeral Home: www.paitself.com

He was preceded in death by his son, Jason Wayne Howell and many other loved ones.

He is survived wife, Becky Furrow Howell; children, Jeremy Howell (Heather), Sherry Scott (Josh), and Kassie Tolley; grandchildren, Kathrine, Kaelan, Morgan, Nicholas, Brayden, Rheagan, Aleah, Isaac, Will, and Adi; step-daughters, Jessica Bradford (Jesse), Jennifer Furrow (Billy),

Jodi Caldwell (David); step-grandchildren, Jacob Bradford, Austin Underwood, Katlyn Caldwell, Isaac Caldwell, and Aaron Underwood (Emma); great-grandchild, Michael Underwood; brothers & sister, Patricia Ferguson, Roger Spangle, J.R.

## Upcoming public meetings in Craig County

### June 21

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

### July 6

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

### 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.

### July 18

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

### 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.

#### 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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## Travel team placed 2nd in its first tournament



COURTESY PHOTO

The Craig County boys 540 Hotshots 9U travel team was excited to take 2nd place in its first tournament. Five boys on the team are from New Castle. Happy faces showed their excitement and they wished to thank the Field of Dreams for allowing them to play there. Pictured are: (bottom row) Dalton Brogan, Jonah Keith, Ryder Peck, Cylas May and Luka Keith. (second row) Parker Pruet, Brantley, Wyrick, Blake Fridley, Landon Wilson, Drew Webb and Ethan Peck. (coaches) Cody Pruet, Dwayne Wyrick, Matt Wilson and Josh Peck.

## Parade from page 4



COURTESY PHOTO

Local veterans of VFW Post 4491 were presented the perpetual Patriot's Cup by DAR Regent Tina Crawford after their name was the first to be engraved on the front plate.

Revolution with support from Craig County Tourism Commission and Craig250. The chapter is providing all necessary permits for street closures as well as guest judges, prizes and announcers.

Many entries have been received to date, including New Castle Christian Church, Craig County Historical Society, MC's Towing Service, Craig County Volunteer Rescue Squad, Fincastle Resolutions Sons of the American Revolution, Hersel Goff in his 1950 Buick, VFW Post 4491, Mill Mountain-Valley of Virginia Society Children of the American Revolution and Craig County EMS. The winners of last year's "Most Patriotic Youth" division, Jonah and Chase Dunbar, will make an encore appearance featuring

a power wheel. Many participants plan to give candy and other goodies to spectators along the parade route.

There is no fee to participate in the parade, but donations are welcome. Organizers have extended the deadline for parade entry registration through July 3. Floats, trucks, vintage and muscle cars, tractors, wagons, horses and more are all welcome to join in the celebration of the nation's independence. Musicians will be given special courtesies.

Parade organizers wish to honor a special citizen of the community as "Parade Grand Marshal." Parade entry registration and grand marshal nomination forms are available at The Emporium, Farmers & Merchants Bank and Lemon & Vale Bakery.

Those interested may also request a form or arrange to make a donation by emailing CraigValleyChapterNSDAR@gmail.com. Please specify Donation, Registration, or Grand Marshal Nomination Form in the subject line.

-Submitted by Diane Givens

## VBS from page 1



COURTESY PHOTO

The penny war between the girls and the boys was a fun task, as kids brought their pennies each night to be weighed against each other. At the end though, the girls won.

## Action from page 1

through their Healthy Roanoke Valley initiative.

"Our work with community stakeholders has given them the opportunity to voice particular needs for the Craig County community," Clark said. "Impacting these voiced needs are how we developed the projects we plan to carry out on Wednesday June 21 with the help of Craig County volunteers.

We plan to do ongoing work to support Craig County."

"We have volunteers from our community that will be at the Field of Dreams weeding around the sign, building a ramp to a shed, and clearing weeds to the river so kayaks can have access to Craig's Creek," Pat Franklin, director I of Craig County DSS shared. "We also have Feeding SWVA providing 300 healthy food boxes to citizens in Craig between

1pm and 3pm in the parking lot beside the New Christian Church."

They also shared that distribution boxes have been placed around town to collect food that will be gathered on June 21 and divided between DSS food pantry and the New Christian Church pantry.

There will also be a lunch and a speaker/volunteer rally at 11:30 a.m. at New Christian Church.

Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative is a sponsor and will be speaking.

Also, the United Way representatives will be speaking to the participating volunteers and local government officials have been invited to the lunch.

The community is encouraged to share this information and to pick up a food box between 1pm and 3 p.m. at the New Castle Christian Church. The boxes will be given out until they run out, a first come, first serve basis.

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**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.

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

**LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST**  
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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.

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**MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN**  
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**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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## ROCKETS PUT THREE ON ALL-REGION TEAMS

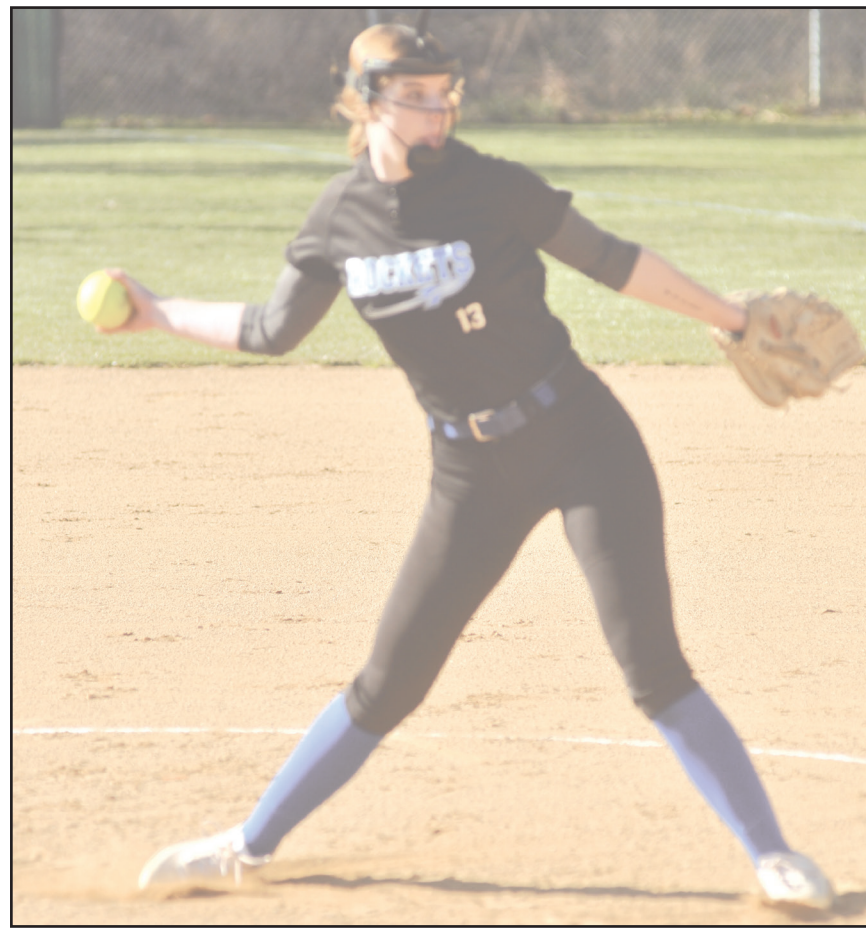
The All-Region 1C teams have been announced and Craig County is represented in baseball, softball and soccer.

In baseball Rocket senior pitcher Zachary Peters was named to the second team. State Class 1 runnerup Auburn had four players on the first team, as did Narrows of the Pioneer District. Jared Lavergne, a sophomore from Auburn, was named Player of the Year and Eagles coach Eric Altizer was named Coach of the Year.

In softball Craig County senior Sara Jones was named to the second team as a pitcher. State champion Auburn had three on the first team, including Player of the Year and Pitcher of the Year Kirsten Fleet. Tim Smoot of Auburn was named region Coach of the Year. Parry McCluer of the Pioneer District put three on the first team and two on the second team.

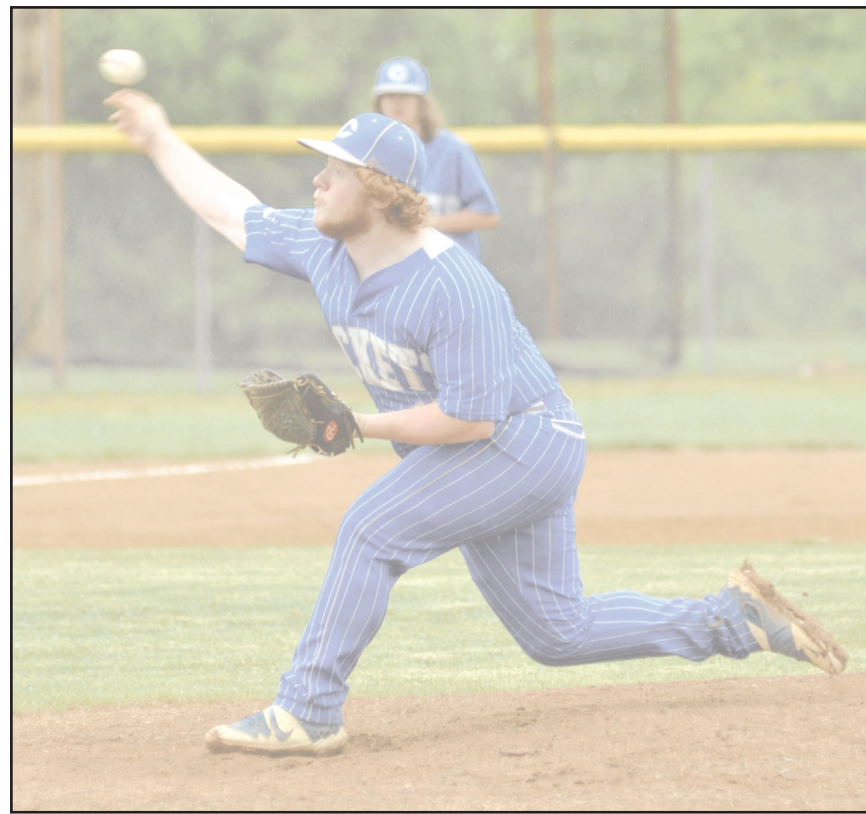
Craig senior Bryce Drake was named to the second team All-Region 1C in boys' soccer. Drake was named to an "all-around" position. David Espinoza of Galax was named Player of the Year and Maroon Tide coach Dominic Digiacommo was named Coach of the Year.

Craig County had a co-ed soccer team but several schools in Region 1C had a team just for girls, and state champion Eastern Montgomery dominated the All-Region 1C team. The Pioneer District Mustangs had 11 of the 16 first team selections as well as Player of the Year Maddie Bruce. Adam Frye of Bath County, another Pioneer school, was named Coach of the Year.



Sara Jones is an All-Region selection as a pitcher.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Pitcher Zachary Peters was named to the All-Region 1C team.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Bryce Drake made the All-Region soccer team from Craig County.

PHOTO BY CHELSEA LOUTHEN



## DIAMONDS ARE FOR WINNERS

**Brain Hoffman**  
Sports Editor

I watched the coronation of King Charles in May and was amazed at the gold and jewelry on display in the crowns, crosses and anywhere you might stick a diamond, ruby or sapphire. Then I saw the Chiefs championship ring.

The Chiefs unveiled their championship rings last week and they're a sight to behold. It seems like every year the current champion tries to out-do the previous one, and I'm pretty certain the Chiefs have accomplished that.

First off, the ring includes 609 round diamonds, 16 baguette diamonds, whatever a baguette is, and four marquise diamonds. That's 629 diamonds on one ring!! If I didn't know better I wouldn't think you could get 100 diamonds on a ring, much less 629.

I'm wondering who all gets those rings. Certainly everyone on the 45 man roster and let's say another five or six on the practice squad. Let's round it off to 50 players.

Then you have the coaches. I checked the Chiefs web-site and they list 29 assistant coaches in addition to head coach Andy Reid, so that's another 30 rings.

Of course the owner and front office personnel will be included, and a conservative guess would be another 20. So, I'm thinking about 100 of the real rings will be given out.

I saw an article where over 700 rings were given after the 2020 Chiefs won the Super Bowl, but most of them were "replica" models that went to cheerleaders, support staff and the like. I guess that means it's not solid gold and real diamonds, but it would still be cool to have.

So, let's say 100 real rings are given out, and that's probably a conservative estimate. At 629 diamonds per ring that would be 6,290 diamonds. And I know they're not cheap, because when I bought an engagement ring for my wife 35 years ago I had to save up for a year in advance, and it had just one diamond. Thank goodness she's not a Chiefs' fan.

Along with the diamonds each Super Bowl ring also has 35 custom cut rubies, since the Chiefs' color scheme is red. And, get this, the top of the ring comes off and inside Arrowhead Stadium is revealed with a pair of Lombardi Trophies on the field.

"Winning a Super Bowl is the crowning achievement for an NFL club, and the championship ring is the ultimate symbol of the hard work, dedication and sacrifice that it takes from everyone in the organization to reach this pinnacle," Chiefs President Mark Donovan said, via a press release.

Okay, that's great, but I'd be scared to wear the thing. It would be like standing outside the casino counting 100 dollar bills. You're just asking for someone to hit you over the head and take off with the ring.

And, in a more practical vein, how are you going to get something out of your pocket? With 664 stones, counting diamonds and rubies, that has to be a pretty good sized ring. If you feel a sneeze coming on that would be a challenge to get your handkerchief out of your pocket in time.

From what I can see, this Chiefs' ring might be the most elaborate of all-time. A couple years ago former Bucs' coach Bruce Arians was at a Virginia Tech football game and he was happy to show me his ring. It was very nice, indeed, but I doubt if it had over 600 stones.

I've been to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton many times, and one of my favorite displays is the case with all the Super Bowl rings, starting with the Packers in 1967. It was a ring you might actually wear, but as the years progressed you could see them getting bigger and gaudier every season until now the Chiefs are basically wearing a jewelry store on their finger.

Shortly after reading about the new rings I was driving through Roanoke and saw a guy struggling to push a shopping cart, loaded with all his worldly possessions, up a hill. All that money going to bling and some folks are struggling to get a bite to eat.

Makes you think.

## RAIL YARD DAWGS 2023-2024 FULL SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

The Rail Yard Dawgs announced their full schedule for the 2023-2024 season on Monday, June 19. Promotional schedule will be announced at a later date. As in the past, each SPHL team will host 28 home games and travel to 28 road games throughout the

regular season. Opening Night is scheduled for Friday, October 20 against Fayetteville.

Single game tickets and single game parking passes will go on sale starting Wednesday, September 20 at the Berglund Center box office and online. Season tickets,

flex packages, and group tickets are on sale now through the Dawgs front office. Contact our ticketing team for more information at 540-266-7343.

Game dates, times and opponents subject to change.