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THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



WE ACCEPT EBT



Every Tuesday evening, from 6-8 p.m., musicians are invited to join and play music at the Old Clifton Store on Main Street. Attendees bring their own chairs. Some of the musicians this week were Mike Musselman - banjo, Ronnie Price - electric guitar, Randy Dudding - acoustic guitar, Robert Coulter - fiddle and Mike King - banjo.

Main Street Jam moved to old Clifton Store

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

For many folks, there is nothing more soothing than listening to musicians playing songs of yesteryear in their own hometown. The Craig County Historical Society has opened its doors and arms to the musicians in Craig County, inviting them to play inside the old Clifton Store that is being renovated, so weather cannot disturb the weekly get-together. On Tuesday, Sept. 5, over 40 people enjoyed the music of several Craig County men who joined together to have a good time playing music.

Feet were tapping and people's heads were nodding to the strumming of the guitars, mandolin, fiddle and banjo as many sang along. Some of the people playing were Mike Musselman, Ronnie Price, Randy Dudding, Robert Coulter and Mike King. The Main Street Jam started in 2014 and has continued off and on, except during COVID-19. Over the last couple of years, they have gathered at the town pavilion and now will have a new home just down the block. The Historical Society is happy to let the community see just how far along it has come in renovating

what most people knew as the old Clifton Store. The group's goal is to recreate an old-time general store to honor the heritage of the small town of New Castle. "This building housed several stores since late 1890," Diane Givens shared. "Clifton and Esther Elmore closed their business called 'Clifton's Cash Store' in 1975." Therefore, every Tuesday, from 6 until 8 p.m., weather permitting come winter, the group is inviting anyone that would like to come and play their instruments, sing or be one that just wants to enjoy the evening.

See Main Street Jam, page 2

September is Suicide Prevention Month

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

Though no one wants to hear the word, it has become all too common in our world today. Therefore, many groups have extended their wisdom to help community members, businesses and schools in educating people to prevent such a horrible situation. September is Suicide Prevention Month, and the Suicide Prevention Council of Roanoke Valley and Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare is promoting mental health wellness. Suicide Prevention Week is Sept. 10-16. They are offering several free virtual training courses: "Talk Saves Lives: Introduction to Suicide Prevention" - Sept. 27 at 6 p.m. "Youth Mental Health First Aid" - Sept. 28 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Those who are interested can sign up at <https://bit.ly/SPTRAINING>. These courses help people to learn more about how to reduce suicides in communities and help support someone struggling with their mental health. "We are also asking businesses/agencies to create and implement a mental health awareness activity," they shared. They have toolkits available to help execute this idea and their theme is 'None can do alone what we can do together.' "Let's support one another in fostering positive work environments and making mental health resources available," they shared. "Sign up today at bit.ly/SPCRVSPweek2023 and enter for a chance to win exposure for your business through paid ads on SPCRV social media pages!" Suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10 to 24-year-olds and it is estimated that over 48,183 Americans died by suicide in 2021. "Becoming involved in suicide awareness begins with hope," they added. "Hope that by becoming aware of the warning signs, one by one the stigma associated with suicide can lessen. And hope that as stigma lessens, the community can strive to make all communities their own. As a united community we can speak hope to those with thoughts of suicide with compassion instead of judgment. We can speak hope to families, friends, and communities that mourn the loss of a loved one." There will also be a youth Mental Health First Aid Free Virtual Training Sept. 28 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. One must complete two hours of pre-work to attend the training. They shared that one in five teens and young adults live with a mental health condition. They invite people to become a certified mental health first aider (three-year national certification) and learn how to help a youth who may be experiencing a mental health challenge or crisis. "A quarter to a third of our lives will be spent in the workplace. On a daily basis, we will spend more waking hours in our workplace than at home and experience more exchanges with team

See Prevention, page 2



PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING

The Craig County Historical Society has been working diligently in renovating the old building as much work had to be done and much more is still needed. The walls and floor and ceilings are ready now.

Olde Salem Days draws large turnout



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

The day started out beautiful for the annual Olde Salem Days craft show and people had packed the streets by 8:45 a.m. Vendors were happy and so was the town. The rain, however, ended it early but what a great turnout.

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Main Street Jam from page 1



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

The electrical still needs to be done at the old Clifton Store amongst many other things they are raising funds to complete.

Attendees should plan to bring their own chairs.

On Sept. 12, the group also served hotdogs as well as their munchies.

For anyone wishing to donate towards this renovation, they can be mailed to P.O. Box 206, New Castle, Va. 24127 or contact craig.

historicalsociety1981@gmail.com or pop by the Jam on Tuesday nights.

The Craig County Historical Society is a nonprofit tax-exempt organization founded in 1980.

The group shared that all funds designated Clifton Store have been spent on the exterior for the new

roof, paint and windows as well as necessary reinforcement of the foundation and subfloor.

The group is still in need of water and septic systems, electricity, heating and cooling and insulation of walls and ceiling, as well as all of the finish work.

Upcoming public meetings in Craig Co.

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:

Sept. 23

The Simonsville Volunteer Fire Dept Chicken Barbecue will take place from 4-6 p.m. The \$12 fee includes chicken, green beans, potatoes salad, dessert and water. Please check in with a Simonsville Volunteer Fire Department member to get a ticket.

Oct. 7

Grace Baptist Church will hold a movie and hotdog night that will be free to the community. The church will serve hot dogs, chips and have smores at 6 p.m. and the movie "The Star" at 7 p.m. It's scheduled outside, so attendees are encouraged to bring their own chair. If the weather bad, the church will have it inside. The church will show the movie on an 18-foot screen.

Oct. 7

A baseball reunion will be at Waiteville Community Center at 12 p.m. It will be open to all old-timers who played baseball back in the day. A potluck dinner will be held.

Ongoing

Every Tuesday, Music Jam at Clifton's Store Building, 158 Main Street from 6-8 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own instrument and chair. Cheese (like Clifton's!) and snacks served. See the progress made and make a donation to complete the renovation of this town landmark. Sponsored by Craig County Historical Society.

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

Prevention from page 1

members than family members," they explained. "Job satisfaction and levels of productivity depend on workplace culture, work demands, work support, and work rewards."

For information visit www.brhb.org/suicide-prevention/#campaigns or call 540-982-1427 ext. 5117 or email Sheila at slythgoe@brhb.org.

Ideas include:
Think 'school spirit week.'
Incorporate the theme "none can do alone what we can do together" in activities.

Follow SPCRY on Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.

Tag @SPYCRY on any posts you make on social media, if possible, as well as submit photos or videos for a chance to win exposure for your business on SPCRY's social media via boosted posts.

Other ideas they included:
SPIRIT DAY - where you wear purple or teal for suicide prevention, wear green for mental health awareness. It can be as simple as wearing ribbons!

SELF-CARE DAY - Have self-care stations at lunch, make positive announcements to start the day, post positive quotes and/or ways to participate in self-care around your business, post tips for self-care on your social media.

DOOR DECORATING CONTEST - Challenge staff to decorate their doors with positive mental health promotion messages. (Poster contest with positive messages, then post throughout your lobby, breakroom, stall doors, etc.)

Business-wide 'pay it forward' or volunteer event to create an encouragement wall where staff can leave positive messages for one another.

Set up a table of resources on self-care for your employees bring your pet to work day or have staff post a picture of their pet

Staff break time with fun food or activity. (donuts, games, etc.) Hand out goody bags with a focus on self-care offer a workshop suggested topics: stress management, healthy eating, time management, etc.

Offer a free class that would appeal to your staff. (e.g., yoga, fly fishing, painting, woodwork, etc.)

The groups also encourage ways to improve employee mental health:

Train your managers to promote health and well-being

Increase employees' options for where, when, and how they work

Reexamine health insurance policies with a focus on employee mental health

Listen to what your employees need and use their feedback to evolve

Take a critical look at equity, diversity, and inclusion policies

Include mental health at orientation

Mark major awareness campaigns on the calendar and celebrate them

Establish a mental health team

Train managers regularly

Senior leadership can model open communication
"America's mental health is in crisis as close to two thirds of adults (63%) surveyed in APA's 2022 Stress in America poll said their life has been forever changed by the COVID-19 pandemic," BRBH reported. "Worse mental health, lower physical activity, disturbed sleep, and increased reliance on unhealthy habits—all of which have an impact on employees' health and well-being, the workplace environment, and productivity."

They added, "Positive and supportive workplace practices, on the other hand, can boost employee physical and psychological health, company morale, and your bottom line. The APA's 2021 Work and Well-being Survey found that people who feel tense or stressed during the workday are more than three times as likely to say they plan to look for another job, while employees who feel supported are more likely to stay, reducing the costs of employee turnover."

They provide many resources: Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare 24-hour Crisis Line: (540) 981-9351, Referral and Assessment: (540) 343-3007, www.brhb.org, CONNECT: (800) 284-8898 or (540) 981-8181, 24/7 Access and Response Center: (800)541-9992 or (540) 776-1100.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning Commission of Craig County will conduct a public hearing on **SEPTEMBER 27th, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Craig County Court House in New Castle, Virginia to consider the application of Amanda and Jason Lucas of Salem, Virginia, for a "Use Not Provided For" permit. The permit is a request for a private recreational vehicle park to allow up to six campers at property 67-A-7A, Johns Creek Road. This parcel is zoned A1, Agriculture, Limited District and is located approximately ten miles from 311.

Public comment on the application may be submitted in writing to the County Administration Office, P.O. Box 308, New Castle, Virginia 24127, by calling 540-864-5010, or in person at the public hearing.

By Order of the Craig County Planning Commission, in accordance with Code of Virginia, § 15.2-2204

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CROSSWORD

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Undergarments for women
5. Periods of time
9. Dramatist Henrik
14. Any thick messy substance
15. Examination
16. Japanese city
17. Daze with a blow
18. With fireplace residue
19. Synthetic acrylic fabric fiber
20. Pittsburgh University
23. Scorched
24. Potato state (abbr.)
25. Anger
26. Suitable for use as food
31. To wipe out, obliterate
35. Used of unskilled work, esp. domestic
36. Loose earth, soil
37. Petrol container

CLUES DOWN

1. Pear variety
2. The Sator-_____ Square
3. Light purplish-blue
4. Plants of the genus Cassia
5. Shelf unit for ornaments
6. Live in
7. Arthur _____ Wimbledon champion
8. A thwarting and distressing obstruction
9. Cut off from others
10. Tree trunk outgrowth
11. Tower used for storing silage
12. Br. public boys school
13. _____ Ling mountain range
21. _____ Clapton, musician
22. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
27. Peruvian province
28. Diagonal cut of cloth
29. A narrow path or road

CLUES DOWN

30. Fraternal Order of _____
31. The boundary of a surface
32. Granular old snow
33. Rt. angle cleaving tool
34. Irreducible material
39. Oldest man-made rayon fiber
40. Affirmative! (slang)
41. Burial cloths
42. Surface layer of grass & roots
44. Not shaky
45. Kidney-shaped nut
48. Nursemaids in India
49. Alkali bee genus
50. Warble
51. A citizen of Denmark
52. Approves food
53. Golf ball supports
54. Pearl Harbor actress Rue
55. Coarse curly-leaved greens
56. Cancer detecting smear

OPINION



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Margaret Hines, Diane Givens and Jackie Taylor of Craig Valley DAR presented a Constitution Week proclamation at the September meeting of Craig County Board of Supervisors.

DAR promotes Constitution Week in Craig Co.: Sept. 17-23

A Proclamation designating Sept. 17-23 as Constitution Week in Craig County was adopted and signed at the recent meeting of

the Craig County Board of Supervisors. The event marks the 236th anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America.

Sponsored by Craig Valley Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, the Proclamation is in

See DAR, page 4

News from the 9th: Biden Policies Make the U.S. Look Weak Abroad



All Americans have personally felt the negative consequences of the Biden Administration's domestic policy choices. Rampant inflation, spurred in large part by the multi-trillion-dollar spending packages touted by the President, is now costing families an extra \$700 per month in spending.

And then there are the Biden Administration's energy policies, which have severely hampered domestic oil and gas production and made

permitting new fossil fuel projects extremely difficult (including recently canceling Alaskan drilling leases). As a result, everyone continues to pay more at the pump.

Everywhere we go, prices are up and in turn, life is more difficult.

Unfortunately, the Administration's flawed policies are not only seen here in the U.S. — they also extend to the world stage.

This past August marked the two-year anniversary of Biden's chaotic and deadly withdrawal from Afghanistan. Within hours of the withdrawal, Afghanistan's President Ghani had fled, and control of the country ceded to the Taliban.

The Administration's poor planning led to troops abandoning Bagram Airfield in the middle of the night, leaving behind approximately \$7 billion worth of military equipment, including guns, ammunition, military vehicles, aircrafts, etc.

In addition, our chaotic exit led to the death of 13 U.S. service members, after two ISIS-K suicide bombers, freed from prison by the Taliban, detonated bombs at the Kabul International Airport, where our military was leading evacuation efforts.

And now I believe we've seen our failure to withdraw in an orderly manner, that would be expected of

See 9th, page 4

RCAHD Community Column: Getting ready for respiratory season

Even before COVID became part of our vocabulary, fall has marked the start of respiratory season as viruses circulate when people spend more time indoors. This year, we have already seen an uptick in local activity of respiratory illness.

Respiratory infections such as colds, the flu (influenza), COVID, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) are caused by viruses spread through droplets: When someone who is infected coughs or sneezes, droplets containing the viruses are released into the air. The viruses also get onto your hands or the tissue when you blow your nose.

They are easily spread from person to person when a lot of people touch the same objects, like doorknobs or faucets, and when people come into direct contact with each other, for instance by shaking hands or hugging.

Some respiratory illnesses may share some symptoms, but some can make you more sick than others:

Cold symptoms tend to be milder than flu symptoms, so you may still be able to carry on with your normal activities. Colds tend to come on slowly and last for a few days to about one week.

Flu symptoms may include fever, chills, headache, extreme tiredness (fatigue), cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and muscle aches. Symptoms tend to come on quickly and can last a few weeks. (The so-called "stomach flu," when adults have vomiting or diarrhea for one or two days, is probably a gastrointestinal infection rather than influenza.)

COVID symptoms continue to vary from very mild to serious enough to require hospitalization, especially among the elderly and people with underlying illnesses. This is true even of the newest variants.

RSV is a very common illness that is usually mild but can be threatening for babies and older adults. Symptoms in serious cases include wheezing and

trouble breathing.

No one likes getting sick. In addition, high levels of respiratory activity can increase pressure on healthcare systems. To protect yourself and others from germs during this upcoming respiratory season:

Stay home if you are sick, especially until 24 hours after a fever resolves. Keep your distance from people who have respiratory infections.

Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze. Use a tissue or your elbow. Always wash your hands after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.

The importance of handwashing cannot be underestimated. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when you don't have access to soap and water.

Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth to prevent germs from entering your system.

Avoid crowds during flu season.

Don't smoke or let others smoke in your home or car.

Try to get a good night's sleep. Studies have shown that sleep deprivation leads to decreased immune function, leading to increased frequency of infections and decreased response to preventive vaccines.

Ask your healthcare provider what vaccines are right for you and when you should get them. Recommended vaccines may include:

Influenza vaccine. The best time to get your "flu shot" is each fall, before flu season ramps up.

COVID-19 vaccine. We are pleased that the newly formulated vaccination for Fall 2023 shows a good boost in protection against currently circulating strains of the virus.

RSV vaccine. A very welcome arrival to the prevention toolbox is the RSV vaccine, recommended for babies, pregnant women, and those over age 60. We expect it to be more widely available later this fall.

Together, let's protect ourselves and each other by following these simple steps.

- Christie Wills

Roanoke City & Alleghany Health Districts

JOB OPENING

The Craig New Castle PSA has a Full Time job opening for an operator or operator trainee. An Operator Trainee needs no experience but will be expected to attend training sessions and will be required to become certified in wastewater and/or water treatment. Job duties will include but will not be limited to operation of the wastewater and water treatment facilities, maintenance of equipment, supply lines and vehicles and any other aspect of running the daily operations of the Craig New Castle PSA. Benefits include health and dental insurance, life insurance, retirement, vacation and sick leave and paid holidays.

Operator Trainees will be offered \$17 per hour. Employee candidates with experience i.e. operators license, backhoe operators, pipeline construction experience or other qualities that the board may find pertinent may negotiate wages. Applications can be picked up at the Craig New Castle PSA Office or a resume can be mailed to:

Craig New Castle PSA
P.O. Box 128
New Castle, VA 24127

The Craig New Castle PSA is an equal opportunity employer.

God's House Is Always Open

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.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

99 2nd Street, New Castle. Tel: 540-473-3691. Email: StJohnnewcastle@gmail.com. Mass is on Sunday at 11:15 AM.

CRAIG COUNTY COMMUNITY CHURCH -

"WELCOME HOME!"

Sunday service 9-10:15am at the VFW building in New Castle. Casual dress if you desire and contemporary praise and worship. If you don't have a 'home' church, please join us at ours with Pastor Gary Burch. Check us out on facebook or contact us at: craigcountycommunity-church@gmail.com.

ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH

Located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttffc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

9th from page 3

a professional military, has opened the door to aggression elsewhere by our adversaries.

Our failed withdrawal has allowed Iran to push the narrative that the West is unreliable, its policies destined to fail, and that they themselves are the only reliable actor in the Middle East.

Many argue, including myself, that our country's failure in Afghanistan essentially gave Vladimir Putin a greenlight to invade Ukraine. Putin's National Security Advisor Nikolai Patrushev publicly argued that given what happened in Afghanistan, Ukraine could not rely on the U.S. as it lacked the patience to achieve a military victory and, in the end, we would be disloyal to our allies in Ukraine, just as we were in Afghanistan.

Within weeks of the Afghanistan withdrawal, Putin began a buildup

of Russian troops and weapons on the Ukrainian border. By February 2022, Russia invaded.

However, what was projected to be a war lasting little more than a few weeks by both Russia and the American military establishment, has turned into a prolonged war.

Now with the war raging on, Russia's supplies have dwindled and many of our other adversaries have come to their rescue.

U.S. intelligence reports say that China has been a huge supporter of Russia's war effort, helping them evade Western sanctions. China has increased their purchase of Russian oil, gas, and other energy exports. Additionally, they are allowing Russia to use their financial system to conduct transactions otherwise blocked by Western sanctions. China has also sent Russia navigation

equipment, parts for fighter jets, and drones/drone parts.

Iran has also helped by supplying Russia with drones and other military equipment.

Further, North Korea and Russia are close to reaching an agreement, in which North Korea would supply Russia with artillery shells and anti-tank missiles, in return for access to Russian technology for satellites and nuclear-powered submarines and supplies of food.

While our previous Administration was able to ease tensions with North Korea, this Administration's actions are leading to a strengthened North Korean economy and their unpredictable military becoming more lethal.

On China, we already know that since 2021, they have "employed multiple diplomatic tools in an attempt to erode U.S. and partner influence, such as highlighting the U.S. withdrawal

from Afghanistan and criticizing U.S.-backed security partnerships," according to the Department of Defense's 2022 report to Congress.

Perhaps that's why earlier this year China was emboldened to deploy a spy balloon over the U.S. in order to collect intelligence.

And the Biden Administration showed weakness when it didn't intercept the offending balloon until it crossed the whole daggone country.

What's next? Taiwan. Right now, China is watching us, calculating how we will respond if they invade Taiwan.

I worry our missteps on the world stage these past two years have indicated to China that invading Taiwan might be a sound move.

Why wouldn't they? From a foreign viewpoint, our country's President and his Administration are too weak to do what is necessary to defend Taiwan and other allies in the South Pacific.

DAR from page 3

accordance with Public Law 915 signed by President Eisenhower in 1956 and asks Craig County citizens "to reaffirm the ideals of the Framers of the Constitution from 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties, remembering that lost rights may never be regained."

The goals of the annual celebration of Constitution Week are to encourage the study of the historical events that led to the framing of the Constitution in September 1787; to remind the public that the Constitution is the basis of America's great heritage and the foundation for its way of life; and to emphasize U.S. citizens' responsibility to protect, defend and preserve the U.S. Constitution.

"Our members enthusiastically promote the celebration in communities across the country by erecting community displays, sponsoring municipal proclamations, ringing bells and staging programs to raise awareness of the Constitution's tenets and importance," said DAR President General Pamela Rouse Wright. "We encourage all citizens to join us in celebrating this powerful document that is so important

to American history and to reflect on the impact the Constitution has had on the lives of American citizens past and present."

Craig Valley Chapter is supplying information to area churches and schools. A bell-ringing ceremony is being planned for Sept. 22 in front of McCleary School. Books are being donated to the school library and a display will be placed in the lobby of Craig County High School where the county's signed and framed proclamation can be viewed during Constitution Week.

One of the largest patriotic women's organizations in the world, DAR has 190,000 members in approximately 3,000 chapters across the country and in several foreign countries. DAR members promote historic preservation, education and patriotism via commemorative events, scholarships and educational initiatives, citizenship programs, service to veterans, meaningful community service and more. For additional information about DAR and its relevant mission, visit www.dar.org. To contact the local chapter write craigvalleychaptersdar@gmail.com.

-Submitted by Craig Valley NSDAR

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V DOT ROADWATCH

Interstate 81

SLOW ROLLS TO IMPACT I-81 IN ROANOKE - AEP will be performing a slow roll operation for two crossings in both directions over I-81 near mile marker 135.41 and 135.91 on Thursday, September 14 from 12 a.m. to 5 a.m.

I-81 & ROUTE 11 BORING SCHEDULED - Mountain Valley Pipeline is expected to perform boring across Route 11 near Apgar Drive between September 11 and September 26. In addition, boring is tentatively scheduled across I-81 near MM 130.11 between October 26 and November 17.

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 end of year 2023.

DECK POURS: Beginning September 12 - 22, crews will be performing deck pours. Drivers should expect flagging operations on Route 605 and slow moving concrete trucks traveling on I-81 northbound and southbound within the work zone.

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, 9 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 89, 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 nearing completion. Once complete, 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. Minimal traffic impacts at this time. The project is expected to be completed in late summer 2023.

Roanoke County STARKEY ROAD AND BUCK MOUNTAIN ROAD ROUNDABOUT - A road project to construct a single-lane roundabout at the intersection of Route 904 (Starkey Road) and Route 679 (Buck Mountain Road) is underway. The new roundabout is now open to traffic and drivers should be aware of the new roundabout configuration. There will be occasional flagging operations in place between the 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the intersection of Starkey Road and Buck Mountain Road, 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 is expected in late spring 2024.

LANE CLOSURES WITH FLAGGING OPERATIONS: Lane closure times of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. have resumed due to school now being in session.

ROUNDABOUT: The roundabout configuration has been set up. This means drivers should continue around the circle without turning left and that drivers in the circle have the right of way.

FAIRWAY RIDGE ROAD CLOSED FOR PIPE REPAIRS - Beginning on September 11 at 9 a.m., Fairway Ridge Road near the intersection with Franklin Street will be closed for two pipe replacements. Drivers will need to seek alternate routes and message boards will alert drivers in the area. The work is expected to be completed by September 22, weather permitting.

MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE - Mountain Valley Pipeline is expected to begin full construction again by mid-July.

Temporary intermittent flagging operations will be in place in the county throughout the remainder of the project (with a tentative completion date of February 2024) to load/unload equipment at crossings and construction entrances. Scheduled completion is February 2024.

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


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. Drivers may see the new signal arm and additional signage being added. There is no estimated time for when these will become active as work continues. Lane closures will be set up on various days and noise disturbances may be in place through September 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

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**Craig Botetourt Scenic Trail
Botetourt and Craig Counties
Citizen Information Meeting**
<https://www.virginiadot.org/cbst>

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 4 - 6 p.m. Eagle Rock Elementary School 145 Eagles Nest Drive Eagle Rock, VA 24085	Thursday, September 21, 2023 4 - 6 p.m. Craig County High School 25239 Craigs Creek Road New Castle, VA 24127
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Find out about a project to construct a 26-mile recreational scenic trail along the former Chesapeake and Ohio Craig Valley Branch railbed between Last Lock Park near Eagle Rock in Botetourt County and Craig County High School near New Castle in Craig County.

The multiuse trail for walking, running, biking, and horseback riding is anticipated to be approximately 10-foot-wide and mostly gravel. It will follow the former railbed and some low-volume secondary roads and consist of "share the road/trail" sections which will permit the use of motorized vehicles as well as sections of non-motorized use. Eight existing bridges along the former railbed will be modified to accommodate trail use.

The meetings will be held in an "open-house" format and VDOT representatives will be present to answer questions. The same information will be presented at both meetings.

Review the conceptual plans and project information at the meeting or after at VDOT's Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem VA, 540-387-5353, 800-367-7623, TTY/TDD 711. Please call ahead to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions.

Give your written or oral comments at the meetings or submit them by **October 1, 2023**, to Kelly Dunn, Project Manager, 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, VA 24153. Comments also can be emailed to CBST@vdot.virginia.gov. Please reference "Craig Botetourt Scenic Trail Comment" in the subject heading. An online survey will be available at <https://www.virginiadot.org/cbst> beginning September 20, the day of the first meeting, for citizens to share their comments about the project.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information in regards to your civil rights on this project or need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Kelly Dunn at the phone numbers listed above.

State Project: CBST-011-858, P101 Federal Project: STP-011-2(036)
UPC 122492

In case of inclement weather or other issues, the meeting in Eagle Rock will be held September 27 and the meeting in New Castle will be held September 28 at the same times and locations.

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SPORTS

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Rockets are back home Friday on new gridiron

Monday night football came to New Castle this week but it was only half of what one might expect. The Rockets finished off a game with Auburn on Monday and they're now 1-1 after a 54-18 loss.

This week marks the first games on the new refurbished Mitchell Field at Craig County High School. The Rockets inaugurated the new digs against Auburn and they're back on Friday to host Montcalm at 7 pm.

The first game on the field was scheduled for September 1 but the surface wasn't quite ready so the game was postponed a week. Then, when it still wasn't good to go last week, the game was switched to Riner for a 7 pm start on Thursday, September 7. That lasted for almost a half before lightning struck and the game was moved again, this time back to Craig on Monday of this week to conclude the final two minutes of the first half and the whole second half.

The Rockets were leading 18-14 when the storm came and the Auburn High stadium was cleared. The game was never restarted as ill weather continued.

To that point, it was a heck of a game. Craig's Carter Calfee ran back the opening kickoff for a touchdown but Craig missed the conversion attempt. Auburn

answered with two scoring drives to take a 14-6 lead before Calfee scored again. Craig went for two and fumbled on the try so the score remained 14-12.

On the ensuing kickoff the Rockets tried an onsidess kick and Isaiah Will recovered on the Auburn 41. Then, on fourth and 14, Craig regained the lead on a 33 yard run to the left by quarterback Jaycob Wolfe, who dove to the pylon for the score. The two point tried failed again but the Rockets were up 18-14.

A second onsidess kick was again recovered by Will, but this time the Eagles held the Rockets and took possession. A long pass set up a first down at the Craig 12 but the Rocket defense stiffened and kept the Eagles out of the end zone. Craig's offense took over until the 2:23 mark on the clock when the officials stopped the game.

Action was resumed Monday, but details and final statistics were too late for publication. The Rockets will be home again Friday to take on Montcalm, who is off to a 2-0 start and has yet to be scored upon. The Generals opened with a 54-0 win over Twin Valley of Virginia then beat Paden City of West Virginia, 30-0. Last year they beat the Rockets 12-6 in Montcalm.



Jaycob Wolfe(#9) and Wyatt Huffman(#19) celebrate Wolfe's TD run.



Carter Calfee is off to the races as he runs back the opening kickoff for a touchdown.



Carter Price fires off the ball.



Josh Craft has a big hole to run through.



Rocket cheerleaders get the fans going.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

VOLLEYBALL TEAM HAS BUSY STRETCH

The Craig County volleyball team will have five road matches in eight days as the Rockets wait for their new gym floor to be ready.

Craig was scheduled to play a Pioneer District doubleheader at Highland County on Tuesday, but results were too last for publication. On Thursday the Rockets are at Narrows, followed by a non-district match at North Cross School in Roanoke County on Monday, then a district match against Bath at Hot Springs a day later, on Tuesday September 19.

Last week the Rockets made their first of two trips to North Cross and the jayvees opened with a 25-10, 25-23 win before the varsity dropped a three-set match to the Raiders, 25-19, 25-20 and 25-12.

"They were great games, I hope we get them next time," said Craig coach Suzanne Crawford. "All the girls played great but we could not execute on serves. We missed a lot of serves, and we needed those points."

Kailyn Jones led the Rockets with eight kills and four blocks. Daileigh Donithan had three digs and an ace while Layla Dooley had seven digs and four aces. Erin Snider had eight digs and four aces, Jenna Boitnott had 10 digs and Maggie Mays had eight assists to go with a block and a pair of aces.

"Kailyn played great on the net; she was aggressive and constant," said Crawford. "Erin and Jenna played great defensively and picked up a lot of balls that were hit around the block. With a good week in practice we should be able to fix some of things we did not do so well in the game against North Cross."



Cheyenne Bells hits a spike for the Rockets.



Erin Snider digs out a serve.



Layla Dooley(#3) AND Kailyn Jones(#4) go up for a block at North Cross.



The Craig County bench celebrates a point.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN