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THE NEW CASTLE RECORD





At the beginning of the girls' games, one of the founders of The Field of Dreams, Debbie Snead, gave the first pitch for the game.

Over 50 alumni participate in 1st Alumni Softball Tournament

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

Who knew that one person's little thought and silly post on Facebook would create a day filled with over 50 Craig County High School alumni getting together just a short time later?

On Saturday, July 8, The Field of Dreams in Craig was infiltrated with vehicles, bringing in softball players, volunteers and families and friends to enjoy a late afternoon, watching the American sport of baseball and softball.

"A few months ago, I shared a Facebook memory of myself and some old teammates

during softball season and said we needed to get together and play soon," Leah McMahan shared. "I ended up receiving several messages from different people asking if an alumni game would be possible."

McMahan called her friend Heather Stover, and they started making her Facebook post a reality.

"We thought we'd have a few people show up to play a quick game together, but we definitely did not expect to get the support and turn out that we got!" Stover exclaimed. "Going into this

See Game, page 2



PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING
Sandra Dudding gave the first pitch to start the games for the guys at the Field of Dreams during the game.

Community invited to BBQ and Bluegrass July 22

Everyone in the community is invited on Saturday, July 22nd at 4pm to come on out and enjoy some Bluegrass & Barbeque with Craig Valley and Grace Baptist Church!

The event will be held at Craig Valley's pavilion near the Field of Dreams! Feel free to bring a covered dish to share with everyone, the meat will be provided!



COURTESY IMAGE

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

Everyone knows that a good BBQ is hard to resist but link it with some great Bluegrass music and it is hard to beat.

On Saturday, July 22, Craig Valley Baptist Church and Grace Baptist Church are joining together to bring a Christian community event to Craig.

Musicians and singers from both churches will be performing, however other church members in the community are welcome to join in as well.

It will be a potluck; however, the churches will provide the BBQ, paper products and drinks. No alcohol will be allowed.

They ask that those who plan to attend bring a side dish and/or dessert to add to the

fun-filled evening.

Also, everyone needs to bring their own chair.

The event will start at 4 p.m. and go on until 8 p.m., with the meal being served at 5 p.m.

If anyone has cornhole games or other games, they are welcome to bring and set them up.

Randy Spencer, the interim pastor, will speak for a few minutes in between.

They will have posters on the roads from Route 615 off Route 311 to the Pavilion where it will be held, which is located beside the Field of Dreams.

"We are hoping to provide an enjoyable evening for the entire family!" they shared. "Fellowship and great music are always a great time in our county."

Mud Runs in Craig continuing on July 22

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

The younger generation is continuing to create events that have brought in a few hundred spectators for a day of fun and excitement.

Corie Trivette and his friends started having Mud Bog Runs and it has truly taken off, as they will be hosting their second one for this year on Saturday, July 22. He held

his first one last year.

In their last Mud Run, the winners were:

4 & 6-cylinder class: 1st - Bradley Smith, 2nd - Evan Collins, 3rd - Dillion Kerns

Street class: 1st - Brad Frye, 2nd - Rachel Burns, 3rd - Austin Underwood

Mod Street Class: 1st - Mark Booth, 2nd - Chris Kerns, 3rd - Cory Clements

Hot Street Class: 1st - Bucky

Hypes, 2nd - Brad Frye, 3rd - Corie Trivette

Open class: 1st - Richard Smith, 2nd - Bucky Hypes, 3rd - Brad Frye

Side by side class: 1st - Austin Martin, 2nd - Ellen Strawderman, 3rd - Maggie Huffman

"We feel that the drivers enjoy just having a fun family day of trucks in the mud!" Trivette said.

See Mud, page 2




Trucks plunged through the mud throwing mud clods into the spectator areas. Some actually had their screens set up to catch the mud before it got to them while others wore their muddy clods with pride.



PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING


Like many spectators, Emmett sat a little too close to the fence, as he got a big splattered by the vehicles kicking up mud. He didn't care a bit.



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Mud

from page 1

They have food trucks on site for those who get hungry. The Craig County Rescue Squad and the Upper Craigs Creek Volunteer Fire Department are on site for any emergency needs.

Also, the Craig County High School football team helped to park the vehicles as well as ran a 50/50 raffle.

Anyone wishing to join in this Saturday's Mud Run, can sign up on the day of the event. Those with questions can contact Corie Trivette on Facebook or call him at (540) 597-4019.

Vendors who wish to

sell their craft items can also set up for free. They only pay the gate fee to get in.

Classes for the July 22 event include; Street (\$25), 4 & 6 Cylinder (\$25), Mod Street (\$40), Hot Street (\$50), Renegade (\$50) and Open (\$50).

There is 100% payback, as Trivette added, "We do 100 percent payback to the drivers. However, we are working on getting sponsors so we can have more money for the drivers."

After July 22 run, the next Mud Run is scheduled for Sept. 30.



Jeep drivers seem to enjoy their muddy ride.

PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

Game



The first game with the Red Fireballs and the Green Machines seemed to be a great start. The Fireballs ended the day with the championship.

I didn't expect it to become as big as it ended up being."

With their joint efforts, along with the alumni game being shared, four girls teams were quickly formed.

However, word got out and some guys inquired about wishing to play as well.

"It just kept going and people became more interested in playing, so we said we would make as many teams as possible as long as people kept signing up and then three guys teams were formed," Stover said.

"I was so excited that we had so many alumni show up," McMahan said. "We had players ranging from the class of 1987 to the most recent class of 2023."

They were excited and started planning the rest of the event to make it a successful and fun day for the entire family.

Even on the day of the game, people signed up to play, as no one was turned away.

Canopies lined the fences, while some set out their chairs or blankets "to get a little tan."

David Givens set up his system and emceed the event, as well as provided great music.

The New Castle Volunteer Rescue Squad members were there to assist, if needed.

Food, snacks, drinks and beer were being offered for sale.

Stover explained, "It was discussed, and beer sales at events are the number one fundraiser for nonprofits. Therefore, it was proposed to the Field of Dreams board who voted on it, which was a yes, so we went forward with it."

Sandra Dudding and Debbie Snead, two of the original founders of the CCRCA and the Field of Dreams, were honored by having them throw the first pitches for the baseball and softball games.

The atmosphere was filled with friendly laughter and even on the field, opposing teams congratulated one another for good plays or hits. Though a few smart lines were thrown out as each team smiled and thought about the "one up" they



The games for the guys were competitive but great sportsmanship was shown as well as a bit of joking around.



In between games, some of the players and volunteers enjoyed Dave's Live Sounds and did some dancing.

PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING

could say the next time around.

Players were playing, families were enjoying the games and mingling with other friends and kids were having a blast in the new play area CCRCA had installed.

Though the day brought scorching weather, it didn't seem to bother the players at all. The game

went on.

The girls teams were:

- Blue Devils (blue team) - Olivia Garman, Mackenzie Jones, Leah Hale, Heather

See Game, page 7



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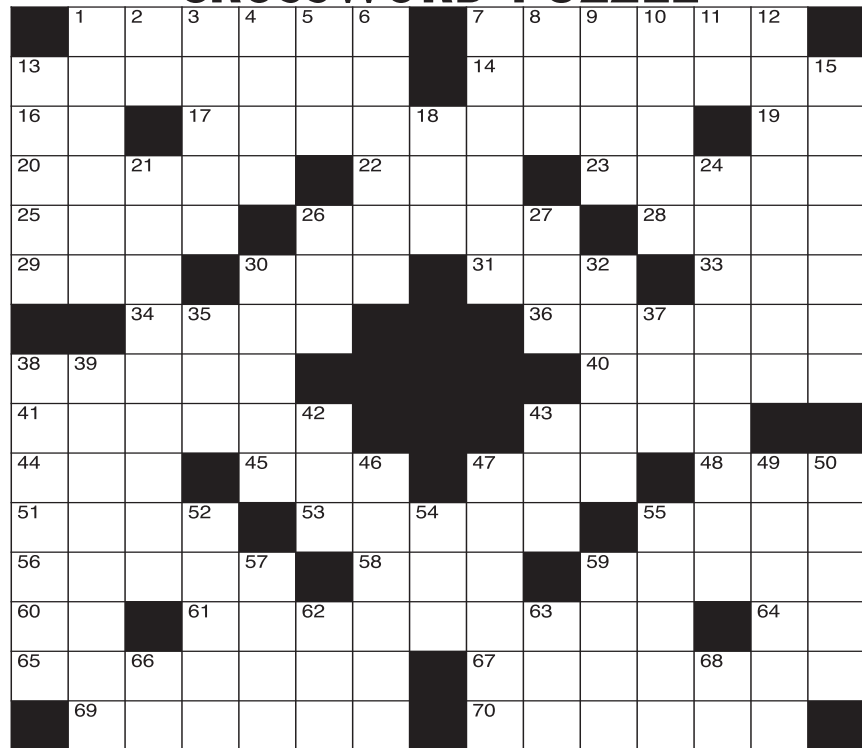
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 - Of I
 - Functions as a laser
 - Basketball phenomenon
 - Famed island
 - Parent-teacher groups
 - Distributes
 - Self-immolation by fire ritual
 - Ad _____
 - Circulation problem (abbr.)
 - Brother or sister
 - A famous "Squad"
 - Stage actor Anthony
 - Violent seizure of property
 - Saclike cavities
 - Sound units
 - Counts on
 - Dad
 - Woman (French)
 - A digital tape recording of sound
 - Polish Baltic peninsula
 - Recipe measurement
 - Requests out of dire need
 - Precious stone weight unit
 - The immaterial part of a person
 - Anoint
 - Golf score
 - Supernatural
 - Northwest Territories
 - Can be made suitable
 - A professor's helper
 - Having a toothlike edge
 - Got atop a horse
 - Judged
 - Static balance between opposing forces
- CLUES DOWN**
- Flowing
 - Computer department
 - Lasts
 - DiFranco and Samsonyan are two
 - ___ de sac
 - Merchant
 - Hosts film festival
 - State of agitation of fuss
 - A way to praise
 - Opaque gems
 - McKinley is one
 - Smallest interval in classical Western music
 - Famed designer Lauren
 - Small island
 - Small island (British)
 - Misuse of the sacred
 - Covers with a thin sheet
 - Most valuable player
 - Title of respect
 - Investigated discreetly
 - Belonging to the bottom layer
 - Black tropical American cuckoo
 - Music genre
 - Indicates one is in mourning
 - Secured forever
 - Bodily cavity
 - A dog is one
 - Chose to do something
 - Annoy persistently
 - Large hotel rooms
 - Beg
 - Docket
 - Subway dwelling rodent
 - Sources
 - Mild Dutch cheese
 - Spanish city
 - Consumed
 - Ballplayer's tool
 - Midway between north and east
 - Atomic #3

Virginia Western Nursing Program registers impressive NCLEX-RN pass rates after collaborative plan focused on students

ROANOKE — Teamwork is an essential piece of healthcare for patient treatment, but it's also the key ingredient to get registered nurses in place to care for them. Virginia Western Community College's Nursing Program leaned into teamwork when facing problematic pass rates on the NCLEX-RN exam, and assembled a model coaching program in 2022. This template is currently assisting this year's graduates, who are taking the exam this summer.

Results were beyond expectations, the college said, when 96.83% of the 2022 Nursing Program cohort passed on their first attempt, compared with a national benchmark of 77.91%. Of Virginia Western students testing in the April to September 2022 period, 100% passed on their first attempt.

"This is what happens when you've got a solid plan, that's brought in on every level, so it's administration, the faculty, and the students — everybody's pulling together and believes in this plan," said Virginia Western Director of Nursing Lauren Hayward. The success is even more remarkable amid the immense disruptions of COVID.

When commencement rolls around each spring, most students are ready to be free and start their new lives. But for students in the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing Program, Hayward explained, the time immediately after graduation is crucial — and their work is far from complete. "It's a really intensive six to eight weeks," she said. Many have started onboarding with employers, but they must pass the National Council Licensure Examination to become registered nurses.

Nursing programs must see 80 percent or higher of graduates pass the NCLEX on first attempt. After three years below this mark, a program can lose approval. Virginia Western's pass rates for 2020 and 2021 were each below that, at 79.66% and 78.00%, respectively.

Previous to this, Virginia developed a common, concept-based curriculum that took a decade to implement. About 80 percent of the state's programs, including Virginia Western, launched the curriculum in 2018. The first students to progress through the program graduated in 2020 — right as COVID hit. As the pandemic wore on in 2021 and disrupted the availability of clinical rotations, the program stayed below the mark — and so did the national average.

Hayward said she and her faculty remained focused. "We came up with a five-point plan that focused on student success. We changed resources, a really in-depth curriculum review — not just evaluation, but changed items, re-emphasized content where they were testing low," she said.

Marilyn Herbert-Ashton is dean of nursing in addition to her role as vice president of institutional advancement for Virginia Western. "The nursing faculty took a deep dive in reviewing testing policy, transfer policy, curriculum revisions and the one area that they really tweaked, with concept-based curriculum, was really leaning into pharmacology," she said. "Pharmacology requires an understanding of how the drug works, its effects and how the body utilizes the drug. Nurses must be able to evaluate a patient's condition before administering medications and the patient's response after receiving the medication."

This attention to minute detail reaped results in the April to September 2022 testing period. In almost all content areas, especially Pharmacological and Parenteral Therapies, Virginia Western students taking the NCLEX from April to September 2022 placed in a higher national percentile rank than students taking the test from the same period in 2021.

Previously, students received NCLEX



COURTESY PHOTO

The 2022 cohort of Virginia Western's Nursing Program is honored during the Pinning Ceremony on May 13, 2022, at the Berglund Center. The 2022 graduates were the first to undertake a coaching program to prepare for the NCLEX-RN exam, a requirement to become a Registered Nurse.

prep materials, but the decision to use them was up to each person. "I created the coaching role after 2021, because so few people completed the NCLEX prep," Hayward said. Creating a student-faculty partnership that would endure after a student graduated became a multi-layered, intense effort.

"We want to walk hand in hand with students — we can't do their work, they can't do ours, but there's a synergy between those two roles for both sides to be successful," said Hayward.

All nursing faculty were engaged in five different areas of the curriculum that had shown student weaknesses, and four also took on coaching roles: Joe Nguyen, Darla Summers, Kathy Smith and Hilda Taylor.

"We started implementing a lot of standardized testing as we went along to identify areas that they were weak in," Taylor said. "But it really didn't come to fruition until last summer, when Lauren found funds to support the faculty working over the summer to coach specific students."

Coaching starts in the students' fourth semester. Faculty members gave a lot of credit to Summers,

who created an NCLEX test prep binder for students that included dates for preparatory testing they needed to complete. "We use Kaplan resources, so over their two-year enrollment in the program, they take between 10,000 and 15,000 NCLEX-style questions," said Hayward.

Smith tracks data for how the cohort is succeeding in the progressive Kaplan testing program. "Before, I'd call someone up and say, 'Have you done this?' and they'd say, 'No, I'm too busy with work, no,' but now, they've got target dates — they've got goals. It's a very intense plan, and there's something to do every week," Smith said.

Familiarity with the testing style has an impact. "What I try to tell the students is that anxiety comes from feeling unprepared, a lot of times, when it comes to high-stakes testing. And when you feel more prepared, naturally you have less anxiety," Nguyen said.

Kara Gerenser, an RN and member of the 2022 Nursing Program cohort, agreed that this approach made a difference. "Graduation came with a lot of conflicting feelings. It was an enormous

relief to be done with school but then we had to face the daunting task of prepping for the NCLEX."

The preparation integrated in the program paid off. "I thought I would feel more nervous, but I believe our faculty really prepared us long before graduation. Mrs. Smith pushed our Kaplan resources from the first day of nursing school, and I think that helped me prepare the most. Each practice test I took or prep video I watched made me more and more confident that I had everything I needed to be successful," Gerenser said.

Summers said she tells her students, "I know this feels like torture, but it will be worth it in the end. We do have their best interests at heart — it's not just busy work."

Each student is assigned a faculty coach and is part of a group that keeps in touch before and after graduation with the Remind app. "The app we used was helpful because it was an easy way to stay connected and we got a notification every time someone in our group passed," Gerenser said. "I think that gave us the confidence boost we needed as we got closer and closer to our individual test dates."

As students progress through the NCLEX prep plan, coaches determine when they have a "green light" to schedule their exam.

"To me it says a lot that you have faculty that are willing to work with students that's not a mandatory course, side by side over the summer," Summers said, noting that it's an investment made by both parties. "Students are thankful for that, because we genuinely care about them."

Now, a year later, Gerenser is an RN in the operating room at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. "I honestly wouldn't be where I am today without every single one of the faculty members of the nursing program or the people in my cohort," she said. "Starting nursing school in the middle of a pandemic was extremely difficult and stressful and a little bit crazy. But we weathered the storm together and came out stronger because of it. It's amazing to see these people living their dreams as nurses, and I am endlessly thankful that I got to go on this journey with them."

-The New Castle Record

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MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN

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OPINION

Is it time to retire the Barn Quilt Project?

Library Corner
Martha Dillard

like wood and the paint has held up beautifully. There is no need to coat it with a sealer. Take a look at the first one that was hung up in 2014. It is on the book barn behind the library. It faces south into the sun and has no protection from the weather. It still looks great.

How do you order a barn quilt? Decide on a pattern or type of pattern and email me with your idea. I am glad to help you find or create a pattern to suit your color scheme and environment. Overly complicated patterns do not show well, especially at a distance. Sizes are two by two feet, three by three feet, and four by four feet. If hung on the diagonal, the outside dimensions are thirty-four inches, fifty-one inches and sixty-eight inches.

Order forms are available at the library or on the porch of the Old Brick Hotel or at www.BarnQuiltsforBooks.com. You'll find answers to questions on the website also. Martha's email is mdillard41@gmail.com.

That question has been on my mind this year. I'd painted a total of two hundred sixty-six barn quilts and raised over \$37,000 for the library since 2014. Last year there were 22 orders. But the first five months of this year saw only three orders. Some of my sixty-five paint containers were drying up. Buying more paint seems pointless if this project has come to a stopping point.

The good news is that since the first of June, I have three new orders and other people say they are planning to order soon. That gives me (and the library folks) hope for the continuation of this project. If you have been thinking about getting a barn quilt or replacing one that is not holding up well, contact me before October 1 to get ten percent off the price.

The boards I use are aluminum sign board, which doesn't degrade

News from the 9th: Prescription Drug Monitoring



Morgan Griffith
Representative

Recently, I was in line at my local pharmacy to pick up a prescription for my son. Ahead of me in line was a woman picking up her prescription. While waiting for my turn, I overheard the conversation happening between the woman and the pharmacist.

The pharmacist informed her that her prescription, which

used to have a \$45 copay, would now cost \$240. I suspect this is because the Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) required the drug manufacturer to raise their price.

PBMs do this because they charge a percentage of the list price, so while they claim a higher discount offsets the price for the consumer, it doesn't always work out that way. And if you have a medicine that is working, PBMs manipulating the price to enhance their profits is not appropriate.

In this situation of course, I couldn't help but interject.

I asked the woman if she had inquired about the cost of her drug without insurance, because we have heard testimony that due PBM manipulation and a lack of transparency in drug pricing, it might be cheaper if she paid cash than use her insurance.

Further, in this scenario, you can be required by your insurance company/PBM to try a new medicine. This also requires consultation with your doctor, and you may be like the lady at my pharmacy, who wasn't able to get her medicine that day and left to consult her doctor.

The point of health insurance is so that if we get sick, or need medication, we are not financially devastated by the high costs associated with the health care we receive.

Unfortunately, with respect to prescription drugs, the incentives for insurance companies/PBMs are backwards.

The insurance companies should be acting in a quasi-fiduciary relationship with their insurers.

After all, the insured, his/her employer, or a government run program is paying the insurance company to protect the insured from high-cost medicine, not help raise the cost.

That's why I

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Gov. Youngkin holds 'Parents Matter Conversation' in Salem

Aila Boyd
a Boyd@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Gov. Glenn Youngkin held a "Parents Matter Conversation" in Salem earlier this month. He

was joined by Sen. David Suetterlein (R-19) and his wife, Ashley.

The Republican said events like this one are part of an effort to get out of Richmond and listen

to Virginians. Doing so, he explained, helps him and fellow lawmakers do their jobs better.

"We're going to have a conversation today and I think it's an incredibly important conversation about being a parent," Youngkin said. The conversation extended to the responsibilities of being a parent and what he described as the rights they have to raise

their children in ways that are consistent with their values.

"Being a parent is hard, but it's an incredible blessing," Youngkin said. "One of the things I think is most important is we have an opportunity to in fact raise our children consistent with our values."

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THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

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COURTESY PHOTO
Youngkin holding a kangaroo at the Salem Fair.

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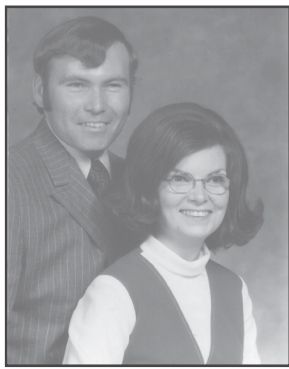
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OBITUARIES

Doss, Coleman O'Neil

Coleman O'Neil Doss, 78, of Salem, VA, formerly of New Castle, VA, went to be with the Lord on Thursday, July 13, 2023. He was born on April 4, 1945, to the late Julian Sidney and Lillian McClanahan Doss. He was a graduate of New Castle High School and Ferrum College. He married the love of his life, a Myers Doss on September 6, 1969. Coleman was a family man and adored his wife and the apple of his eye, his daughter, Lauren. He served the Lord faithfully as a member of Edgewood Christian Church, serving most recently as a deacon of the church. In addition to his



parents, he is preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Thomas Doss; maternal grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. William A. McClanahan; brothers, Maxie D. Doss, Julian S. "Buddy" Doss. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughter, Lauren Myers Doss (James); sister-in-law, Cathy

Myers Bostic (Mike); nephew, Jeffrey Carl Myers (Diana); special "daughter" Wendy Leigh Belcher, as well as numerous friends and church family.

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 22, 2023, at the Edgewood Christian Church, 1006 Peck St., NW, Roanoke, VA 24017, with Larry Atkin officiating. Burial will follow at Huffman Memorial Park in New Castle, VA.

Friends may visit with the family from 1 p.m. until the hour of the service.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Edgewood Christian Church or your favorite charity.

9th

from page 4

introduced H.R.3285, the Fairness for Patient Medications Act. It ensures that no patient pays more than the price their insurance company or PBM negotiated for the drug.

Under my bill, if the drug is highly-rebated, a patient would not be required to pay more than the insurance company is paying for the drug from the previous year once all the discounts are accounted for.

In other words, your insurance company, or their PBMs, shouldn't be making extra profit by charging you a higher copay than they paid for the medicine themselves.

Bottom line, this legislation is about fairness.

This bill is included in the larger legislative package, the PATIENT Act of 2023, which has passed out of the Energy and Commerce Committee and hopefully will be on the House floor soon.

H.R.3285 isn't the only legislation I have been working on in the prescription drug space this Congress.

I've also introduced H.R.4099, the RECONNECTS Act of 2023, which amends the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the prescription drug monitoring program for an additional five years in an effort to prevent overdoses of controlled substances.

This program allows for greater collaboration and tracking of opioids within states and across state lines.

It is important that our monitoring efforts extend across state lines, as many folks live short distances from state borders and can cross state lines to access prescription drugs. The 9th District is no exception.

Youngkin

from page 4

He went on to explain that the "domination" social media is having on the lives of children was top of mind for lawmakers during this year's legislative session. Study after study, he noted, has shown that children are in a mental health crisis as the result of social media. As a result of that understanding, lawmakers worked to address the issue legislatively.

"It was a bill that did one basic thing—it took the protections that currently exist in Virginia for 13-year-olds and under from social media companies being able to gather kids' data and sell it and market back to them without their parents knowing and extended it to

Whether it be Martinsville, Bristol, Bluefield, or Galax – it's important that health authorities are able to receive complete information about prescribing and patient behaviors in a timely fashion in order to facilitate a meaningful response.

H.R.4099, as part of the larger SUPPORT Act of 2023, will next be considered by the full E&C Committee.

The SUPPORT Act is itself a reauthorization of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, a bipartisan bill, passed in 2018, to address the opioid crisis.

In a recent field hearing in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the Committee examined the impact of the legislation five years on. We heard from Emily Keller, Special Secretary of Opioid Response, Office of Maryland Governor Wes Moore. When I asked her if the prescription drug monitoring program was working, she said she "had seen success."

This program was in the bill I wrote, which was included in the 2018 Support Act, to enhance prescription drug monitoring across states.

I and other E&C Republicans have made tackling addiction and real drug price reform and transparency a top priority of this Congress. Like the lady at my pharmacy, we all should know the real prices of our medicines.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, feel free to contact my office. You can call my Abingdon office at 276-525-1405 or my Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671. To reach my office via email, please visit my website at www.morgangriffith.house.gov.

18," Youngkin explained of a bill Suetterlein introduced.

The bill didn't make it out of committee. Youngkin said he was stunned the bill didn't ultimately gain traction.

"The ultimate goal is protecting our young Virginians," Suetterlein said of the work he and Youngkin are doing in Richmond.

The conversation went on to include information about Sen. Suetterlein and Ashley Suetterlein's family. Youngkin asked them questions about parenting decisions.

Later on, the audience was invited to contribute.

Youngkin also made a stop at the Salem Fair later in the day.

Upcoming public meetings in Craig Co.

July 27

The Department of Social Services Board will meet at 6:30 p.m.

Aug. 3

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

Aug. 14

The Library Board of Trustees will meet at the Craig County Library at 6 p.m.

Aug. 15

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

The Planning Commission will meet from 7-8 p.m.

Aug. 16

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

Aug. 21

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.

Aug. 24

The Department of Social Services Board will meet at 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 7

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

Sept. 11

The Library Board of Trustees will meet at the Craig County Library at 6 p.m.

Sept. 18

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.

Sept. 19

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

The Planning Commission will meet from 7-8 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.

-The New Castle Record

Game

from page 2



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

After the games were over, all the players were called together to discuss future alumni games.

Howell, Jordyn Moore, Brittany Bryant, Autumn Compton, Hannah Jones, Kristin Foster, Sierra Frazier, Jamie Patterson and Annabelle Gregory

- Green Machine (green team) - Josie Flinchum, Harley Haynes, Crystal Spence, Kaylee Pauley, Hannah Ratliff, Kayla Hudson, Tracy Wilson, Jaden Hibbits, Keiley Dudding and Rose Sexton
- Fireballs (red team) - Morgan Sowers, Autumn McPherson, Jordan Persinger, Leeann Mattox, Jen Miller, Maddy Oliver, Debbie Boitnotte, Ashley Dudding and Kyle Clifton
- Ball Busters (white team) - Maggie Huffman, Brittany Huffman, Melissa Hodges, Chelsea Louthen, Grace Faw, Melia Lindsey, Megan Welch, Kaitlyn Radford, Angel Compton and Ruthanne Duffy

The guys teams were:

- Team 1 - Hunter Matheny, Shawn Matheny, Chris Matheny, Timothy Wright, Sam Boardwine, Derek Persinger, Josh Ouellette, James Swingle, Brandon Swingle and Nathan Nelson
- Team 2 - Mason Smith, William Wright, Jesse Brizendine, Trent Lipes, Darrell Vaughn, Jakob Jones, Dakota Henderson, Dylan Crawford and Brayden Frango
- Team 3 - Chris May, Devin Hutchinson, Josh Hale, James Hodges, Logan Wilson, Austin Watson, Chase Huffman, Matt Huffman, Sam Huffman and Brandon Campbell

The day brought great plays for most everyone, though one guy said he "pulled both of his groins."

Still, the players wanted to continue to play. Five hours later, the fields were empty but the Field of Dreams was still being enjoyed by many.

For the girls:

- Game 1: Fireballs beat Green Machine
- Game 2: Ball Busters beat Blue Devils
- Game 3 (for fun): Blue Devils beat Green Machine

- Game 4: Championship: Fireballs beat Ball Busters

For the boys:

- Game 1: Team 1 beat Team 2
- Game 2: Team 2 beat Team 3
- Game 3 Championship: Team 2 beat team 1

Stover shared, "When I got to slow down for a moment and able to take everything in, I seen all of the hard work and effort put into making this happen, and I got to see everyone really enjoying themselves. That personally was the best part of the day for me!"

McMahan added, "In my opinion the best part of the day was seeing so many people getting to have fun playing a sport that most of us haven't gotten to play in a long time."

All the funds raised that day went to the CCRCA for the Field of Dreams.

"We don't have an exact number on what was raised, we just know we will do whatever we have to do to keep raising as much money as possible for the kids," Stover said.

Stover and McMahan shared their sincere appreciation to everyone who helped to make the 1st Alumni Softball/Baseball games a total success.

They said that they have already been asked about next year's games and at the game, asked for suggestions to make it better, or what they would like to see added.

"We'd love to see more people continue to get involved," Stover and McMahan said. "We will definitely plan for a cooler day next time, and I hope to play next time!"

She added, "Being more involved with rec sports, I see how much work goes into it all. I grew up playing here, but never saw this side of things. I'm glad to be a part of it."

"We would just like to thank the players, volunteers and community for showing up and making it such a successful event," McMahan said. "We definitely couldn't have done it without every person there."

"I had a blast!" shared Randy Frango. "I'm 52 years old and played one game and coached in two women's games. I'm looking forward to doing it again. It was a great turn out and everyone had fun!"

The Field of Dreams came alive that Saturday from just a short memory post.



SCREENSHOT

Gov. Glenn Youngkin held a conversation Friday in Salem with Sen. David Suetterlein and his wife, Ashley.

SPORTS

Send story ideas & announcements to bhoffman@ourvalley.org



PETERS, RATLIFF ARE HONORED BY B'NAI B'RITH

Graduated seniors Zach Peters and Hannah Ratliff were chosen as the B'Nai B'rith nominees for Craig County High School. Every school in the Roanoke Valley nominated one boy and one girl for the annual award, which combines athletic ability, academic prowess and community service. All the nominees were recognized with a dinner on June 12th at the Hotel Roanoke. Overall winners for the award were Miles Wilson of William Fleming High School for the boys and Angelina Jones of Roanoke Valley Christian for the girls.

CRAIG COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL RECOGNIZED FOR SPORTSMANSHIP

The Virginia High School League (VHSL) has recognized 116 member schools for their outstanding sportsmanship during the 2022-23 Spring season, including Craig County High School. These schools had no player or coach ejections, nor were their programs placed on warning status.

Dr. John W. "Billy" Haun, Ed.D., Executive Director of VHSL,

commended the players, coaches, administrators, and fans who contributed to this achievement.

"We are extremely proud of all the players, coaches, administrators, and fans who worked very hard to make this happen," said Dr. Haun. "Each school and community should be proud to be on this honor roll. Sportsmanship reflects positively on the individuals, schools, and communities."

Dr. Haun also encouraged all VHSL member schools to aim for the 2023-24 honor roll. "VHSL activities are an extension of the classroom, and instilling sportsmanship is one of the most significant skills we can teach our student-athletes," said Dr. Haun. "Let us celebrate this spring's VHSL Sportsmanship Honor Roll and continue to promote sportsmanship in all VHSL activities."

"THE LAST INNING" GAMES SAT.

On Saturday, July 22nd, the Salem Red Sox and Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame will once again sponsor "The Last Inning" Senior baseball games at Salem Memorial Ballpark.

The event was initiated in 2020 when the COVID virus wiped out the high school baseball season. An event was held during the summer to give that year's seniors a chance to play one last time in a high school game, and it proved to be so successful it was decided to make it an annual event.

This Saturday there will be two teams playing a doubleheader of seven innings each. The first game will start at 4 pm, followed by the Hall of Fame's recognition of the Ray Bellamy High School Player of the Year finalists and the announcement of the winner. The Bellamy Award is given annually to the top high school player in the area covered by the Salem-Roanoke Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame covers the counties of Alleghany, Roanoke, Bedford, Botetourt, Craig, Floyd, Franklin and Montgomery and the independent cities located within the boundaries of those counties.

Also, two scholarships will be awarded in memory of two of the hall's founding

fathers, Posey Oyler and Kelvin Bowles. Oyler was the first President of the Hall of Fame and served for 17 years before passing in January of 2008. An annual scholarship in his name goes to an area player of good character, nominated by his high school coach, who plans to play college baseball. This year's winner is Damien Boyd of Auburn High School.

Bowles was a charter member of the Hall of Fame Board of Directors who passed away in 2022 after serving for over 30 years. He owned the local Carolina League baseball team for 21 years and served as a professional scout for several big league teams. His scholarship goes to a senior who has shown a great love for the game, and this year's winner is Preston Crowl of Franklin County High School.

A second seven inning game will follow the awards ceremony. There is no admission fee and concessions will be sold.

The Hall of Fame building is located on the grounds of the James E. Taliaferro Complex, next to the Salem Red Sox administrative office behind the third base seating area of Salem Memorial Ballpark. It is open to the public on selected nights during the 2023 season and upon request.

2022-23 NATIONAL GUARD CUP CHAMPIONS ARE ANNOUNCED

The VHSL has announced the 2022-23 National Guard Cup winners, presented by the Virginia Army National Guard for year-long athletic and academic success. First awarded in 1990, the Cup represents 34 seasons of excellence, with six Cups awarded for academic achievement and athletics in each of the VHSL's six enrollment classifications.

A point system determines the winners based on overall performance in VHSL state championship competitions. In athletics, first place earns 50 points, second place earns 45 points, third place earns 40 points, fourth place earns 35 points, fifth place earns 30 points, sixth place earns 25 points, seventh place

earns 20 points, and eighth place earns 15 points. Schools earning the League's Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity Award earn 50 points each.

For the five academic activities involving team champions — scholastic bowl, creative writing, debate, theatre, forensics, and robotics — points are awarded on the following basis: first place, 50; second place, 45; third place, 40; fourth place, 35; fifth place, 30; sixth place, 25; seventh place, 20; and eighth place, 15.

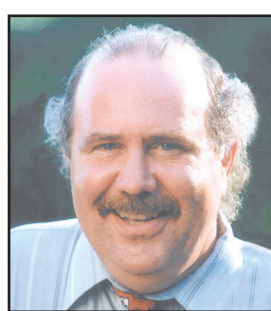
In athletics Auburn High was the Class 1 winner with 310 points, edging George Wythe by just five points in the closest race among the six VHSL

classifications. Glenvar won in Class 2 for the second year in a row. This year the Highlanders recorded 582.5 points, the most among the six champions in the athletic competition.

In Class 3 Abingdon was the winner, with Western Albemarle taking Class 4. Deep Run won the Class 5 championship and, in Class 6, James Robinson High of Fairfax was the winner.

In the academic competition winners were Appomattox Regional Governor's School in Class 1, Marion High in Class 2, Charlottesville in Class 3, Jefferson Forest in Class 4, Princess Anne in Class 5 and Thomas Jefferson S&T in Class 6.

COLORFUL GAME OF BASEBALL



Brian Hoffman
Sports Editor

It's all-star week for Major League Baseball and that always brings back some fond memories.

I started out as a child in southeast Pennsylvania, and it wasn't long before I became a baseball fan. I was seven years old, in fact, when my dad took me to my first game at old Connie Mack Stadium in Philadelphia on a bus sponsored by our church. From that point, I was hooked.

Growing up in an area served by Philadelphia television stations I was able to watch the Phillies on TV, but it's not like it is now. Today I have the baseball package on DirecTV and, for about 30 dollars a month, I can watch any game on the MLB schedule. And, I can watch the games on a big screen, high definition

TV that makes you feel like you're at the game. In fact, sometimes it's even better as there's no line for the bathroom, the refrigerator is filled with much cheaper food, I don't have to crawl over people to get to an aisle from my recliner and, if I record the first 45 minutes before watching the game, I can fast-forward between innings. You can't simulate the roar of the crowd, but then again I'm not paying \$25 for parking at my house.

It wasn't like that in the '60s when I was growing up. Our TV was black & white and about a third of the size I have now, and that was a good sized box at the time. As for the Phillies, they were our local team but all the games weren't televised. The Phils wanted you to come to the ballpark and buy tickets, which ranged anywhere from \$5.50 for box seats to fifty cent bleacher seats in the left field pavilion, so they didn't put the home games on TV. Every once in a while there was a Sunday afternoon home game televised, but never during the week.

And, all the road games weren't on TV either. For some reason they seemed to carry all the games from

Cincinnati and Chicago, but only selected games from other cities and never a late night game from Los Angeles or San Francisco. When the "UHF" boxes came about that increased the number of games I could watch, and doubled the number of stations available from three (ABC, NBC, CBS) to six. The UHF stations were big on reruns and sports, and stuff like wrestling and roller derby. I loved it.

At the time, I was quite happy to have what we had. The Phillies games were in black & white but I was just glad to be able to watch them. Never in a million years did I imagine there'd be a day when I could watch any game on the schedule in color on a high def TV with a screen as wide as a coffee table, or even wider.

And then there was the all-star game. My uncle Bob and Aunt Alice were the first people I knew who had a color TV, and the all-star game was in color. If you're my age or older you can remember when having a color TV was a big deal. I can still remember people saying, "you have to see Bonanza in color!"

Well, I had to see the all-star game in color. My

aunt lived about a half hour walk away, or 10 minutes by bicycle, and back then parents weren't worried about their kids getting kidnapped or shot. The all-star game was always in the daytime in the '60s and I would forego an afternoon at the local pool to watch the game in color at Aunt Alice's house.

I can still remember it all these years later, how the teams were introduced and lined up on first and third base and you could see all the different uniforms in living color. It doesn't sound like a big deal now but for a 10 year old kid it was exciting. . . even better than Bonanza!!!

The all-star game was a little more exciting back then, because the two leagues never played each other except in the World Series. There was a lot of pride in which league was better, and about the time I was growing up the National League dominated, mostly due to the fact that National League teams were quicker to embrace African American and Latin players. On one side you had Whitey Ford pitching to Willie Mays, Hank Aaron or Roberto Clemente and on the other side you had Bob Gibson

or Juan Marachal pitching to Mickey Mantle. Both leagues had some great players but the National had, by far, the better minority players. I didn't think about that at the time but looking back it was quite obvious.

I had almost forgotten how far we'd come watching sports on TV until COVID hit and the sports channels were searching for things to put on the air. To fill air time the MLB channel ran a broadcast of the 1960 World Series game seven between the Pittsburgh Pirates and the New York Yankees, just as it was at the time. It was the first World Series I remember watching, and I specifically recall rushing home from school and seeing Bill Mazeroski hit the walk-off home run that won the series. All the World Series games were also in the daytime back then, and school interfered with the weekday games.

It was fun to watch Game 7 of that series again and see how things have changed. There was no replay at the time, and I found myself instinctively waiting for a home run or a good catch to be replayed, but to no avail. The game was in black & white and not all

that sharp, and graphics were elementary. When a batter came up his name was briefly on the screen, in a font that looked like it was done on a typewriter. No stats, no pitch speed, no little box with the outs, pitch count and infield diagram showing who was on base. It was just a black & white ballgame shown from two camera angles with two guys talking, but it was all I knew at the time and I loved it.

As I mentioned, the game was shown just as it was in 1960 and the commercials were much different as well. Most of them appealed to men, as you might expect, with beer, cigarettes and shaving cream being the prime sponsors. And there was nothing fancy, just 60 seconds of why their product was better than the other guy. Now, you can watch two or three minutes of commercials and when they're done you might not even know what they were advertising.

That's the kind of stuff I think of every year when the all-star game comes on, good times watching Uncle Bob and Aunt Alice's TV and loving baseball in living color. Back then I didn't think it could get any better than that.