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# THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



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and more!**



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Ethan Martin placed first in the VFW Annual Voice of Democracy Verbal Essay Contest.**



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Placing second in the Voice of Democracy Contest in consecutive years was Gavin Shires.**

## VFW picks winner for Voice of Democracy Contest

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

The National VFW website states, "Working alongside America's youth and instilling a sense of patriotism has always been — and will always be — a VFW priority."

There are two annual Veterans of Foreign Wars writing contests. The Voice of Democracy is for high school students, grades nine through twelve. Their writing is to be an audio-essay and this year's theme posed the question: "Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?"

Each state winner competes for the top national \$30,000 scholarship prize. More than 51,000 individuals competed last year.

The Craig Valley local VFW Post 4491 asked a teacher, who isn't from

Craig County, to judge their student's submissions.

Ethan Martin won first place. His response to the question asked was as follows:

"To have a dream is nothing unusual; But to have a vision, that is a gift.

"America's Founding Fathers had a vision - a vision of an uncharted, untamed land, full of endless possibilities. A land where individuals are free to worship without interference from king, tyrant or despot. Such was the prospect in the early 1600s. Men, women and children led by John Winthrop Boarded the Arbella bound for Massachusetts in the New World. After approximately nine horrific weeks at sea, Winthrop encouraged his companions with a sermon regarding the model of Christian

charity and their role within this vision of a New World."

Martin continued, "Beloved, there is now set before us life and death, good and evil, in that we are commanded this day to love the Lord our God, and to love one another, to walk in his ways and to keep his Commandments... that the Lord our God may bless us in the land wither we go... But if our hearts shall turn away, so that we will not obey, but shall be seduced, and worship other gods, our pleasure and profits, and serve them; it is propounded unto us this day, we shall surely perish out of the good land wither we pass over this vast sea to possess it. Therefore, let us choose life, that we and our seed may live."

See Contest, page 3

## Teachers of the Year surprised with awards



SUBMITTED BY

**Lauren McAllister was selected as VFW McCleary Elementary Teacher of the Year.**

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

It is no secret that the teachers of 2020 have had to adjust to a newer way of teaching, not only in class, but in adding the online virtual classes as well.

They have had to learn new technology avenues the government provided to teach their students. Time and patience have been a true virtue for them.

The local Craig Valley VFW Post 4491 has been awarding a "Teacher of the Year" for the last few years as they encourage citizens to submit their favorite teacher and then the VFW chooses from the admissions.

Math teacher Donna Deplazes was chosen as Craig County High School teacher of the Year.

The nominee shared, "It is my distinct honor to recommend to the VFW Post 4491 for the Craig County High School Teacher of the Year Mrs. Donna Deplazes. Mrs. Deplazes has been a long time, dependable, knowledgeable math teacher in the Craig County School system. Many of her students have been successful in passing the state math competency tests over the years. She has been involved in many community activities including 4-H, the Craig County Education Association and in

school activities securing the Virginia Tech marching band to perform at the Craig County High football games. Over her teaching career in Craig, she has had to adapt and adjust to many school principals and superintendents that have come through. Mrs. Deplazes has been a vital part of the school environment that has provided what success the Craig County Public schools has experienced."

Honored and surprised at her award, Deplazes said, "Thanks, as I really love teaching in Craig. I want all students in Craig to realize that they can achieve anything; it doesn't matter where you grow up. If they work for what they want, anything is possible. We also need to make sure that the dedicated and highly qualified employees at CCPS are adequately compensated so students have amazing education opportunities. This year has been beyond challenging for all teachers. There are so many of my colleagues who deserved this award, who are going above and beyond attempting to meet student needs this year. I would like to thank the person who nominated me for this award and the VFW for this recognition. Teaching classes in a virtual/hybrid

See Teachers, page 3

## Marijuana use concerns according to statistics

Marijuana is often referred to as pot, CBD, grass, weed and reefer. Regardless of name, there are more and more studies being conducted that suggest that the plants' positive uses are becoming increasingly narrower and more questionable.

The Rocky Mountain High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (RMHIDTA) Program has published annual reports every year since 2013 tracking the impact of legalizing recreational marijuana in Colorado.

They share their information with other states and the Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare feels the information and statistics are also being seen in surrounding

counties throughout Virginia.

Their core purpose is to provide data and information so that policymakers and citizens can make informed decisions on the issue of marijuana legalization.

They have made many comparisons and intense studies in many areas:

•Traffic Fatalities & Impaired Driving

-Since recreational marijuana was legalized, traffic deaths in which drivers tested positive for marijuana increased 109 percent while all Colorado traffic deaths increased 31 percent

-Since recreational marijuana was legalized, traffic deaths involving drivers who tested positive for marijuana

more than doubled from 55 in 2013 to 115 people killed in 2018. (This equates to one person killed every 3 days in 2018 compared to one person killed every 6 1/2 days in 2013.)

-Since recreational marijuana was legalized, the percentage of all Colorado traffic deaths that were marijuana related increased from 15 percent in 2013 to 23 percent in 2018

•Marijuana use since recreational marijuana was legalized

-Past month marijuana use for ages 12 and older increased 58 percent and is 78 percent higher than the national average, currently ranked fourth in the nation

-Adult marijuana use increased 94 percent and is 96 percent higher than the national average, currently ranked fourth in the nation

-College-age marijuana use increased 18 percent and is 48 percent higher than the national average, currently ranked sixth in the nation

-Youth marijuana use decreased 14 percent and is 40 percent higher than the national average, currently ranked sixth in the nation

•Public Health

The yearly number of emergency department visits related to marijuana increased 54 percent after the legalization of recreational marijuana (2013 compared to 2017)

-The yearly number of marijuana-related hospitalizations increased 101 percent after the legalization of recreational marijuana (2013 compared to 2017)

See Marijuana, page 3

Traffic Deaths Related to Marijuana When a DRIVER Tested Positive for Marijuana			
Crash Year	Total Statewide Fatalities	Fatalities with Drivers Testing Positive for Marijuana	Percentage Total Fatalities
2006	535	33	6.17%
2007	554	32	5.78%
2008	548	36	6.57%
2009	465	41	8.82%
2010	450	46	10.22%
2011	447	58	12.98%
2012	472	65	13.77%
2013	481	55	11.43%
2014	488	75	15.37%
2015	547	98	17.92%
2016	608	125	20.56%
2017	648	138	21.30%
2018	632	115	18.20%



SUBMITTED BY

**Receiving the VFW Craig County High School Teacher of the Year award was math teacher Donna Deplazes.**



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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY

The Craig County Public Library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Wednesday from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The library is located at 303 Main St. in New Castle. For more information, call (540) 864-8978 or visit [www.craiglibrary.org](http://www.craiglibrary.org).

Contact 540-293-4065 for more information.

•New Castle Church of Christ will hold its Bible Study from 7 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. at 118 Main Street in New Castle.

## EVERY SATURDAY

Overeaters Anonymous (OA) meeting, 11 a.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, located at 2011 Brandon Avenue in Roanoke. Contact 540-293-4065 for more information.

## EVERY SUNDAY

•Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, 8 p.m. at New Castle Fire Hall.  
•The New Castle Christian Church, located

at 282 Salem Ave, is pastored by Sheldon Cosma is having services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., with communion at each, and is on Facebook live at 9 a.m.

•St. Johns Catholic Church, on Route 615, is having virtual masses at 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. by Father Steve McNalley. They are also live on Facebook. For more information, contact (540) 864-8686 or send an email to [stjohnnewcastle@tds.net](mailto:stjohnnewcastle@tds.net).

## SECOND MONDAY

•Paint Bank Ladies Auxiliary meeting, 7 p.m. at the Paint Bank Fire Department. Call 897-5346 for more information.

•Craig County Public Library Board of Trustees meeting at 6 p.m. at the library.

## THIRD MONDAY

Town of New Castle Council Meeting at 7 p.m. inside the New Castle Town Hall, located at 339 Market Street.

## FIRST TUESDAY

Craig County School Board meets at 6:30 p.m. in the High School Media Center.

## SECOND TUESDAY

Mountain Lodge 140 AF&AM, 7:30 p.m. at Lodge Hall, 255 Main St.

## THIRD WEDNESDAY

The Botetourt/Craig/Roanoke Farm Service Agency County Committee meets each month at 10 a.m. at the Bonsack USDA Service Center. Please call one day before the meeting date regarding possible cancellation information 540-977-2698, Ext. 2. The Bonsack USDA Service Center is located at 36 Executive Circle, Suite 1, Roanoke, VA 24012. All County Committee meetings are open to the public.

## FIRST THURSDAY

Craig County Board of Supervisors meets at 6 p.m. at the Craig County Courthouse.

## SECOND THURSDAY

Maywood Garden Club meeting at 7:30 p.m. held at Simmonsville Fire Department.

## EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

Everyone six months and up should receive a flu shot each year. A parent or guardian must accompany those under the age 18. Insurances will be billed. People are encouraged to bring their insurance card and not attend if they have COVID-19 like symptoms. The curbside clinic schedule is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment only. For more information, contact 540-864-5136.

# Virginia hands-free law now in full effect

**Shawn Nowlin**  
[shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org](mailto:shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org)

Virginia State Police have a message for all drivers: no cell phones in the hand while behind the wheel. After getting passed in the General Assembly, a new state law went into effect on January 1 making it illegal to have a cell phone in hand while driving.

While talking is allowed, texting, fiddling with social media or anything else that puts the phone in one's hand while behind the wheel is prohibited. There are some exceptions to the rule: drivers can hold devices while parked or stopped, drivers can hold devices when reporting

emergencies, drivers of emergency vehicles can use handheld devices and VDOT vehicle drivers can use handheld devices while performing traffic incident management services.

For first ticket offenders, there will be a \$125 fine. Subsequent violations will be a \$250 fine.

Roanoke County Sgt. Spencer Hoopes, like many others, thinks this law will be a welcomed change. "I have three teenage children, and they all have their driver's license. When I am with them, they are always on their best behavior. The same can't be said I'm not. This law will put at ease a lot of parents," area native

Amy Walker said.

The hands-free law is an effort to stop distracted driving in the Commonwealth, said Governor Ralph Northam who added, distracted driving is a serious problem, and we need everyone to work together.

He continued, "Last year, believe it or not, there were more than 23,000, I repeat that, 23,000 crashes in Virginia that were caused by distracted driving. And 120 of those individuals, unfortunately, lost their lives."

Over nine deaths and approximately 1,100 injuries are reported every day due to distracted drivers, according to the Centers for Disease

and Control. Data also shows that nearly six million distracted drivers hit the roads in the United States daily.

Said Virginia State Police Sgt. Dylan Davenport, "You cannot have a phone in your hand so get those things set up before you hit the road. Set up your playlist before you hit the road. Get your GPS and your mapping set up before you start driving so you can still take advantage of those tools and not have them distract you while you're on the road."

Roanoke County resident James Anderson says he's already seen a difference since the hands-free law went



PHOTO BY SHAWN NOWLIN

**With few exceptions, talking, texting or anything else that puts the phone in one's hand while behind the wheel is prohibited.**

into effect. "I was not surprised that this law passed the General Assembly. I haven't seen any of my neighbors, friends or family driv-

ing with their phones in hand at all this year. At the end of the day, this law is about keeping the roads safer for everybody."

# Library wants community input to adjust their future vision

**Pam Dudding**  
*Contributing writer*

The Craig County Library staff have had their hopes elevated, only to have their dreams squashed later in recent years as their goals for their facility had to change drastically due to lack of funding and support.

Ned Savage, the President of Craig County Public Library and on Board of Trustees, encourages citizens to help them set their goals that would meet the needs of the community.

Savage noted in a Facebook letter to the community, reflecting on 2020, "that has been unlike any memory."

"In spite of a global pandemic, our little library has

persevered and continued to serve our community with technology, information, education and connection," he added. "These resources have become even more critical and even essential for many patrons, as our county's students learn to navigate remote schooling, and the rest of us find ourselves spending more time at home, with reduced access to culture and social interaction that we may have once taken for granted."

He mentioned that many other libraries were forced to shut down, but the CC Library was able to

See **Library**, page 3



The Craig County Library is at 303 Main Street.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12		
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| <p><b>CLUES ACROSS</b></p> <p>1. Recurring TV show</p> <p>7. Throws out</p> <p>13. Iberian Peninsula</p> <p>microstate</p> <p>14. Gossip</p> <p>16. Atomic #20</p> <p>17. Ivy League institution</p> <p>19. Of I</p> <p>20. "He is ___!": Scripture excerpt</p> <p>22. Musical genre</p> <p>23. Heavy cavalry sword</p> <p>25. Ancient Olympic Site</p> <p>26. Satisfies</p> <p>28. Popular flower</p> <p>29. Shared services center</p> <p>30. Drain</p> <p>31. A way to attack</p> <p>33. Urban Transit Authority</p> <p>34. Spiritual leader</p> <p>36. Postponed</p> <p>38. N. American plant with</p> | <p>edible purple-black berries</p> <p>40. Gazes unpleasantly</p> <p>41. Gets up</p> <p>43. Capital of Ukraine</p> <p>44. Returned material authorization (abbr.)</p> <p>45. Golf score</p> <p>47. Superhigh frequency</p> <p>48. Swiss river</p> <p>51. Felons</p> <p>53. Succulent plants</p> <p>55. Soluble ribonucleic acid</p> <p>56. Deliberately setting fire to</p> <p>58. Infamous singer Zadora</p> <p>59. Anwar ____, Egyptian statesman</p> <p>60. Influential sports mag</p> <p>61. Aromatic Mediterranean plant</p> <p>64. Sixth note of a major scale</p> <p>65. Unit of explosive power</p> <p>67. Large watertight chamber</p> <p>69. Popular street</p> <p>70. A way of watering</p> | <p><b>CLUES DOWN</b></p> <p>1. Mollusks</p> <p>2. ____, denotes past</p> <p>3. Anchor ropes</p> <p>4. Large Middle Eastern country</p> <p>5. To make a mistake</p> <p>6. Ancient governor</p> <p>7. Extents</p> <p>8. Chinese surname</p> <p>9. NYC subway "residents"</p> <p>10. Essential oil used as perfume</p> <p>11. A way to treat injuries (abbr.)</p> <p>12. Session</p> <p>13. Units of land areas</p> <p>15. Goes over once more</p> <p>18. Where wrestlers work</p> <p>21. Italian islanders</p> <p>24. Avenue</p> <p>26. __ Adams, U.S. President</p> <p>27. Rest with legs bent</p> <p>30. Type of flour</p> <p>32. The Golden State (abbr.)</p> <p>35. More (Spanish)</p> | <p>37. Stinging, winged insect</p> <p>38. The use of irony to mock</p> <p>39. Arsenals</p> <p>42. Pouch</p> <p>43. 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet</p> <p>46. Violent seizure of property</p> <p>47. Restrict</p> <p>49. Something comparable to another</p> <p>50. Punishment device made from stems</p> <p>52. Soul and calypso songs</p> <p>54. Formerly OSS</p> <p>55. Athabaskan language</p> <p>57. __ bene: observe carefully</p> <p>59. Six (Spanish)</p> <p>62. Read-only memory</p> <p>63. Chinese philosophical principle</p> <p>66. American conglomerate</p> <p>68. Tin</p> |
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# Library

from page 2

"pivot and adapt."

"We're proud that we've been able to continue to offer and even expand our services," he said. "This year, we grappled with the difficult decision not to continue to pursue an expanded Resource Center. While community support for many aspects of the project was strong, some residents and local leaders justifiably questioned the project's expansive scope, vision and sustainability."

The Library has always been committed to "listening and responding to the

community above all else."

Therefore, they view this not as a setback, but as an opportunity to better ensure that the Library aligns with Craig County's wants, needs and capacity.

A continued concern is that their space limitations have always been a major constraint to the ability of the Library to serve their mission.

"As our future plans continue to shift to best reflect the community's shared vision, we need your voice to be included in this important conversation, as

we collectively determine the best course forward for our community's library," Savage continued. "Reach out to us and let us know your wishes and dreams for a library that effectively serves our County."

They ask that everyone consider joining one of their committees, volunteering behind the desk or help to put on a program or educational event.

They acknowledge that time is precious to everyone.

"Support can take many forms," he added. "Your

continued patronage itself shows that you value the resources we work to provide, and that support is invaluable to us."

The Library also participates in the Kroger Community Rewards Program which costs people nothing. When one signs up, the Library will receive a small donation every time they make a purchase.

Or one can sign up for Amazon Smile which is also a program that donates a small percentage of every purchase one makes to the CC library.

The library can help connect people with either or both.

Also, as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, all monetary donations are tax-deductible.

Savage reiterated their mission: "We are committed to empowering individuals and building our community by bringing people, information and resources together. We aim to provide the essential tools for building the community's prosperity through education, information and social interac-

tion."

The Craig County Public Library is located on 303 Main Street in New Castle and can be reached by phone at 540-864-8978 or via email at craiglibrary@swva.net. Because of COVID-19 mandates, the Library remains under strict limitations.

Savage added, "We can't do it without you. We thank you for your continued support and patronage, and your dedication to helping us build a stronger library and community in 2021 and beyond."

# Marijuana

from page 1

-Marijuana only exposures more than quadrupled in the six-year average (2013-2018) since recreational marijuana was legalized compared to the six-year average (2007-2012) prior to legalization

-The percent of suicide incidents in which toxicology results were positive for marijuana has increased from 14 percent in 2013 to 23 percent in 2017

•Black Market  
-RMHIDTA Colorado Drug Task Forces conducted 257 investigations of black-market marijuana in Colorado resulting in: 192 felony arrests, 6.08 tons of marijuana seized, 60,091 mariju-

na plants seized and 25 different states the marijuana was destined

-Seizures of Colorado marijuana in the U.S. mail system has increased 1,042 percent from an average of 52 parcels (2009-2012) to an average of 594 parcels (2013-2017) during the time recreational marijuana has been legal

•Societal Impact  
-Marijuana tax revenue represents approximately nine-tenths of one percent of Colorado's FY 2018 budget. 64 percent of local jurisdictions in Colorado have banned medical and recreational marijuana businesses

A huge concern that has opened the eyes to many coun-

sors was in the "Protecting Virginia's Youth Rocky Mountain HIDTA Report" in 2019, it stated, "Children's unintentional exposure to marijuana has increased and can lead to hospitalizations."

Additionally, from 2018 to 2019, daily use of marijuana increased 26.3 percent among 8th, 10th and 12th graders 43 percent of college students used marijuana at least once in the past year, the highest amount since 1983.

"Considerable evidence suggests that students who smoke marijuana have poorer educational outcomes than their nonsmoking peers," according to those who conducted the report. They

suggested that vaping marijuana has increased since 2017. THC can be as high as 99 percent when vaped.

The reports also find that:  
•When young people quit using marijuana, they are at a lower risk of developing cognitive impairment or mental health issues than those that continue using marijuana

•Regular use (daily/near-daily use) by young people can be associated with the development of schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders in adulthood

•People who begin using marijuana before the age of 18 are four to seven times more likely to de-

velop a marijuana use disorder

•Evidence suggests that exposure to marijuana during teen development can cause "long-term or possibly permanent adverse changes to the brain"

For more information, one may search, Marijuana - youth consequences Teen and Young Adult Marijuana Use Source: <https://rmhidta.org/files/D2DF/FINAL-Volume6.pdf>

The goal of RMHIDTA is to assist other states and facilities in exposing the effects of marijuana as quickly as possible to prevent long term damage to children and adults as well, by providing in-depth studies.

# Teachers

from page 1

setting is difficult for teachers and students. This platform requires twice the work for teachers as traditional in-person instruction and an increased level of patience, self-motivation, and dedication from students (and their parents). I greatly appreciate the extra effort and understanding shown by our CCPS families. I certainly hope that everyone has an amazing holiday break and pray that 2021 is infinitely better than 2020."

Nominated for Craig County Middle School Math Teacher of the Year was Rebecca Craighead.

"Rebecca is a strong, professional, knowledgeable middle school math teacher who has experienced success in teaching math in the middle school classrooms into school divisions. Our students have been successful in passing the state of Virginia math competency test in each division. Ms. Craighead has the trust and

respect of the students, staff, and parents of the Craig County community. She has had to adapt and adjust to many principals and superintendents in order to be successful in the classroom. Ms. Craighead is a solid pillar in an ever-changing school environment."

"I felt honored to receive this award, as I work with several amazing teachers, staff, and administrators in Craig County," Craighead said. "Craig County Public Schools is a blessing to me and a well-kept secret. I've worked for other school divisions, so I do not offer this statement lightly. I adore the students, staff and administration here."

Lauren McAllister was nominated for McCleary Elementary Teacher of the Year.

The nominee wrote: "Lauren grew up in the small County of Craig, learning at an early age that God, family and community

are all important. Lauren is one of many great teachers at Craig County Public Schools."

At the age of ten, her brother was attending Virginia Tech and to help with expenses, he joined the National Air Force Guard. McAllister attended his graduation, and quickly learned much about the respect of the flag, veterans and military families. McAllister was always part of a church youth group growing up which assisted with many senior and veteran dinners.

When McAllister graduated in 2013 from Craig County High school, her plan was to attend Jefferson Medical College in Roanoke to become a registered nurse. After three years of nursing college, she decided that this career was not for her.

She transferred to Liberty University, after obtaining a substitute teaching position with Craig

County Public Schools. She was offered a job in August of 2016 working as an instructional assistant. She loved it and felt that God had led her to this path and decided to finish her degree in teaching at Liberty University. She obtained a position at CCMS as a special education teacher and then transferred to McCleary Elementary to teach third-grade. She is now working on obtaining her master's degree in special education from Liberty University.

Although 2020 was a challenging year for all teachers and community, McAllister did marry the love of her life in June of 2018 and became a new mother on March 7, the Saturday before Craig County Public Schools closed due to COVID-19. She was out on maternity leave for most of the remaining school year and devastated that she was unable to see and her students off to

the fourth grade. Again, this year with virtual learning she is missing half of her class. She loves the interaction with her students, co-workers and parents. Simply put, McAllister loves a challenge.

"I felt very honored and blessed to receive the award. I am very blessed to work with great kids and fellow faculty members every day," McAllister shared. "Even though I received the award, it takes all of us at McCleary Elementary to give all of our students the best education."

The VFW presented each teacher with an honorary certificate and a \$50 Visa Gift Card for their appreciation.

Post-Commander Billy Lee added, "We have a good group of teachers in our country. They really care about our kids, it's not just a job for them. They also teach our kids about respecting our country."

# Contest

from page 1

America's Founding Fathers had a vision - a vision of an independent people in a land full of new opportunities. Seventeen seventy-six dawned as an unprecedented era in the New World. No longer were 13 colonies of Great Britain entities unto themselves; they were united in purpose and direction, declaring, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

Proclaiming themselves "free", the Fathers ushered in a Revolution that would serve to inspire other countries for hundreds of years to come.

America's Founding Fathers had another vision - a vision of a united people in a land full of vitality and bold, new frontiers. A land where individuals were not afraid to experiment with a never-before-attempted form of government, whereby the power rests with the people.

September 17, 1787, marks the final draft of the Constitution that was signed by the members of the Constitutional Convention, uniting 13 separate governments into one Republic. George Washington, who presided over the Convention, would rise to become the republic's first President. At the conclusion of his historic term, he issued his farewell address.

In it, he warned the citizens of the United States about the dangers that would destroy what so many had worked so hard to build. He feared regionalism, partisanship, and foreign entanglements. Specifically of partisanship he said,

"However (political parties) may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely in the course of time and things, to become potent engines, about which cunning, ambitious and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterward the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion.

Another vision of our forefathers was godliness, patriotism and unity. Unfortunately, in the span of nearly 400 years, our country has witnessed undoing of this vision. We are quickly becoming the terror our founding fathers foresaw, because we have not been careful.

Early settlers worked diligently for mere survival and gave everything they had to secure their own liberty and the liberty of future generations. As a result of their efforts, America prospered and rose to significance as a global power. With that success, the majority of United States citizens grew complacent. We've been seduced by other gods, name-

ly pleasure and profit; and have forgotten God, our Creator. We've embraced profane laws, completely antithetical to the Scriptures and laws designed to remove even the mention of God's name from public places. As a result, our children are no longer taught the accurate history of our country's foundation.

Patriotism, the devotion to and vigorous support for one's country, was once every United States' citizen's aspiration. But as I watch or read the news, patriotism seems now to be a curse word - hailed as outdated, discriminatory and even toxic. Our United States appears more polarized now than ever before. Those "potent engines" that President George Washington warned of seem to be careening full steam toward one another, leaving disillusioned and disheartened citizens in their wake. This is not the America that our founding fathers envisioned.

But I believe, it is not too late to rekindle the vision and restore what the Founding Fathers worked so hard to achieve. It's time

for the American people to wake up. Freedom in our Republic is possible, but it requires work. Hard work. Being a free American requires diligent study, boldness of belief and the willingness to hold our elected officials accountable, regardless of party. Benjamin Franklin once said, after the completion of the Constitution, that our elected officers' officials had given us a Republic - a government by the people, for the people - "if we could keep it".

Martin is in the tenth grade and shared, "I wrote this paper as I felt like it was something that needed to be said as some is good and

some not so good".

Martin's grandfathers served in the Army, his dad in the U.S. Air Force and his brother who currently is serving in the Army.

Martin shared that his future plans are split between going into a military historian avenue or a military career. However, when Billy Lee presented him with his award, he introduced Martin as "My Marine! Oh, wait a minute, his hair is too long on the top."

Second-place winner was Gavin Shires. Within his paper, he wrote, "The Founding Fathers imagined a country of free people working together for the

general welfare, liberty and establishment of a more perfect union. But, if the Founders saw America today, they would be bewildered at what they see."

This is Gavin's fourth time he has placed in the VFW writing contests. He shared, "I feel passionate about these types of issues and wanted to give my two cents."

Today, there are many youth who are committed at a young age to make a difference in the political arena.

"It's really good that kids still take interest in how good America is," Post Commander Billy Lee said.



## Appalachian Trail Pedestrian Bridge Over Route 311 (Catawba Valley Drive) Roanoke County

**Find out** about a project to construct a new pedestrian bridge to carry the Appalachian Trail over Route 311 in Roanoke County. The McAfee Knob trailhead of the Appalachian Trail access is extremely popular with hikers, but poses a safety concern as pedestrians entering the trail from the nearby parking lot must cross Route 311 at a location in a curve with limited sight distance. As a long-term safety improvement, VDOT will build a pedestrian bridge to carry trail users over Route 311 away from vehicular traffic.

Project information and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation in the form of a Categorical Exclusion are available for review at 731 Harrison Avenue in Salem, 540-387-5353, 800-367-7623, TTY/TDD 711. **Please call ahead so VDOT can make arrangements for personnel to share more information or 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. Len Gisiner, Virginia Department of Transportation, 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, VA 24153 on or prior to **January 28, 2021**. If a request for a public hearing is received, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted. VDOT previously received public comments on the project in July 2020.

In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Pat 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed project on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register for Historic Places will be provided in the project's environmental documentation.

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 need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Len Gisiner at the phone numbers listed above.

UPC: 111066 State Project: 0311-080-913, P101, R201, B618 Federal Project: HSIP-5128(401)

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# OPINION

## Elected leaders react to the violent attacks at the United States Capitol

**President-elect Joe Biden**  
 "Let me be very clear — the scenes of chaos at the Capitol do not reflect a true America, do not represent who we are. What we are seeing is a small number of extremists dedicated to lawlessness. This is not dissent. It's disorder. It's chaos. It borders on sedition and it must end now. Nobody could tell me that if it was a group of Black Lives Matter protesters, they wouldn't have been treated very differently than the thugs that stormed the Capitol."

**Vice President Mike Pence**

"I want to thank the federal, state and local law enforcement. The violence was quelled. The Capitol is secured, and the people's work continues. We condemn the violence that took place here in the strongest possible terms. We grieve the loss of life in these hallowed halls, as well as the injuries suffered by those who defended our Capitol today. And we will always be grateful to the men and women who stayed at their posts to defend this historic place. To those who wreaked havoc in our Capitol, you did not win. Violence never wins. Freedom wins, and this is still the people's house."

**Vice President-elect Kamala Harris**

"What we saw in our nation's capital was, as the president-elect has called it, an assault on the rule of law.

And it has no place in our democracy. I believe we must ask ourselves two questions about what happened: What went wrong? And how do we make it right? And I believe the answers require us to recognize that the challenge we're facing in our country is about more than the actions of the few we watched yesterday."

**President Donald Trump**

"To all my supporters, I know your pain, I know you're hurt. I know election that was stolen from us. It was a landslide election, and everyone knows it. Especially the other side. But you have to go home now. We have to have peace. We love you, you're very special. These are the things and events that happen when a sacred landslide election victory is so unceremoniously and viciously stripped away."

**Virginia Senator Tim Kaine**

"So many of you have reached out — while the Capitol attack was going on and in the days since — to ask how I am and express your deep concern over what you saw happening. Rather than respond briefly to each, I thought I would write up my thoughts to share with you all.

January 6 re-proved a very old lesson about human nature: character is destiny. America trusted its most important post to a moral defective. Some thought he would

grow into the job, or moderate his behavior under the weight of responsibility. That is just not how life works. In all but a very few cases, an adult will behave as she or he has behaved throughout life. In this sense, the set of outrages of the last few years — culminating in a 2020 marked by mismanaging a pandemic thus occasioning unnecessary death and then the violence and racism at the Capitol — is a completely logical ending to a very sad chapter in American life.

A second human nature lesson is this — the presence of evil is constant, but the success of evil depends upon a key variable: the degree to which people choose to be bystanders. We over-analyze why the President has such a devoted base of supporters. I am more focused on this fact: An awful lot of smart, educated people chose to be bystanders in the last years and that allowed a pathetic and insecure leader to do things that most of us thought unimaginable in this great nation. The bystanderism started with the tens of millions of Americans who just sat things out in 2016, not able to see the danger that was so clearly before us. And it has sadly continued everywhere, most visibly in Congress. I have lost count of the number of my Senate colleagues who, though privately worried, went along with the unacceptable because they wanted a tax cut, or a judge they liked, an invitation to golf or to avoid a primary challenge. And now some finally awake to the wisdom of the Gospel lesson: "what doth it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul?"

**UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson**

"On the United States and the election, I want to say that all my life America has stood for some very important things — an idea of freedom and an idea of democracy. And ... so far as he encouraged people to storm the Capitol and insofar as the President has consistently cast doubt on the outcome of a free and fair election, I believe that that was completely wrong."

**House Speaker Nancy Pelosi**

"When that assault was taking place on the Capitol, 3,865 people in our country died of the coronavirus, many of them people of color because of the injustice

of it all. The next day, 4,000 people died of the coronavirus. Why? Because decisions were made at the highest level, months before in the Oval Office, of denial, distortion, delay, calling it a 'hoax.' I thought it was going to be an epiphany for those who were in opposition of our democracy to see the light. Instead, it was an epiphany for the world to see that there are people in our country, led by this President, for the moment, who have chosen their whiteness over democracy. That's what this is about."

**Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer**

"It is very, very difficult to put into words what has transpired. I have never lived through or even imagined an experience like the one we have just witnessed in this Capitol. President Franklin Roosevelt set aside Dec. 7, 1941, as a day that will live in infamy. Unfortunately, we can now add Jan. 6, 2021, to that very short list of dates in American history that will live forever in infamy.

This temple to democracy was desecrated, its windows smashed, our offices vandalized. The world saw Americans' elected officials hurriedly ushered out because they were in harm's way. The House and Senate floors were places of shelter until the evacuation was ordered, leaving rioters to stalk these hallowed halls. Lawmakers and our staffs. Average citizens who love their country, serve it every day, feared for their lives. I understand that one woman was shot and tragically lost her life. We mourn her and feel for her friends and family."

**House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy**

"I condemn any of this. This is un-American. This should never happen in our nation and whatever is going on right now has got to stop. As a nation, I know we sit back and we're appalled by what we're seeing, but I want everybody to take a deep breath and understand we all have some responsibility here. I don't care what we've ever said on Facebook, what we've ever done to one another, we are all Americans, we need to stop. We can disagree with one another, but to take it to how this has gone is beyond anything I've ever envisioned that was possible in this nation."

**Virginia Governor Ralph Northam**

"The violence we saw at

the U.S. Capitol was nothing short of an armed insurrection and a humiliating assault on American democracy. The President incited this mob with his refusal to accept the lawful results of a fair and secure election. And the members of Congress who have enabled him - and continue to encourage and praise his efforts - bear just as much responsibility. This did not come about overnight. When elected leaders purposefully reject facts and fan the flames of conspiracy theories, all in pursuit of power, they are taking dangerous steps. And now we are seeing where those steps can lead. God forbid we experience anything worse. I continue to pray for the safety of every member of the House and Senate, all the staff, the journalists, everyone who works in the Capitol. And I commend the Virginia National Guard and Virginia State Police for quickly stepping up in this time of great need. Let me be clear: Virginia will be there for as long as it takes to protect our nation's capital and ensure the peaceful transition of power."

**Former President Barack Obama**

"History will rightly remember today's violence at the Capitol, incited by a sitting president who has continued to baselessly lie about the outcome of a lawful election, as a moment of great dishonor and shame for our nation. But we'd be kidding ourselves if we treated it as a total surprise."

**Former First Lady Michelle Obama**

"I woke up elated by the news of Reverend Raphael Warnock's election victory. He'll be Georgia's first Black senator, and I was heartened by the idea that the Senior Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church - the home parish of Dr. King and a spiritual and organizational hub during the Civil Rights Movement - would be representing his state in the United States Senate.

"In just a few hours, though, my heart had fallen harder and faster than I can remember. Like all of you, I watched as a gang—organized, violent, and mad they'd lost an election—laid siege to the United States Capitol. They set up gallows. They proudly waved the traitorous flag of the Confederacy through the halls. They desecrated the center of American govern-

ment. And once authorities finally gained control of the situation, these rioters and gang members were led out of the building not in handcuffs, but free to carry on with their days. The day was a fulfillment of the wishes of an infantile and unpatriotic president who can't handle the truth of his own failures. And the wreckage lays at the feet of a party and media apparatus that gleefully cheered him on, knowing full well the possibility of consequences like these."

**South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham**

"The people sitting in the chairs need to be sitting in a jail cell. The people who attacked the Capitol Hill police need to be charged with attacking a police officer. Sedition may be a charge for some of these people. I could not agree more with President-elect Biden's statement to the nation. Time to retake the Capitol, end the violence and stop the madness. Time to move forward in governing our nation. Our differences are real but the love of our nation overwhelms our differences."

**Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell**

"I salute and applaud those front-line U.S. Capitol Police officers who stood bravely in harm's way during the failed insurrection. We are praying for those who sustained injuries, some serious, in the line of duty. Congress is also deeply grateful to the local officers from D.C., Virginia, and Maryland, the federal law enforcement personnel, the National Guard, and all the other professionals who deployed to help subdue the criminals and retake the Capitol.

"With that said, January 6 represented a massive failure of institutions, protocols and planning that are supposed to protect the first branch of our federal government. A painstaking investigation and thorough review must now take place and significant changes must follow. Initial bipartisan discussions have already begun among committees of oversight and Congressional Leadership.

"The ultimate blame for yesterday lies with the unhinged criminals who broke down doors, trampled our nation's flag."

God bless America."

-Compiled by Shawn Nowlin

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# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

In December of 2019, our Ninth District Congressman Morgan Griffith voted against HR4, a bill that would restore protections in the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which was gutted by the U. S. Supreme Court's 2013 Shelby v. Holder decision.

The Shelby decision gave rise to the wave of voter suppression laws passed by Republican state legislatures in the last several years, laws which have both the intent and the effect of blocking millions of black, brown, and young Americans from exercising their right to vote. By opposing HR4, Rep. Griffith voiced his support for voter suppression.

Last month, Rep. Griffith and 125 other House Republicans signed on to an amicus brief supporting the attempt by the Attorney General of Texas and 14 other Republican state Attorneys General to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

Even after the terrorist attack on the United States Capitol building by violent pro-Trump fanatics on January 6, Rep. Griffith continued his campaign to disenfranchise millions of American voters. He did this by supporting challenges to the legally authorized and certified votes for the Biden ticket by electors from Arizona and Pennsylvania - challenges which have been dismissed by

dozens of court decisions, including a refusal even to hear such frivolous suits by the United States Supreme Court.

By his actions, our Congressman has staked out a belief that, even in the midst of the nation's most devastating public health crisis in more than one hundred years, state election officials should not have the power to protect and expand voting access for their constituents. Beyond that, Rep. Griffith has been complicit in encouraging violent sedition against his own workplace by a bunch of entitled, angry, nihilistic cretins who refuse to accept the irrefutable fact that Trump lost an honest election. To stoke and indulge the fantasies of these willfully ignorant fanatics, who unfortunately represent a growing movement in our country and in both houses of the Congress, is exponentially cynical and irresponsible. Morgan Griffith is doing just that.

I am glad that Rep. Griffith was not injured by the seditionists he encouraged, and I have told him so. And I will say this - he will respond to your questions and concerns. You may or may not like what he says, but he is good about that. You can reach him through his Congressional webpage.

-New Castle resident  
John Hennen

## OBITUARIES

### Fleming, Carter

Carter Fleming, 82, of New Castle, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 5. He was preceded in death by his parents, Virgil Fleming and Myrtle Kendrick Fleming; his infant brother, Burns; and his first wife, Judy Greene Fleming.

Family remaining to cherish Carter's memory include: his wife, Carolyn Alley Fleming; children, Scott C. Fleming, Krystal F. Thompson, and Kent D. Fleming (Kacy); stepson, Steve Alley (Donna); grandchildren, Izabelle and Olivia Thompson, Mason, Max, Marshall and Marlee Fleming, Nicole Alley Dudley (Graham) and Rebecca Alley; brothers, Bennie (Janice), Carol, Starling (Gwyn), and Douglas Fleming; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Carter was born in Clintwood, Virginia, and was a proud graduate of Virginia Tech where he earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees. He served in the US Army before beginning his career as



an Agricultural and 4-H Extension Agent in Craig County. He retired from Virginia Tech-Virginia Cooperative Extension in 1990 and pursued his passions of farming and raising Angus cattle. Carter was a founding member of Craig Valley Baptist Church, served on numerous volunteer boards and started the sandlot football program in Craig County.

Friends were welcomed at the Paitsel Funeral Home in New Castle on Friday, January 8, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. A graveside service was held on Sunday, January 10, at 2 p.m. in the Fleming Family Cemetery in Clintwood. COVID-19 safety and screening protocols are requested of those attending services. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Craig Valley Baptist Church or your favorite charity.

### Owens, Randolph (Randy) Mitchell

Randolph (Randy) Mitchell Owens went to be with the Lord on December 23, 2020. Randy was survived by his wife of 61 years, Betty (nee Reynolds), sons Randy Jr. and Tommy, three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, as well as several siblings.

Randy and Betty lost their daughter Sandra (Kay) in 2017. He was born June 22, 1941 and was raised in



Barbours Creek near New Castle where his parents, Luther and Rachel Owens, raised 11 children. Randy and Betty moved the family to the Richmond area where he retired from American Filtrona. Randy was an active member of Grace Church, Richmond.

A graveside service was held at Paxton Chapel in New Castle on Monday, January 4.

### VanDyke, Charlie "Charles"

Charlie (Charles) VanDyke of New Castle went to be with his heavenly father on Friday, January 8, at age 76.

Charles was preceded in death by his parents, Charlie and Edna (Horne) VanDyke; brothers, James VanDyke and Jack VanDyke; sister, Jean VanDyke.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of 52 years, Brenda Fisher VanDyke; daughter, Amy (Ron) Niday; son,

Jeff (Michelle) VanDyke; grandchildren, Adam and Cera Niday, and Tyler & Riley VanDyke; brothers, Wayne (Nina) VanDyke, Clay (Marlene) VanDyke; sisters, Joan (Wayne) Tripp, Jill (Dennis) Abbott, Shirley VanDyke and Geraldine (Smith) Johnson.

Services will be held privately. Arrangements by Paitsel Funeral Home. www.paitselfh.com

## Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community

Avni Doshi, Frances Cha, Jane Fallon and more recommend their go-to novels that never fail to shine a light during dark times.

19 November 2020  
When things get difficult, the right book can provide just what you need, whether that's commiseration, solitude, sweetness - or maybe just a good laugh. Here, a selection of our authors reveal the book that never fails to lift their spirits.

Love, Nina by Nina Stibbe, chosen by Jane Fallon

I don't know if it's because Nina Stibbe and I both moved to the same area of London at the same time - and at around the same age - but reading the wide-eyed, sweet, and above all funny letters in Love, Nina that the young author sent to her sister transports me straight back to that age when it seemed as if the whole world was out there waiting if only you knew what to do with it. It feels impossibly archaic now that the main form of communication with family once you left home back then was the letter, or an occasional payphone call with beeps going off and much fumbling for change every couple of minutes. It was a different world, but one that is so comfortingly familiar. Gorgeous.

Idiopathy by Sam Byers, chosen by Avni Doshi

I'm one of those obnoxious people who doesn't find anything funny - stand-up and sitcoms make me desperately uncomfortable. But Sam Byers' Idiopathy is one of the funniest books I've read. How does he do it? The sadness in the novel is a perfect counterpoint to the comedy. The story is about three old friends who come together during the outbreak of a cattle epidemic. The idea of this kind of crisis felt comfortably distant when I read the book years ago, but in the current circumstances hits closer to home. The writing is sophisticated, the characters believable and Byers handles absurdity as well as anyone.

Scoop by Evelyn Waugh, chosen by William Boyd

No novel is perfect. The form doesn't permit perfection - it's too random, too complex and multi-layered, too close to the overall messiness of human lives. But Evelyn Waugh's Scoop (1938) is as close to perfection as a comic novel can be. It is Waugh's masterpiece, I believe, and very funny - and contains the funniest chapter in all English literature, I would claim. It is supremely well-written, an affecting love story and a brilliant portrayal of the cynical world of journalism. And it ends in triumph for its unlikely hero, William Boot, whose ordered world - turned wildly upside down by his adventures in Fleet Street and Africa - finds its reassuring order again, as

## Penguin Authors on the Funny and Hopeful Books that Cheer Them Up

all true comedies must. An enduring delight and a triumph.

Then She Found Me by Elinor Lipman, chosen by Frances Cha

I have several 'comfort books' that I return to, but the one I want to introduce here is Elinor Lipman's Then She Found Me. It's about a quiet high school Latin teacher in Boston named April who is quietly and happily living her life, when her biological mother contacts her from out of the blue and inserts herself into April's life. The mother is a television show host - flashy, tacky, attention-seeking, flirty and altogether the opposite of shy, quiet April who is at first completely turned off by her new mother and her tall tales, but becomes charmed in spite of herself. The book is funny, sweet, wry and has an unlikely love story also woven in on the side. It is such a gem of a book!

Riders by Jilly Cooper, chosen by Clare Pooley

When we were in the midst of the first lockdown, and I wanted to be reminded of simpler times, I turned to Jilly Cooper's Riders, which I originally read as a teenager, furtively and under the covers. Rupert Campbell-Black, with his sneering mouth and muscular thighs, was my first true love.

It's impossible to be miserable in Rutshire, a place where everyone speaks in puns and double-entendres, unless they're quoting Shakespeare and Byron. All problems can be solved with a cooked breakfast, a gin and tonic or a hearty bonk in a bluebell wood or loose-box. Rutshire men are cads, bounders and terribly politically incorrect, but by God they look good in a pair of tight white jodhpurs.

In Jilly Cooper's world, no one ever takes anything too seriously, except for their horses and their dogs. It's the very best place to spend a pandemic.

The Reader on the 6.27 by Jean-Paul Didierlaurent, chosen by James Bailey

I came to Jean-Paul Didierlaurent's The Reader on the 6.27 late, but I think I read it at just the right time: when I needed cheering up amid all the doom and gloom of 2020.

The novel, translated from French, tells the story of Guylain Vignolles, who works at a pulping factory. Every day he sits on the 6.27 train and recites aloud the pages he has saved from the pulping machine. One day he discovers the diary of a woman who feels as lost in the world as he does, and he sets off on a journey to find her. This is both a love story, and a story about a love of language and literature. It is funny, uplifting, and hopeful. I don't often read books more than once, but this is one I'll definitely be keeping on my bookshelf for the next time I need a pick-me-up.

The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13 3/4 by Sue Townsend, chosen by Patrick

Freyne

I think the book that always cheers me up, when I reread it every ten years or so, is Sue Townsend's The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13 3/4. I read it first when I was around 13 3/4 myself, and while I always found it really funny, it was only when rereading it as an adult that I realised how tender and kind it manages to be at the same time. I think Adrian Mole was the first unreliable narrator I ever encountered, and it primed me to realise that all of us are unreliable narrators, really, and that that actually quite a hopeful thing. Adrian's narration is hilarious and poignant because who he hopes to be isn't matched by the mundane and often sad things that are happening around him. And yet, it still manages to be a humane and optimistic book. Sue Townsend was a genius but more importantly, I think, she was a good person.

Three Bags Full by Leonie Swann, chosen by Marianne Cronin

I need to tell you about Three Bags Full by Leonie Swann, and as soon as you read the premise, you'll understand why. On the hills of Ireland, a farmer is murdered, and his sheep set about solving the crime. Farmer George's sheep are unusually intelligent because he has spent his evenings reading them detective stories to help them get to sleep. Three Bags Full doesn't give me 'hope' via themes of overcoming adversity or a triumph over sadness - its hopeful aspect, to me at least, is that it exists. A world where there are books about sheep solving crime is a world that fills me with hope. Oh, and one of the sheep is called Miss Marple.

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# 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. Charles Stacy.</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>NEW CANTERBURY PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP</b> Pastor John D. Abbott, Hwy 621 (10 miles), phone: 864-8242, Sunday Morning Lesson 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday Night Service 6:00 pm.</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>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>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>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>HEBRON UNITED METHODIST</b> Pastor Rodney Longmire, Rt. 606, 1981 Caldwell Mt. Rd., New Castle, 540- 400-3419. Worship 11:15AM. LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST Rev. Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, &amp; 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.</p>	<p><b>THE CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> Contact person: Panco Cantley, 864-5035, 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>CRAIG HEALING SPRINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> (Disciples of Christ) Pastor - Kenneth W. Davis, Jr., 6 Grannys Branch Road (Johns Creek), New Castle, Phone: 864-6102. Sunday School at 10 am. Sunday Worship at 11 am every Sunday. Fellowship meal after Sunday Worship on second Sundays. Everyone is welcome!</p>	<p><b>LEVEL GREEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> 3388 Cumberland Gap Rd. Newport, Duane Wente, Minister, 540-544-7179. Sunday School 10:00am, Sunday Morning Worship 11:00am, Children's Church 11:00am. Choir Practice, bi-weekly 7:00pm, Ladies meeting first Monday of each month at 7:00pm.</p>	<p><b>NEW CASTLE UNITED METHODIST</b> Rev. Charles Stacy, 364 Main St., New Castle, Va. 864-5242: Sunday School 10AM, Worship 11AM; Monday Adult Choir 7PM, UMW 3rd Wednesday 7PM. Youth and other programs, Bible Studies.</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>MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN</b> 4199 Craig Valley Drive, New Castle, 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>ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 99 2nd Street, New Castle. Rev. Stephen McNally. 540-473-3691. Mass is on Sunday at 11:15 AM.</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>NEW CASTLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> "WHERE YOUR HEART CAN FEEL THE DIFFERENCE" Sheldon Cosma, Senior Minister; Alex James, Youth Minister; 282 Salem Ave., New Castle; 864-5212; Sunday Mornings: 9 A.M. Contemporary Service and 10:45 A.M. Traditional Service with Sunday School at 10 A.M.; Sunday night adult Bible study at 7 P.M.; Sunday Night Youth Bible study (6-12) at 6:30 P.M.; Wednesday night Bible study at 5:30 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>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>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 7:00PM, Reformers Unanimous Addiction Recovery every Friday evening at 7PM.</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.sttfc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).</p>

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**Legals - Botetourt County**

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION**  
 Commonwealth of Virginia VA. Code Ann. §§ 8.01-316, -317  
**Case No. 20-649**  
 Botetourt County Circuit Court  
 Mary Elizabeth McKenney v. Richard Lee McKenney  
 The object of this suit is to: Obtain a divorce based on separation of 1 year. It is ORDERED that Richard Lee McKenney appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before 02/01/2021.  
 12-28-20

Sherry Perry  
 Deputy Clerk

**SPECIAL COMMISSIONER'S SALE OF 58 Lakeland Circle, Troutville, VA 24175 Tax Map #108(A)(1)BK2-19**  
 The Special Commissioner will offer the above-described property for sale to the highest bidder at public auction on the date and time referenced below.

Lot 19, Block 2, according to the Map of Blocks 2 through 7, of Rainbow Forest, property of Botetourt Development Corporation, Botetourt County, Virginia, made by C.B. Malcolm and Son, S.C.E.'s dated August 15, 1960, of record in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia in Plat Book 4, page 102.

Date of Sale: February 9, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.  
 Location: outside the Botetourt County Circuit Court, PO Box 219, Courthouse, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090.

Terms: CASH; a deposit in the form of certified funds in the amount of \$10,000 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower. Final settlement is subject to Court approval of terms. Time is of the essence.

**OPTIONS:**

1. All costs of conveyance, examination of title, recording charges, etc. will be at cost of purchaser with the exception of the grantor's tax. Neither the Special Commissioner nor any other party guarantees or covenants to deliver or in any way to obtain possession of the premises for any third party purchaser.
2. The Special Commissioner reserves the right to reject all bids, extend the time to receive bids or withdraw the property from sale at any time. In addition, should the Special Commissioner be unable, for any reason, in its sole discretion, to convey title, the successful bidder's sole remedy in law or equity shall be the return of his deposit. Upon refund of the deposit, the sale shall be void and of no effect.

Additional terms may be announced at the time of the sale. The Special Commissioner will convey the above-described property to the purchaser(s) by Special Warranty deed at settlement and makes no additional representations or warranties of any kind regarding the title to said property.

John K. Prillaman, Esq.  
 Special Commissioner

For Information Contact:  
 John K. Prillaman, Esq.  
 OPN LAW  
 3140 Chaparral Drive  
 Roanoke, Virginia 24018  
 (540) 725-8194

**Legals - City of Salem**

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION**  
 Commonwealth of Virginia VA. Code Ann. §§ 8.01-316, -317  
**Case No. CL20-2497**  
 Roanoke County Circuit Court  
 April Lynn Webster-Mullins v. Timothy Roger Mullins  
 The object of this suit is to: Obtain a divorce based on a one year separation. It is ORDERED that Timothy Roger Mullins appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before 2-26-2021 @ 4:30pm.

1-4-2021  
 Jennifer Vest  
 Deputy Clerk

**Legals - Craig County**

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION**  
 Commonwealth of Virginia VA CODE § 8.01-316  
**Case No. JJ002182-04-00, JJ002182-05-00, JJ002182-06-00**  
**CRAIG COMBINED COURT- JUVENILE**  
 Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court  
 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re PAITSEL, RAYNE, AKA BABY GIRL GARMAN  
 The object of this suit is to:

terminate the residual parental rights of the father of Rayne Paitsel, aka Baby Girl Garman thought to be either Daniel Garman, Christopher Allen Paitsel or Unknown Father pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 16.1-283 B and C, and which child is under the age of twelve (12) months and was born to Kristen Nicole Garman. Residual parental rights are defined in Section 16.1-228 of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended), as the rights and responsibilities remaining with a parent after the parent loses custody of a child, including but not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition. The ties between you and your child are severed forever and you become a legal stranger to the child.

It is ORDERED that Daniel Garman, Christopher Paitsel & Unknown Father appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 02/17/2021 09:30 AM.

12/29/2020  
 Patty Taylor  
 Deputy Clerk

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**Southern Towers**  
 BTS, LP proposes to build a 109-foot Monopole Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 1911 Walnut Spring Road, Blacksburg, Montgomery County, VA 24060. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Heather, h.chenoweth@trileaf.com, 8600 LaSalle Road, Suite 301, Towson, MD 21286 - 410.853.7128.

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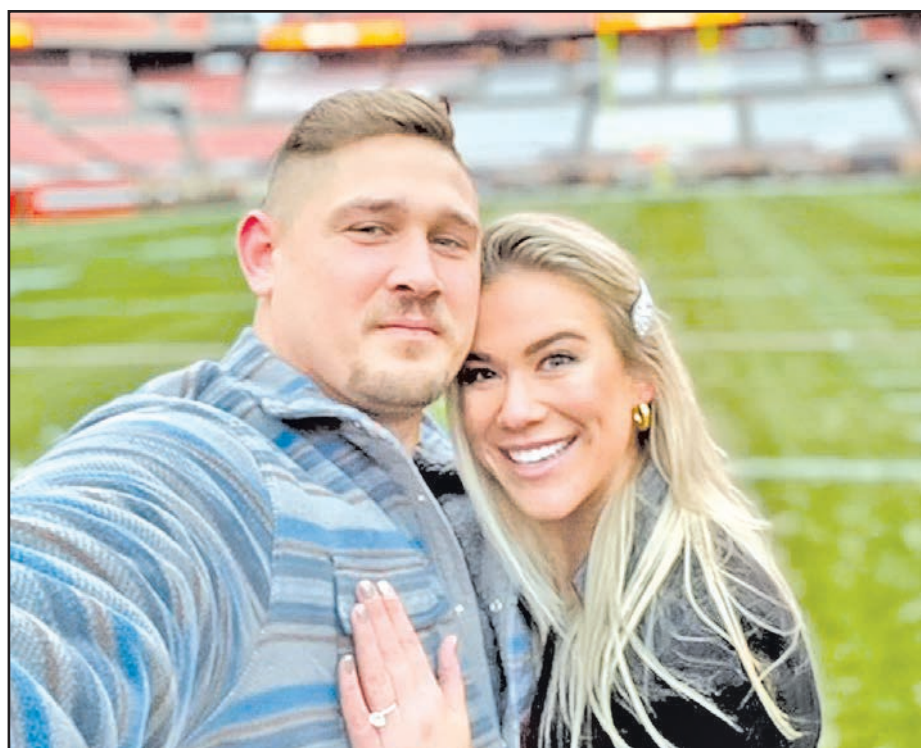
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# SPORTS

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## Craig County High graduate Carly Whiting is engaged to Browns' guard Wyatt Teller

*Joins in the excitement as Browns beat the Steelers in NFL playoffs*



Wyatt Teller and Carly Whiting after Teller proposed.

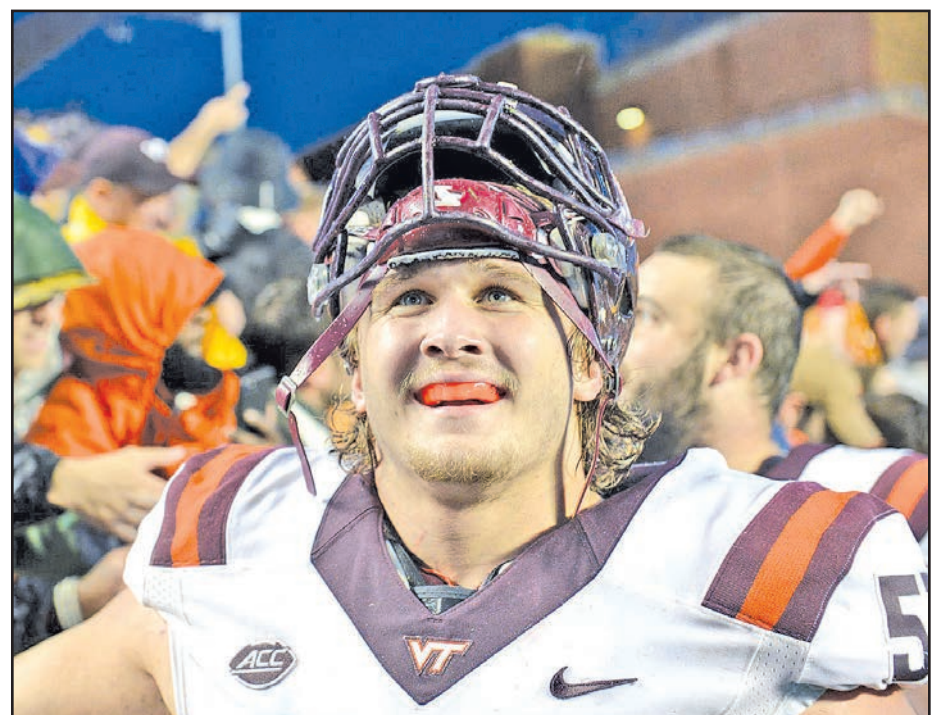
SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Teller is down on one knee at the 50 yard line of the Browns' stadium.



Wyatt(#77) blocks from Browns quarterback Baker Mayfield.



Teller played offensive line for Virginia Tech.

The past year was a terrible year for many, but Craig County native Carly Whiting and former Virginia Tech football standout Wyatt Teller will have some good memories of 2020. Whiting and Teller got engaged on the Cleveland Browns football field on December 21st, and Teller helped lead the Browns to their best season in 26 years.

"We're so excited, he proposed to me in the coolest way," said Whiting, a 2009 graduate of Craig County High School. Carly's mom, Melissa, is the principal at Craig County High and her dad, Bud, is a well-known figure in the county as well.

With Teller playing for the Browns, the video of the proposal was shown on ESPN as Wyatt proposed on the fifty yard line of FirstEnergy Stadium in Cleveland. Carly had suspected something was up when Teller had asked for her ring size not long before the proposal.

"We had talked about our future, but I thought something might happen after the season," said Whiting. "I was getting ready to come back to Virginia for Christmas and he had a half day of practice on that Monday. We were on our way to a Christmas party and I almost wore a 'Santa Baby' sweater. I'm glad I didn't."

The Browns practice facility is about a 20 minute drive from the stadium. Wyatt told Carly he left something at the stadium and had to drive there to pick it up.

"It was super believable," she said. "He's somewhat hyper and he's done that before. He told me the security guard at the stadium only had a certain window when he could let him in and we had to be there at that time. That's happened before."

The security guard let them in, but Teller then escorted Carly to the field. They walked to midfield, arm in arm, as the fan vision played a video that Carly's older sister, Rachel, had made for the occasion. Rachel is also a Craig County graduate who is now a

lawyer in Roanoke. When they got to midfield Teller got down on one knee and proposed. An obviously emotional Carly quickly accepted.

"Honestly, my reaction was so genuine," said Whiting, who could be seen hopping up and down with joy on the video.

And that was another win for the Browns, who have now added Carly to the official family. She's been attending all the home games and some of the road games when the coronavirus pandemic guidelines allow. For the games Carly sits with some team family members near the tunnel where the Browns take the field. She's gained some new friends in the past two years, and quarterback Baker Mayfield's wife Emily was one of the first to congratulate her when Carly broke the news on her Instagram account the following night.

"I'm a social butterfly so I've made some really good friends," she said.

Teller and Whiting both went to Virginia Tech, but that's not where they met. Carly attended football games but had no idea her future husband was wearing the maroon and orange in Lane Stadium.

"I went all the time but I never even noticed him," said Whiting.

Teller is also from Virginia, born in Manassas. He was a standout player for Liberty High School of Bealton and the now 6'4", 315 pound lineman chose the Hokies over 15 other FBS programs who offered him a scholarship. He was in Frank Beamer's last recruiting class, recruited as a defensive end.

"He's very proud of being in Coach Beamer's last class," said Whiting. "He told me the story of Bud Foster coming to his house, and that was very exciting for him."

Teller didn't disappoint in Blacksburg. After moving to the offensive line he was named to the All-ACC first team, and after his senior year he was the runner-up for the Jacobs Blocking Trophy,

given to the top lineman in the ACC. He was invited to the 2018 Senior Bowl.

Teller was drafted by the Buffalo Bills in the fifth round of the 2018 draft. It was about that time that he first met Carly.

"We met through a friend in Blacksburg," she said. "He had just gotten drafted by the Bills and was training for football."

Teller opened the 2018 fall season as a backup guard but earned a starting spot by Week 10, starting the final seven games for the Bills. The following year he went to camp in Buffalo, but on August 29 of 2019, just before the season, he was traded to Cleveland for two draft picks. He became a starter in Cleveland by mid-season and for the past year and a half he's credited with being a key member of the Browns heralded running game, which is one of the very best in the NFL.

Carly moved to Cleveland in 2019 to be with Wyatt and the two have grown to enjoy the city by Lake Erie. It's a little colder than Virginia but, "Wyatt doesn't mind the cold," she said. "We love it here. The city loves the Browns and they're really excited about the team. It's a cool city."

In the past two years the Browns have started turning things around. They had the longest streak of not making the NFL playoffs prior to their win over Pittsburgh on January 3rd in Cleveland. That clinched a wild card berth for the Browns and gave them an 11-5 regular season record, their best since they were also 11-5 in 1994. They've only won more than 11 games in the regular season four times, and three of them were in the old All-American Football Conference from 1946 to 48 with Otto Graham at quarterback. The Browns didn't join the National Football League until 1950.

While the Browns struggled with a dozen straight losing seasons prior to this year, the Cleveland fans never lost faith. "Believe-land" has always been a football

town and when Pittsburgh failed to make a two point conversion in the waning minutes of a 24-22 win on the last Sunday of the regular season, the Browns punched their ticket to the playoffs.

"It was very exciting," said Whiting, who was joined at the game by Northside High graduate Samantha Barney. Both Carly and Samantha were outstanding volleyball players in high school and played on the same travel team. Bailey now works in the marketing department for the Detroit Lions so it wasn't a long trip to join Whiting in Cleveland for the game. Samantha had previously worked for the Salem Red Sox baseball team and then for NASCAR in Miami, Florida.

Then, last Sunday night, the Browns won their first playoff game since '94. In fact, that franchise has since moved to Baltimore to become the Ravens and Cleveland returned to the NFL as an expansion team in 1999.

What made the win even sweeter was that it was against the Pittsburgh Steelers. The Browns scored 28 first quarter points, an NFL playoff record, and went on to a 48-37 win. That broke a string of 17 straight losses by the team in Pittsburgh.

"I never realized how big a rivalry this is," said Carly. "They hate the Steelers in Cleveland."

This weekend the Browns will play the defending champion Kansas City Chiefs at 3:05 pm on Sunday in Kansas City. Cleveland is one of just eight teams still alive in the NFL playoffs.

In the meantime Wyatt was named to the Associated Press All-NFL second team at right guard. During Sunday's telecast analyst Cris Collinsworth called Teller the best guard in football, and with a fiancée who plays in the NFL Carly has picked up some knowledge about the game. She really can't avoid it.

"I cared about football when I was at Tech, and now all Wyatt's meetings are on zoom and I can hear them," she said. "It's hard

not to hear football talk around here."

With the pandemic Wyatt couldn't train at the Browns facility during the summer. Instead, he came to Roanoke and trained with Ryan Shuman, a former offensive guard for the Hokies who is now a member of their strength and conditioning staff.

"He trained with Ryan in his garage with just the basic resources," said Whiting. "Ryan's amazing, and he's one of the reasons Wyatt was one of the top guards in the league this year."

COVID-19 struck Carly during the fall, but Wyatt was able to dodge a bullet. In fact, Browns coach Kevin Stefanski and several players and coaches missed the playoff game due to COVID.

"After the Nashville (in December) game I bit into a cheeseburger and I couldn't taste it, so I knew something was wrong," she Whiting. "I spent 14 days in the house and lost my taste and smell, then I got a fever and was fatigued. I was wiped out."

Luckily for the Browns Wyatt did not catch the virus and was taken off the watch list in time to play in the big games against the Steelers. He had missed two previous games with an ankle injury.

Teller has one more year on his rookie contract, then figures to cash in big as one of the top guards in the NFL. Wyatt and Carly would love to remain in Cleveland. She's working for a salon there, they have a puppy and are happy as can be.

Meanwhile back in Virginia, the Whitings are excited to be adding to the family. Melissa has been coping with the pandemic in school and Bud has been battling a case of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever that has affected his health. The good news about Carly was very welcome.

"We're excited," said Melissa. "Wyatt is a really good guy and very humble. He's a Virginia boy and he fits right in. We love him."

And, for good reason, so do the Browns.