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THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



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Merchants capital tax rate reduced for local businesses

Bonnie Cranmer
Contributing writer

The Craig County Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, April 18 to review the budget for 2024-25. This meeting was a continuation of the April 4 Budget Work Session. County Administrator Dan Collins provided details of the budget in a presentation for the Board. The Craig County Public Schools portion of the budget had some changes, worked through with

Superintendent Wayne Huff and Collins.

Following the presentation, the Board opened the Public Hearing on the tax rates set for 2024-25. The Personal Property tax has been set to \$3.50 per \$100 value. The Machinery and Tools tax has been set to \$3.50 of \$100 value. The Real Estate tax rate has been set to 52 cents per \$100 value. There were no public comments.

Jordan Labiosa, representing the Craig City District, raised an issue

about the Merchants Capital tax rate of \$3.50 per \$100 value. The tax is on inventory, unfairly taxing businesses which carry stock on the shelves. A service business, such as a lawyer or real estate agent, does not have the same expense to do business in Craig County.

Labiosa made the motion to reduce the Merchants Capital tax rate in half, to \$1.75 per \$100. He referred to the neighboring counties BPOL (Business, Professional and Occupational License) Tax which

requires a tax on overall business revenue, instituting business licenses and would be a further burden to do business in Craig County. The change was approved.

In old business, the Board reviewed the options for funding the UHF P25 Conventional Simulcast Radio System. Collins stated that the county is still seeking additional grant funds to use for the system expenses. The next Board of Supervisors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 2 at 6 p.m.

Watch out for slow-moving farm equipment on roadways this spring, says Farm Bureau

RICHMOND—As Virginia farmers plant their crops this spring, motorists should keep an eye out for slow-moving farm equipment on public roads—it could save a life.

Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry workers experienced one of the highest fatality rates at 20 deaths per 100,000 full-time workers in 2021. Transportation incidents, which include tractor overturns and roadway crashes, were the leading cause of death for these farmers and farmworkers, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Many of these deaths occur during spring planting season.

"Drivers can expect to see an increase in the amount of farm equipment out on the roads right now, and most of that equipment moves very slowly," warned Matt Nuckols, Virginia Farm Bureau safety coordinator.

A car traveling 55 mph takes 5 seconds to brake 300 feet—the length of a football field—to avoid colliding with farm equipment traveling 15 mph.

To prevent catastrophe, drivers should look out for bright orange slow-moving vehicle emblems on the backs of farm tractors and self-propelled machinery. The signs warn that a vehicle is likely traveling 25 mph or slower.

Many farmers also use flashing amber lights, reflective decals, flags and escort vehicles to alert approaching drivers.

Nuckols said farmers

are encouraged to use escort vehicles whenever they can—especially with equipment that's wider than one travel lane.

Drivers should slow down when approaching farm equipment, and give themselves enough space to stop. Equipment operators cannot see drivers who are following too closely.

"There's no benefit to being right on top of a tractor or piece of farm equipment," he noted. "Just leave some extra space, and remember that they might be turning pretty soon."

While it can be tempting to try to pass farm equipment, motorists should keep standard traffic laws in mind, and remember that it's illegal to pass on a solid yellow line. Even if passing is allowed, Nuckols advised against it.

"Most of this equipment is not traveling very far, so if you do get behind one, just a little bit of patience can go a long way because they're likely not going more than a mile or two."

While many farmers move equipment between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. or at midday to avoid peak traffic times, motorists should always expect to see farm equipment where there are farms—especially with a rising demand for locally grown food.

"If you're willing to wait in line at the grocery store or for a table at your favorite restaurant, please provide that same patience for the farmers growing and raising your food," Nuckols said.

-The New Castle Record



Food boxes will be given on a first come, first served basis.

Drive-thru food giveaway at Craig Valley Baptist on April 27 from 10 a.m- 1p.m.

The spirit of giving has always seemed to be prominent in Craig County and on April 27, the Craig Valley Baptist Church will continue that blessing as they will be serving their community by giving away food boxes to anyone in the community who would need one.

It will begin at 10 a.m. and continue until 1 p.m. or until they run out of food. It will be first come, first serve.

This is unique as they will set it up as a drive-thru around the side of the church which is located at 171 Salem Avenue in New Castle, directly across from the Lions Park.

One will enter from the back of the church off Holcombe Avenue and drive through the church's back gate, up the side of the church, where helpers will load the food into your vehicle. You will then exit from the front of their main parking lot onto Route 311.

They can give only one per family, so the love of sharing is extended to many.

Most of their supplies are donated to them by Feeding America so the church will be filling up bags or boxes from their pantry shelves to help Craig County residents.

They also have a food pantry that is available weekdays on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, for people to stop by and receive food, from 9am until noon.

Everyone is welcome to get this gracious gift from the church on April 27.

Those with questions may call the church at (540) 864-5667.

"We have been doing this for the past three years, and we just want to reach out to the community to show them

that we care," shared member Carol Looney. "Times are tough right now and people may need some extra food. We feel this is a ministry that shows the God's love to everyone and anyone."

-Pam Dudding, Special to The New Castle Record



Pictured are workers at the 2023 event.

Craig County Farmers Market opens to happy crowds

Bonnie Cranmer
Contributing writer

The community came out on Saturday for the grand opening of the Craig County Farmers Market. Vendors from New Castle and Newport, out 621 and up to John's Creek arrived for the new Craig County Farmers Market kickoff to the season.

There was an interested crowd early on Main Street as the band started up. Blue Connection, "a hard driving traditional style bluegrass band with a twist" provided the sounds to the celebration. People brought their chairs and their appetites for a good time.

Vendors filled the new Farmers Market, built with a grant from T-Mobile. The Hometown Grants program states, "We're investing \$25million in 500 rural towns over five years to jumpstart projects and build stronger communities." The initiative will serve Craig County and establish a retail and event space for the community.

Tina Crawford, of the New Castle Garden Club, said a beautiful mural is anticipated for the wall adjoining the Farmers

Market. A miniature for display will be available soon.

Jason Matyas, a farmer and Member of the Board of Supervisors, also emphasized the market's role in supporting local producers and artisans while bolstering the county's economy. "Craig County is full of agricultural producers and creative artisans, and this new market will provide a great meeting place for people to enjoy the fruits of their labors and to strengthen our local economy by keeping our dollars in our community. I see this market opening as a benchmark event in the rebirth of our county into an example of local production and community interdependence."

As shoppers lined Main Street, the scent of barbecue filled the air from the food truck, and the squeals of happy children could be heard from the Town of New Castle Park area where the games were being held, courtesy of the Kindling School.

Plenty of homegrown plants were available, including from the plant giveaway at the Craig County Library on the corner of Route 311 and Main Street. The library had a wealth of books to



The community came out on Saturday for the grand opening of the Craig County Farmers Market.

borrow and for sale. The vendors included homemade baked goods, wood products, handmade knitted quilts, garden plant starts and lots of interesting local products. Phifer Crafts displayed a collection of washable fabric squares for cleansing makeup, dishcloths and reuseable fabric bags for leftovers and to pack lunches.

Land is Legacy Farms had eggs, along with Senter Farms

See Market page 2



Blue Connection, "a hard driving traditional style bluegrass band with a twist," provided the sounds to the celebration.

Market from page 1

and Paradise Pastures. Sweet Tree Botanicals had honey and infused products, while Savage Acres Farms was busy selling mushrooms, infused maple syrup and more goodies. Frecklemonster Farm was a popular and familiar seller with her sourdough bread, including new chocolate sourdough with blueberries.

The Seeds for Generations booth was popular

with heirloom seeds and books on homesteading and other natural crafting. The vendors were busy selling their wares, meeting their neighbors and learning about what Craig County has to offer.

Kathi Toelki, chairman of the Craig County Farmers Market Committee, highlighted the positive changes happening in downtown New

Castle, stating, "A lot of exciting things have been happening in downtown New Castle and in Craig County! New eating establishments, new events, new neighbors, increasing agritourism, and more people growing food for themselves and others. This is a great addition to our town. It gives people a place to come together and benefits both producer and consumer."



Vendors filled the new Farmers Market, built with a grant from T-Mobile.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE CRAMMER

There was an interested crowd early on Main Street as the band started up.

Upcoming public meetings scheduled in Craig County

- 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.
- May 15**
CPMT MEETING CPMT - Department of Social Services at 1 p.m.
- May 20**
Town of New Castle Town Council Meeting at New Castle Town Hall at 7- 8 p.m
- May 21**
Congressman Morgan Griffith citizen comment period 9-10:30 a.m at Craig County Courthouse Breakroom.
- June 6**
Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting will meet at the Craig County Courthouse at 6 p.m.
- June 10**
Library Board of Trustees Meeting at Craig County Library at 6 p.m
- June 17**
Town of New Castle Town Council Meeting at New Castle Town Hall at 7- 8 p.m
- June 18**
Congressman Morgan Griffith citizen comment period 9-10:30 a.m at Craig County Courthouse Breakroom.
Planning Commission meeting at Planning Commission at 7-8 p.m.
- June 19**
CPMT MEETING CPMT - Department of Social Services at 1 p.m.
- June 27**
Department of Social Services Board Meeting at Department of Social Services Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- July 4**
Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting will meet at the Craig County Courthouse at 6 p.m.
- July 8**
Library Board of Trustees Meeting at Craig County Library at 6 p.m
- July 15**
Town of New Castle Town Council Meeting at New Castle Town Hall at 7- 8 p.m
- July 16**
Congressman Morgan Griffith citizen comment period 9-10:30 a.m at Craig County Courthouse Breakroom.
Planning Commission meeting at Planning Commission at 7-8 p.m.
- July 17**
CPMT MEETING CPMT - Department of Social Services at 1 p.m.
- July 25**
Department of Social Services Board Meeting at Department of Social Services Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m
- Aug. 1**
Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting will meet at the Craig County

- Courthouse at 6 p.m.
- Aug. 12**
Library Board of Trustees Meeting at Craig County Library
- Aug. 19**
Town of New Castle Town Council Meeting at New Castle Town Hall at 7- 8 p.m
- Ongoing**
Craig County Genealogy Library open Fridays 1-4 p.m. 152 Main Street. 540-864-7023
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.
-The New Castle Record

Submit your community events to

aboymd@mainstreetnewspapers.com

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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59						60				61			

CLUES ACROSS

1. North American people
6. Chinese surname
10. Fit in at the last minute
14. "Very" in musical terminology
15. Underwater displays
17. Crosby's bandmates
19. Belong to he
20. Informed about the latest trends (archaic)
21. Sequences of alternating turns
22. Genus of grasses
23. Satisfy
24. Petty quarrel
26. Made level
29. Ruler of Iran
31. Historical region of Syria
32. Food suitable for babies
34. Something to lend
35. Zone of oceanic trenches

37. Philippine island
38. Domesticated animal
39. Plant of the lily family
40. Bluish green
41. ___ Tomei, actress
43. Without (French)
45. Lilly and Manning are two
46. Apply pressure to
47. Divide in half
49. Bad deed
50. Don't know when yet
53. Hollywood's greatest honor
57. Aiming to exhort
58. Faked
59. A way to pierce
60. Midway between north-east and east
61. Points

CLUES DOWN

1. Chop up
2. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)

3. Egyptian goddess
4. Split pulses
5. Afflict
6. Type of area rug
7. Tide
8. Affirmative
9. Sudden change
10. One picked
11. Debauched man
12. Stiff bristles
13. Famous arena
16. Established rules and methods
18. Injection
22. Father
23. Protein-rich liquids
24. He delivers gifts
25. Advanced degree
27. Fencing swords
28. Chinese mountain range
29. Shaft horsepower (abbr.)

30. Precursor to hemoglobin
31. Much ___ about nothing
33. Compound fabric (abbr.)
35. A way to act slowly on
36. Ottoman military commanders
37. Popular kids' network
39. Hard compound
42. Sympathize with
43. Northeast college
44. Blood group
46. Frosted
47. Turn away
48. Benefit
49. Dry or withered
50. Bangladeshi monetary unit
51. Reproduced
52. Contributes
53. Thrust horse power (abbr.)
54. Wear
55. Promotes retention of water (abbr.)
56. Very small

Email letters to the editor to aboymd@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Recipe of the Week



Shelly Koon
Contributing
Writer

Hubble to hubble bubble to bubble up?

As I was trying to decide on this week's recipe, I saw a post on social media that the Hubble Space Telescope was launched this week in April 1990. And...I was sent down a rabbit hole. I learned that the Hubble Space Telescope was named in honor of Edwin Hubble, an American Astronomer, who proved that galaxies exist beyond the Milky Way. This led to the phrase "hubble bubble", which is according to the online dictionary, has been used in newspaper stories as an allusion to the images of nebulas sent back from the Hubble Telescope which have a bubble-like appearance, a hookah (a water pipe used to smoke tobacco), confused talk (psychobabble), a variant of the bubble and squeak in English cuisine, or Hubble Bubble, a Belgian punk band. This led to recipes for hubble bubble.

Hubble bubble is a dish in English cuisine made from a mixed variety of foods often left over from previously prepared meals such as oven-roasted beef with vegetables, rice, or potatoes. Popular hubble bubble ingredients can be cabbage, carrots, green peas, and brussels sprouts as well as mashed or boiled potatoes and usually the addition of baked beans and either tomato sauce or ketchup to the vegetables for more flavor and protein. The first recipes for these kinds of mixed dishes can be traced to the early 19th century, although they did not become well known until the mid-20th century. Some hubble bubble recipes are rice dishes instead of potato dishes. Precooked brown or wild rice mixed with your choice of meat, vegetables, and baked beans. Many of these recipes can be made on the stove top, others can be made in the microwave if all the ingredients are cooked beforehand. Most recipes are simple, such as: mixing desired ingredients together in a pan and cook until done. We don't cook hubble bubble like this in the United States, our baked beans are usually a single side and not added to casseroles. I do have some hubble up recipes. Usually made with canned biscuits or frozen rolls, these dishes are sweet or savory. One of my favorites is pizza bubble up. It takes a bit of work but it's worth it. The leftovers are good too. I also like the chicken alfredo bubble up. I use rotisserie chicken, jarred alfredo sauce, and canned biscuits so it goes together quick and easy.

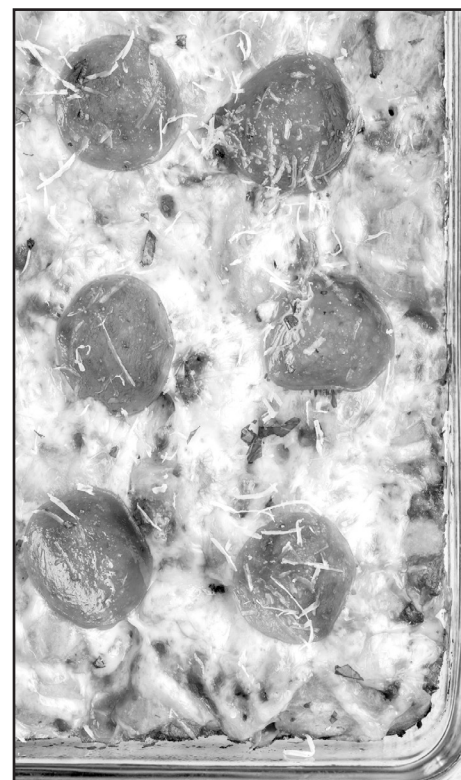
Pepperoni pizza bubble up

Ingredients:

12 Rhodes Dough Dinner Rolls (frozen)
1 cup of pizza sauce (I think spaghetti sauce would work well too)
1-pound lean ground beef
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
2 cups mozzarella cheese
Turkey pepperoni (20-25 slices)

Directions:

Remove rolls from freezer and allow them to thaw at room temperature for about an hour, but do not allow them to rise. I keep the house pretty cool unless it is summer so in my kitchen it takes about 90 minutes. Pour 1 cup of pizza sauce into a medium to large bowl. Cut each roll into 8 pieces (it helps to squish them down a little) and place into pizza sauce. I like to stir after each roll to make sure the pieces are coated and don't stick together. Once you have them all stirred together dump them evenly into a well-greased 9x13 pan. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise for 30 minutes. During the 30 minutes of rise time, brown the ground beef. You can add garlic and seasonings if you want. If you want some cooked veggies just throw them in and cook them along with the beef. I kept it simple with a little garlic and salt. Drain your beef if needed. During this time, you should go ahead and preheat your oven to 375 degrees. After the 30-minute rise (they won't rise a ton so don't worry!) spread the ground beef on top of rolls. Sprinkle on grated Parmesan. Top with 1 1/2 cups of mozzarella. Layer on sliced pepperoni, then sprinkle on the rest of the cheese. Bake in preheated oven for 20-25 minutes. Check at 20 mins. Let cool for 5-10 minutes and then cut into slices!



COURTESY PHOTOS

Chicken alfredo bubble up

Ingredients:

2 cups chicken, cooked, chopped or shredded
2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
1-2 cups fresh baby spinach (optional)
15 oz Alfredo sauce
16 oz package, flaky, large biscuits

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9 x 13 baking dish. Remove biscuits from package and cut each biscuit into 6 pieces. Place biscuit pieces into large bowl. Add Alfredo sauce, 1 cup of cheese and cooked chicken into bowl with cut biscuits. Mix well to combine. Add 1-2 cups of baby spinach to mix if desired. Spread mixture evenly into greased pan and top with remaining mozzarella cheese. Bake for 35 minutes or until the biscuits are brown and cooked through. Let it sit for 5-8 minutes before serving.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Salem donates pumper truck to UCCVFD

Fire truck comes free of charge

From the July 20, 1994 edition of The New Castle Record

The Upper Craigs Creek Volunteer Fire Department is the recipient of a 1960 American LaFrance fire truck donated by the Salem Fire Department. The city donated the pumper truck to the UCCVFD.

On July 21, Salem Fire Chief Dan Hall presented the keys to the truck to Upper Craigs Creek Chief Harry Osborne at the Salem Fire Station Number 1.

Osborne said his department plans to refurbish the truck with paint and appropriate signage. The Salem insignia will be removed and the UCCVFD will paint its letter on the doors.

"It will be our first-run truck; our attack pumper," Osborne said. "It will be a honey when it's done. Right now, it has better tires than all of our other equipment put together."

Hall said the city of Salem bought the truck for the Salem department from American LaFrance when it was new in 1960.

"You can tell it's been used," he said. "But it's in good shape. We've kept it in good repair over the years with a preventative maintenance program."

Hall noted the pumper still meets the department's annual performance tests. He said the truck is quipped with a two-speed axle and is well suited for hilly terrain.

The booster tank on the truck holds 500 gallons of water.

Salem recently bought two new pumper trucks and was able to donate the American LaFrance to the UCCVFD because there was no room for it with the additional vehicles.

-EDWIN TAYLOR

-Prepared by Shelly Koon



Salem Fire Chief Dan Hall hands the keys to the 1960 American LaFrance to Upper Craigs Creek Chief Harry Osborne.

FROM THE NRC ARCHIVES

God's House Is Always Open

BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

11599 Cumberland Gap Road/Rt. 42, New Castle, 864-5242; church phone:544-7040 Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m., Sunday School 10:30 a.m., Choir Tuesday 7:30p.m., Youth Outreach and Missions Program. Rev. San Kang.

CHESTNUT GROVE CHURCH

Duane Wente, Minister, Rt. 42, New Castle, 540-864-5692. Sunday: Worship 10:00 a.m.

CORNERSTONE CHURCH

Pastor Don Brown, Corner of Salem and Wagner, New Castle, 580-3228. Sunday Worship 10:30am (Children meet separately, Nursery provided). Bible Study - Wednesday 6p Teens - Wednesday 6p. Ministries: Men, Ladies, Young Adult, and Seniors. Times vary, call for details.

CRAIG HEALING SPRINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

Pastor - Kenneth W. Davis, Jr., 6 Grannys Branch Road (Johns Creek), New Castle, Phone: 864-6102. Sunday School at 10 am. Sunday Worship at 11 am every Sunday. Fellowship meal after Sunday Worship on second Sundays. Everyone is welcome!

CRAIG VALLEY BAPTIST

171 Salem Avenue, New Castle, 864-5667; Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m., Wednesday: Prayer Service and Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Youth Group 6:30-8:00PM, Bible Buddies at 6:30-8:00PM. Transportation provided - call the church. Hearing devices also available. www.craigvalleybaptist.com

CRAIG VALLEY GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP

HWY 621, Pastor Roy Lee Law Jr., "Jay", 864-8984. Sunday School 10:00am; Worship 11:00am., Wednesday night Bible study 7pm, from HWY 311, up HWY 621, 8 miles on left.

CROSSROADS CHURCH

21892 Craigs Creek Road, New Castle. Pastor Gary Burch. 864-7520. Sunday School- 10-10:45AM, Sunday Worship - 11AM-Noon.

FIRST BAPTIST

Pastor Kevin Altizer, Corner of Main Street & Boyd Ave., New Castle. Church phone 864-5919. Sunday School 10:00AM, Sunday Worship 11:00AM and 6PM. Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7PM, Youth Group

7:00PM, Reformers Unanimous Addiction Recovery every Friday evening at 7PM.

GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

5530 Catawba Valley Drive, Catawba, VA, 540-384-7075. Pastor Lorraine Taylor, agladypastor@msn.com. Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Evening service at 7:00 p.m.; Youth (ages 13-18) & Super Church (ages 4-12) Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. You can also watch on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m. www.graceassemblycatawaba.org

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

159 Old Railroad Ave, New Castle, 540-864-PRAY, Sunday School 9:30AM, Sunday Worship Service 10:00AM, Wednesday Night Services 7:00PM.

HEBRON UNITED METHODIST

Pastor 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 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: 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.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: Academy Day



Morgan Griffith
Representative

sacrifice by true Virginia heroes with its National D-Day Memorial.

Bedford is Virginia's only WWII Heritage City.

I am honored that it is in the Ninth District.

Given our rich heritage, I host Service Academy Days to tap into the patriotic spirit of our youth. Families and children travel from across the Ninth District to attend and get more information. Some even attend from other states.

Invited guests typically include representatives from the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Virginia Military Institute, Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, Virginia Tech ROTC, and Emory & Henry ROTC.

The representatives from these programs consist of current and former cadets, admissions officers and ROTC directors and students who actively engage with interested individuals and discuss their options for a college military experience.

As a Congressman, I am permitted to fill five vacancies over a four-year period at each Academy, with the exception of U.S. Merchant Marine.

While U.S. Merchant Marine is not a popular selection for many in Southwest Virginia, I can fill ten

vacancies each year there.

Once the U.S. Merchant Marine program is completed, the participant becomes eligible for commission into any branch of the U.S. Military, provided that they are in good standing.

ROTC programs are another option. They are great at providing leadership and physical training exercises for students while they continue their academic studies at their university or college.

Some historians trace the roots of ROTC programs to the Morrill Act of 1862, also known as the Land Grant Act of 1862. This was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln.

At the time, there was a stark decline in the numbers of trained engineers present in American colleges and universities.

The Land Grant Act laid the groundwork for a national system of state universities. The bill granted 30,000 acres of public land to each state for the establishment of institutions of scientific learning. The land grant institutions reciprocated by offering military tactics courses.

Virginia Tech maintains a strong record in this space. Their campus features a War Memorial Court, dedicated to the eight VT alumni who are medal of honor recipients. Close to the War Memorial Chapel is a marble

cenotaph with their names etched into it.

VT sponsors a ROTC program, as well as VT Corps of Cadets.

The mission of the VT Corps of Cadets program is to nurture and create great leaders. The four-year program draws upon exercises that target teamwork, character and problem-solving skills. This is designed to develop leadership qualities among our brave servicemen and women and shape future leaders within our military.

The VT Corps of Cadets prides itself in giving back to the community. In the 2022-2023 academic school year, cadets collected over 2,000 hours of community service.

I was proud to hear that my alma mater, Emory & Henry College, relaunched their own Army ROTC program in 2018 after nearly a century.

As of 2018, Emory & Henry became one of only five private institutions in Virginia to offer an ROTC program.

Another Virginia private institution that comes to my event is VMI.

VMI has an extensive recruitment network. VMI excels in showcasing their opportunities and highlighting their illustrious history of producing exceptional military talents, the likes of whom include former U.S. Secretary of Defense, George C. Marshall, Jr.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to attend one of our academies, please contact Josh Hess at josh.hess@mail.house.gov or (540) 381-5671.

Thank you for your support of the Craig County Public Library

Library Corner

Jennifer Lovejoy

The library wants to throw a party to say "thank you" to our community for their support. Join us to celebrate. It is free and open to all. Come hear our guest author, Jeannette Walls, at the Craig County High School Auditorium on Sunday, May

5 at 2 p.m. We are grateful to local businesses and patrons for donations to bring this event free to the public. Please call the library to save seats and ensure that we have enough refreshments. Book sales and signing will be available.

As described by her publisher, Simon Schuster, Jeannette Walls, who is originally from Phoenix and grew up moving around the

country with her family, is the bestselling author of "The Glass Castle", a memoir that recounts her dysfunctional and nomadic upbringing. "The Glass Castle" has been a "New York Times" bestseller for over eight years and was named one of the top 10 books of the decade by Amazon. In 2017, "The Glass Castle" was made into a movie starring Brie Larson,

Woody Harrelson, and Naomi Watts. Walls is also the author of two other "New York Times" bestsellers, "The Silver Star" and "Half Broke Horses," which was named one of the best books of 2009 by the New York Times Book Review. Her newest book, "Hang The Moon," was published in March 2023 and was named a LibraryReads

See Library page 5



Walls

COURTESY PHOTO

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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.

Finding solutions to improve reproductive health

Dr. Cynthia Morrow

Roanoke City and Alleghany Health Districts Health Director

Sometimes public health efforts operate like a loudspeaker, serving large areas of the community at once, such as with our work to protect drinking water or to respond to emergencies. However, when it comes to reproductive health, our local public health efforts usually operate more like a cell phone, serving one resident at a time with confidential one-on-one education or clinical services.

The Virginia Department of Health is committed to ensuring that all Virginians have access to reproductive health services. Our seven Roanoke City & Alleghany Health Districts (RCAHD) locations offer reproductive health services to all district residents, including confidential counseling, routine checkups,

prevention services, testing, treatment, and partner referrals. We place a strong emphasis on maintaining privacy and confidentiality for our clients in a non-judgmental environment. We accept most insurances and offer a sliding scale with free services for those who qualify based on income.

Recently there has been a concerning rise in sexually transmitted infections (STIs) across the country, including in our own districts. According to the CDC, rates of three common STIs (chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis) continue to increase, including in rural settings such as ours. Nationwide, half (49.8%) of reported STI cases in 2022 were among teens and young adults aged 15-24 years. In our area, specifically in Alleghany County, Roanoke City, and Roanoke County, we are particularly concerned about high rates of early syphilis.

It is essential that individuals protect themselves from STIs because such infections may cause

serious health problems when left untreated. Fortunately, we have the tools to change this trend. Because STIs often do not show symptoms, screening is one of the important tools to ensure timely diagnosis and treatment. In addition, we know that evidence-based sexual health education can have a positive impact by delaying the initiation of sexual intercourse, reducing the number of sexual partners, and increasing the use of safer sex practices, including condom use. RCAHD is doing its part to improve access to good quality education about reproductive health education, including education about STIs. RCAHD staff have increased outreach visits to community colleges such as Virginia Western in Roanoke and Mountain Gateway in Clifton Forge to better connect students with public health and other partner services in the community.

RCAHD is committed to ensuring access to the services

See Health page 5

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Library from page 4

Pick for March 2023 and a Most Anticipated Book of 2023 by “Oprah Daily,” “Elle,” and “LitHub.”

Hailed as one of the world’s most gifted storytellers, Walls has been sharing her remarkable story of resilience and redemption with audiences

since “The Glass Castle” first published in 2005. Her memoir documents her and her siblings’ unconventional upbringing, detailing a childhood spent in extreme poverty and chaos with parents who, despite their flaws, taught them to embrace

life fearlessly. She continues to captivate audiences with her incredible story and offers a unique perspective on how to overcome unimaginable obstacles, confront challenges, and pursue a life of authenticity.

Health from page 4

we provide. We recognize that in our more rural areas, residents may have fewer providers to choose from and are likely to face more geographic challenges with transportation. Increasingly, we are encouraged to see many of our healthcare partners use telehealth services as a practical solution to decrease barriers to health care access. We also recognize that in smaller rural communities, our health department staff often know

their patients, not just as patients, but as neighbors and friends, and in some cases even as relatives. Please be assured that the privacy and confidentiality of every person we serve is of paramount importance to our team.

Understanding the community’s needs, such as barriers that are unique to rural communities, is critical for successful public health activities. To ensure that we do understand

community’s needs, we work with local stakeholders to routinely ask residents for their input about their needs and possible solutions. And as we work together to decrease the burden that STIs place on people in our community, RCAHD recommends that:

All pregnant women should be tested for syphilis at their first prenatal appointment. They may also need testing again later in their pregnancy.

People between 15-44 years old talk with their healthcare professional about STI testing, especially because symptoms can sometimes be missed or mistaken for other health conditions.

As we continue to face the threat that STIs present to our community’s health, we know that when RCAHD residents—including teenagers—have access to quality reproductive and sexual health care and education, they can live happier and healthier lives.

VDOT Roadwatch

Interstate 81

LANE & RAMP CLOSURES SCHEDULED FOR TRAFFIC SWITCH ON 81 LANE WIDENING PROJECT EXIT 137 TO EXIT 141 As part of the Interstate 81 widening project in Roanoke County near Salem, a nighttime lane and ramp closure on southbound I-81 are scheduled for Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27, so barrier wall can be moved and a new traffic pattern put in place. If the traffic pattern change cannot be made because of weather, the lane and ramp closures will be rescheduled for the following week on Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4.

Weather permitting, starting at 8 p.m. on Friday, April 26, southbound I-81 will be reduced to one lane between mile markers 138 and 136 until 7 a.m. on Saturday morning. In addition, the Wildwood Road ramps onto and from southbound I-81 at exit 137 will be closed from 10 p.m. on Friday until 7 a.m. on Saturday morning. If work cannot be completed in single night, another lane and ramp closure will be scheduled during similar nighttime hours on Saturday night until the morning of Sunday.

Once the barrier wall has been moved, southbound I-81 traffic will be shifted into a new pattern. Two lanes of traffic will continue to be open in the work zone, but motorists will be traveling on a different portion of roadway on the left side of the road.

UTILITY SLOW ROLL SCHEDULED ON I-81- AEP will perform slow roll operations to replace an existing overhead I-81 crossing in the early morning hours of Friday, April 19, between the hours of 12 a.m. and 5 a.m. near mile marker 133.9.

UPCOMING I-81 NB & SB BRIDGE REHAB OVER ROUTE 100 AT EXIT 98 – Beginning

on – Beginning on April 22, 2024, work will begin on I-81 rehabbing the northbound and southbound bridges over Route 100 at Exit 98. Lane and shoulder closures may be in place on Route 100 north and on I-81 northbound and southbound, 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Flagging operations may also be in place on Route 100 north for up to eight-minute slow rolls. Both northbound and southbound on and off ramps at exit 98 for I-81 traffic will remain fully operational for the duration of this project. Estimated completion date is summer 2024.

I-81 NB & SB DECK OVERLAY AT PEAK CREEK MILE MARKER 95.7 -On April 22, 2024, repair work will begin on the northbound and southbound bridges on I-81 over Peak Creek near mile marker 95.7. This repair work will require nighttime single lane closures for the duration of the project. Lane closures may occur nightly from Sunday night through Friday mornings between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. For the deck overlay process, lane closures may be in place between Sunday nights through Friday mornings. For the southbound lanes these will occur between the hours of 7pm and 10am, and for the northbound lanes between the hours of 6pm through 9am. Details on these closures will be listed below on a weekly basis. This project has a contract completion date of December 6, 2024.

INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXIT 137 TO EXIT 141 – The \$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 underway. Work is being performed along a five-mile section of both northbound and southbound Interstate 81 in Roanoke County and the city of Salem. Barrier wall is in place along the shoulders. Two lanes

of I-81 traffic in each direction are expected to 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 traffic impacts in this area on northbound and southbound I-81:

ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC IMPACTS:

WORK ZONE SPEED: Drivers should adhere to posted 60 mph speed limits in the work zone and allow space when following a vehicle. Narrow spacing in lanes due to barrier walls, lack of shoulders and lane shifts in various locations, are present.

TRAFFIC SHIFTS ON WILDWOOD ROAD: Expect a work zone with traffic shifts and narrow width on Wildwood Road after exiting I-81 southbound on exit 137 heading towards Salem. Southbound and northbound I-81 exit and entrance ramp narrows are possible at Route 311.

TRAFFIC SHIFT ON EXIT 140: Drivers may experience a periodic quick merge into traffic onto Thompson Memorial Drive from the southbound exit ramp of exit 140. Work zone located at bottom of the ramp for work on the I-81 bridge at the underpass.

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. Expected completion in early 2026.

UPCOMING I-81 NB & SB BRIDGE REHAB OVER ROUTE 100 AT EXIT 98 – Beginning on April 22, 2024, work will begin on I-81 rehabbing the northbound and southbound bridges over Route 100 at Exit 98. Lane and shoulder closures may be in place on Route 100 north and on I-81 northbound and southbound, 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Flagging operations may also be in place on Route 100 north for up to eight-minute slow rolls. Both northbound and southbound on and off ramps at exit 98 for I-81 traffic will remain fully operational for the duration of this project. Estimated completion date is summer 2024.

I-81 NB & SB DECK OVERLAY AT PEAK CREEK MILE MARKER 95.7 -On May 5, 2024, repair work will begin on the northbound and southbound bridges on I-81 over Peak Creek near mile marker 95.7. This repair work will require nighttime single lane closures for the duration of the project. Lane closures may occur nightly from Sunday night through Friday mornings between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. For the deck overlay process, lane closures may be in place between

Sunday nights through Friday mornings. For the southbound lanes these will occur between the hours of 7pm and 10am, and for the northbound lanes between the hours of 6pm through 9am. Details on these closures will be listed below on a weekly basis. Estimated completion is scheduled for end of 2024.

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. 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 for Summer 2024.

LANE CLOSURES: Nighttime alternating lane closures are possible on I-81 northbound between mile markers

104-106.

There will be alternating right and left lane closures on I-81 northbound between mile marker 104-106 on Sunday, April 28, 8 p.m. through 5 a.m. the following morning.

There will be nightly closures between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. beginning Monday, April 29 through the morning of Friday, May 5.

There will be lane closures from Friday, May 3 and 26 at 9 p.m. through Saturday, May 4 at 7 a.m.

ROUTE 605: Alternating lane closures and flagging operations may be present on Route 605, located under the New River Bridge, for paving operations and work overhead on the bridge.

SLOW ROLLS: 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 are possible on I-81 northbound between mile markers 104-106 from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

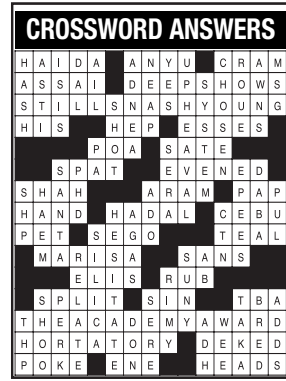
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VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

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Find out about a project to repair drainage culverts in three counties in the Virginia Department of Transportation’s 12-county Salem District. The culverts are at the following locations:

County	Route	Road Name	Crossing
Botetourt	43	Parkway Drive	Bearwallow Creek
Craig	42	Cumberland Gap Road	Branch of Sinking Creek
Franklin	220	Virgil Goode Highway	Branch of North Fork of Chestnut Creek
Franklin	834	Brooks Mill Road	Popular Camp Creek

Review the project information and the National Environmental Policy Act document in the form of a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion at VDOT’s Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Avenue in Salem, 540-387-5353, 800-367-7623, TTY/TDD 711. Please call ahead to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, VDOT is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Mr. Jack Bayne, Virginia Department of Transportation, 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, VA 24153 on or prior to **May 9, 2024**. If a request for a public hearing is received, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

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

State Project: BR02-962-816, P101, D648, D649, D650, D651, D652, D653, D654
Federal Project: STP-BR02(464) UPC: 121223

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 May 2nd, 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

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CRAIG COUNTY, VIRGINIA

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Rocket baseball team picks up two big wins

The Craig County baseball team had a big week, winning two of three games to crack the win column. The Rockets beat Bland County and Bath County sandwiched around a loss to Parry McCluer.

On Monday, April 15, the Rockets celebrated the last day of tax season with a 10-6 win over Bland in Rocky Gap. Craig trailed 5-2 into the fifth inning but scored three in the fifth and four in the sixth to pull out their first victory of the season.

Luke Potter had a big day for Craig with two doubles, three runs scored and three runs batted in. Joseph Charette also had two hits and drove in two while Jaycob Wolfe and Hayden Reynolds scored two runs each.

Matthew Lucas, Wolfe and Reynolds split time on the mound. Lucas went the first two

innings, fanning four, before Wolfe started the third and struck out five batters over two innings. He was relieved by Reynolds with two outs in the fourth, and Hayden picked up the win as he pitched the last three and a third innings, striking out eight and allowing no earned runs.

On Wednesday of last week the Rockets hosted Parry McCluer and dropped a 12-9 slugfest. Craig led 3-1 after two innings before the Blues put three on the board in the third, fourth and fifth innings. The Rockets answered with three in the fourth and two in the fifth but the Blues held on for the Pioneer District win.

Lucas, Wolfe and Potter had two hits each for Craig while Potter and Charette had two RBIs each. Wolfe and Reynolds scored two runs each. Wolfe, Potter, Isaiah Wenthe and Drew Duncan

all saw time on the mound.

On Friday at Bath the Rockets rallied from 7-2 down to take an 11-7 win over the homestanding Chargers. Craig scored two in the fifth inning, five in the sixth and two in the seventh to go up 11-7 and Reynolds pitched four scoreless innings of relief to pick up his second win of the week. Lucas started and went three innings allowing seven runs but only one earned.

Reynolds also had a good day at the plate with three hits. Lucas also had three, including a double and three runs batted in. Potter and Cam Huffman had two hits each.

The Rockets were hoping to keep the momentum going Tuesday with a home game against Narrows. On Thursday Bath is here for "Senior Night," and next Tuesday, April 30th, the Rockets are at Eastern Montgomery.



Isaiah Wenthe bats for Craig.



Jaycob Wolfe pitches for the Rockets.



Marcus Donithan catches a fly ball in right.

CHELSEA LOUDEN PHOTOS

Craig girls were scheduled to conclude suspended game with Narrows

The Craig County girls will be looking for their first district win this week when they play host to Narrows on Tuesday. The Rockets were scheduled to complete a suspended game in New Castle against the Green Wave, then play another regularly scheduled game. Craig led 6-2 in the top of the fifth inning when the umpire halted the game in Narrows and that was to be picked up at that point Tuesday.

The Rockets dropped two games last week, one Pioneer District game and one non-district. The non-district was a 9-7 loss to Bland County in Rocky Gap. The game went back and forth before the Bears prevailed.

"All in all it was one of our better games," said Craig coach Elaina Wolfe-Carper. "I was very proud

of the girls for not losing heart and continuing to fight to regain leads."

Kammie Fisher pitched and had 10 strikeouts. Hayleigh Flowers went three-for-three at the plate with a triple, double, and single. Kammie was two-for-two and Jenna Boitnotte was two-for-three.

On Wednesday at home the Rockets lost to Parry McCluer, 21-5. Almost half the runs were unearned behind Nevaeh Hypes, who pitched the first three innings, and Fisher, who finished up. Lily Hutchison and Karly Potter both had two hits.

"The silver lining to this game was that bats continued to improve," said Wolfe-Carper. "And girls were making solid contact. The difference was that Parry made their plays."



Top: Lily Hutchison looks to the dugout for a sign.
Left: Kallie Fisher is ready to move at second.
Right: Randalyn Taylor camps under a fly ball.



CHELSEA LOUDEN PHOTOS



Rocket Soccer team falls to Boys' Home, Bath County

The Craig County soccer team is still looking for their first win and the Rockets may have to do it with a limited crew. The Rockets will be down several players after last week.

Craig finally had a home game last Tuesday and fell to the Covington Boys' Home, 8-0. Then, on Friday,

Bath was here for what is always a rough game, and this one was no different. The Chargers took a 12-0 win in a Pioneer District matchup.

"Unfortunately we had several injuries in the Bath game, so we will be lucky to field a full team for the rest of the season," said Rocket coach

Joel Peterson. "We played the Boy's Home and they were class and beat us with respect. I really appreciate the Boy's Home coaches. They are honorable, good people."

"The Bath game was not respectfully played, and if it is up to me we will not play them this week in Bath. It's

been a rough season but we have big plans over the next few years to rebuild."

The Rockets were scheduled to host Narrows on Tuesday before heading to Bath today. Next Tuesday, April 30th, Eastern Montgomery will be here.



Isaiah Nichols(#6) pushes the ball with Tanner Owens(#16) in pursuit.



Elijah Green(right) takes the ball from a Boys' Home opponent.



Noah Brierly (#11) controls the ball at the Boys' Home.

HARPER MCKINLEY PHOTOS

Track team runs at Buffalo Invitational in Floyd County, Rockets' Tyler Fitzpatrick takes first place in discus

The Craig County track team competed in the Buffalo Invitational last Friday at Floyd County High School. A total of 18 teams competed in the meet.

The Rockets' had a meet champion in senior Tyler Fitzpatrick. Coming off a shoulder injury in football, Tyler tossed the disc 148'11" to win the competition. Caleb Fields of Craig was 23rd and Carter Price was 24th.

Other notable efforts by Craig athletes included a 29th place finish by Price in the shot put. Brad Arthurs was 30th in the 400 meter dash and 34th in the long jump while Carter Calfee took 31st in the 200 and 34th in the 100.

For the girls, freshman Kailyn Jones took ninth place in the 400 meters with a time of 1:09.36. Kailyn was also 21st in the 200.

Craig County athletes also competed in a nine-school middle school meet at Glenvar last week and had some good performances, including second place finishes in both the shot and discus by Jeremiah Fowler.

Dylan Sarver finished fifth in the 200 with a time of 27.65, the fastest for either a middle school or varsity Craig runner this spring. Dylan was sixth in the 400 and seventh in the 100

while Robert Eakin took seventh in the 200, 15th in the 100 and 17th in the 400. Riley Shiflett was 14th in the 200, 21st in the 400 and 22nd in the 100.

"This was the first ever track meet for these runners and we had some really solid performances," said coach Jayke Dowdy.

The Rocket varsity is back in action today with a meet on the new track at Lord Botetourt High School.