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THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



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State Fair of Virginia awards over \$36k in youth scholarships

Michael Dudding earns 3rd place for intermediate

DOSWELL—Twenty-two youth who participated in the 2023 State Fair of Virginia 4-H and FFA livestock and general competitions were awarded a total of \$36,084 from the fair's Applied Scholarship Program.

A \$1,000 Farm Credit Scholarship was available to any youth exhibitor who participated during the State Fair. Additionally, five \$2,000 youth development scholarships were offered for participants in any State Fair competition.

A \$1,000 scholarship also was offered to participants in State Fair 4-H, FFA or youth craft, skill or trade competitions. That scholarship was part of the Gatewood Holland Stoneman Endowment, established in 2018 in memory of W.N. Stoneman Jr. The Stoneman family was active in the fair and other agricultural causes.

For the Applied Youth Livestock Scholarships, judging was based on applicants' livestock show participation, as well as on leadership, community service activities and an essay. The top applicants were chosen based on their written application and a video interview. The scholarships were offered in three age groups: Juniors (9-12), Intermediate (13-15) and Seniors (16 and older). Funds allocated for those scholarships represent a portion of proceeds from the eighth annual Youth Livestock Sale of Champions benefit auction, held Sept. 30, 2023.

The winners are:

- Youth Livestock Scholarships
- Senior
- First place: Grayson Long of Rockingham County, \$2,890
- Second place: Kennah Kerns of Frederick County, \$2,409
- Third place: James Marshall of Augusta County, \$1,927
- Honorable mention: Sarah Craun of Rockingham County, \$1,204
- Honorable mention: Isaac Miller of Wythe County, \$1,204
- Intermediate
- First place: Abigail Miller of Wythe County, \$2,168
- Second place: Leslie Linton of Fauquier County, \$1,806
- Third place: Michael Dudding of Craig County, \$1,445
- Honorable mention: Emma Wisecarver of Frederick County, \$903
- Honorable mention: Cooper Joines of Montgomery County, \$903
- Junior
- First place: Macyn Beamer of Rockingham County, \$2,168
- Second place: Kaid Altman of Orange County, \$1,806
- Third place: Sedona Sifford of Fauquier County, \$1,445
- Honorable mention: Trinley Robson of Culpeper County, \$903
- Honorable mention: Emma Grace Shifflett of Madison County: \$903
- General State Fair Scholarships
- Youth Development Scholarships
- Rachel Haile of Hanover County, \$2,000
- Grayson Long of Rockingham



COURTESY IMAGE

- County, \$2,000
- James Marshall of Augusta County, \$2,000
- Salem Sifford of Fauquier County, \$2,000
- Ayla Zook of King George County, \$2,000
- Gatewood Holland Stoneman Scholarship
- Kennah Kerns of Frederick County, \$1,000
- Farm Credit Scholarship
- Bruce Jones of Appomattox County, \$1,000

"I was very impressed with the community activities, knowledge, leadership and communication skills demonstrated by these young men and women," said Lynwood Broaddus, chair of the SFVA Scholarship Committee. He added that he appreciates the individuals and businesses that support the program, "which, in turn, supports the education of our future leaders."

The 2023 Sale of Champions raised

See Fair, page 2



Johnston

COURTESY PHOTO

CCPS recognizes Johnston

Victoria Johnston was recognized by Craig County Public Schools as the March "Employee Recognition Winner." She received a \$50 Visa gift card. -The New Castle Record

School Board looks at upcoming budget

Anita Firebaugh
Contributing writer

Since the Virginia General Assembly has settled on a budget, the Craig County School Board when it met March 12, 2024, was able to take a look at numbers for the first time in this budget period. The School Board met in the school auditorium.

While the state budget had not been signed by the governor at the time of this writing, the version currently before local governments indicates that the required local effort to support the school system would increase, Superintendent Dwayne Huff reported.

"We've gone from \$1.6 million to just over \$2 million," in required local effort, he said. The required local effort is money that the Virginia General Assembly has mandated localities must pay for public schools.

Craig County has funded the required local effort and not given many extra dollars to the school system since 2016, Huff said. At that time, local funding decreased by about \$60,000 and the county has given the school system even

funding of about \$1.82 million each year since. "All during that time inflation has increased significantly," Huff said. "I hope the Board of Supervisors will recognize how we need to make up some ground here."

Additionally, if the local government can come up with another \$210,000 or so, the schools could receive an additional \$520,000 in state funding. Otherwise, the funding would be left on the table, Huff said. Last year the school budget was \$7.5 million, plus the cafeteria fund. This year the budget has a "pretty significant jump" to over \$8 million, plus the cafeteria fund.

Huff noted that with the increase in real estate values due to the 2023 reassessment, the county could conceivably raise a bit more money to give the schools. "Hopefully we can do that without being too big a burden on landowners and farmers," Huff said. He expressed concern that if the supervisors do not increase funding, the school system would be left with level funding for another six years.

The state budget includes

a 3 percent raise for teachers for two years, too, Huff said.

The school system submitted a proposed capital improvement plan to the county administrator in recent weeks. The school has requested funding for two full-sized buses and five minivans. "The minivans have served us better," Huff reported. The minivans would replace several older Crown Vic vehicles.

Additionally, the school system needs to upgrade the boiler system due to its age and leaking plumbing.

Another item on the list is a new bus garage facility. "The old bus garage is undersized," Huff said. "We would like to move it here on site and upgrade our fuel systems." This project is on a five-year plan and Huff said he hopes to find grants for the anticipated \$1.2 million cost.

The school grounds also need some care and repair. He would like to upgrade the track facility so that students are no longer running on gravel, and improve the drainage on the football field. He would also like to build a

See Budget, page 2

Board of Equalization to hear from public on real estate assessments

Anita Firebaugh
Contributing writer

The Board of Equalization will hear appeals and receive complaints concerning the fair market value of real estate assessments from any taxpayer or his agent in late April and mid-May. Applications must be received by April 22, 2024.

The Board of Equalization hears complaints, either oral or written, for consideration to increase, decrease, or affirm real estate assessments. Before a change is granted, the taxpayer or agent must provide evidence that

property is not uniform and in accordance with other similar properties. The property valuation must be found to be in excess of its fair market value.

Appointments will be scheduled every fifteen minutes. The Board of Equalization will meet April 22, 2024, 4-8 p.m., May 14, 2024, 1-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., and May 16, 2024, 4-8 p.m. Additional dates will be set if deemed necessary and advertised.

An application form along with other information about The Board of Equalization is available on the Craig County website at craigva.gov/board-of-

equalization.

The Board of Supervisors chose members for the Board of Equalization at its March 7, 2024 meeting, and the members were confirmed on March 13 by the Craig County Circuit Court. The Board of Equalization members are Anita Martindell, Jim Cady, Jerry Groseclose, Julie Welch, and Lenny Macdonald.

Wampler-Eanes Appraisal Group, Ltd. performed the reassessment for Craig County and completed it in 2023. Craig County performs a reassessment every six years. By state law, values assessed to

real estate must be at 100 percent of market value. When performing a reassessment, Wampler-Eanes sends field inspectors to visit accessible property and talk to homeowners if someone is home. They also viewed property records and used GIS information to view property lines, open land, woodland, and waterfront property.

Steve Wampler with Wampler-Eanes said the increase on residential real estate was 38 percent after the first set of reassessment hearings in November.

"We had about 128 log cabins, and they seemed to all go up

quite a bit," Wampler said. "Everybody wants a log cabin, a white pine tree, and a trout stream in their front yard, that's why they're going to Craig."

Wampler noted that Craig County's real estate values have trended upwards like all other areas they serve. "They waited six years [to do the reassessment] and that's a long wait," Wampler said. "The other thing is the National Forest, most everything touches the National Forest there in Craig and people are paying a premium for it."

The Craig County Board of Supervisors

has not yet determined the tax rate for Craig County for the current year. The most recent tax rate for Craig County is \$0.63 per \$100 value but that is expected to be lower in order to equalize the taxes people pay. The amount of the tax rate ultimately determines how much individuals pay for their real estate taxes.

Residents can call 540-864-5009, extension 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with questions or concerns related to the Board of Equalization. Meetings will be held at the Craig County Courthouse in New Castle.

Upcoming public meetings scheduled in Craig County

March 28
Department of Social Services Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

April 4
Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting will meet at the Craig County Courthouse at 6 p.m.

April 8
Library Board of Trustees Meeting at Craig County Library at 6 p.m.

April 15
Town of New Castle Town Council Meeting at New Castle Town Hall at 7-8 p.m.

April 16
Congressman Morgan Griffith citizen comment period 9-10:30 a.m at Craig County Courthouse Breakroom.

April 17
CPMT MEETING CPMT - Department of Social Services at 1 p.m.

May 2
Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting will meet at the Craig County Courthouse at 6 p.m. Hall at 7-8 p.m.

Community Event
Rocket to the Rhythm at CCHS Community Sock Hop will be held Saturday, April 6, 6-10:00 p.m at the high school gymnasium. Dinner begins at 6 p.m, and live band, 40 Years After, begins at 7p.m. Admission: Adults \$7, Kids \$3. Proceeds will benefit CCHC, After Prom, Junior Class and FFA.

-The New Castle Record

Fair page 1

over \$93,000 to support the fair's scholarship program. In addition, the annual Black Tie & Boots gala raised over \$55,000 to support youth programming.

Since 2013 the State Fair has awarded 2,333 scholarships and \$870,273 to support youth education. The fair offers youth more than \$100,000 each year in scholarship funds through 4-H, FFA and vocational competitions and specific equine, fine arts and horticulture competitions.

The 2024 State Fair of Virginia will run from Sept. 27 through Oct. 6. Information is available at StateFairVa.org.

The State Fair is held each fall at its permanent home at The Meadow Event Park in Caroline County and attracts 200,000 fairgoers. The event celebrates the best of Virginia's past, present and future through scholarship initiatives, creative programming and a focus on the commonwealth's agriculture and natural resources industries.

-The New Castle Record

Budget page 1

training facility or field house that would benefit all of the county's sports programs.

"The weight room is in a classroom on the main hallway of the high school," Huff reported. "We have a lot of equipment stored out back." The equipment in storage tends to mold or mildew because it's not in a climate controlled area, he said.

The school system has a budget meeting with county officials scheduled for March 21, Huff said.

In other items, the superintendent reported that spring sports are underway along with field repairs and maintenance.

Additionally, he had another contractor in to give an estimate on new roofing at the school, making three quotes. A decision on the bids would be made in the near future, Huff said. He is also looking at a solar project to help with costs.

The school board also approved the plan, which outlines how the schools deal with gifted students. They also agreed to let the 4-H program use a bus this summer, with the 4-H program paying for the bus driver and fuel.

The school board also agreed to make Easter Monday, April 1, an employee holiday instead of a teacher workday.

The school board also discussed the sale of surplus items, including wood lathes and other woodworking equipment, and considered how to best implement a new welding program so that students do not have to go to BTech in Botetourt County for their educational needs. They continued that discussion until their next meeting.

Huff also made a point of saying that he wanted, "all staff to know my door is open all the time and I welcome and encourage all to visit especially when it has something to do with making our schools better."

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Millisecond
5. Narcotic drug
11. Accident
14. Formal submissions
15. Popular 70s rock band
18. Discourage from doing
19. More socially elite
21. Arid
23. A way to look
24. Heroes
28. A surfer rides it
29. Potato state
30. Insect repellent
32. Cool!
33. Have already done
35. Collegiate women's fraternity
36. To the ___ degree
39. Gasteyer and de

Armas are two
41. Blood type
42. Looked over
44. Language of Cameroon and Chad
46. Species of armadillo
47. Touch softly
49. Part of your upper body
52. Large, stocky lizards
56. Lack of social or ethical standards
58. Congressman
60. Unofficial force
62. As a result of this utterance
63. A main branch of Islam

CLUES DOWN

1. Woman (French)
2. Province of Pakistan
3. This (Spanish)

4. Transportation device
5. Greater in importance or priority
6. The human foot
7. Within 8. Consumed
9. Respectful Malaysian term
10. Therefore
12. Ceased to exist
13. Type of macaroni
16. English composer
17. Wooded tract
20. Tall, slender-leaved plant
22. 36 inches
25. Take too much (abbr.)
26. Allow
27. Individually
29. Journalist Tarbell
31. Bar bill
34. Hong Kong food

stall: __ pai dong
36. Not messy
37. Species that includes reed mace
38. Former MLB catcher Ed
40. Northern U.S. state
43. Wilt
45. Commercial
48. Bolivian river
50. Nursemaid
51. A car needs four
53. Guns (slang)
54. American state
55. Clusters of fern fronds
57. Body part
58. A person's brother or sister
59. Breed of sheep native to Sweden
61. Of I

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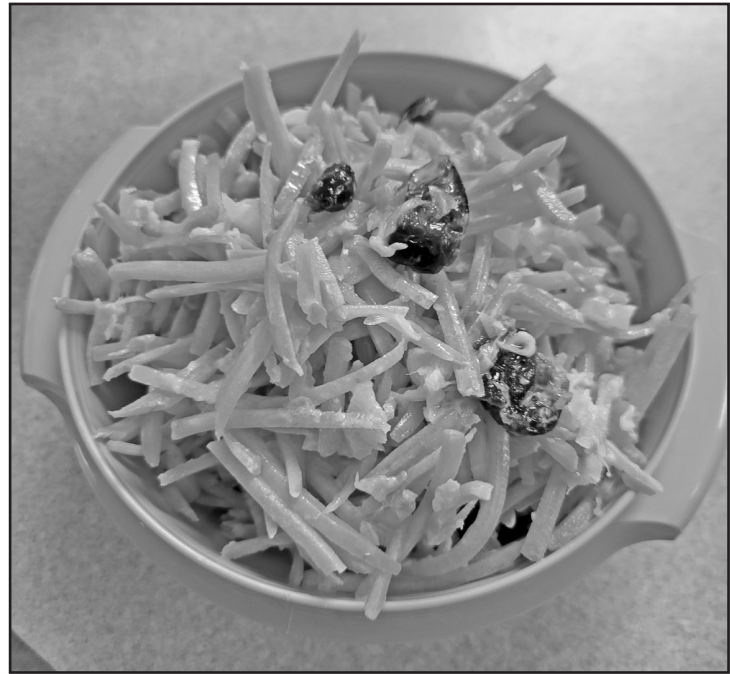
Recipe of the Week



**Shelly
Koon**
Contributing
Writer

Ingredients:
 4 1/2 cups shredded carrots
 1 8 oz can crushed pineapple, undrained
 3/4 to 1-1/2 cups raisins (I use dried cranberries)
 1/2 cup mayonnaise
 1/2 cup sugar
 1 1/2 Tablespoons lemon juice

Instructions:
 Mix the ingredients together in a large bowl. Refrigerate for at least two hours before serving.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Carrot casserole
Ingredients:
 2 1/2 cups diced carrots
 2 eggs, separated
 1 cup bread crumbs
 1 tablespoon finely chopped onion
 1 1/2 cups milk
 Salt and pepper to taste
Instructions:
 In a saucepan over medium heat, steam or boil the carrots until tender. Drain, then mash the carrots and season with salt and pepper. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Grease a 1 quart casserole. In a small bowl, beat the egg yolks. In another bowl, combine the carrots, egg yolks, bread crumbs, onion, and milk. In a large, chilled bowl, beat the egg whites until stiff. Gently fold the whipped whites into the carrot mixture. Turn into the prepared casserole. Bake for 45 to 60 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out clean. Serve hot.

I have a bad case of spring fever. I always feel somewhat giddy in the spring. Every season gives us cause to celebrate but I like spring best. It feels like a new beginning. The weather is getting warmer and there is more sunshine in the day. The leaves have that perfect shade of green as they start to emerge. And I must admit my favorite flower has always been the dandelion. Those bright yellow petals against the green leaves make my heart happy. Easter is early in spring this year and there are some Easter traditions I always follow. A new outfit for Easter church is a must; if you wear new clothes you have good luck the rest of the year. There is usually a baked ham and deviled eggs on our Easter table. Nothing says Easter like eggs. Decorating, hiding, and eating eggs in spring are a tradition that is thousands of years old. Easter baskets filled with eggs represent birds' nests and new life. The reason ham is traditionally eaten at Easter is actually that it's in

season. Historically, pigs were usually slaughtered in the fall, when it's chilly outside and the cold could keep the meat fresh during the several days it would take to break down and prepare the hog. The curing of the ham would take several months, making the ham ready just in time for Easter dinner. In our house the night before, we leave out carrots for the Easter Bunny, Erick. Why we think his name is Erick is a mystery no one in my family can answer. This week's recipes are carrot based. Carrots are good raw but are better for you when cooked. Cooking allows beta carotene, an antioxidant compound that gets converted into Vitamin A in the intestine, to absorb more easily in the body. Vitamin A helps your eyesight. Carrots also contain fiber that helps keep your gut healthy and Vitamins that help support bone mass.

May your Easter be a delightful melody of savory dishes, sweet treats, and great memories. Happy Easter!
Carrot raisin salad

Virginia Western welcomes Bernadette Battle as new associate VP of student affairs

ROANOKE – Virginia Western Community College announced last week that Bernadette “Bern” Battle has joined the college as associate vice president of student affairs. With over two decades of experience in higher education, Battle has consistently demonstrated her commitment to student success and community engagement. Battle has held key leadership positions at two Virginia Community College System institutions, Reynolds Community College and Southside Virginia Community College, where she spearheaded initiatives to promote student engagement, retention and academic

success. With a diverse skill set encompassing strategic planning, capacity building and data analytics, she is poised to make significant contributions to Virginia Western's student affairs division, the college said. “I am deeply honored to join the Virginia Western community and collaborate with faculty, staff, and students to advance our shared mission of academic excellence and student success,” said Battle. “I look forward to leveraging my experience and expertise to create innovative solutions that empower our students to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.” As associate vice president of student affairs, Battle will

oversee a wide range of student support services, including the Hall Associates Career Center, Trio Pathways program, intervention services, financial aid and records, retention and student success, enrollment and academic advisement, and student engagement programs. She will play a pivotal role in shaping the student experience and fostering a vibrant and inclusive campus community at Virginia Western, the college said. “This position demonstrates our commitment to student success, and Bernadette Battle is uniquely qualified for the job,” said Virginia Western President Robert Sandel. “With her depth of service in the Virginia Community



Battle
COURTESY PHOTO

College System, she keenly understands the community college experience. We at Virginia Western are impressed by the impact of her initiatives

at previous institutions, and we are so fortunate to have her here.”
 See **Battle**, page 5

Agricultural Literacy Week celebrated

On March 19, 2024, the Craig County Farm Bureau Women's Committee and the county FFA students celebrated Agricultural Literacy Week by reading the book “Logan's Greenhouse” by JaNay Brown-Wood to PreK - 3rd grade students at McCleary Elementary School. Students enjoyed a cup of “dirt” pudding as they listened to Women's Committee members read them the story of a young boy's vibrant exploration of gardening and healthy eating. The students then worked with the FFA members to decorate a bag to make their own greenhouses so they can watch the

germination process of their seeds by hanging them in the windows near the cafeteria and learn about the parts of a plant. Grades 4 and 5 participated in the greenhouse craft and parts of a plant lessons as well. The CCFBWC donated a “Logan's Greenhouse” book to each classroom in PreK-3, the school library, the day care center, the county library and the Kindling School for homeschoolers. March 18-22 was Agricultural Literacy Week. “The Craig County Farm Bureau Women's Committee is excited to partner with Agriculture in the Classroom to celebrate the 14th

annual Agriculture Literacy Week, March 18-22, 2024,” organizers said ahead of time. “During this week, volunteers from across the state will be participating by serving as guest readers in preschool through third grade classrooms where they will read Agriculture in the Classroom's 2024 Book of the Year, “Logan's Greenhouse” by JaNay Brown-Wood. This week is routinely recognized by special proclamation from the governor and offers students a fun and educational opportunity to learn more about farming and the source of their food. Additionally, the event connects teachers and schools to resources in

their community. Past readers have included the First Lady of Virginia, Virginia's Secretary of Agriculture and many more dedicated members of the agriculture community. This “greenhouse to table” book takes place in young Logan's greenhouse as he explores various fruits and vegetables. To complement the book, Agriculture in the Classroom has developed enrichment activities to further students' learning. These, as well as a comprehensive lesson plan library, can be found on the Agriculture in the Classroom website, Virginia. Agclassroom.org.”
 -The New Castle Record

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 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 Chanmi Lee, 347-684-2607, 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 Road, 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: 540-580-5837, 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.sttfof.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



Chris Head
District 3

Dear Friends,

The 60-day regular session of the General Assembly was gaveled out to a close by the Lieutenant Governor on Saturday, March 9. Before that, the Senate finalized work on the remaining bills that were outstanding, and voted on the version of the budget that was negotiated between the House and the Senate and sent to the Governor.

THE STATUS OF THE BUDGET

The final version of the budget was voted out of the General Assembly and sent to the Governor. As you might expect in a bill that large and that is the result of negotiation and compromise, there are some real positives and real negatives. I weighed those carefully before deciding to vote against the budget.

The budget process was, generally speaking, conducted in the spirit of cooperation. Both sides worked to find common ground where possible. But even with those efforts, the budget that resulted has too many items I felt would do more harm than good for the communities I represent.

For one thing, I simply could not agree with the tax increases in the budget. Virginia families and businesses are already sending plenty of their hard-earned money to Richmond. I could not justify raising taxes over \$2 billion more.

The Democrats also stripped the Governor's proposed tax cuts out of the budget. The Governor's introduced budget included those cuts to offset tax increases in other areas, softening the blow to families and small businesses if they had been included. Without them, I could not, in good conscience, vote for the budget.

Additionally, the budget includes added spending for items and programs that I have said in past campaigns I would not support. There is funding

in the budget for programs that attack your 2nd Amendment freedoms. There is funding for programs that lighten sentences for violent criminals and put the comforts of offenders ahead of safer streets and victims' rights. There is funding for programs that would force people of faith to violate their moral and religious convictions related to contraception and late term abortion. I cannot vote for a budget with provisions like these.

The budget now goes to the Governor for his review. During the next month, he can amend the budget. He can also use his line-item veto to remove provisions he disagrees with. Once that happens, the General Assembly will review those changes and decided whether to accept those amendments and whether to override the vetoes. In other words, the budget process is far from done and the outcome remains unknown. Stay tuned.

THE GOVERNOR BREAKS OUT THE VETO PEN

Some of the other legislation that was sent to the Governor earlier in the session for his review has been acted on. He vetoed 8 bills and proposed amendments on 12 others.

The Governor vetoed bills that infringe on your constitutional rights (HB 46, SB 47), hinder parental rights in schools (SB 235), and over-regulate businesses (SB 143), among others. These were all bad bills that I voted against when they were originally presented on the Senate floor. I look forward to voting to uphold the Governor's vetoes on these when the General Assembly comes back into session next month.

By then, the Governor will also have finished reviewing thousands of other pieces of legislation that have been sent to him. I expect some of them to be vetoed and many more to be amended. I will work with the Governor to keep these misguided bills from becoming laws if and when he vetoes or amends them.

LEGISLATION

This year, Senate rules limited the number of bills that each senator could introduce to a maximum of 21. I introduced the maximum allowable

number of bills and had 11 of my 21 bills successfully pass both the Senate and the House.

One of those bills (SB 132) was signed by Governor Youngkin prior to our adjournment, as this bill was communicated to the governor with more than 7 days remaining in the regular session.

SB 132 will help expedite assessments of the Health Insurance Reform Commission (HIRC), by requiring that whenever the Chairman of the House Committee on Labor and Commerce or the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor requests that the Commission assess a legislative measure containing a mandated health insurance benefit or provider, the HIRC is to complete its assessment and submit a report for each such request within 24 months. SB 132 passed the Senate (39-1) and passed the House (98-0).

The remaining 10 bills are still awaiting action from the governor who has 30 days from adjournment (Saturday, March 9th) to act. Any amendments or vetoes from the governor will be addressed during the Reconvened Session on April 17th.

SB 133 will help physician assistants across the Commonwealth by allowing PAs who are employed by a hospital or employed in certain facilities operated by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services or in Federally Qualified Health Centers designated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to practice without a separate practice agreement if the credentialing and privileging requirements of the applicable facility include a practice arrangement. SB 134 passed the Senate (39-0) and passed the House (97-1).

SB 134 will help the Craig County Economic Development Authority continue to operate at full capacity by allowing the Craig County Board of Supervisors to appoint one of its members to its EDA. SB 134 passed the Senate (39-0-1) and passed the House (96-0).

SB 135 will expand economic development opportunities for localities across the Commonwealth, especially in Senate District 3, by

allowing the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority to determine a site of at least 50 contiguous acres to be an eligible site if such site meets certain location, geographic, environmental, or unique opportunity factors. SB 135 passed the Senate (40-0) and passed the House (97-0).

SB 145 clarifies in the Code of Virginia that a special conservator of the peace may possess simultaneous registration with the Department of Criminal Justice Services as an armed security officer provided they meet the requirements for each licensure. This bill will help SCOPs improve their capability to respond to threats within their respective jurisdictions. SB 145 passed the Senate (40-0) and passed the House (99-0).

SB 154 will assist Virginians with their advance health care planning by streamlining existing processes on Virginia's Advance Health Care Directive Registry and by expanding the types of documents that are eligible to be included on the registry to now include any other document that supports advance health care planning, including Durable Do Not Resuscitate Order or portable medical order forms. SB 154 passed the Senate (39-0) and passed the House (97-0).

SB 155 will strengthen workforce development in the healthcare space by adding four additional ex officio members to the Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority, directing changes to regulations regarding qualifications for nursing faculty, establishing a licensing procedure by the Board of Psychology for a psychological practitioner, and establishing the creation of the Virginia Health Care Career and Technical Training and Education Fund. SB 155 passed the Senate (40-0) and passed the House (94-2).

SB 156 will assist in facilitating the Wells Fargo expansion in Roanoke County through post-performance grant funding after meeting metrics for capital investment and the creation of at least 1,100 new full-time jobs at

See Head, page 5

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

USPS 378-080
(540) 389-9355
1633 W. Main St.
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The New Castle Record encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Record reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length content and style. News of public interest is solicited from all sections of the county.

Craig County Public Library is on the lookout for early readers

Library Corner

Michaela Crawford

Hippity-hoppity Easter is on its way and with that comes Easter egg hunts! Craig County Public Library will be on-site at the Craig County EMS Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Field of Dreams. If you have a child birth to age 5 be sure to stop by the Craig County Public Library table to register your child (children) for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program.

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library began in 1995 in Sevier County, Tennessee under Dolly Parton's belief, "dream more, learn more, care more, be more." Dolly

Parton's inspiration for the program developed because her father could not read or write. The ultimate goal of the Imagination Library is to "help children fall in love with books." According to imaginationlibrary.com to date, there are over 2,960,804 children registered (119 of those children are Craig County youth), 232,742,833 free books mailed to children, and the program is operational in participating zip codes in all 50 states as well as in five different countries.

Thanks to the funding provided by Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative the Imagination Library has been operational in Craig County since 2023. This funding allows children birth to age 5 to receive a free

monthly book from the program at no cost to the family. Once a child turns 5 they "graduate," from the program and will receive a graduation book preparing them for their next adventure of kindergarten.

Be sure to join the Craig County Public Library in our endeavors to ensure every child has access to books regardless of their family income and help children grow their love for reading and learning. We will have paper registration forms available for parents to complete at the Easter Egg Hunt. If you are unable to attend the Easter Egg Hunt but are still interested in registering your child for the Imagination Library program, registration is available for completion online at www.imaginationlibrary.com. Once on the website,

you will be prompted to check program availability in your area. If you live in the following zip codes you can register your children under 5 years of age for the program under the Craig County Public Library: 24127, 24128, 24070, and 24131.

If you do not have a child under the age of 5 to register but are still interested in growing the program for Craig County's children, you may also choose to make a donation. Donations can be made on www.imaginationlibrary.com. Once you are on the donation page you can choose to donate to a specific Imagination Library affiliate, make a donation in honor, memory, or celebration of someone, and/or you

See Library page 5

COMMUNITY SERVICE DIRECTORY

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OBITUARIES

Craft Jones, Ocie Ann

Ocie Ann Craft Jones, 92, of Roanoke, Va., passed away on Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

She was born on December 11, 1931, in Craig County, Va., daughter of the late Ted and Goldie Looney Craft. She was also preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, Elmer G. Jones and granddaughter, Emily Caroline Jones.

She is survived by her son, Jerry Jones (Caroline); daughter, Carol Canode (Sam); grandchildren, Shannon Turner (Mitch), Ann Long (Davison), and Alan

Canode (Jess Main); great-grandchildren, Alayna Phillips (Jonathan), Kylie Turner, Emily Long,



Katherine Long, and Harrison Long; and great-great-grandson, Levi Phillips.

A Graveside Funeral Service will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, March 25, 2024, at Ross Cemetery in Craig County by the Rev. Mitchell Turner. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Online condolences may be made at www.Oakeys.com.

Arrangements by Oakey's Funeral Service - North Chapel, Roanoke, VA (540) 362-1237.

Battle page 3

Bernadette Battle's commitment to service is underscored by her involvement in elected and appointed positions, as well as her participation in numerous professional affiliations and committees, the college said. She has received several prestigious awards and accolades recognizing her leadership and

contributions to higher education. She brings both passion and expertise to her role on the Virginia State Historical Records Advisory Board, where she is currently serving her third term under the guidance of three Virginia governors.

Battle holds a Master of Counseling from Virginia State University and has completed

coursework toward an Ed.D. in Community College Leadership. She and her husband, Preston Battle III, have raised a son and daughter, both of whom are community college dual enrollment graduates who later graduated from Virginia Tech.

-The Salem Times-Register

Library page 4

can choose to have your donation made public by displaying your name and donation amount on the Imagination Library website with the option to donate monthly or once. To choose the Craig County Public Library for the donation, be sure to select, "I would like to designate this donation to a specific Imagination Library

affiliate," and choose from one of the four zip codes listed above.

We hope to see lots of smiling faces hunting for Easter Eggs on March 30th and we also hope you will take a few moments to register your child for this wonderful program!

**Please allow 6-9 weeks from the time of initial registration for your first book delivery.

After that, books will arrive each month, however, the arrival day may vary each month and if you have multiple children enrolled their books may not arrive on the same day. If you have not received your first book nine weeks after registration, please contact the Craig County Public Library at (540) 864-8978 for assistance

Head page 4

the facility. SB 156 passed the Senate (40-0) and passed the House (91-4).

SB 413 is the result of the Code Commission's workgroup to address changes in local government public notices that help provide clarity and establish uniformity regarding the timing and frequency of their publication. SB 413 passed the Senate (40-0) and passed the House (99-1).

SB 420 will expand non-legislative

citizen membership on the Board of Visitors at Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, empowering the Board with greater oversight and meeting transparency. SB 420 passed the Senate (40-0) and passed the House (96-0).

SB 679 will help continue economic development opportunities in localities across the Commonwealth by providing that any enterprise zone in existence as of June 30, 2024, shall be extended for

a period of four years in addition to any renewal periods currently authorized by law. SB 679 passed the Senate (40-0) and passed the House (100-0).

THE RECONVENED SESSION AND OTHER WORK

With the end of this session of the General Assembly, the work continues. The House and Senate return to Richmond on April 17 to consider the amendments and vetoes that come back

from the Governor on the budget and other bills. Additionally, many General Assembly committees, commissions and work groups meet throughout the year. And I will continue to help my constituents with their issues related to state government.

If my office can be of any assistance, please email us at senatorhead@senate.virginia.gov or call us at (540) 283-2839.

Send community news and photos to

communitynews@ourvalley.org

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CRAIG COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Craig, Virginia will hold a public hearing to receive public input regarding proposed budgets from Virginia Department of Transportation.

This includes the Secondary System Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and the project priority listing for the Secondary System Six-Year Plan for Craig County Fiscal Year 2024-2025 through 2030-31.

The hearing is scheduled for April 4th, 2024. The Public Hearing, which may be continued or adjourned and will be held at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard during the Board of Supervisors meeting at the Craig County Courthouse in New Castle, Virginia in the Court Room. A copy of the budgets may be requested at the Office of the County Administrator. Written comments may be submitted to the County Administrator's office by email abryson@craigcountyva.gov, or mailed to P.O. Box 308, New Castle, Virginia 24127. All written comments must be received no later than 1:00 p.m., Thursday March 28th, 2024. (540)864-5010.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-1427, notice is hereby given that the Craig County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on April 4, 2024 at 6 PM in the Circuit Court Courtroom of the Craig County Courthouse at 303 Main Street, New Castle, Virginia 24127.

The purpose of the public hearing will be to receive public comment on the proposed adoption of an ordinance repealing Sec. 30-2 of the Craig County Code which currently prohibits the discharge of firearms within residential districts of the County.

A copy of the full text of the ordinance is on file for inspection during normal business hours in the office of the County Administrator at 108 Court Street, New Castle VA 24127. If you should need auxiliary aids or other assistance due to a disability, please contact the Office of the County Administrator at (540) 864-5010 at least five (5) days in advance of the public hearing.

PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION FOR COUNTY OF CRAIG

Public notice is hereby given that the Board of Equalization for Craig County will meet on the days listed below. The board is comprised of six Craig County citizens that include contractors, financial management specialists and landowners/investors. Our purpose is to hear such complaints, either oral or written, for consideration to **INCREASE, DECREASE OR AFFIRM**, real estate assessments. Before a change is granted, the taxpayer or agent must provide evidence that property is not uniform and in accordance with other similar properties. The property must be found to be in excess of its fair market value.

Applications must be received by April 22, 2024. Appointments will be scheduled every fifteen minutes. Please contact 540-864-5009 x 8, from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Meetings will be held at the Craig County Courthouse. The date(s) and time(s) are listed below:

April 22, 2024, 4-8pm
May 14, 2024, 1-4pm and 6-8pm
May 16, 2024, 4-8pm

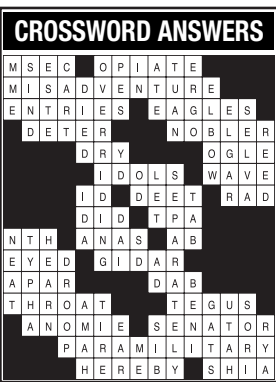
Additional dates will be set if deemed necessary and advertised. By Order of the Craig County Board of Equalization.



JOB VACANCY

Seeking a Full-time Radiologic Technologist for a position at the Craig County Health Center in New Castle, Virginia. This position requires current Rad Tech License. At a minimum 1 year experience, experience with electronic health records, great communication skills, ability to establish a good rapport with patients and staff. Clinic hours are Monday through Friday 8am to 4:30 pm. No Weekends. Benefits include, Retirement Plan, Health Insurance, Disability Insurance, 11 Paid Holidays, Paid Time Off, Radiologic Technologist License renewal reimbursement.

Candidates should send a current resume along with a completed employment application to Monroe Health Center, Attn: Stephanie Aliff, HR Director, P. O. Box 590, Union, WV 24983. We value diversity in backgrounds and experiences. Monroe Health Center is an equal opportunity employer. Learn more about us, visit www.monrohealthcenters.com



CRAIG COUNTY TIRE AMNESTY DAY ONE DAY ONLY



April 6th, 2024, Saturday

8:00 am to 4 pm (Or until Trailer is Filled)
Craig County Transfer Station
540-864-7105

One Day Only, turn in used tires (off rims) - NO FEES CHARGED
Individuals bringing in tires will be required to sign an affidavit stating tires originated in Craig County. Limit of 10 tires per individual residence. ONLY passenger car tires, lawn mower and small truck tires allowed.
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TOWN OF BLACKSBURG - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

BLACKSBURG TOWN COUNCIL will hold public hearings on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, regarding the following items:

Ordinance 2048: An Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the Town of Blacksburg, Virginia for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2024 and Ending June 30, 2025; Adopting the Real Estate Tax Rate; and Appropriating Funds for the Fiscal Year. The proposed

Legals - Montgomery County

ordinance would approve the Town's 2024/2025 operating budget and maintain the existing tax rate. This is described in more detail in the stand-alone advertisement published in the Roanoke Times on March 24, 2024.

Ordinance 2049: An Ordinance Amending Blacksburg Town Code Sections 18-201, 18-400, 24-301, 24-306, 24-314, And 24-602 to Increase Fees for Water and Sewer Services and Meter Fees. The ordinance increase the amounts of the referenced fees; the increases are described in more detail in stand-alone advertisements published in the Roanoke Times on March 24, 2024 and March 31, 2024.

Ordinance 2050: An

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Ordinance to Amend the FY 2023/2024 Operating Budget to Appropriate \$2,500,000 of Bond Proceeds to the General Capital Improvement Fund. Ordinance 2050 will appropriate funding for the potential purchase of several parcels of land. The funding for this purchase will be included in the 2024 bond offering.

All persons affected by or interested in the proposed items above may appear and present their views. After each public hearing, Town Council will consider action on the item. Copies of materials related to the above items are on file and can be obtained in the Office of the Town Clerk, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m.

Legals - Montgomery County

and 5 p.m. For land use matters, copies of applications and all related items may also be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/public hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in this meeting should contact Lorraine Spaulding, Town Clerk at (540) 443-1025 or 443-1000 (voice or TDD).

ABC NOTICE

NEW RIVER BARBECUE LLC, trading NEW RIVER BARBECUE, 3205 ROANOKE ST. CHRISTIANSBURG, VA

Legals - Montgomery County

24073.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for RESTAURANT, ON AND OFF PREMISES BEER AND WINE license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

JAMES B. SHERMAN-OWNER

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING-

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia 1950, as amended, the Radford City Council hereby gives notice of a joint public hearing with Planning Commission to be held on April 8, 2024 at 7:00 P.M., in the City Council Chambers, at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA, in order to hear citizen comments regarding City Council's intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request: A request by K&J Properties (applicant) on behalf of Islands on the New, LLC (owner) for a Special Use Permit to allow for an RV Resort. The use is defined as "Recreational Vehicle Park" in the Zoning

Legals - Montgomery County


Ordinance, which is allowed in the M-1 Zoning District and within the CD Zoning District only by an approved Special Use Permit. The property is located at 3080 Little River Dam Rd, further identified as Tax Parcel 24-1-8, with 36 acres, zoned CD Conservation and M-1 Light Industrial. The property is designated as Low-Density Residential in the Comprehensive Plan. Copies of the proposed plan, applications, ordinances may be examined at the Community Development Office, 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

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SPORTS

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Rockets drop a doubleheader at Highland

The Craig County baseball team was in Monterey last Thursday for a doubleheader with the Rams and the Rockets came out on the short end of two close games. Highland took a 9-8 walk-off win in the opener, then edged the Rockets, 5-3, in the nightcap.

The first game was a heartbreaker for the Rockets. Craig trailed 8-5 after four innings of a five-inning game but Drew Duncan tied things

up with a three run homer in the top of the fifth. Highland then scored a run in the bottom of the inning for the walk-off win.

Jaycob Wolfe and Hayden Reynolds split time on the mound for the Rockets, combining to give up eight hits and eight walks. They struck out three Rams.

At the plate, sophomore Luke Potter was three-for-three with a double, a triple,

two runs scored and one batted in. Duncan had three runs batted in with the big homer and he also scored twice. Matthew Lucas, Joseph Charette, Isaiah Wenthe and Cam Huffman all had hits for the Rockets.

In the second game Craig served as the home team and led 1-0 after the first inning and 3-2 after two frames. However, Highland scored single runs in the third, fourth

and fifth to come away with the 5-3 win.

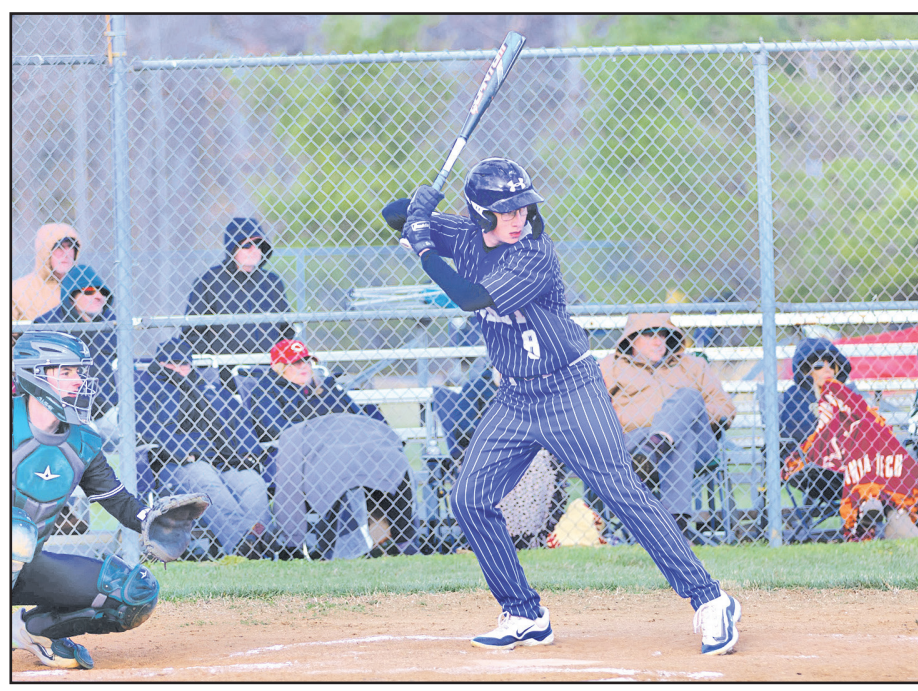
Reynolds started on the mound for Craig and pitched four and a third innings, striking out two and allowing just three earned runs. Lucas got the last two outs in the fifth.

Craig had four hits in the second game, all singles. Potter and Charette had one hit each and Duncan had two. Potter had two runs batted in while

Duncan had the other. Lucas, Huffman and Seth Parsons all scored runs.

The Rockets are still looking for their first win. They also lost a home game to Glenvar on Monday, March 18, 22-1 as the Highlanders swept the season series.

The Rockets are off this week for spring break, returning Tuesday, April 2nd, with a home game against Narrows.



Isaiah Wenthe bats for the Rockets in last week's game with Glenvar.



Luke Potter is behind the plate for the Rockets.

CHELSEA LOUDEN PHOTOS

Highlanders defeat Craig softball team again

The Glenvar girls swept the season softball series with Craig County last week when the Highlanders visited New Castle and took a 14-1 win. Glenvar had won the previous meeting in Roanoke County in the season-opener for both teams.

Kammie Fisher pitched a strong game for the Rockets despite the lopsided score. She struck out seven and none of the runs Glenvar scored were

earned.

"We just could not back her up and make basic plays on defense," said Craig coach Elaine Wolfe-Carper.

Catcher Lily Hutchison had a stand-out game for Craig. She had a double and a steal and scored Craig's only run, and behind the plate she threw out three Highlanders attempting to steal. Hayleigh Flowers

had two hits and stole three bases for the Rockets.

Craig's jayvee team played two games last week against East Mont and Highland.

"They struggled, but are a young team and are showing improvement," said Wolfe-Carper. "Aleah Owens had several good hits against Highland."

The girls are off this week for spring break. The next game is April 2nd at home against Narrows.



Daileigh Donithan takes the throw at second as Kallie Fisher backs up.



Lily Hutchison takes a throw to the plate as a Glenvar runner slides home.

CHELSEA LOUDEN PHOTOS

Craig soccer teams drops opener to Covington Boys Home

The Craig County soccer team opened the season last Thursday with a trip to Covington to take on the Boys

Home. The Rockets dropped an 8-0 decision in a game stopped early by the mercy rule.

"All things considered

our kids played hard and played with excellent sportsmanship and attitudes to the end," said first year coach Joel

Peterson.

Craig also had a scrimmage at Buffalo Gap on Monday, March 18, and dropped a 7-0

decision.

The soccer team is off for spring break this week, returning to the pitch on Tuesday,

April 2nd, with a game at Narrows. The home opener is Friday, April 5th, when Craig hosts Buffalo Gap.

Red Sox have "Sox Fest" as Carolina League season nears

The Salem Red Sox held their annual "Sox Fest" last Saturday for fans to pick up or purchase tickets at Salem Memorial Ballpark. A light rain didn't dampen the spirits of the kids and fans who enjoyed activities and ball park food and just getting ready for baseball to return. The Sox open at home on April 5th against the Carolina Mudcats.



Tessa Vaden, left, Hahhah Lewis, and Karley Cundiff pose with Mugsy.

PHOTOS BY EDMEE CR HASLER



Mary Hurteau is presented with a unicorn balloon from balloon man Jefferson Rose.



Kenny Hurteau admires his baseball painting.



Mary and Wayne Tincher pose with their season loot.



A young fan receives a hug from Mugsy.