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THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



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Craig County Fall Festival
40 YEARS!

Saturday October 14, 2023
9 am to 5 pm
Downtown New Castle

On Saturday, Oct. 14, the Historical Society will host their 40th Annual Fall Festival on Main Street of New Castle, starting at 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Many vendors with crafts, handmade items and homemade goodies, as well as businesses and local groups will be there. The library will host a special solar watching event around noon and music will be played most all day, along with the new flatfoot contest.

40th Annual Fall Festival set for Oct. 14 to include many vendors

Pam Dudding
 Contributing writer

The leaves are changing, the air has a brisk feel and people are ready for fall and all its beauty as well as the events that start to happen each weekend.

On Saturday, Oct. 14, the Craig County 40th Annual Fall Festival will be held on Main Street with vendors of food, crafts, businesses and local emergency groups and

clubs. It's an event most Craig County residents don't miss.

The opening ceremony will begin at 9 a.m. led by the choral group from Craig County High School and events will continue all day with the raffle drawings around 4:30-5 p.m. to end the day.

The Craig County Historical Society sponsors this event each year. Also, the society will have a special feature, a video slide show

called "40 Years of Memories" as well as a display in the Old Brick Hotel of festival t-shirts, badges and other memorabilia.

To start the day, the society will offer a country breakfast of sausage, eggs, biscuits and gravy in the old Brick Hotel dining room. Also, homemade fried apple pies and hot coffee will be sold on the porch.

See Festival, page 2

King & Queen of Craig County



PHOTO BY JIM DEVINNEY

Craig County seniors Trevyn Francisco and Randalyn Taylor were crowned Homecoming King and Queen at the Rockets's game with Mountain View last Friday in New Castle. The Rockets are home again this Friday and it will be Rec. Night and Veterans Night. See details in sports.

New superintendent gives school board updates



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

The September meeting of the Craig County School Board marked new Superintendent Dwayne Huff's first meeting.

Pam Dudding
 Contributing writer

The Craig County School Board recently met for its monthly meeting. Present were new Superintendent Dwayne Huff, School Board Chair Trace Bellasai, Faye Powers - Potts Mountain, Darren Gilreath - vice chair and Simmonsville representative, Kevin Altizer - Craig City, Walter Marsden - New Castle and Jessica Belcher - school board clerk.

"I want to thank the board for this wonderful opportunity and the warm welcome

I have received, not only from others but from the staff and also from my colleagues from surrounding counties and everyone in the community as it has just been overwhelming that I have been welcomed to this area," Huff began. "It was a very busy first week and I can see that we have some great students here."

Huff added that he believed the school division is off to a good start as he had an opportunity to meet with the administrators and had a brief meeting to lay the groundwork on moving forward, sharing his "personal

educational philosophy and management style" as well as his goals and priorities.

He added that he met with Shane Gills on the maintenance and facilities update several times and Gills had given him "a long list of maintenance needs to work on and to prioritize."

"Heather Duncan has worked tirelessly on the financial report due Sept. 15 but an extension was given until Sept. 30, which is normal in most schools," Huff said.

After this is done, Huff added that they will start to prioritize the maintenance needs

and report back to the Board, both for the items to continue to complete and the needs for the six-year plan.

New initiatives included the schools joining CIP - Comprehensive Instructional Program, a program with Dr. Matt Hurt, who started it several years ago, which most southwest schools participate in.

"They crunch the numbers for you by taking our data from power school and help to identify areas we need to improve on but also,



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

The Craig County Department of Social Services relies on the community to support their food pantry. Recently they have had more people in need of food and their pantry is almost bare. They are accepting donations, whether food or financial to help in this need. Those interested can drop off donations Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

DSS Food Pantry in need of donations

Pam Dudding
 Contributing writer

Hunger is a terrible feeling and many families in Craig County depend on the various food pantries for their monthly sustenance.

"For those who are not aware, Craig County Department of Social Services has a

Community Food Pantry that offers food, hygiene, and cleaning products to Craig County Citizens in emergency situations," Craig County DSS Director Pat Franklin shared. "This year has been a hard year for most of us. The rising cost of groceries, utilities and

See Pantry, page 3



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Upcoming public meetings in Craig Co.

Oct. 5
The Craig County Board of Supervisors will hold its monthly meeting at the Craig County Courthouse at 6 p.m.

Oct. 16
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.

Oct. 17
Rep. Morgan Griffith will hold a citizen comment period from 9-10:30 a.m. in the courthouse breakroom.

Community events:

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.

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.

Oct. 14
The 40th Craig County Fall Festival will take place in downtown New Castle from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 540-864-7023 for information.

Oct. 21
Waiteville Community Center (WCC) is sponsoring an Italian dinner night on Saturday, Oct. 21, 4-6 p.m. Don Shaw, a caterer and chef in the Northern Virginia area for 37 years, is leading the event. He and a group of close college friends have owned a vacation home in Waiteville for over 50 years. He is happy to share his knowledge

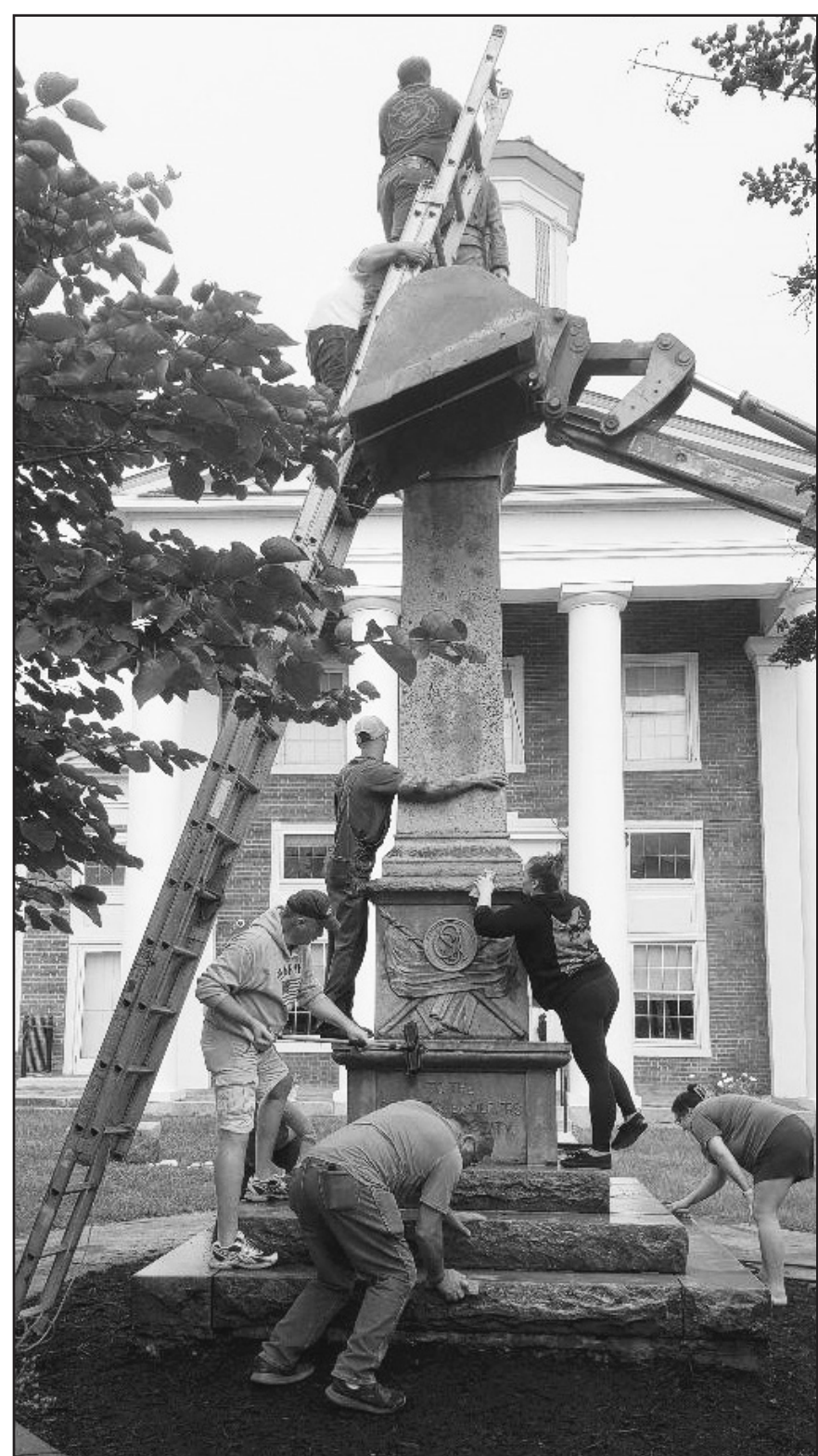
and love of cooking through this Italian dinner night. He will demonstrate preparing rosemary focaccia, Caesar salad, asparagus risotto, Italian green beans, chicken marsala and zabione. Recipes provided. After the demonstration, participants will enjoy eating these wonderful Italian dishes. The cost of the demonstration and meal is \$25 per person and limited to 30 participants. Make your reservation by contacting David Furrow at Waiteville@frontier.com or calling 304-772-3060. Make checks to Waiteville Community Center and mail to David Furrow, 3869 Waiteville Road, Waiteville, WV 24984.

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.

Feeding southwest Virginia will be offering food twice a month on the second and third Wednesday of the month from 3-5 p.m. and 4-5 p.m., respectively. All community members are welcome to purchase fresh produce and other canned and boxed items. EBT recipients receive 50% off their fruits and vegetables.

Booster Club of Craig Schools meet on the third Monday of each month in the school cafeteria at 6 p.m. Community members are encouraged to attend and to join to support the kids of Craig County as they need the participation of more people.

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



COURTESY PHOTO

VFW and friends clean statue

The VFW and their friends took on a long-needed project to clean the statue that was laden with moss and dirt. They had to bring in a backhoe to reach the top. It has a new glow to it and the cleaning product is to work for the next few weeks to help destroy the algae that was growing on it. VFW Post 4491 members, along with Ethan and Holly Brown, Heather and Carter Givens, Aaron Smith and Jaime and Sarah Crouse completed the project.

Festival

from page 1

For lunch, starting at 11:30 a.m., attendees can go back to the hotel where pinto beans and cornbread will be served inside, and barbeque sandwiches will be sold on the hotel porch.

"Main and Court Streets will be lined with craft, retail, and food vendors, starting with the Public Library which will sell raffle tickets, dry spice dips, and also host book and yard sales behind the library," the society shared. "They will also have special glasses and information about the partial solar eclipse which will take place during the afternoon."

Car enthusiasts will enjoy the Marshall Reynolds Memorial Antique Car Show on Middle Street. It is sponsored by South Main Auto in Blacksburg. Every driver will receive a plaque commemorating the

40th year and a goodie bag of local gifts.

"Old time crafters planning to be at the festival include Lisa Ferguson - tape weaver and Vickie Green - bobbin lace maker," they said. "Both will be in colonial attire and use reproductions of original implements to demonstrate their crafts. Blacksmith Bryan Fritts will return with his anvil and ironwork outside near the FFA Area where farm animals, equipment and games will be of interest to many."

Carol Looney will be operating the loom on the third floor of the hotel where she is making a red, white and blue rug in anticipation of America250.

Also, three 40-inch rugs woven during the past several years are available for a donation of \$30.

Three bands are scheduled to perform on the Gopher Market Stage

beside the courthouse lawn. The stage is provided by Zimmerman's Equipment.

"While this is fewer than some years, each band will have almost two hours to entertain," society shared. "Merchant Copy plays a mix of country, rock and blues and includes Craig native Cole Winebarger. Eastern Divide is known for their traditional bluegrass sound and Phat Boyz Band is hi-energy Southern rock and dance music."

The flatfoot contest for adults and children will be around 1 p.m. and will be backed by Eastern Divide.

"The Old Brick Hotel was built in the late 1800s. Restoration was begun in the 1980's and now contains three floors of antique furniture, clothing and other historical items donated by local families," society shared. "The

Hotel, the Genealogy Library, and nearby cabins will be open all day for self-guided tours. Also, the newly published Craig County Birth Records and other genealogy resources will be for sale in the gift shop."

Many look forward to the annual Fall Festival as a "family reunion," a time to visit with friends and relatives they haven't seen for a while. For others, the festival is a great time to start holiday gift-buying.

For most, food booths are the big attraction, with everything from grilled chicken to pumpkin rolls, homemade jams, elephant ears and baked goods.

More information may be found on Facebook at "Craig County Historical Society" and on Instagram at visitcraigcountyva or call the Historical Society Genealogy Library at 540-864-7023.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Leg shank

5. A way to recognize

11. "VeggieTales" character

12. Getting out of by cunning

16. Mythological mountain

17. Atomic #18

18. Viscous liquid

19. 2010 Denzel film

24. 12th star in a constellation

25. Made better

26. Pouches

27. Nervous twitch

28. This (Spanish)

29. Tennis legend Bjorn

30. Hand (Spanish)

31. Afrikaans

33. Int'l interpreters organization (abbr.)

34. Treated with kid gloves

38. Leaseholder

39. Frogs, toads, tree toads

40. Popular dance

43. Sailing maneuver: tack & _

44. Indicates speed of rotation (abbr.)

45. Mark

49. Health insurance

50. Custom clothing brand

51. One who makes suits

53. Execute or perform

54. Degree of pleasantness when tasting

56. Equal to roughly 5.6 bushels

58. Blood group

59. Imaginary line

60. Hopeless

63. Darken

64. Spoke

65. Work units

CLUES DOWN

1. A way to fit out

2. Football carries

3. Force out

4. Maintaining equilibrium

5. Sealed with a kiss

6. Type of container

7. Hollywood

8. We

9. Small freshwater ducks

10. Norse personification of old age

13. Says who you are

14. Candidate

15. Sugar found in honey and sweet fruits

20. Defunct language (abbr.)

21. Take too much

22. Iranian province

23. Records electric currents

27. _ and feathers

29. Beloved Mr. T character

30. More (Spanish)

31. Beverage

32. Promotional material

33. Green vegetable

34. National capital

35. To any further extent

36. Swollen, inflamed lymph node

37. Anger

38. Pound

40. Popular Yugo

41. Salt of acetic acid

42. Millinery

44. Israeli city _ Aviv

45. Make wider

46. Drink containing medicine

47. Acknowledging

48. Private, romantic rendezvous

50. Calvary sword

51. Disease of the lungs

52. 2001 Spielberg film

54. Fleshy, watery fruit

55. In one's chambers

57. Set of information (abbr.)

61. Dorm employee

62. Indicates position

School from page 1

they will help train us on resource needs," Huff said. "Stevens has been instrumental in pulling this together and the cost is less than \$1,000 which is a one-time fee. One of the best deals in town!"

A meeting was set for Sept. 15 with Dr. Hurt.

"I will also share that this program, for K-12, has brought SOL scores up in other schools as well as other things," he added.

Huff reported, "A survey went out last year to measure the school climate, how folks felt about the school and job satisfaction. The numbers were great, and I am glad that was done. To continue will cost us \$6,000 to participate and it is a good thing, however I have challenged the administrative staff to do this on our own as I feel we have very competent staff here that know how to manage things and to do education the right way. I suggest we remove this subscription this year and if we feel this is needed, we can renew it next year."

The board agreed. Huff also spoke with interim superintendent John Busher and with previous superintendent Jeanette Warwick about switching the school's facebook account as well as other topics he will be further updated on.

Huff will attend his first Region six

meeting and will sign the Students with Intensive Needs program which he stated is something CCPS has done for a long time and this is only a formality.

He noted he would also attend another meeting on Sept. 20 as the state superintendent will be present to meet and hear their comments.

He also reviewed the after-school detention policy and is still digesting its contents.

He added he wishes to make sure the teachers have a consistency in enforcing this, so that students aren't confused in the school's policies and the teachers have better guidelines for their students behavioral disciplines.

There was discussion on the duties for the teachers to work upcoming ballgames. Huff suggested some options that may be more favorable for them.

Monthly meetings are held at the school auditorium on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm.

The community is encouraged to attend the monthly meetings or to watch online to keep informed of the decisions and concerns of the Board for the students of Craig County.

Sports season is in full swing and the community members are asked to attend as many games as possible to "give our kids all the support we can."

5-year-old Sawyer gets first deer



SUBMITTED PHOTO

"He did it! The little dude got his first deer!" Sawyer's dad exclaimed. "We started the morning out early slipping into the blind way before daylight and a decent buck came in three minutes before legal shooting light, so he got a little discouraged. Then he got cold and wanted to come home and I told him we could leave or wait it out for a little longer and he said he would wait. This one slipped through the corner of the plot, and he got on it and then it slipped out into the woods, and I moved the tripod and he high shouldered it almost as soon as he got on it! I'm super proud of him and he is too. I shot my first deer with this gun, and he was able to shoot his first with it too."

Pantry from page 1

rent is making it harder for all of us to make ends meet each month."

She shared that the people that are hit the hardest are our seniors who are on fixed incomes.

"They often must choose between food or their prescriptions," Franklin explained. "Our pantry helps people get through the month."

Citizens can go to the DSS office once a month to receive a bag of food with no questions asked.

"However, the last week of September

we had to turn people away because our pantry is so bare," she added.

During the month of September, DSS provided food and hygiene items to 33 people/families in Craig before the shelves went empty.

"This time last year, we recorded only nine people receiving food from the pantry, that is almost a thirty percent increase in need!" she exclaimed.

The food pantry is not state or federally funded, it is funded by the Craig County community.

"We can only provide what is provided to us," Franklin said.

Therefore, the DSS department is having a needed food drive and are taking food and monetary donations at the office, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Items in need include peanut butter, crackers, spaghetti sauce, noodles, macaroni and cheese, canned vegetables, canned fruit, soups, dry beans, rice, canned tuna and canned chicken.

Hygiene items are shampoo,

deodorant, soap, feminine products and toothpaste and would like to provide laundry detergent when possible.

Their goal is to assist as many people in Craig as possible, especially during these years where food, electric and gas prices have gone up tremendously.

They encourage anyone to check with them on their supplies if they are in need and send thanks to the ones who give generously to help provide. Those interested can contact them at (540) 864-5117.

New Roanoke College poll: Trust in Virginia increased significantly at the start of the pandemic before starting a long decline to series lows in 2023

The Virginia Trust Index rebounded slightly in August 2023 from a series low in May. The August value halted a multi-year decline in trust, coming off series highs early in the COVID-19 pandemic. Between May 2020 and May 2021, the Virginia Trust Index was significantly higher than pre-pandemic values as people rallied together during an uncertain period. Growing frustrations with COVID-19-related mandates created discord in communities, dragging trust down between the middle of 2021 and the present.

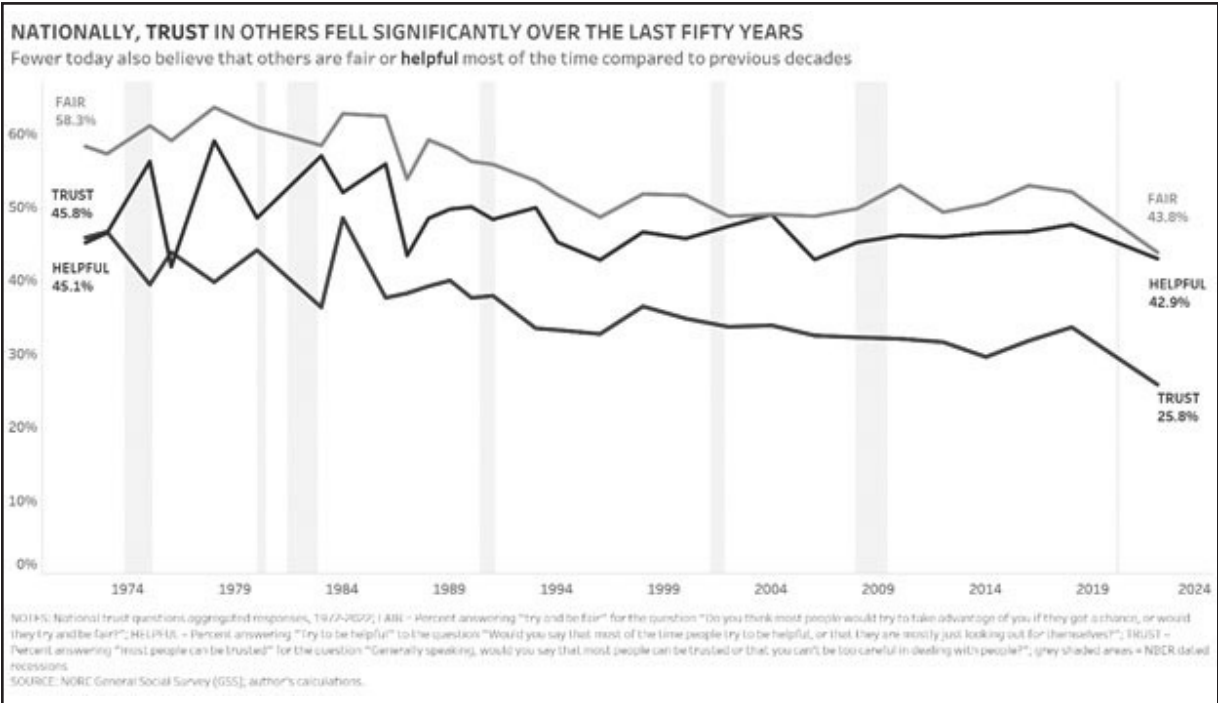
Why is social trust important?

Social trust refers to trust in other members of society.

How honest and reliable do members of society believe each other to be? The level of trust in a society strongly predicts economic success and is an important aspect of civic culture. It is positively linked to outcomes such as health, happiness and entrepreneurship, which are associated with economic growth. How? Trust reduces transaction costs, particularly for agreements between strangers, which in turn promotes productivity and economic growth.

Trust in the United States

One way to measure trust is through survey questions. Since 1972, the NORC at the University of Chicago has included three questions on their national



COURTESY IMAGE

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BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
599 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. ev. 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, 580-228. 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
71 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 so 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
1892 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-11 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: craigcountycommunitychurch@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.sttofc.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 Wendi Craig at 276-340-2445 or email advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

OPINION

News from the 9th: Oversight Subcommittee Hearing on Maui Fires



Morgan Griffith
Representative

As we approach the end of the fiscal year and approved government funding, many of us are working hard to cut spending. Because of the increased spending our nation is facing, we've seen a \$2.3 trillion deficit this year alone, adding to the overall \$33 trillion national debt.

Republicans are still working hard trying to come up with an agreement that funds our government, secures our southern border, and reins in spending. The Democrats, however, are not willing to help. I feel this is partly philosophical, but mostly it is because they believe that the government shutdown benefits them in the elections next year.

In the meantime, Congress is in session, and we continue to work on numerous issues of concern, while the spending debate continues.

For example, recently the Oversight and Investigations

Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee, which I chair, held a hearing on the devastating Maui fires that occurred this past August.

Specifically, the Committee investigated what role Maui's electric infrastructure might have played in the events leading up to the fires.

Our witnesses included the Chairman of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission, the Chief Energy Officer of the Hawai'i State Energy Office, and the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Hawaiian Electric.

As many of you may know, in early August a series of fires broke out on the island of Maui, including one that devastated the town of Lahaina on the west coast of the island.

As of now, at least 97 lives have been tragically lost and the damage caused by the fire is estimated at nearly \$6 billion.

It seems there were many known risk factors related to Maui's electric infrastructure which contributed to the likelihood of a wildfire.

Some wildfire experts have noted that dense, flammable non-native grasses have multiplied across the island in recent

years, facilitating the deadly spread of the recent fires.

Some utility law experts argued that Hawaiian Electric waited too long to pursue important upgrades to harden and modernize the electric grid against wildfire risks. The reported slowness in replacing outdated and deteriorating poles (caused by weather, bug infestation, etc.) have also played a factor.

During my questioning, I focused on the actions taken by Hawaiian Electric on the morning of August 8th.

Weather reports from the National Weather Service stated that between August 7th and 8th the region would experience enhanced wind gusts and very dry conditions, issuing a High Wind Warning on the afternoon of August 7th. A Red Flag Warning was also issued, meaning that there was an even greater increased risk of fire.

During her testimony, Hawaiian Electric President and CEO Shelee Kimura stated that the company was aware of the Red Flag Warning, noting that they were aware certain areas were experiencing wind gusts of 80 miles per hour.

I asked Ms. Kimura when during the night

the company learned exceptionally high winds were occurring. Even though she is the President and CEO of Hawaiian Electric, and knew she was coming to Congress to testify under oath, she could not tell us at what time the company learned dangerous winds were hitting western Maui.

My Senior Policy Advisor, JR Walker, quickly informed me that the National Weather Service had issued the Red Flag Warning at 4:42 a.m. on August 7th. This information is important as Hawaiian Electric did not deenergize their power lines on Maui until around 7 a.m. on the 8th.

By 6:37 a.m., a brush fire was reported as dry grass had caught fire due to sparks from downed power lines. Though thought to be contained by the Maui Fire Department around 9 a.m., the fire then flared up again around 3:30 p.m. This was the devastating fire in Lahaina that many saw on the news.

I was disappointed we could not get answers on the timeline leading up to the deenergizing of the power lines on Maui. Ms. Kimura could not even tell us how long it would take for the power lines to be safe after deenergizing.

We still have more questions than answers.

Hawaiians and all Americans should know what led to the fires and how to prevent something like this from happening again in our country.

The Committee will continue to investigate in the months ahead.

The Great Library Raffle

Library Corner
Marge Lewter

Craig County Public Library and the Friends of the Library are always looking for new ways to promote community activities, provide meaningful events to bring folks together and also fundraise to keep our library doors open. There are many upcoming events where we will be present and we hope we can get your support.

Taste of Craig County Raffle - We have an excellent raffle this year with many wonderful donations from local farms and producers. Several pounds of beef, pork, lamb, fish, canned goods, eggs, fruit, honey, syrups and so much more. We are raffling two equivalent baskets, each with a value around \$500! Only 10 more days to get in on this raffle! Each ticket gives you two chances to win. Tickets are \$5, or 5 for \$20. You can get them at the library or at the events listed below. And we will be doing our final push at Fall Festival, where not one, but two winners will be chosen!

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Library News and events:

Lasterday Craft Fair and The Country Bazaar - On Oct. 7, look for our library table at these events, selling raffle tickets, dip mixes and quilt ornaments as well as opportunities to order a barn quilt and become part of the library friends to help with events and fundraising. And we always have books to give away! (Though we love any donations!)

The craft fair is held at Lasterday Market from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., in New Castle, the bazaar at Bethel Church from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., halfway between Newport and New Castle on Rt. 42.

Fall Festival Oct. 14 - A huge event for us, with book sales, a yard sale, last chance to buy raffle tickets, dip sales plus activities for kids and so much more.

Come visit us at any or all of these happenings and get your raffle tickets now before you miss this opportunity for a 'taste of Craig County.'

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

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V DOT ROADWATCH

Interstate 81

I-81 MILLING & PAVING OPERATION WITH RAMP CLOSURES IN ROANOKE – Paving operations on I-81 northbound will be performed from mile marker 143 to 147 beginning on Monday, September 25 through Thursday morning, October 5. Drivers should expect left and right lane closures between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. the following morning. The exit 146 ramps and the I-581 ramp at exit 143 onto northbound I-81 will be closed periodically during the hours of 12 a.m. and 5 a.m. A detour will be in place for on and off traffic and drivers will need to watch message boards and seek alternate routes.

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: From Sept. 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

NIGHTTIME LANE AND RAMP CLOSURES SCHEDULED ON SOUTHBOUND INTERSTATE 581 NEAR ROANOKE - A pavement overlay on southbound Interstate 581 near Roanoke will cause lane closures and temporary ramp closures during nighttime hours between Valley View Boulevard and Elm Avenue. Weather permitting, lane closures may be in place each night, Sept. 13 through Sept. 19, between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. Drivers also can expect possible ramp closures along southbound I-581 between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. Temporary ramp closures are planned at Orange Avenue, the Downtown exit and Elm Avenue.

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.

ROUNDBOUT: 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.

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.

Poll

from page 1

General Social Survey (GSS) pertaining to trust, which are asked every other year, most recently in 2022:

1. Do you think most people would try to take advantage of you if they got a chance, or would they try and be fair? (FAIR)
2. Would you say that most of the time people try to be helpful, or that they are mostly just looking out for themselves? (HELPFUL)
3. Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people? (TRUST)

Because of complications from the pandemic, the questions were not asked in 2020, so there is a data gap between 2018 and 2022.

Trust in the United States has been declining in recent decades. In 1972, 46% reported that they believed most people could be trusted. The sentiment peaked in 1984 at 49% and has averaged 37% between 1972 and 2022. The most recent reading is a series low of 26% after a significant decline since 2018. Studies suggest trust has declined because of increased social issues like isolation, loneliness, greed, dishonesty and crime.

Positive responses to the two other questions pertaining to trust are also on the decline. In 2022, 44% of respondents thought that most people would try and be fair, and 43% reported that they believe people usually try to be helpful. Trust is an important aspect of negotiation, particularly between strangers. Declining trust reduces productivity and hampers economic growth.

Trust in Virginia

In February 2017, the Institute for Policy and Opinion Research (IPOR) at Roanoke College added the same three GSS questions about social trust to a quarterly survey. IPOR continued surveying during the pandemic, so there is no gap in survey collection, offering a glimpse into how fair, helpful and trusting Virginians believe each other to be, including throughout the pandemic.

The most recent reading of the three questions pertaining to trust in the commonwealth was in August 2023. Less than one-third of respondents believe that most people can be trusted while almost two-thirds say that you cannot be too careful; although a small share, more Virginians believe that, generally speaking, most people can be trusted than in the U.S. as a whole, where 26% believe that to be the case.

With respect to most people being fair and helpful, less than a majority believe this to be true. Forty-eight percent believe that most people would try to be fair rather than take advantage of you, a value slightly higher than the national share of 44%. Forty-seven percent report that most of the time, people try and be helpful compared to 50% who believe others are mostly looking out for themselves; 43% believe others to be helpful most of the time at the national level.

Virginia Trust Index

The Virginia Trust Index combines responses from the three questions pertaining to trust in the commonwealth. All values are relative to February 2017, the first time the trust data was collected by IPOR. When the index is equal to 100, less than 100 or greater than 100, trust in Virginia is the same, lower or higher than that baseline, respectively.

Until May 2020, the Trust Index was

relatively stable, neither increasing nor decreasing by large amounts. At the onset of the pandemic, the Trust Index jumped almost 20 points to 119.7. It remained elevated for a year before a multi-year decline to a series low in May 2023 (86.4). The index rebounded to 92.0 in August 2023.

The Virginia Trust Index provides a look at trust throughout the pandemic since its national counterpart (GSS) was not collected between 2018 and 2022. Why did trust increase at the start of the pandemic? The significant increase in trust that persisted between May 2020 and May 2021 is likely due to a we-are-in-this-together attitude. Despite frustrations over pandemic-related restrictions such as closures of non-essential businesses and mask mandates, Virginians relied on each other for help, and a greater share found each other to be fair, helpful and trustworthy. The steady decline in trust after May 2021 likely reflects growing frustrations with continued COVID-19-related restrictions such as mask mandates, a divide over newer vaccine mandates and general political discord.

Analysis

“Trust in the commonwealth was relatively stable for years before the pandemic, neither increasing nor decreasing by a large amount. Suddenly, at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, trust jumped by almost 20 points to a series high and remained elevated for a year,” said Dr. Alice Louise Kassens, John S. Shannon Professor of Economics and Senior Analyst at the Roanoke College Institute for Policy and Opinion Research. “Trust then began a steady decline over the next two years, hitting a series low in May 2023. A sudden increase in trust is not uncommon during a crisis as people rally together. What is curious about the pandemic is the subsequent rapid decline from those highs. As the we-are-in-this-together attitude dissipated, frustrations over COVID-19-related mandates, including vaccine mandates, created divides across communities, reducing our trust in one another. Trust is important for a productive economy, so rebuilding some of the lost trust will help the Virginia economy navigate through future business cycles.”

Craig County Dental Center

The Craig County Dental Center is actively recruiting a full-time dentist. In the meantime, we have two part-time dentists working to meet patient needs. There may be some changes to the hours of operation during this time and we thank you for your patience. Our dedicated team of hygienists and office support staff remains the same and will continue to see patients and answer calls as we have in the past.

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ROCKETS ARE HOME FOR FOOTBALL FRIDAY TO OBSERVE REC NIGHT, VETERANS NIGHT



Noah Paxton runs the ball for Craig.



Josh Craft(#32) stands up a Mountain View player.



Blake Wright makes a tackle for the Rockets.



Mason Huffman(#52) battles on the line.



Rocket cheerleaders get the crowd going.

PHOTOS BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY

It will be another big day in New Castle this Friday when the Craig County football team plays host to Eastern Montgomery in football. In addition to a big Pioneer District game the Rockets will celebrate the recreation teams and local veterans.

All veterans will be admitted free to the game as a thank you for their service. They're asked to sign in at the gate.

All recreation kids will also be admitted free but they must be with a parent and wearing their new Craig County jersey. All sandlot teams are now "Rockets" as they transition from the traditional black & red "Cougars" uniforms.

Last week was also a big day in Craig as the Rockets celebrated Homecoming. Unfortunately the team lost to Mountain View of Quicksburg by a 38-14 score.

"The score was about what I expected it to be, I just thought we would have the 38," said Craig coach Jim Fisher. "We put the ball on the ground a few times and Mountain View picked two of them up and returned them for touchdowns."

The Rockets took the field for their first full home game amid fireworks, as a great crowd greeted the home team at Mitchell Field.

"Big thanks to everyone that came last Friday," said Fisher. "We had a large

crowd for Homecoming. Special thank you to Joey Mayo for the flames and fireworks! It was a really cool entrance."

Once the game started the Rockets had some trouble getting the offense in gear. Craig has had several injuries on the line and the inexperience of the reserves showed.

"They picked up a bad snap and ran it down close and punched it in a few plays later," said Fisher. "We had some snap issues. They took their stud defender, around 6'5" and

275 pounds, and put him on a 170 pound freshman. We don't have many linemen or kids that weigh over 200 pounds. We have a couple of offensive line starters out and a couple of defensive line starters out. We do not expect any of those kids to return this week."

Jaycob Wolfe scored Craig's first touchdown on a seven yard run and Carter Calfee scored the other on a four yard run. Carter then added the two point conversion. The Rockets finished with 138

yards rushing and 19 yards passing while Mountain View had 211 rushing and 26 through the air.

On defense, freshman defensive lineman Carter Price led the Rockets with 13 tackles. Calfee added 10.5 tackles and Josh Craft and Mason Huffman had 9.5 each.

The loss dropped Craig to 2-2 and this week Eastern Montgomery, a familiar rival, comes to town. The Mustangs are 1-4 with a win over Northwood and losses to Holston, Rural Retreat,

Auburn and a 56-0 loss at Fort Chiswell last week.

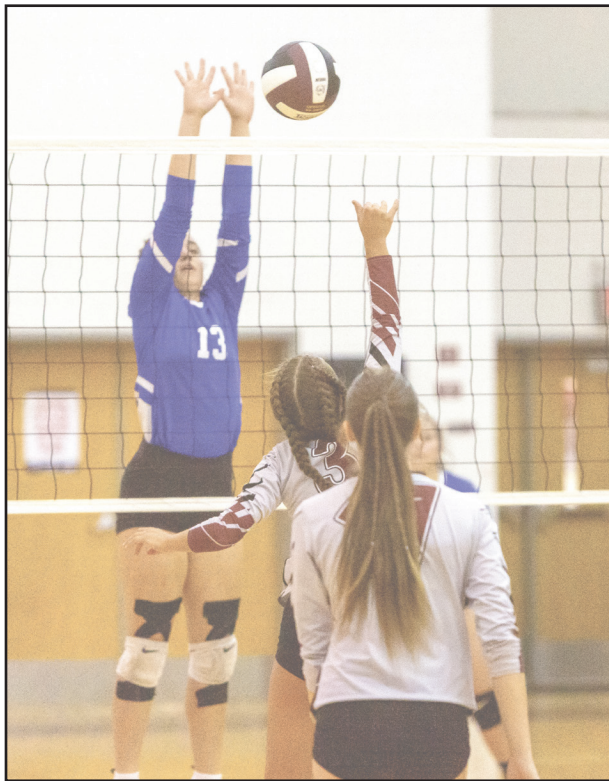
Coach Jordan Stewart is in his 10th year at East Mont and the Mustangs are 35-8 all-time against Craig going back to when they were New Castle and Shawsville High Schools. The Mustangs have won the last six meetings between the two.

"They're always scrappy and well coached," said Fisher. "We will need a solid effort on the line of scrimmage and limit our mistakes. It should be a very competitive game."

ROCKETS PLAY FIRST VOLLEYBALL MATCHES ON NEW HIGH SCHOOL GYM FLOOR THIS WEEK



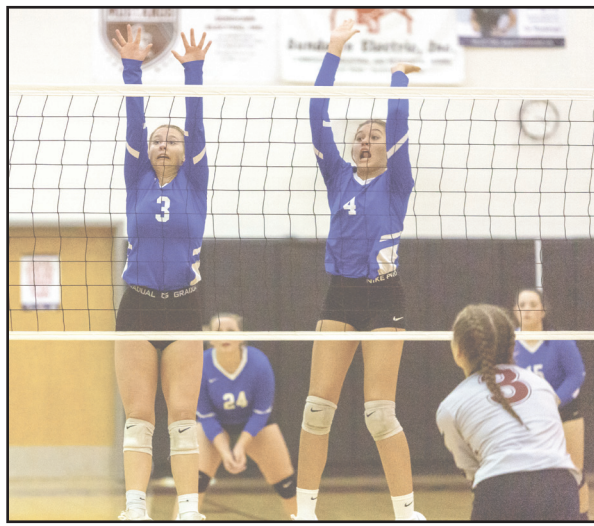
Daileigh Donithan digs one out.



Randalyn Taylor blocks a shot at the net.



Layla Dooley(#3) and Erin Snider go low for the ball.



Layla Dooley and Kailyn Jones put up a block.

PHOTOS BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY

After starting the season with nine games on the road the wandering Craig County girls will finally be home this week.

The Rockets had to play their first nine games in opponent's gyms as the floor at Craig County High School was being constructed.

The rubberized floor is a thing of the past as the Rockets will unveil a beautiful new wooden floor this week with two home games. The Rockets are scheduled to play week Roanoke Valley Christian on Monday and Narrows on Thursday with both scheduled to start with 5:30 pm jayvee games.

Thus far the Rockets have compiled a 1-8 record as "visitors," but beginning this week they'll finish the season with five straight games at home. After this week they'll host Bath County on Thursday, October 12, Eastern Montgomery on Tuesday, October 17, and Parry McCluer

on Thursday, October 19. Beginning with this Thursday's game with the Narrows the last four games are all Pioneer District battles.

Last week the Rockets lost to Roanoke Valley Christian in Roanoke, three sets to one, and Parry McCluer in Buena Vista in three straight.