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# THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



**GAS CASH**



**ACCEPTED AT BOTH LOCATIONS**




## Afternoon tea was served at Old Brick Hotel last week

**Bonnie Cranmer**  
Contributing writer

The Craig County Historical Society and the Craig Valley Chapter, National Daughters of the American Revolution (NDAR) transformed the historic Old Brick Hotel into a charming venue for a special afternoon tea on Wednesday, May 8. The event proved immensely popular, with two seatings filling the dining room of the hotel.

Guests were warmly welcomed and offered a selection of hot and cold teas, alongside refreshing lemonades. The centerpiece of the event was a visually stunning display of three-tiered serving trays overflowing with delicate tea sandwiches. These delightful treats, crafted with care, came in a variety of flavors: classic chicken salad,

pimento cheese, and refreshing cucumber. But the culinary journey didn't stop there. Freshly baked scones, accompanied by rich cream and a selection of fruit jams, awaited eager palates. And to top it all off, an assortment of delectable sweets capped off a truly decadent afternoon tea experience.

The tea options themselves were as diverse as they were delicious. Guests could savor the exotic notes of Passionfruit Peach or the robust character of Colonial Bohea. For those seeking a lighter option, Paris, Summer Afternoon Tea, and Jane's Garden Tea offered delightful floral and herbal notes. The Tost Rose and Sparkling Lavender Lemonade provided a touch of bubbly refreshment, perfectly complementing the sweet and savory treats.

This special event served a dual purpose: celebrating the rich history of Craig County and raising funds for important upcoming projects. The Craig County Historical Society and the Craig Valley Chapter, NDAR, are dedicated to safeguarding the county's heritage. Their ongoing efforts encompass the restoration of the Old Brick Hotel, the preservation of historic log cabins, the maintenance of beautiful gardens, and the continuous expansion of the invaluable genealogy library. A special reminder of the upcoming July 4th parade and how interest and attendance is growing was shared.

The event also highlighted the ongoing renovations

See Tea page 5



Ladies enjoyed the afternoon tea event at the Old Brick Hotel.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE CRANMER

The Craig County Historical Society opens the genealogy library on Fridays from 1-4 p.m.

## Muralist works on project, meets artists in New Castle



Eclectic artist and resident of Sinking Creek Martha Dillard poses with Jon Murrill, at Craig County's first ever public art mural near the new Farmer's Market in New Castle



Pictured here are students from Kindling School. Public high school students were scheduled for this Monday and middle school students will be working on Sunday, May 19.



CRAIG COUNTY TOURISM COURTESY PHOTOS

Professional muralist Jon Murrill is supervising volunteer sessions such as this with the family of David Brown, Farm Bureau agent. The public is welcome to watch and cheer on our mural artists.

## Craig County Public Schools address range of challenges

**Anita Firebaugh**  
Contributing writer

Craig County Public Schools are preparing to face two significant challenges over the next six years: lack of students, and an inability to maintain staff.

The School Board earlier this year approved a comprehensive six-year plan that attempts to address these concerns.

"CCPS has experienced a high rate of turnover in administration, instructional staff, and maintenance personnel. Faculty retention should be a priority for continuity and planning purposes," the plan, which is available on the public schools' website, reads.

Declining student enrollment affects funding, as state funding is based on the total student enrollment on March 31 of each year, and the locality's ability to pay. Enrollment in the public school system has dropped annually since 2010 and is expected to continue to slide.

Current enrollment is just over 450 students; in six years, that number is expected to be about 310.

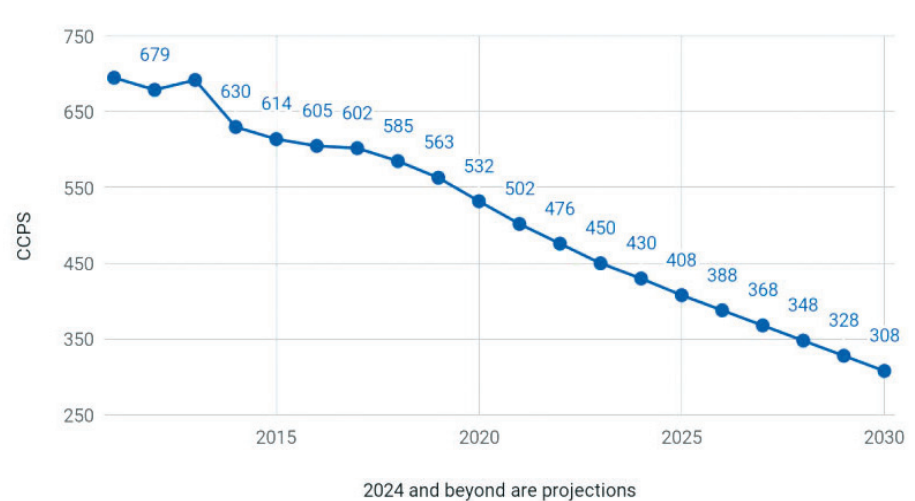
The student decline matches the declining population figures from the U.S. Census, which shows that the median age of county residents is 46.1. Trace Bellasai, chairman of the school board, noted in a recent phone conversation that, "the largest drop in our population was both school-age children, 5 to 18, as well as the demographic that would be having children, 18 to 30."

Keeping staff has long been a problem for the county's largest employer. While Bellasai estimated that more than half of the school staff lives in Craig County, others commute from nearby localities. "It's difficult for us to remain competitive from a salary standpoint," he said. "It's more expensive for them in terms of gas and what not."

In order to combat the staffing issue,

See Schools page 4

Fall CCPS Enrollment 2010-2030



Data from the Craig County Public Schools Comprehensive Six-Year Plan dated 1-16-2024.

COURTESY IMAGE





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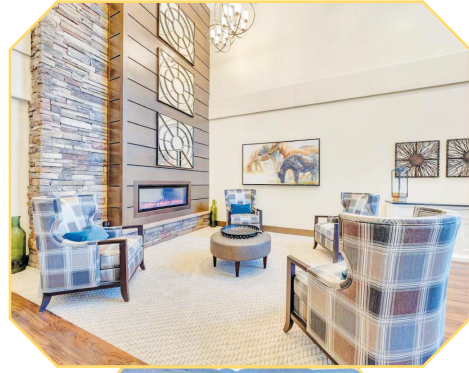


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# Recipe of the Week



**Shelly Koon**  
Contributing  
Writer

Whenever I must eat a bowl of leafy greens with chopped up raw vegetables, I like to use a liquid to help make them more palatable. While most of us would choose ranch dressing, I usually go for Italian dressing. Italian dressing is a vinaigrette style that contains a combination of oil, vinegar, lemon juice, and herbs and spices like oregano, crushed red pepper, salt, pepper, and garlic powder. There are a ton of home recipes for Italian dressing and the store brands differ in their ingredients as well. There are even creamy versions. For many years, Italian dressing was the number one dressing in the United States. Then in 1983, shelf stabilizers

allowed ranch dressing to be sold on the shelf at room temp, and by 1992, with the help of a certain Doritos flavor, ranch had taken the number one salad dressing spot from Italian dressing. Italian Dressing is also thought to be an American invention, with Ken's Steakhouse and the Wishbone Restaurant both claiming its origin. Both of which have bottled versions for sale in the grocery store.

This week's recipe is simple but can be made in the oven or the slow cooker. I use chicken breasts or breast tenders, but you can use boneless skinless thighs, just adjust the cooking time. The chicken breasts need to be thin or pounded to

make cooking more even. Too thick and they won't get done all the way. Use whichever Italian dressing you prefer. I have used fat free versions (Newman's Own), creamy style (Olive Garden), and Oily (Wishbone) with good results. I bet a homemade version would be superb. Parmesan cheese adds a salty and nutty flavor to the dish. I have used the kind in the green can but fresh grated melts and tastes better. When made in the oven, it turns out to be a flavorful and juicy chicken breast that goes well with a side salad. The crockpot version uses the whole bottle of dressing and makes a wonderful sauce for pasta.

**Italian dressing chicken (oven)**

4 boneless skinless chicken breasts (thin or pounded breasts cook more evenly)

Salt and pepper  
1 cup Italian dressing  
½ cup grated parmesan cheese (I have been

known to use up to cup)  
Place the chicken in the smallest baking dish that will hold the chicken in one layer. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, then pour dressing on top. Cover and marinate in the refrigerator for at least 15 minutes or as much as 24 hours. If marinating for an hour or more, flip the chicken over halfway through. When ready to bake, remove the baking dish from fridge and preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Bake, uncovered, for 15 minutes. Sprinkle chicken with parmesan cheese and return to oven for another 5-10 minutes or until cooked through. For a browned crust on top, turn oven to broil for the final minute or two of cooking. Serve with pan sauce.

**Italian dressing chicken and pasta (slow cooker)**

4 boneless skinless chicken breasts  
1 lb box of penne pasta  
1 16oz bottle Italian



COURTESY PHOTO

dressing  
1 oz block of cream cheese  
½ cup grated parmesan cheese  
Salt and pepper to taste

Coat the slow cooker with cooking spray. Place chicken breasts in bottom. Pour over whole bottle of Italian dressing, flipping chicken to coat breasts well. Sprinkle over parmesan cheese.

Place a block of cream cheese on top. Cover and cook on high for 4 hours or low for 6 hours. Cook pasta according to package directions, drain and set aside. Using two forks shred the chicken evenly. Sprinkle another ¼ cup parmesan cheese over the chicken. Add in the pasta and stir until well combined. Serve with a side salad or green vegetable.

## Upcoming public meetings scheduled in Craig County

**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.  
*-The New Castle Record*

## Park basketball goal replaced



COURTESY PHOTO

Kids in New Castle are elated that the basketball goal was finally replaced after over six months of being broken. "This is the only place we get to play!" one shared as many agreed with head nods. "It took forever to get out back." Their laughter created a happy atmosphere that would make one's heart warm.

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Small lump	35. Tony-winning actress Daisy	3. A dry cold north wind in Switzerland	28. Khoikhoi peoples
4. Helps little firms	37. More (Spanish)	4. Trapped	29. Int'l defense organization
7. A way of performing	39. Russian space station	5. Used for road surfacing	32. Samoan money
12. Lawyers	41. Helicopter	6. Cuckoos	36. A sign of assent
15. Stirred up	42. At the peak	7. Prefix "away from"	38. One from Somalia
16. Believed in	44. Makes ecstatically happy	8. Seth McFarlane comedy	40. Boat race
18. The Bay State (abbr.)	47. Excellent	9. Not out	43. Trims
19. Makes computers	48. Material body	10. "The Simpsons" bus driver	44. French coins
20. Sodium	49. The Golden State (abbr.)	11. Popular HBO drama (abbr.)	45. Indigenous Scandinavian
21. As fast as can be done (abbr.)	50. A unit of plane angle	12. Acclaimed Indian physicist	46. Flew alone
24. Institute legal proceedings against	52. Argon	13. Removes	51. Loch where a "monster" lives
27. More compact	53. Fancy	14. One-name NBA player	54. Japanese title
30. Ethiopian river	56. Fried mixture of meat & spices	17. Revolutionary women	55. Pros and ___
31. Quantitative fact	61. How green plants use sunlight	22. Smell	56. Present in all living cells
33. No (Scottish)	63. Without wills	23. Ground-dwelling songbird	57. Something to scratch
34. A concession of no great value	64. Unhappy	24. Midway between south and southeast	58. Branch of Islam
	65. Meat from a pig's leg	25. American state	59. Appear
	<b>CLUES DOWN</b>	26. Keen	60. Former CIA
	1. Mentor		62. Yukon Territory
	2. Lyric poems		

# God's House Is Always Open

<p><b>BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 11599 Cumberland Gap Road/Rt. 42, New Castle, 864-5242; church phone:544-7040 Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m., Sunday School 10:30 a.m., Choir Tuesday 7:30p.m., Youth Outreach and Missions Program. Rev. San Kang.</p> <p><b>CHESTNUT GROVE CHURCH</b> Duane Wente, Minister, Rt. 42, New Castle, 540-864-5692. Sunday: Worship 10:00 a.m.</p> <p><b>CORNERSTONE CHURCH</b> Pastor Don Brown, Corner of Salem and Wagner, New Castle, 580-3228. Sunday Worship 10:30am (Children meet separately, Nursery provided). Bible Study - Wednesday 6p Teens - Wednesday 6p. Ministries: Men, Ladies, Young Adult, and Seniors. Times vary, call for details.</p> <p><b>CRAIG HEALING SPRINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)</b> Pastor - Kenneth W. Davis, Jr., 6 Grannys Branch Road (Johns Creek), New Castle, Phone: 864-6102. Sunday School at 10 am. Sunday Worship at 11 am every Sunday. Fellowship meal after Sunday Worship on second Sundays. Everyone is welcome!</p> <p><b>CRAIG VALLEY BAPTIST</b> 171 Salem Avenue, New Castle, 864-5667; Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m., Wednesday: Prayer Service and Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Youth Group 6:30-8:00PM, Bible Buddies at 6:30-8:00PM. Transportation provided - call the church. Hearing devices also available. www.craigvalleybaptist.com</p> <p><b>CRAIG VALLEY GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP</b> HWY 621, Pastor Roy Lee Law Jr., "Jay", 864-8984. Sunday School 10:00am; Worship 11:00am., Wednesday night Bible study 7pm, from HWY 311, up HWY 621, 8 miles on left.</p> <p><b>CROSSROADS CHURCH</b> 21892 Craigs Creek Road, New Castle. Pastor Gary Burch. 864-7520. Sunday School- 10-10:45AM, Sunday Worship - 11AM-Noon.</p> <p><b>FIRST BAPTIST</b> Pastor Kevin Altizer, Corner of Main Street &amp; Boyd Ave., New Castle. Church phone 864-5919. Sunday School 10:00AM, Sunday Worship 11:00AM and 6PM. Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7PM, Youth Group</p>	<p>7:00PM, Reformers Unanimous Addiction Recovery every Friday evening at 7PM.</p> <p><b>GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b> 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) &amp; Super Church (ages 4-12) Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. You can also watch on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m. www.graceassemblycatawaba.org</p> <p><b>GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 159 Old Railroad Ave, New Castle, 540-864-PRAY, Sunday School 9:30AM, Sunday Worship Service 10:00AM, Wednesday Night Services 7:00PM.</p> <p><b>HEBRON UNITED METHODIST</b> Pastor Chanmi Lee, 347-684-2607, Rt. 606, 1981 Caldwell Mt. Rd., New Castle, 540- 400-3419. Worship 11:15AM.</p> <p><b>LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST</b> Rev. Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, &amp; 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.</p> <p><b>LEVEL GREEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> 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.</p> <p><b>LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST</b> Pastor Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle, 540-525-7662. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, &amp; 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.</p> <p><b>MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN</b> 4199 Craig Valley Drive, New Castle, Jonathan Lee, pastor, 864-6622. Sunday: Worship Service 9:00 a.m., Children's Church 9:15 a.m., Sunday School 10:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>NEW CASTLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> "WHERE YOUR HEART CAN FEEL THE DIFFERENCE" 282 Salem Ave., New Castle; 864-5212; Pastor Bill Frazier. Sunday Service: 10 A.M.; Wednesday night Bible study at 6:00 P.M. for K-5; If you need a ride to church, please contact Calvin Duncan by 8 P.M. on Saturday at 864-5321; www.nc-cc.org.</p>	<p><b>NEW CANTERBURY PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP</b> Pastor John D. Abbott, Hwy 621 (10 miles), phone: 540-580-5837, Sunday Prayer 10:00-10:30 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday Service 6:00 pm.</p> <p><b>PAXTON CHAPEL</b> Pastor Kenny Davis, 17 Sage Brush Lane, New Castle; "Presenting God's Word Faithfully"; Sunday School 10:00 AM; Sunday Worship Service 11:15 AM; visit us on the web at www.paxtonchapelchurch.com; email at paxtonchapel@yahoo.com.</p> <p><b>THE CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> 118 Main Street, New Castle. Service Times: Sunday, Bible classes-10 a.m., Worship-11:00 a.m., Evening Worship-6 p.m.; Wednesday, Bible classes - 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>NEW CASTLE UNITED METHODIST</b> Rev. San Kang, 364 Main St., New Castle, Va. Sunday School 10AM, Worship 11AM; UMW 3rd Wednesday@1PM, Youth and other programs, Bible Studies.</p> <p><b>ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 99 2nd Street, New Castle. Tel: 540-473-3691. Email: StJohnnewcastle@gmail.com. Mass is on Sunday at 11:15 AM.</p> <p><b>CRAIG COUNTY COMMUNITY CHURCH - 'WELCOME HOME!'</b> Sunday service 9-10:15am at the VFW building in New Castle. Casual dress if you desire and contemporary praise and worship. If you don't have a 'home' church, please join us at ours with Pastor Gary Burch. Check us out on facebook or contact us at: craigcountycommunity-church@gmail.com.</p> <p><b>ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH</b> 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).</p>
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# OPINION

## News from the 9th: Is government research safe?



**Morgan Griffith**  
Representative

It has been roughly four and a half years since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and I am determined that Congress needs to be fully informed on U.S. government funding of risky research projects, such as the research done at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), in order to make sure the same mistakes don't happen again.

During the 118th Congress, I've signed letters pressing the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for information and documents pertaining to risky research projects and biosecurity practices past and present, which would obviously include data concerning the origins of COVID-19.

As Chair of the Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations, I held a hearing in 2023 to review biosafety and risk research.

Also, I have participated in closed-door transcribed interviews with Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), Dr. Francis Collins

of NIH and EcoHealth Alliance President, Dr. Peter Daszak.

Daszak was a leading collaborative figure in applying for NIH grants, and was responsible for providing progress reports on EcoHealth's research.

EcoHealth is the company that received grants from NIAID which in turn gave subgrants to WIV to conduct research on Coronavirus evolution and transmission.

At a November 2023 deposition, I asked Daszak about EcoHealth's very late year-five progress report due to be filed in September of 2019. He said he "tried" to submit the progress report on time but could not get the NIH system to work.

Recall that evidence indicates the virus broke out in November or December of 2019 in China.

The missing report would not be submitted until August of 2021.

During Daszak's November interview, after I asked him specific questions about the report and if there were any changes, he told me first there was no change, then no "significant" change between the September 2019 version he tried to submit and the August 2021 submission.

After the transcribed interview, a whistleblower gave us a draft of the progress report, dated May of 2020, where EcoHealth stated that bat coronavirus spillover was a rare event in South China and Southeast Asia.

However, in their August 2021

official submission of the year-five progress report, despite supposedly using the exact same data as the initial draft, EcoHealth stated that the viral transference of coronaviruses from bats to humans could affect as many as one million people in South China and Southeast Asia.

To me the difference between 'very rare' and a 'million' people is a significant difference.

But during the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic hearing on May 1, I asked Daszak why the change between May 2020 and August 2021. Did he have conversations with Fauci or his colleagues at NIAID? Was he pressured by outside sources? Or did they make the changes to hide potential EcoHealth liability?

He claimed the science changed! But that's not what he told me in November of 2023. And I gave him several chances.

Daszak clearly did not tell the truth. He lied to me and Congress in November! There must be some reason why.

A report from the Select Subcommittee recommends formal debarment of and a criminal investigation into EcoHealth and Daszak.

Unfortunately, I believe this is unlikely to happen under a Biden Department of Justice.

We should let a jury of American people decide if there is a substantial difference between a 'very rare'

occurrence and as many as one 'million' people coming down with a virus.

But the guy who Fauci and NIAID entrusted with our taxpayer dollars claims there is no substantial difference.

Further, EcoHealth did not obtain required logbooks from WIV.

We will never be able to eliminate all doubt there was a lab leak at WIV because Wuhan didn't submit crucial data to EcoHealth as required. Moreover, EcoHealth didn't insist Wuhan provide them with the data as contractually required.

And can we even trust the data we actually got?

It comes down to whether you believe 'very rare' or a 'million' cases a year are substantially the same.

I don't. I do not trust information from WIV or EcoHealth.

Additionally, I find it incomprehensible that NIAID continues to fund EcoHealth research.

Not to alarm you, but the government is telling us right now that bird flu transference to humans is very rare.

Sound familiar?

And is NIAID doing risky research on other viruses like the animal poxes? And if so, who are they collaborating with?

I will continue to dig into the facts and try to make government research projects safer.

### Schools from page 1

the schools have joined with Botetourt County in a "grow your own" program at Botetourt's BTech. The program is designed to guide young people towards becoming teachers, Bellasai said. "So we send some kids over there for that."

School Board Member Faye Powers said that the schools also have not completely recovered from the pandemic that began in 2020.

Some students stayed home and never returned, she said.

Others have joined a new private religious school that recently opened in the county, though Bellasai said he felt like most of those students were already homeschooled and therefore not counted in the public school system anyway.

The schools are working on its budget for fiscal year 2024. Funding comes from three sources: federal, state, and local. Federal funds include Title IA, Title IIA, Title IVA, and special education funding, as well as assistance based on the federal forest acreage.

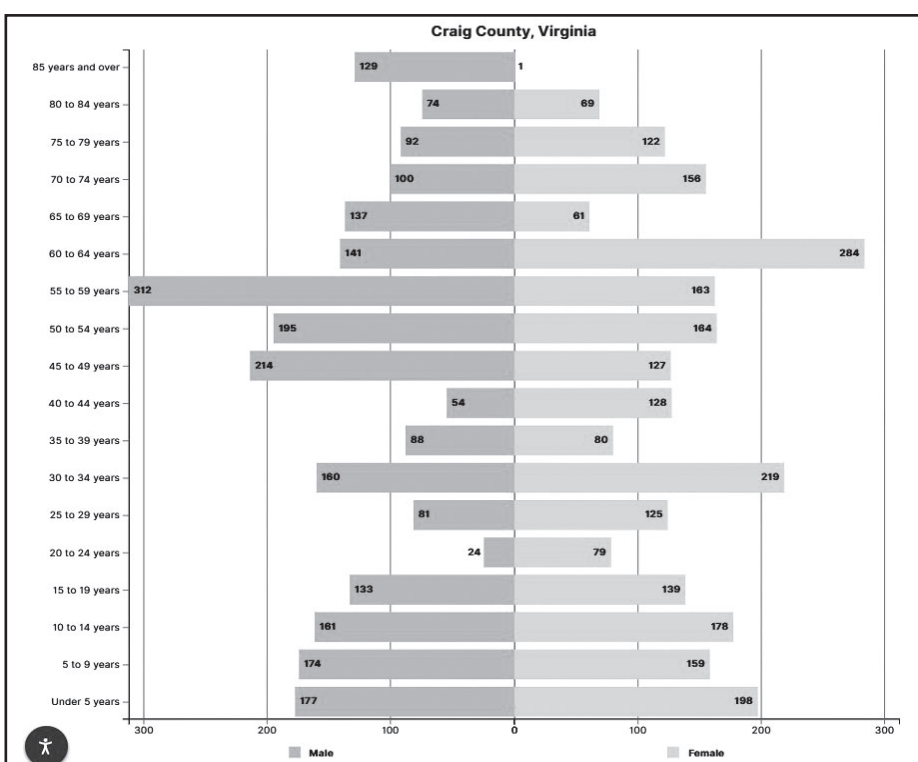
State Funds are based on average daily membership and standards of quality. Local funds are what the county is required to contribute. Craig County has not given much above its required local effort since 2019.

The school board has set the following as its goals for the next six years:

Present high and clear expectations for all students and include a consistent guide for the evaluation of student work.

Provide necessary and appropriate student support.

Strengthen professional development and evaluation.



COURTESY IMAGE

Create challenging and supported learning environments.

Maintain high quality programs as enrollment declines.

Create a general education preschool.

Other goals include improving instructional programming by providing effective and dynamic classroom instruction, developing programming to provide multi-tiered systems of support based on student needs, and creating engaging and motivating program choices that prepare students to achieve college and career aspirations.

Additionally, the school board hopes to strengthen STEM and STEAM programs in all grade levels, increase classroom technology, and continue to

strengthen and maintain an interactive land lab and greenhouse.

Other objectives include strengthening recruitment and retention of staff, strengthening professional learning communities and promoting the values of kindness, compassion, empathy and respect within the school community, along with providing clean, safe and energy efficient learning environments.

The school board would also like to strengthen community relations by improving family engagement with the school system and developing and implementing a plan of positive messaging to the community to improve community perception of the school system.

**THE NEW CASTLE RECORD**

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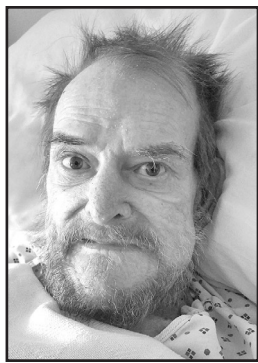
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# OBITUARIES

## Greenway, Verlie Landrew

Verlie Landrew Greenway, 80, of Craig Co. VA passed away May 8, 2024 at Salem Health and Rehab. A Memorial Service will be held on



June 9th at 11 AM at Craig Valley Gospel Fellowship Church, Hwy 621, 21892 Upper Craigs Creek Road in Craig Co. VA.

## Whiting, Patricia Ann

Patricia Ann Whiting, 86 formerly of New Castle, passed away on May 8, 2024. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joe Whiting; son, Wesley "Bud" Whiting; and son-in-law, Edwin "Butch" Harnack. Left to cherish her memory are her children, Diane Lugar (Alan), daughter-in-law, Melissa Whiting, Loretta Keffer (Greg), Lisa Harnack, Billy Whiting

(Cindy); grandchildren, Nathan Keffer (Atiya), Emma Sellers (H.C.), Rachel Lower (Brandon), Nora Meyn (Brett), Carly Teller (Wyatt), Parker Harnack, Joe Parker Whiting; and 11 great-grandchildren, Aubrey Keffer, Charleigh Keffer, Joshua Keffer, Jackson Meyn, Ella Meyn, Anleigh Keffer, Grant Sellers, Charlotte Lower, Austin Lower, and Brooks

Teller. Patsy enjoyed spending time with her family, reading, and gardening. She was a member of the New Castle United Methodist Church. She retired from Catawba Hospital in 2003. A memorial service was held at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 12, 2024. Arrangements by Paitself Funeral Home. www.paitself.com

# FROM THE ARCHIVES

## Craig County implements middle school

From the August 10, 1994 edition of The New Castle Record

Craig County will have middle school students this year, but no middle school.

A new building may be down the road, but no plans are currently in the offing for such. Regardless, the school division has implemented a middle school program. This will be the first official term under the new system.

Greg Stick, the assistant principal at Craig County High School is the administrator of the middle school. Because it does not have a separate building, no principal is needed, but there are administrative needs because the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades will be considered independent.

Stick said some people might be concerned that radical changes are in store for the school system, but that's not the case. He said the addition of mobile classrooms last year was a more dramatic change than the final implementation of the middle school plan.

There will be an orientation session for sixth, seventh and eighth graders

and their parents during the week of Aug. 22, but final plans have not been confirmed.

The sixth and seventh grades had been McCleary Elementary School prior to last year, when they were moved into the mobile units outside the high school.

They will remain in those detached classrooms this year and likely until new accommodations are built.

The change this year comes largely in scheduling. The eighth grade will be kept, as much as possible, toward the east end of the building, close to the seventh and eighth grades.

That will not be possible in all cases, Stick said, such as during physical science when students will need to use the classrooms equipped for science.

One change is that the sixth, seventh and eighth grades will have their own lunch period. Also, sixth and seventh graders will take physical education as part of the high school program, rather than the elementary program of the past.

Team teaching has been used on the eighth-grade level, and will likely be

expanded into the sixth and seventh grades. Each of those grade levels now has two teachers, one for math and sciences and one for language arts and social studies.

Those grade levels will feature more exploratory classes in the near future.

Stick said the major benefit of a middle school program is autonomy for the students—they can feel like they have their own identity. He said eighth graders need a year at the top of the heap before becoming a high school freshman. Also, sixth and seventh graders are too old to be art of any effective elementary school environment—one where most facilities and programs are designed and geared for small children.

There will be much less contact between in the high school between eighth grader students and those in grades ninth through 12.

Stick said parents concerned about the change should look at the middle school concept as an educational system that has proven effective, not radical change in the school itself.

-Prepared by Shelly Koon

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Continued on Page 2

## Board plans open house at school

The Craig County School Board wants to be accessible, so the board planned its next meeting to coincide with an open house at the school.

Parents are invited to visit the school and speak to board members about thoughts and concerns they may have. The next board meeting is Sept. 6, at the high school.

Superintendent Dallas

NCR ARCHIVES

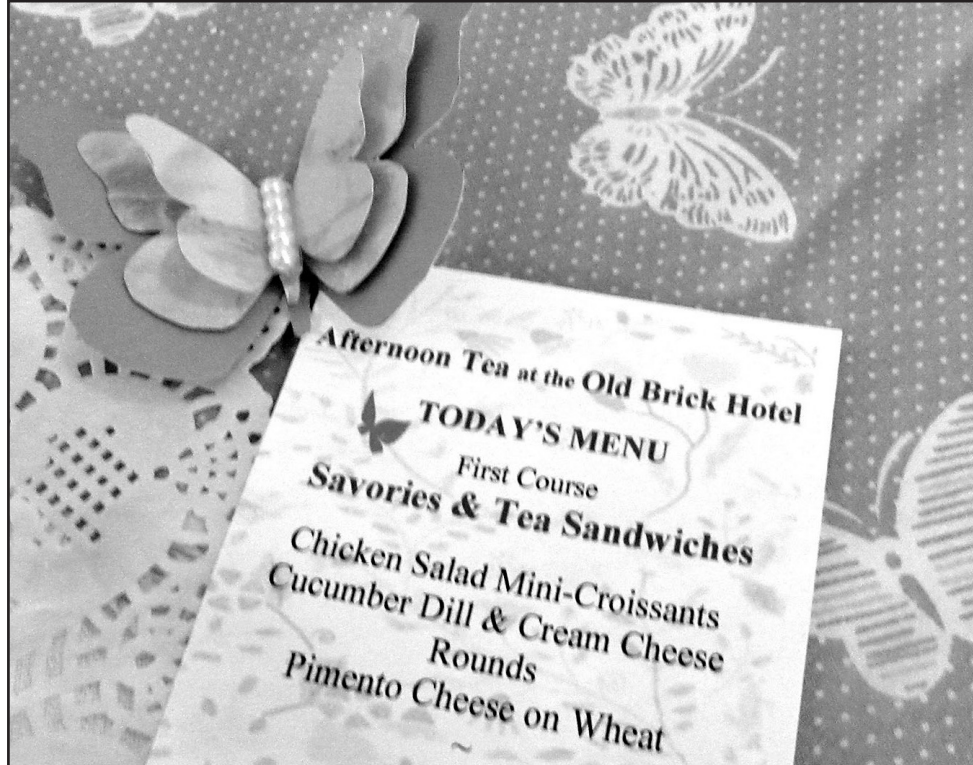
## Tea from page 1

at the Clifton Store, located adjacent to the genealogy library. After completing the exterior renovations last year, work is now progressing on the building's first floor interior. There's still much to be done, and the organizers invite the community to participate in upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

Those who would like to delve deeper into Craig County's history or contribute to its preservation, know that the door is open. The genealogy library welcomes visitors every Friday from 1-4 p.m. To learn more about the Old Brick Hotel or the Clifton Store, contact the Craig County Historical Society directly at 540-864-5489.



This special event served a dual purpose: celebrating the rich history of Craig County and raising funds for important upcoming projects.



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PHOTOS BY BONNIE CRANMER

# VDOT Roadwatch

### Interstate 81

NIGHT TIME LANE AND RAMP CLOSURE PLANNED ON SOUTHBOUND INTERSTATE 81 NEAR SALEM - 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 Thursday, May 23, so barrier wall can be repositioned, and traffic switched into a new pattern.

Weather permitting,

starting at 11 p.m. on Thursday, May 23, southbound I-81 will be reduced to one lane between mile markers 138 and 136 until 5 a.m. on Friday, May 24. In addition, the ramp from southbound I-81 onto Wildwood Road at exit 137 also will be closed from 11 p.m. until 5 a.m.

If the traffic pattern change cannot be made because of weather, the lane and ramp closure will be rescheduled for the following week on Tuesday, May 28 from 11 p.m. until 5 a.m. on

Wednesday, May 29. Once the barrier wall has been moved, southbound I-81 traffic using the exit 137 off ramp will be shifted into a new pattern and traveling on a different portion of roadway.

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.

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### Legals - City of Salem

**LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
 Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Board of Appeals (Building) of the City of Salem, Virginia will hold a public hearing,  
 in accordance with the provisions of Section 18-38 Code of City of Salem, Virginia, on May 29, 2024, at 4:00pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting and hearing shall be to determine if certain structures are dangerous to the inhabitants of the City and whether such structures should be ordered to be repaired or demolished. The structures are located as follows:  
 (1) Dilapidated accessory structure located at 702 Front Avenue, Salem, Virginia (Tax Map # 201 - 10 - 2)

All parties in interest at the public hearings will be given an opportunity to be heard, present evidence, and show cause why action by the City and Board to remedy a potentially dangerous situation should or should not be granted. For additional information, contact the Building Official's Office, 21 South

### Legals - City of Salem

Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia (Phone 375-3036).

THE BOARD OF BUILDING APPEALS OF THE CITY OF SALEM  
 BY Troy D. Loving  
 Troy D. Loving, Building Official

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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

**Order of Publication**  
 Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104  
 Case No. CL23001539-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re REBECCA LYNN AKERS BOYD v. TIMOTHY RALPH BOYD  
 The object of this suit is to: DIVORCE. It is ORDERED that TIMOTHY RALPH BOYD appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before JUNE 26, 2024.  
 April 22, 2024  
 Robert M.D. Turk, JUDGE

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# SPORTS

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## Rocket baseball team ends regular season with a win, opens Pioneer playoffs with victory over Highland

The Craig County baseball team qualified for the Region 1C tournament with a win over Highland County last Friday in the first round of the Pioneer District playoffs. The Rockets were scheduled to meet Parry McCluer in the second round on Monday, and win or lose they'll be back in action next Monday, May 20th.

The Rockets ended the regular season on a high note, defeating Class 5 William Fleming in New Castle last Wednesday, 16-3. Matthew Lucas, Drew Duncan and Hayden Reynolds combined to pitch a five inning no-hitter against the Colonels. The three seniors combined to strike out eight, walk eight and give up three unearned runs while pitching an inning and two-thirds each.

The Rockets scored 16 runs on nine hits, drew six walks and were hit by a pitch three other times. Jaycob Wolfe had two hits, drove in two runs and scored three times. Isaiah Wenthe also drove in two and Lucas scored three times and had a double.

Craig ran wild on the bases, stealing 15 bags. Wolfe had three steals and Reynolds, Wenthe, Duncan and Luke Potter had two steals each.

On Friday the Rockets opened the Pioneer District tournament with a 7-6 win at Highland County. Craig trailed 4-1 after three innings but scored four in the top of the fourth and two in the top of the sixth to take a 7-4 lead, then held on in the bottom of the seventh as Highland cut the lead to one run before the Rockets got the final out.

Reynolds started and pitched five and a third innings for the win, allowing three hits. Lucas came on with one out in the sixth and finished the game to pick up the save.

Offensively, Potter had three hits, including two doubles, and scored twice. Wolfe, Reynolds and Cam Huffman had two hits each in the win.

The Rockets took a 5-10 overall record to Buena Vista Monday for a second round game with Parry McCluer. Win or lose, they'll play again next Monday at a site to be determined.

The baseball team has also clinched a spot in the region tournament at a site to be determined. That will begin on May 23rd.



Drew Duncan rounds third and heads for home.



Matthew Lucas pitches for the Rockets.

CHELSEA LOUDEN PHOTOS

## Craig County softball was scheduled to play Eastern Montgomery Monday

The Craig County softball team was scheduled to play Eastern Montgomery on Monday in Elliston in the first round of the Pioneer District playoffs. Narrows was at Parry McCluer for the other first round game and the Pioneer District championship and third place games will be next Monday, May 20th.

The Rockets fell to 3-6-2 overall with a 13-1 loss to Giles last week at home. The Rockets got off to a good start when Lily Hutchison hit a triple in her first at bat and Jenna Boitnotte got her home with a bunt. After that, however, the offense stalled as Boitnotte, Hayleigh Flowers and Ashlyn Keen

had one hit each.

"On defense, it was back to the same issues of not backing up our pitchers," said Craig coach Elaine Wolfe-Carper. "We have both Kammie(Fisher) and Nevaeh(Hypes) back from injury but that doesn't make much difference if we aren't making plays behind them."

Fisher pitched four innings and gave up only four hits and Nevaeh pitched two innings and gave up just two hits.

The Region 1C tournament will begin on May 23rd.



Left: Lily Hutchison slides home with an early run for Craig.



JIM AND REGINA DEVINNEY PHOTOS



Top: Senior Lily Hutchison with parents Johanna and Neil Hutchison.

Left: Senior Karly Potter with, left to right, Stephanie and Brad Potter, Karly, and Jessi and Deven Huffman.



Senior Randalyn Taylor with parents Randall and Lori Taylor.

## Pioneer track meet is today



JIM AND REGINA DEVINNEY PHOTO

The Pioneer District track meet will be held at Giles High School today and Craig County is scheduled to take 11 athletes. The Rockets will be trying to qualify athletes for the Region 1C meet, which is also scheduled for Giles on Wednesday, May 22nd. Here Craig's Tyler Fitzgerald is recognized with parents Rick and Melissa Fitzpatrick. It was "Senior Night" for the softball team and since the Rockets do not have a home track meet Tyler, a senior, was recognized at the softball game.

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