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THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



COKE 2LTS 2 / \$5



CBEC joins in Craig community Christmas blessing

Pam Dudding
 Contributing writer

The phrase, "Craig County takes care of their own" has become common, but more importantly, is true.

Several groups have joined together this year to make sure that no child or family that they have discovered is left out at Christmas.

The Craig Botetourt Electric Company also joined in the effort as a sponsor and supporter of this Christmas project.

They event got to play Santa and shop for some very special children.

"It's moments like these that we truly get to see the magic of the holidays," they said.

Several families and children did not have the means to buy presents or have a special Christmas dinner, so Craig County citizens went to work to solve that problem.

"When you put the word out that you have people in need in your area, and your community shows up with an outpouring of love and generosity," CBEC shared.

They were elated and sent out many thanks "to our amazing Craig County community for bringing the Christmas spirit to so many in need this holiday

season."

They added, "Because of you all, almost 50 families are going to be able to not only provide toys to their children, but they're also going to be able to enjoy a delicious holiday meal."

They added, "A special thank you to Tickle Oil & Propane Inc., who literally showed up with a U-Haul filled with food, including hams, turkeys, and so much more! Not only that, but they also dropped off some beautifully handmade toy chests for some very lucky kiddos!"

They sent thanks out to the Craig County Public Schools, Craig County Department of Social Services, United Way of Roanoke Valley, United for ALICE and Feeding Southwest Virginia for the generous donations of goods.

"We thank you for all the time it took to plan and organize such a large donation and giving event!" they said.

Adding, "So, to everyone who contributed, a heartfelt thank you. Your generosity and community spirit are what makes Craig County such a special place to live. You have truly embodied the Christmas spirit, and for that, we are eternally grateful. Here's to another year of love, generosity, and community spirit!"

See more photos, page 5



Santa got a lot of helpers this year to help with the drive for toys and food for families in Craig.

Shulke presents another Christmas concert



Music teacher Alyssa Schulke presented her 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students for their annual Winter Concert. "I am SO very proud of these students!" she said. "They only see me once a week and our program had seven pieces! They sang wonderfully!" The audience also agreed with grand clapping, which made the kids smile with wide grins and even some giggles.

Football brings a little extra Christmas to McCleary students



Mickey read to the students with great enthusiasm and the kids seemed to respond with excitement.

Pam Dudding
 Contributing writer

Reading to children has always been a past time favorite for many, especially at this time of year.

For the second year in a row, the Craig County football team has taken time to read to the students at McCleary Elementary at Christmastime.

As teachers announced their coming, some kids shouted with excitement while others giggled in glee.

"We preach to the kids to give back to their community," shared Coach Jayke Dowdy. "We also want them to try to be good role models for future Rockets."

The coaches asked the teachers to respond to their invitation to have their team members read to their students.

They had 12 teachers sign up to have football players to come read to them.

Some of the players responded:

"It feels great to be able to give back to the community in any way possible, but especially to go read to the little kids because they enjoyed it, and they were glad that we read to them." -Jaycob Wolfe

"It felt good to give back and possibly make an elementary student's day better." -Josh Craft

"It felt really good to be able to go back to the elementary school and read to the kids. I'm glad I got to be a part of making the kids happy." -Noah Paxton

The kids responded with positive input, sharing that they liked having the "big football players read to them."

One little boy shared that he was going to do that when he got bigger, so the impact has already started to make a difference in the little kids lives.

"We are excited any time we have a chance to be involved!" Dowdy exclaimed.

Next year they plan to continue this annual special event.

See more photos, page 2



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



From our family to yours, we wish you a joyful holiday season. Thank you for allowing us to be of service. We look forward to assisting you in the New Year!

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Santa visited Food Country to talk to kids



Santa even took time for a photo with little Bella before he and his reindeer flew back to the North Pole.



Olivia Slusher photographed the day's events. Many families were happy she was there for a local picture.



Baby Axton loved Santa and Santa seemed to reciprocate, as both smiled so big for the photo shoot.



Paige was excited to see Santa and be able to tell him her secret wish list so her mom couldn't hear her.



Food Country employees Montana and Emily took their turn, showing that one is never too old for a Santa visit.



Santa recently visited at Food Country to talk to kids and take pictures.

Football page 1



The Craig County football team read stories to the McCleary Elementary students, in their individual classes. This has become an annual tradition for the team, one which they enjoy as much as the younger students do. Back row: Carter Calfee, Jaycob Wolfe, Isaac Lucas, Carter Price, Noah Paxton and Wyatt Huffman. Front row: Josh Craft, Isaiah Nichols, Tristan Dooley, Blake Wright, Marcus Donithan and Brad Arthurs.



McCleary Elementary students enjoyed the different stories the football players read to them in their classes. Twelve teachers signed up to have players

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Baseball stat
- 4. Blaze
- 8. Sea eagles
- 10. Tails in Italian
- 11. Monocot genus
- 12. Mother or father
- 13. The Jungian inner self
- 15. Covered with gold
- 16. Residual oil
- 17. Signs up for school
- 18. Furniture for daily meals
- 21. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
- 22. Lower limb
- 23. Guy (slang)
- 24. Get free of
- 25. Snakelike fish
- 26. Adult female bird
- 27. Formal window coverings
- 34. Break into small pieces
- 35. "1836 siege" of U.S.
- 36. Made violet-red
- 37. Food chopper
- 38. Removes writing
- 39. Ethiopian monetary unit
- 40. Wine bottle containers
- 41. English prelate
- 42. Small storage

CLUES DOWN

- 1. A brief comment
- 2. Sultanate of NW Borneo
- 3. Importune
- 4. Forelimb
- 5. Models of ethical behavior
- 6. Harangues
- 7. This (Spanish)
- 9. Springfield Area Mobile Intensive Care
- 10. Sang at Christmas door to door
- 12. Partly or nearly blind
- 14. Posterior pituitary gland hormone
- 15. American Nurses Association (abbr.)
- 17. The 7th Greek letter
- 19. Strives to equal
- 20. Toff
- 23. Coleoptera insects
- 24. The color of blood
- 25. Slipped by
- 26. Of she
- 27. A short musical passage
- 28. CNN's founder Turner
- 29. Radioactivity unit
- 30. Exculpation defense
- 31. Walking back and forth
- 32. Come forth from
- 33. Oxalis
- 34. A soft twilled fabric of silk
- 36. The two large chest muscles

Upcoming public meetings scheduled in Craig County

Dec. 20

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

Jan. 4

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

Jan. 15

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.

Ongoing

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.

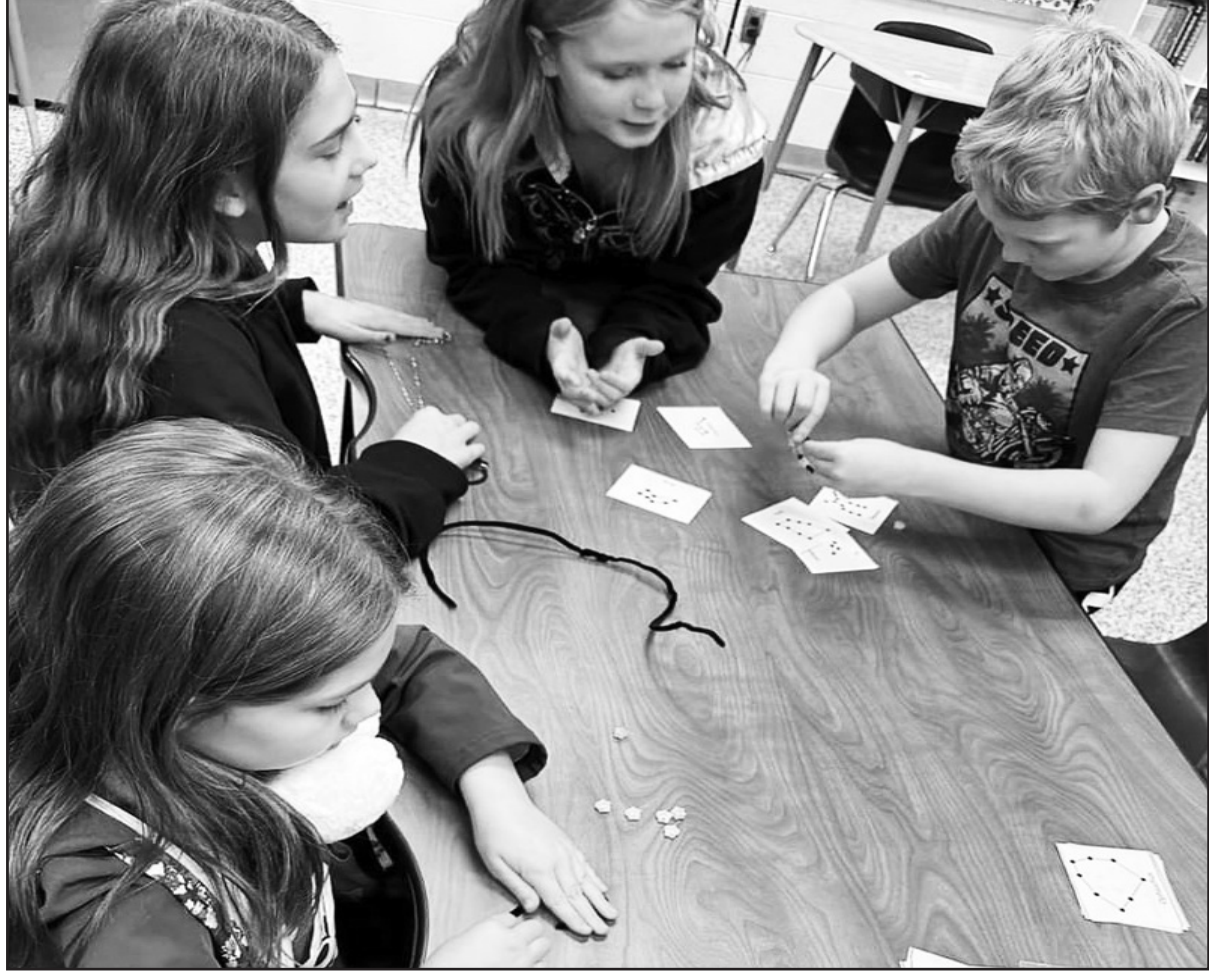
Every Friday. Craig County Genealogy Library is open 1-4 p.m. 152 Main Street. High school annuals, family histories and genealogy resources. Contact 540-864-7023.

-The New Castle Record

McCleary hosts STEAM night



COURTESY PHOTOS



The students at McCleary Elementary truly enjoyed their “STEAM night.” They said that they had a “blast!” The students visited three different stations and at those stations they were able to launch rockets and watch them fly, eat the moon phases they created from Oreos and build constellations from pipe cleaners and beads.

Request for Proposal For Craig County Mural

Seeking proposals for professional artist to paint a large scale 120 ft x 22 ft for grant funded Mural that welcomes locals and visitors to our area.

Artist must provide resume for large scale professional Mural experience. Must have experience in design process with local Tourism Commission and volunteers.

Artist must provide all materials and equipment and personal liability insurance.

Project is to begin in April 2024 and be completed no later than June 2024.

Proposals are due at noon on January 15th, 2024

Send to: Craig County Administration Building, please label on envelope, “MAIN STREET MURAL” attention Amy Bryson, PO Box 308, New Castle, VA 24127.

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<p>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.</p> <p>CHESTNUT GROVE CHURCH Duane Wente, Minister, Rt. 42, New Castle, 540-864-5692. Sunday: Worship 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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!</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CROSSROADS CHURCH 21892 Craigs Creek Road, New Castle. Pastor Gary Burch. 864-7520. Sunday School- 10-10:45AM, Sunday Worship - 11AM-Noon.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>7:00PM, Reformers Unanimous Addiction Recovery every Friday evening at 7PM.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>HEBRON UNITED METHODIST Pastor Chanmi Lee, 347-684-2607, Rt. 606, 1981 Caldwell Mt. Rd., New Castle, 540- 400-3419. Worship 11:15AM.</p> <p>LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST Rev. Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, & 6PM. Wednesday night Bible Study 7PM.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST Pastor Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle, 540-525-7662. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, & 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>NEW CANTERBURY PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP Pastor John D. Abbott, Hwy 621 (10 miles), phone: 540-580-5837, Sunday Prayer 10:00-10:30 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday Service 6:00 pm.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p>
<p>If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Wendi Craig at 276-340-2445 or email advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com</p>		

OPINION

News from the 9th: Field hearing on effects on Santa's toy delivery



Morgan Griffith
Representative

Washington, D.C. — House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chair Morgan Griffith (R-VA) today announced a field hearing on how the Biden Administration's green agenda has affected Santa and Rudolph's delivery of toys on December 22, 2023. The hearing will include a host of witnesses who are involved in the toy making and delivery process.

"The Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee has been committed to examining the implementation of government programs and whether they have been successful," said Chair Griffith. "This includes the new policies and regulations resulting from the Biden Administration's rush to green energy and

its consequences on not only Santa's preparation for Christmas, but his journey around the world delivering gifts with Rudolph. I look forward to learning more from our witnesses during what I'm sure will be an exciting and informative hearing."

Chair Griffith will be particularly interested in learning more about:

- Have there been any delays in getting materials to the North Pole via fossil fuel driven planes, trains, and automobiles, and therefore, in toy assembly at Santa's workshop, given the restrictions on coal and oil by the Administration?

- How will Santa be able to deliver the toys to all of the little girls and boys once he is forced to purchase an electric sleigh, given reindeer will soon be banned as they are known producers of methane?

Chair Griffith worries the cold weather and distance he must travel to deliver toys might significantly delay his overnight delivery as an electric sleigh is estimated to only get 150 miles in arctic conditions and at the equator and 300 miles in between, coupled with a 1.5

hour charging time for the battery.

- How will Mrs. Claus continue to make her famous Christmas cookies once gas ovens are officially outlawed by the Administration? Further, Chair Griffith worries that some families won't be able to make cookies for Santa's visit if all of the Biden energy policies are put into place.

Subcommittee hearing titled "An Examination of the Biden Administration's Green Policies and Their Effects on Santa's Toy Delivery."

WHAT: A field hearing to discuss how the Biden Administration's green energy agenda has affected Santa and Rudolph's delivery of toys

DATE: Friday, December 22, 2023

TIME: 8:00 PM ET

LOCATION: The North Pole

Alternative location: Santa's Official Post Office in Rovaniemi, Finland

*For those last-minute package wrappers, red tape will be made available by the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services

WITNESSES:
Mrs. Clause, Wife, Santa

Claus

Bernard, Head Elf, Santa's Workshop

Rudolph, Lead Reindeer, Santa's Sleigh (until electric sleighs are mandated)

Chair Griffith will like to note:

Santa Claus is unable to be with us for this hearing as he is busy ensuring that everything will be ready for Christmas. He would like us to share that, despite protests by the left, he will in fact be delivering Red Ryder BB guns to all the good children who request one, but warns them "not to shoot their eye out."

All members of the Energy and Commerce Committee are welcome to attend. The hearing will be open to the public and press and will be live streamed online.

The Birth of Jesus

While it is fun to joke about the absurd consequences of Biden's green energy policies, the reason for the Christmas season, for Christians like me, is the birth of Jesus Christ.

Two thousand years ago, when a young woman, Mary, and her husband, Joseph, were turned away from an inn, Mary was forced to give birth to a baby in a

manger. That baby, Jesus, was born by immaculate conception. And as the son of God, Jesus was sent to Earth to save his people from their sins.

Jesus shared God's message of forgiveness and grace to mankind. "God" so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16)."

Though not everyone celebrates Christmas and the birth of Jesus, the message of this season rings true through all communities and faiths. That message of forgiveness and grace, love and hope, is something I think we should all be reminded of a bit more frequently.

I wish everyone, whether you celebrate Christmas or not, peace during this holiday season.

And to echo Clement Moore in "Twas the Night Before Christmas: "Happy Christmas to All and to All a Good Night."

This will be my last column of 2023 and look forward to continuing them in the new year.

Mental health during the holidays

As we approach the holiday season, many of us are looking forward to celebrations and interacting with friends and loved ones. Even as we celebrate, it is very common to feel added stress. The "holiday blues" can stem from a variety of sources: current events, personal grief, loneliness, illness, financial concerns, relationship issues, even a lack of sunlight. Stress from the holiday blues can worsen symptoms

of a mental health condition, such as depression, anxiety, or a substance use disorder.

One place to start managing stress is to manage expectations for the season. If you feel a disconnect emerge between your actual situation and a fantasy version of the

expectations and reactions, and that you can decide when to

take a break from the busy season, with music, exercise, a hobby, or whatever else feels right for you.

The holiday season can amplify feelings of loneliness,

Dr. Cynthia Morrow

Roanoke City and Alleghany Health Districts Health Director

holidays, keep an open mind about what the holidays are meant represent, and consider focusing on what makes you feel grateful in the present moment. Studies have shown that feelings of gratitude, even for small things such as sunshine, a hug, or a warm bath, can reduce the risk of depression and increase feelings of well-being.

Being constantly on the go can leave you feeling exhausted. Accept your limitations, manage your time and don't be afraid to say no to plans that don't fit into your schedule. Recognize that you are in control of your

especially if friends or family live far away. Joining with others through avenues such as volunteering can help kindle feelings of connection in your community. Acknowledge feelings of loss or grief, especially if they are recent, while trying to focus on celebrating happy memories, or creating new memories. Gently remind yourself that as circumstances change, traditions will change as well.

With dinners, parties, and cookie trays at every turn, our eating habits are challenged during the holiday season. Eating a healthy diet through it all with plenty of whole grains, vegetables, and fresh fruit can help keep you on track. Try to get as much sunlight as possible. Eating and sleeping well can also help stabilize your mood. Avoid alcohol and drugs- it is a myth that they reduce stress; in fact, they often worsen it.

If you're feeling overwhelmed, find support. Whether with friends, family, a counselor, or a support group, talking can help. The 988 Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress by talk or text, and prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones.

Understanding that you are not alone may help to put things in perspective and help you to move to a place of acceptance. On an ongoing basis, the Roanoke chapter of the National Alliance of Mental Illness facilitates a monthly virtual peer support group on the first Mondays (<https://www.namiroanokevalley.us/>). The Adult Care Center of Roanoke offers a monthly caregiver support group. Visit our local community service boards (Blue Ridge Behavioral Health and Alleghany Highlands CSB) for community suicide prevention and behavioral health trainings.

Whether you feel excited, happy, anxious, or stressed about the coming holiday season- or a combination of them all- please know that you are not alone. By taking small actions each day, you can make your mental wellbeing a priority.

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

USPS 378-080
(540) 389-9355
1633 W. Main St.
Salem, VA 24153
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The New Castle Record (USPS 378-080) is published weekly for \$46 a year in Craig County, \$50 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$54 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., 1633 W Main St., Salem, VA 24153. Periodical postage paid at New Castle, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE NEW CASTLE RECORD 1633 W. Main St., Salem, Va. 24153

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

Curl up with a good book

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Library Corner</p> </div> <p>Christmas Next Door: Melody Carlson</p> <p>Shepherds, Abiding: Karon</p> <p>A Wish for Christmas:</p>	<p>Thomas Kinkade The Red Gloves: Karen Kingsbury</p> <p>On Christmas Eve: Thomas Kinkade</p> <p>Christmas treasures: Thomas Kinkade</p> <p>Santa Cruise: Fern Michaels</p>	<p>The 19th Christmas: James Patterson</p> <p>Christmas at Holiday House: Raeanne Thayne</p> <p>Dear Santa: Debbie Macomber</p> <p>Angels at the Table: Debbie Macomber</p>
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OBITUARIES

Carper, Iola Justine Myers

Feb. 5, 1923-Dec. 15, 2023

Iola Justine Myers Carper, 100 of New Castle, passed away Friday, Dec. 15, 2023. She was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Jack Carper; parents, Jesse & Ada Myers, Sr; brothers, Hezzie, Kenneth, & Jesse Jr. Myers; and a sister, Dollie Jeffreys.

She is survived by nieces & nephews, and many other family members.

A special thanks to the



staff of Snyder Nursing

Home in Salem for their care. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the New Castle Vol. Fire Dept. or the Craig Co. Rescue Squad.

Graveside Services were held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023, at Huffman Memorial Park. The family received friends 12:30 - 1 p.m. at the cemetery.

Arrangements by Paitsel Funeral Home. www.paitselfh.com

Keffer, Williams were re-elected to represent Mountain Castles on SWCD board in Nov.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mountain Castles SWCD directors and staff visit one the dams on Johns Creek.

Andrew Keffer and Jason Williams were re-elected in November to represent Craig County on the Mountain Castles Soil and Water Conservation District board of directors. This will be the third four-term for both.

"It's hard to put a value on the experience that Andrew and Jason bring to the board, both as farmers and as soil and water directors," said Tim Miller, district coordinator for Mountain Castles SWCD. "We rely on their experience and their vision for where we can go in the future." With almost \$2 million in funding available to farmers in the current program year, expanding the number of farms in Craig County that implement conservation practices is vital to achieve the water quality goals of the district.

"We rely on our directors to participate in

conservation programs and to encourage their peers to do the same," said Miller. Last year the district spent over \$650,000 on conservation projects in Botetourt and Craig which help make our local streams and rivers cleaner.

Jeff Henderson and Jason Preston Wickline, elected directors from Botetourt County, and Walter Nelson, an appointed director from Botetourt County, also serve on the Mountain Castles board. Michael Beahm, Jeff Muncey, and Tom and Tara Williamson serve as associate directors.

In addition to agricultural programs, Mountain Castles SWCD implements the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program, which is available to homeowners. Visit www.mountaincastles.org for more information.

-The New Castle Record

CBEC page 1



COURTESY PHOTO

An overload of food was donated by many to help families have what they need for the Christmas season of dinners.

Library page 5

Classics Christmas Eve on Sesame Street Petunia's Christmas Christmas in the Barn Christmas with Grandfather

A Christmas Carol Too Many Toys These are only a selection of the holiday favorites to be found at your library. Thank you for supporting the library

all through the year. From our house to yours: Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mt. View Church hosts Christmas bingo



COURTESY PHOTO

On Tuesday night, Dec. 12, the Mt. View Church hosted its annual ladies Christmas bingo party. Each person brought gifts to use as prizes as well as something to eat. There was a smorgasbord of food and desserts and bingo prizes. Karen Taylor Davidson called the numbers. Taylor made up a game herself which everyone seemed to enjoy. Some people brought several gifts just so they could play more games. A love offering was taken in memory of Barbara Elmore who used to call the numbers and donated to a favorable charity.

Correction

At the November Craig County School Board meeting, there was a misunderstanding of students attending Governor's School from Craig County. The division is proud to announce that it does have four students attending Governor's School this year.



The stockings are hung,
The tree's glowing bright,
It's going to be a
wonderful night!

Merry Christmas everyone, and thanks for your continued loyal patronage with us. We look forward to serving you in the new year.



A Heartwarming Holiday



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As we celebrate this holy season, let's remember to treat one another with kindness, love and understanding. We hope you'll join us in the true spirit of the season with prayers of peace and goodwill toward all mankind.

Best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.

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Trish Spencer, Director
P.O. Box 326, Main Street, New Castle
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Merry Christmas

From

Pat Charlton,
Sheila DeHart
Susan Stroup



Office: 540 864-6900

HAVE A HOLLY, JOLLY CHRISTMAS!

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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Jaycob Wolfe(#2) and Drew Duncan(#34) defend.



Drew Duncan(#34) scores and draws a foul.

PHOTOS BY CHELSEA LOUTHEN



Luke Potter(#12) draws attention from two Rams.



Matthew Lucas(#1) is double teamed.

Rocket hoop teams have busy week

The Craig County basketball teams had a busy week with the Christmas break approaching. The boys had four games in seven days and the girls played three times and had another game postponed.

The boys picked up a big win over Bland County in Rocky Gap Saturday, 55-42. Hayden Reynolds led the Rockets with 17 points while Jaycob Wolfe had 16 and seven rebounds. Matthew Lucas had nine boards and contributed seven points, Talon Ritter had seven points and Luke Potter had half a dozen.

“To go into a hostile environment on the road and get a lead, maintain it and see out the win should give us confidence and valuable experience in those situations,” said Craig coach Ryan Frazier.

Drew Duncan only scored two points but had 19 rebounds, and that was a key to the win.

“Drew was a huge part of our victory,” said Frazier. “We talked as a group about rebounding and how it can determine our games and season and they took it to heart. It seemed like Drew got every rebound at times and played a great game. I was proud of this win because we controlled the boards, and handled them trying to come back.”

Craig made 17 of 24 free throws despite a rowdy

crowd at Bland.

“We kept our cool in that environment when the other team was trying their best to get under our skin,” said Frazier. “Really good road won for us.”

The win gave the Rockets a 2-4 record after losing their other two games last week, 38-36 against Highland at home and 82-53 at Narrows last Thursday. Craig was scheduled to play at Roanoke Valley Christian on Monday but results were too late for publication.

Against Highland the Rockets were down seven and cut the lead to one but couldn’t finish it off. Lucas had 13 points and Duncan had 15 rebounds but the Rockets gave up 25 offensive rebounds.

At Narrows the Rockets got a look at the Pioneer District favorite. Reynolds had 22 points and Lucas had 16.

“Narrows is really good and are in the driver’s seat to win the district after beating Parry McCluer earlier in the week,” said Frazier.

The Craig girls got their week off to a good start with a 47-9 win over Highland in the first game of a doubleheader in New Castle. The Rockets blasted off with a 15-0 advantage after the first quarter and led 24-1 at the half.

“We played aggressive man defense,” said Jones.

This game was “all in the family” for the Rockets, as coach Jones’ two daughters combined for 24 points. Kailyn Jones had 15 and Hayleigh Flowers had nine. Kailyn also had 17 rebounds, eight steals and four blocks.

“Pretty cool to see my daughters lead the way,” said Jones.

Daileigh Donithan and Kallie Fisher had six points each for Craig, with Donithan hitting two threes. Gracie Huffman and Jenna Boitnotte had four points each, Morgan Underwood had two and Maddie Kendall hit a foul shot.

“We played an overall great game and were super proud of all the girls working hard in practice and staying focused,” said Jones. “I set our motto this year and we are following it. That is, small town believers, culture changers, academic successors. Great group of girls that I have the privilege to keep talking to.”

Craig had some sickness going through the team later in the week and the Rockets dropped their next two games, 62-30 to Narrows and 53-27 to Bland. The Rockets had a Monday game with William Byrd postponed and they’ll head into the break at 4-3 with a 1-1 Pioneer District record.



Kammie Fisher(#21) scores for the Rockets

PHOTOS BY CHELSEA LOUTHEN



Kailyn Jones(#4) goes high to rebound with help from Morgan Underwood(#24).



Kallie Fisher pushes the ball.



Maddie Kendall looks to pass against the Rams.