

# Voices of our Veterans in Craig

#### <u>Pam Dudding</u> Contributing writer

It is said that "honor" is to show high respect to someone or something and is adherence to what is right or to a conventional standard of conduct.

Another definition of the word honor is, "the idea of a bond between an individual and a society as a quality of a person that is both of social teaching and personal ethos, that manifests itself as a code of conduct, and has various elements such as valor, chivalry, honesty and compassion."

I have to say, since organizing the Annual Veterans and Active Military HONOR Dinner since 2011, I have been privileged to talk with many of our great service people in Craig County, some of whom are no longer with us.

The one common thread I have seen with such clarity is - when one serves in the military, regardless of what branch or for how long, they all become one family. Yes, they joke around that one is better than the other, or louder (Marines), but when the rubber hits the road so to speak, there is no division, and I can promise you this, no one would ever be left behind.

It has been my privilege to hear

of others' stories of which I wish to share with you, the readers of the New Castle Record.

When I was in high school, I really wanted to join the Air Force and be a pilot. I chose a different route, which I have always regretted. This I feel stems my love for hearing so many of our own citizen's stories, both good and bad.

In 2014, the first military person I interviewed was a man I quickly came to call "grandaddy," RB. Combs. I felt like a child at their parents' feet, taking in the many detailed stories he remembered. I was shocked to hear he was shot through the mouth, trying to warn other soldiers to stay down. In taking his boats up and down the rivers, he transported General Westmoreland, who wanted to be where the men who were fighting were.

Here's one of his not-so-great personal stories we seldom hear.

"One time we were in deep water piers, where ships come up with ammo and food. We were sitting on the water, loading the ship and a guy hollered, 'incoming.' There were about four to five shooting. I looked over and one of my men was standing. I leaned up and hollered, 'Wickenson, get dowwwww' and I got hit. They offered me a purple heart, but I turned it down. I was just doing what I was supposed to do. That day we lost three sailors, two marines and one army soldier. There was lots of crossfire. We were happy when the helicopters and fighter jets showed up and backed the enemy out of there. We could have lost more."

Since then, Grandaddy has passed on.

I have listened to many other stories, whether at the Military HONOR dinners, at CCPS when they had our Veterans as speakers, at our Memorial Day services at the courthouse, and in personal conversation.

I also enjoy hearing from our women who serve in the military, which has grown by great proportions in recent decades.

Linda Calderon spent two years active duty in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. At the time, the number of women could not exceed two percent of the Marine population.

"My training was in avionics (aviation electronics) and I was stationed in California operating a pressure chamber for training pilots," Calderon shared. "I was in a location and a job I couldn't even have imagined.

"I grew up in an era when



Linda Calderon served her country when only two percent of women were allowed in the service. Her ancestors taught her the honor of serving her country and now she extends her hands and heart to serve her community.

served in either the army or Marine Corps," she added.

Also mentioning that it was the only time most of them had traveled outside of their hometown, my father and all my uncles had and that they shared multiple

stories of other countries, cultures and experiences.

"It always felt like serving your country and participating in an

See Veterans, page 2

### Local veteran who served in Vietnam pens inspirational poem

### THE WORLD

You hear us Vietnam Veterans talk often about returning back to the world. To us it was our hope to return to the normalities of life. The World was where our families and sweethearts lived, and where our hearts remained. Our dreams were there and we often talked of home where we could fulfill the wishes we had. It may have been just to see our family and friends. It may have been a place to look forward to buying that car that we had been saving that \$65.00 a month combat pay for. Whatever the dream the World was worth longing for.

### Library hosts annual meeting outdoors

#### Pam Dudding Contributing writer

The newness of spring always tends to draw people outside. Locally, news idents and newly transquickly spread that "those planted retirees: library folks were having a for their back porch his Beta Club Commuagain.

the annual meeting was this was a pivotal resume hosted "with balloons and builder that helped him tasty treats and in spite of the truck noise passing by." Mason University. The Attendees shared many library greatly valued his laughs and stories. "It was a celebration of their staff and volunteers," Vice President Jennifer Lovejoy said.

experiences richer." makes it

She added that their volunteers come from the high school, local res-

nity Service hours at the On Monday, May 10, library. From his view, get accepted to George willingness to step in and do the tasks that needed to be done efficiently and with a consistent positive attitude. •Our part-time staff White and Jessica Hunt are all locals who are employed in New Castle and are recognizable faces throughout the community.

•Linda Calderon, Anita Martindell, Lee Greiser, Martha Dillard and Martha Adams found the library as their plug-in to the community as newly arrived retirees to Craig County and with them

came valuable profes-

Many a night was spent talking to each other and many a night a tear had fallen because the reality of returning to our homes was not a guarantee. Without the dream we were lost in the hell that consumed us. Most of us touched the world by the letters we recieved. I remember thinking that this letter was sent and held by my mother or father; and often we just sniffed the letter hoping to get a whiff of home. You would be suprised at how many of us did that. The letter from the girlfriend would be passed around so that we all could enjoy the perfumed goodness and sweetness that the world had to offer.

So when we talked about hometown USA it was a driving force to keep ourselves alive. It was a force to be reckoned with and worth fighting for. Not all had their dreams realized, not all letters from home were filled with good news but regardless they were from home ... the World ... our hope .. our reason to be.

Boon

#### SUBMITTED VISUAL

Recently, Commander Billy Lee the local VFW Post 4491 shared this letter, written by Boon, on his Facebook page. Many who served in the chaotic wars understand the depth of meaning of his words written in his poem, "The World." We share this in honor of our fallen Veterans, and our upcoming Memorial Day.

Currently, the library keeps its doors open with of Letha Persinger, Alex three part-time staff members and desk volunteers.

"We rely on the many other volunteers to help fill in the gaps of running the business of a library," Lovejoy said.

She added, "The library is grateful for the partial funding from the county, town and state, but with the increase of the minimum wage, the financial gap has widened, placing a stronger demand on the critical work of the volunteers and the many Friends of the Library."

As a thank you, the party spotlighted the dedication of the staff and nine volunteers' remarkable work, creating an upbeat and affirming atmosphere.

"Each one's distinct skill and passion has been interwoven into allowing this library to better uniquely serve the community," Lovejoy shared. "The diversity of talents and life

"The library will continue to share the fun with future back yard parties in the summer months ahead," Lovejoy said before adding, "We hope to see you there."

sional skill sets

NG OUR ROOTS

SUBMIT

Lee Greiser and Letha Persinger enjoying the library's annual outdoor meeting where staff and volunteers were celebrated.



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### OMMUNITY 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.

#### **EVERY TUESDAY**

 Overeaters Anonymous (OA) meeting. 7 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, located at 2011 Brandon Avenue in Roanoke. 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 FRIDAY**

Craig County Genealogy Library open every Friday 1 to 4 p.m. 152 Main Street. 540-864-7023

#### **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 Route Church, on

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.

#### 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.

#### SECOND TUESDAY

•Craig County School

Board meets at 5:30 p.m. in the High School Media Center.

•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.

#### SATURDAY, MAY 29

The folks on Route 621, Craig Creek Road, will be having a community yard

sale, from one end at Route 311 to the other at Route 460. Multiple families will be selling their ware's and everyone can enjoy the beautiful country drive.

#### SUNDAY, MAY 30

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., a Memorial Day dinner fundraiser will be held at Waiteville Community Center. A \$10 donation for ham, chicken, 2 sides, roll, dessert and a drink would be greatly appreciated. Tables will be set up to eat there and a raffle for a chainsaw.

#### MONDAY, MAY 31

A Memorial Day Service will begin at 10:00 am. County Courthouse, Main Street in New Castle. Lenny McDonald will be the speaker, and music will be provided by Alyssa Shulke. Sponsored by New Castle Town Council. Everyone welcome.

### Veterans from page 1

adventure was not only an obligation and expectation of your country, but a path forward for a unique job experience, education, and travel too," Calderon said. "I also loved the camaraderie and the teamwork."

We in Craig have had several to enlist and serve, from one of our oldest Eunice Baker and others who served in WWII, Dorothy Sublett Slusher who was in Waves who died in 1998 and 96-year-old Sallie Caldwell Amatto, who played the bugle in Marines and recovered from CO-VID last summer.

We also have the younger generation, like Danielle Rock, who enlisted in 2011 and served our Army Reserves for eight years.

"I had one deployment to Afghanistan, and it was in 2012-2013 serving in the military police," she shared. "My best memories will always be the friends I made in the military. We got through a lot of hard days

together. We talk almost ev- and plan on continuing as ery day now, and I am grate- long as I can." ful for those connections. It's important to serve be- sergeant for a drill sergeant cause it is an opportunity to unit, handling meals, lodggive back to the people you ing, transportation, clothknow, love and to this coun- ing, equipment, weapons, try." Today, Rock works as a and any supplies that are Veteran Peer Specialist for needed. Virginia Veteran and Family Support.

Carper, Beverly "Curly" Fisher, Bobbie Sublett, Geneva Horn, Barbara Moler through the good, the bad Shearer, Dena Reynolds and the ugly." Wright, and Marie Summers, one of our teachers at teaching Special Education CCPS.

the Army Reserves in dents are the best part of my 2005 and is still currently day." serving. Initially, she joined to help pay for college.

"I have been all over the United States, and a few those that have served becountries outside of the fore me. country, including being deployed to Afghanistan for Karen Walker who served a year," she shared. "How- from 1981 to 1992. She ever, I ended up falling in love with it, and I have now been serving for 15 years, high school and basic train-

C 

Summers is a supply

"The best part of being in the service is the cama-Others include Rhonda raderie," Summers said. "It is being part of a group that is going to have your back

Summers, who has been at McCleary Elementary Marie Summers joined for five years, said, "The stu-

> She also recently joined the VFW sharing that she "is excited to learn from

> Another lady Veteran is joined the Kentucky Air National Guard right after ing at Lackland AFB.

'My unit in Kentucky was very much like another family to me,' Walker said. "That's where I met my husband, Mark, who flew the RF-4 Phantom jets. Part of my job was to help him with his flight equipment."

C130 cargo planes, they decided to transfer to the New York Air National Guard, in Niagara Falls where Mark could fly the F16 fighter jets and Karen started working in the Base Medical Hospital as a Medical Assistant.

"We were both on active duty during the Persian Gulf War. I was sent to Plattsburgh AFB and Mark was still in training for the F16 but preparing to depart to Gulf when his training was completed. Fortunately, the war ended before he had to leave," Walker recalled.

She added that they have made many military friends over the years and still keep in touch with them. Mark served a total of 20 years before being hired by the airlines.

"The comradery you find in the military is special. We look after each other and help each other out when necessary," she noted. "The military has taught me many things that have been applied to many aspects of everyday life, such as respect and discipline. The military has been good to us and I feel honored to have been able to serve my country and am willing to do so again if able." At just 17 years of age, Mike Carper joined the Navy.

they taught me responsibility, organization and the importance of following through."

Carper enlisted in 1981, serving until 1985, and was stationed at Barbers Point, Hawaii.

"I was an AE (Aviation Electrician) working on P3 Aircraft. At 21, I was honorably discharged as a Collateral Inspector on the same aircraft," he said. "Once you serve in the military, it's an extended family for life, whether you serve four years or 20. It was truly an honor to serve my country and feel like I made a small contribution."

Glenn Paxton was another of our older Veterans who served in the U.S. Army from 1965 – 1968. He signed up for three years and received the draft letter right before he left town. He was stationed six months at Fort Hood, Texas, on Wheels 2nd Armored Division, then left for Vietnam on September 7, 1966, where "I pulled wire over half of Vietnam."

He then went to the An Khe District for five months with 1st Cav Division and spent five months with Korea Tiger Division in Phu Tia Valley. His last two months were in Cam Rhun Bay. He left on September 6, 1967 and was back to states where "I pulled my last year at Ft. Meade, Maryland, in the 1968 riots in D.C. and

Baltimore," he said. "I think everyone should serve two years in the military."

Glenn Taylor received his draft letter and served in the U.S. Army from 1965 until 1967, in Korea at the DMZ line. He was Tanks Chief of Section over eight men, seven miles from the DMZ. "I was born an American and very proud of our country and military," he shared.

It does not surprise me any longer to hear a person who has served in the military to say, "When you serve, you make friends for life" or "They become like family to you."

I know for myself, that the many men and women I have had the privilege to talk with, interview and just get to know, have always astounded me of their character, honor, and dedication they exhibit as citizens of the United States of America and of Craig County. It is easy to pick them out, as they are still serving their country through their community needs with open hearts and open hands.

When a military person passes on, they leave behind two families that honor, love and cherish their service. In honor of Memorial Day, we say "thank you" to all of our Veterans and active military, and a special thank you to those families whose loved ones never returned home.



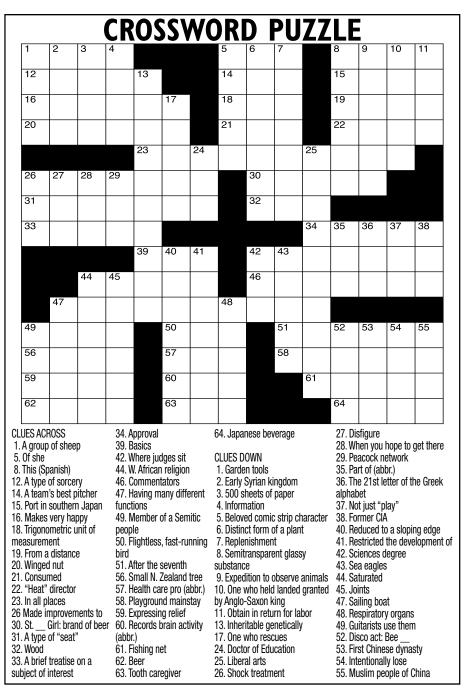
#### New Castle United Methodist Church

Friday, June 4 • 8:00am - 2:00pm Saturday, June 5 • 8:00am - 2:00pm Saturday, June 12 • 8:00am - 2:00pm

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Mark served in the Navy prior to the Kentucky Air National Guard. When the unit decided to convert to

"What a wake-up call it was for a young man from New Castle," Carper shared. "In basic training,





# Movies at Longwood Park returning this year



The first opportunity to enjoy Movies at Longwood Park was on Friday, May 21.

Shawn Nowlin shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org

The Salem Parks & Recreation Department has had a busy spring. With the easing of CO-VID restrictions, the department has been able

to get back to what it does best: provide local and area citizens with year-round programs and activities, which are geared for all ages.

Movies at Longwood Park returned last Friday. Families will have

four opportunities to enjoy an outdoor movie night this summer: "The Croods: A New Age" on May 21, "Aladdin" on June 25, "Miracle" on July 23 and "Raya and the Last Dragon" on August 13. Each movie will begin at dusk, around 8:30 p.m., and admission is free. Members of the Craig County community are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs.

A sequel to The Croods (2003), The Croods: A New Age is a computer-animated adventure comedy film about a prehistoric family living in a dangerous time. The film was distributed by Universal Pictures and produced by DreamWorks Animation in 2011. Voice actors include Nicholas Cage, Emma Stone, Ryan Reynolds, Leslie Mann, Clark Duke and Peter Dinklage.

Directed by Guy Richie, Aladdin is a live-action adaption of Disney's early 1990s animated film of the same name. Film stars Will Smith, Mena Massoud, Naomi Scott and Marwan Kenzari make up the main cast. Originally budgeted for \$183 million, the film went on to generate over a billion dollars at the box office.

Roanoke County resident Amy Jackson, who has seen Raya and the Last Dragon several times, says the movie, "is about the fantasy world of Kumandra where dragons and humans once co-existed in harmony. That all changed when an evil force threatened the land and the dragons sacrificed themselves to save humanity." According to the-numbers.com, Raya and the Last Dragon is currently the second highest-grossing film of

the year, trailing only

Godzilla vs. Kong.

Led by head coach Herb Brooks, Miracle is a 2004 Walt Disney produced film about the United States men's ice hockey team that won the gold medal in the 1980 Winter Olympics. The movie is widely considered one of the most accurate depictions of real-life stories.

Josh Williams has patiently counted down the days to enjoy a Movies at Longwood Park evening. "We have all been through a lot over the last year. All of us. I'm thrilled that things are starting to return to normal. I can't wait to watch these movies with my family and friends."

Poarch Thompson Law is sponsoring the Movies at Longwood Park series this summer.

## Diverse field of GOP candidates running for state governor, attorney general and Lt. governor - Senator Ted Cruz visits Roanoke Valley to campaign for Glen Youngkin -

#### Shawn Nowlin

shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org

On May 8, seven governor candidates, six Lt. governor candidates and four attorney general candidates competed amongst each other at the party's unassembled convention to represent the GOP in the November general election.

Ballots were cast in 39 locations across the state, most of which came in fashion. drive-through With ranked-choice voting, low-scoring candidates are successfully eliminated until one person emerges with more than half of the vote. A team of roughly 80 people counted the ballots by hand at the Marriott Hotel and Convention Center in Richmond. Each candidate had a representative present to watch the process.

The attorney general candidates were Chuck Smith, a former head of the Virginia Beach GOP; Leslie Haley, a member of the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors; Del. Jason Miyares, R-Virginia Beach; and Jack White, a former clerk for Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito who is a partner at a Tysons Corner law firm.

The governor candidates were Glenn Youngkin, a former CEO of the Carlyle Group investment firm; Amanda Chase, State Senator; Kirk Cox, former Virginia House Speaker; Peter Doran, small business owner; Sergio de la Pena, retired United States Colonel; Peter Snyder, former CEO of New Media Strategies; and Octavia L. Johnson, former Roanoke City Sheriff.

The Lt. governor can-

didates were Lance Allen, an Air Force veteran and national security company executive; Timothy Hugo, former state delegate; Maeve T. Rigler, business executive and attorney; Puneet Ahluwalia, a lobbyist and businessman; and Winsome E. Sears, former Virginia General Assemblymember.

In addition to presiding over the Virginia Senate as President of the Chamber, official duties of Virginia's Lieutenant Governor also include succeeding the governor if before their term is over, they leave office.

By defeating Tim Hugo in the fifth and final round of vote counting from the GOP Convention, Sears became the first Black Republican to claim the party's nomination for lieutenant governor. Miyares won his tight race after three rounds of balloting over Smith. Youngkin, a first-time public office runner, bested a field of candidates to emerge as Virginia Republicans' nominee for governor.

Senator Ted Cruz, one of the most popular politicians in Congress, visited Salem last week to campaign for his longtime friend. Said Cruz on May 5 at CommUNITY Church, "The whole country is watching Virginia, and you guys have an opportunity to send Glen to Richmond. Every single Democrat voted to send stimulus checks to millions of illegal immigrants. I had another amendment to not send stimulus checks to criminals in jail. When we voted on that, every Democrat voted against it. It's time for Republicans to regain control of the government."



Sen. Ted Cruz passionately drawing a distinction between Glenn Youngkin and his Democratic counterparts at CommUNITY Church on May 5.

Currently, Democrats control both houses of the General Assembly and the governorship. Additionally, the GOP has a current 12year losing streak in statewide races.

Over 53,000 Republicans were certified as delegates for the party's unassembled convention. On June 8, six Democrats will compete for the party's nomination for lieutenant governor in a primary. The only state with an open-seat gubernatorial contest this year is Virginia.

## Announcing a new feature exhibit at the Salem Museum



veek.

tor and exhibit designer.

cast of 500, and other ac- Alex Burke, the Salem WWII was made possible tivities that lasted for a Museum's assistant direc- through the support of Ferguson, Salem Museum the William and Margaret "It's interesting to look Robertson Endowment.

- Submitted by Fran O Historical Society Executive Director

BOOM! Salem After WWII was made possible through the support of the William and Margaret Robertson Endowment.

the 75th Anniversary of in celebratory programs the end of World War II, held at Municipal Field. an outcome that power- A similar set of events, fully changed American planned in advance this pened locally after the when Salem celebrated soldiers came home, the its 150th anniversary. Salem Museum has an- The whole town turned nounced a new feature out for parades, historical when modern Salem beexhibit, BOOM! Salem performances featuring a gins to take shape," said After WWII, that celebrates the boom times that Salem and the United States experienced from 1945 through 1952. In Salem, the period

started and ended with a BOOM - parades, programs, and communitywide celebrations. When victory was announced in 1945, all of Salem erupted with joy. Impromptu parades took place along

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In between, Salem experienced a baby boom back and see how this and a surge in students, growing demand for suburban housing, and a wide range of consumer a display of weapons and goods available once more. New businesses opened and expanded up and down Main Street ures from Salem's history and all through the town. Some are still in operation, such as Medeco, Graham-White Manufacturing Company, and Maid Bess Garment Company (now Integrated Textile Solutions). Others now gone, but well remembered, includ-The year 2020 marked Main Street, culminating ed Tarpley's, Valleydale, and the Lee-Hi Drive-in. Existing schools saw expansions, and two new schools—West Salem life. To explore what hap-time, took place in 1952 and South Salem Elementary Schools-were soon built.

"This time period is

NOTICE FROM HUFFMAN MEMORIAL CEMETERY

UBMITTED PHOTO

These stones in the old part of the cemetery have fallen over: Buford Crawford and Lula Jones. These stones are leaning: John M. Huffman, Bettie F. Huffman, Martha A. Looney, and Richard Abbott. If you have a loved one buried in the Huffman Memorial Cemetery, please check the stones on the graves and make sure they are in good condition and if not have them repaired. The glue that holds the stones to the bases needs to be replaced after years of weather. We cannot properly mow the cemetery with the stones on the ground or leaning. If anyone would like to give donations to help with the upkeep of the grounds, send donations to:

> Sharon P. Oliver 309 Little Valley Lane, New Castle, VA 24127

If you have any questions, you can call Sharon P. Oliver at 540-580-6638.

time period leads into the Salem we know today."

The exhibit opens with equipment that soldiers brought home from the war. Some notable figare featured: Brigadier General Guy Denit, who witnessed the Japanese surrender; 12-year-old Russell Gwaltney, national marbles champion; authors Elizabeth Gresham and Alfreda Marion Peel; Frank Chapman, Sr., town manager; and actor John Payne, the star of Miracle on 34th Street.

BOOM! Salem After

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offices will be closed on Monday, May 31, 2020 And will reopen on Tues., June 1st @ 8:30 a.m.

All ads for June 2nd and June 3rd papers need to be in our office by Friday, May 22nd at 12:00 Noon.

# Herd immunity

Dr. Cynthia Morrow Roanoke City and Alleghany Health Districts Health Director

When COVID-19 was first identified in the United States last year, it quickly spread through communities throughout the country because it was a new virus against which we did not have any natural immunity. Simply put, immunity, or our ability to resist a bacteria or virus, occurs when our bodies create antibodies and/ or specialized blood cells to fight against these infectious invaders. Ending the pandemic will require a significant percentage of people to become immune to the disease.

Herd immunity occurs when a large portion of the population (the herd) is immune to an infectious disease. If enough people are protected, there is some indirect protection for those who do not have immunity, for example, people who cannot get vaccinated because of their age (very young children) or because of an underlying medical condition.

and chickenpox are examples of infectious diseases that were once very common but are now rare in in any given community. the U.S., in part because of Experts don't believe that herd immunity. There are there will be a "herd im-

immunity: when a large portion of the population gets infected with the disease, or when a large portion receives a protective vaccine. Of the two, vaccination is far preferable because it avoids unnecessary illnesses and death associated with the actual disease.

Although we have learned a lot about COVID-19 in Measles, mumps, polio, the last year, we don't know the exact percentage of people who need to be vaccinated to reach herd immunity two ways to achieve herd munity day" that will allow life to immediately go back to normal. And we certainly aren't at high enough levels yet but every day, more people are choosing to get vaccinated, bringing us closer to our goal.

Although we have not reached herd immunity, as our vaccination rates increase and our COVID-19 case counts decrease, we are making progress. Late last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Governor Northam announced that fully vaccinated individuals can enjoy taking steps that lead us back to a more normal way of life. For example, fully vaccinated individuals do not need to wear a mask when they are out and about. This is a powerful incentive to get vaccinated.

Unfortunately, while we are making progress, the reality is that this pandemic is a global challenge, and we'll have to see immunization rates rise around the world before we can truly put CO-VID-19 behind us. It is important to acknowledge that we are likely to continue to experience ups and downs in these unprecedented times but we can all do our part. Getting vaccinated is the single best way out of this pandemic.

### Vehicular heatstroke dangers increase as temperatures rise

DMV urges parents, caregivers, pet owners to "look before you lock"

In 2020, 24 children in the United States died as a result of being left in an unattended hot vehicle, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). As temperatures begin to climb, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) urges parents and caregivers to never leave children unattended in a vehicle – even for a minute – no matter the temperature.

When the outside temperature is 80 degrees, a car can heat up to 100 degrees in just 10 minutes. Parking in the shade and rolling down the car's windows have little effect on inside temperature, and as time goes by the temperature rises. Children have died from heatstroke in cars when outside temperatures were as low as 60 degrees.

"As the weather is warming up in the Commonwealth and we are traveling more frequently, we need to establish habits that will help keep our children and pets safe when we get out of our vehicles," said DMV Commissioner Richard D. Holcomb, the Governor's Highway Safety Representative. "All hot car deaths are preventable and we as parents, caregivers, and bystanders - have a responsibility to keep those more vulnerable to heatstroke safe."

Both children and pets are especially prone to being harmed by heatstroke. Children heat up three-to-five times faster than adults, according to kidsandcars.org. Pets cannot sweat like humans; they can only cool down through panting, according to the Humane Society of the United States. High temperatures can cause irreparable organ damage in pets and even death.

A good rule of thumb is to always "look before you lock," NHTSA says. Drivers are encouraged to check the back seats of their vehicle before locking it and walking away. A helpful reminder may be to keep a stuffed animal or pet's toy in the back seat when it's empty, and move it to the front seat as a visual reminder when a child or pet is in the back seat.

Additionally, caregivers should be mindful of the dangers of heat when traveling with the elderly. As people age, it becomes more difficult to regulate temperature and the ability to sweat decreases, making the elderly more at risk of heatstroke than younger adults, according to the National Institutes of Health.

> -Submitted by Communications Specialist Jessica Cowardin

## **U**BITUARY Lowery, James Jay "Jim"

James Jay Lowery passed away peacefully on May 9 at his home in New Castle after a courageous battle with cancer. He was 76 years old.

Jim graduated from New Castle High School, Class of 1963, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Class of 1967. He was a proud member of Tech's Air Force ROTC and earned both a BS and an MS in Chemical Engineering. He served as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Air Force. Most of his

Linda (Joe) London, Cheryl (James) Lockhart, Karen (George) Barnhart; and Susie (Ron) Kaffen, sister-in-law, Jackie Lowery; various nieces and nephews, who loved Uncle Jim dearly, Kim (Cindy) London, Teresa (James) London, Jackie Oppelt, Whitney (Greg) Stinson, Aaron (Annie) Kaffen, Adam (Jen) Kaffen and Jessy (Matt) York.

Uncle Jim was also loved by his greatnieces; Rachel Oppelt, Lily and Charlotte Hamilton, Taylor Kaffen, Ida Kaf-

### **Keeping Veterans safe, healthy** is our continuing mission

#### **Rebecca Stackhouse**

Salem VA Health Care System Executive Director Guest Contributor

It's been more than 15 months since our nation began its fight against CO-VID-19. The burdens and responsibilities of the pandemic have strained organizations, families, and each of us in personal ways, but we are closing the gap with increased vaccinations and by continuing the measures that have helped us for the last year.

At the Salem VA Health Care System, we've provided more than 21,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine, and nationwide, the VA has distributed vaccine to more than 2.3 million Veterans. For people like Army Veteran Antonius Dillard, he got the vaccine because he wanted to hug his daughter again. He also had the virus in late 2020 and said, "I'd hate for my worst enemy to go through with it." Others like Navy Veteran Colleen Russell, "I decided to get my COVID vaccination mostly because I don't want to get COVID."

Recent legislation has enabled us to open vaccination clinics to any Veteran - regardless of enrollment status or type of discharge - along with their spouse or caregiver. We encourage every Veteran, Veteran's spouse, and caregiver to receive their COVID-19 vaccine. If you are a Veteran who received your vaccine with a community provider, please bring your vaccination card to your next appointment. If you or a Veteran in your life haven't come in for care in a while, please check in with your provider team and consider scheduling an appointment. If you know a Veteran who isn't enrolled in VA health care and is interested in their eligibility, please direct them to the following website: http://www.va.gov/ health-care/eligibility/



Dr. Rebecca Stackhouse

More than a year ago we began implementing safety measures to protect Veterans and our staff from getting sick. For each appointment we weighed the options and risks and when clinical urgency rose above the risk of COVID-19, we provided in-person care. When it did not, we offered alternatives. This was the right decision and, in many cases, Veterans told us they preferred postponing routine care because they did not want to risk being exposed to the virus.

We successfully moved many appointments to video and telephone when that was appropriate and helped meet the needs of our patients. This has offered unexpected benefits of convenience for Veterans and additional engagement options for family and caregivers. Unlike with in-person care, virtual options give members of the community a Veteran's support network will take the time to work

SUBMITTED PHOT

their care, while others have begun scheduling appointments for the weeks ahead, either within the VA or when eligible, in the community.

We are proud that so many Veterans continue to choose VA, allowing us to coordinate timely, quality and patient-focused care inside or outside our walls.

I want our Veterans to know that Salem VAHCS is dedicated to caring for them, not just in this time of national emergency, but continuing now and into the future. While we are part of the national health care system, first and foremost, we are members of this vibrant community. Salem VAHCS's more than 1,800 employees are here day and night for those who have served our nation and call southwest Virginia home.

I hope Veterans and all the ability to join visits and with their medical providengage with VA providers ers and get their COVID-19 more easily. We anticipate vaccinations. Our doors are continuing to offer virtual open, and we look forward

engineering career was with Celanese (Hoecht) in Charlotte, NC, where he resided until returning to New Castle.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, Jesse James and Gertrude Reynolds Lowery, and his brother, Stuart Samuel Lowery.

Jim was an unusual soul who loved to entertain his family with his life's stories and his deep interest in politics. He loved collecting lots of things like antique lamps, antique toys and tools. Lots and lots of tools! And he collected chainsaws!!! He also loved all things 'farming.' He was so proud to continue owning the farm that had been in his family for nine generations.

Jim is survived by his four sisters,

fen and Eloise York.

A special thanks to his niece, Jackie Lockhart Oppelt, for caring for Jim through his time in New Castle. Thanks to his home health caretakers, Brandy, Brandon, Katie, Linda and Barbara. A special thanks to his doctors and to Carillion Hospice for their care and support.

Per his wishes, Jim has been cremated, and his ashes will be interred at Huffman Memorial Park in New Castle. A graveside memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 1, at Huffman Memorial Park. Military Rites will be performed by VFW Post #4491.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to your favorite cause in Jim's honor.

visits even as we return to to seeing you soon. more in-person care.

As we move forward, we are welcoming Veterans back and encouraging them to talk to their health care teams about coming in for routine and preventative care. These appointments, from cancer screenings to eye exams are essential to staying healthy and ultimately saving lives.

As our community spread of COVID-19 decreases, many have already resumed

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#### BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

#### CHESTNUT GROVE CHURCH

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

#### CORNERSTONE CHURCH

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

#### CRAIG HEALING SPRINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

#### (Disciples of Christ)

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

#### CRAIG VALLEY BAPTIST

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

#### CRAIG VALLEY GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP

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

#### CROSSROADS CHURCH

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

#### FIRST BAPTIST

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

#### GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

#### **GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH**

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

#### **HEBRON UNITED METHODIST**

Pastor 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, & 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.

#### LEVEL GREEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

3388 Cumberland Gap Rd. Newport, Duane Wente, Minister, 540-544-7179. Sunday School 10:00am, Sunday Morning Worship 11:00am, Children's Church 11:00am. Choir Practice, bi-weekly 7:00pm, Ladies meeting first Monday of each month at 7:00pm.

#### LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST

Pastor Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle, 540-525-7662. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, & 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.

#### MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN

4199 Craig Valley Drive, New Castle, 864-6622. Sunday: Worship Service 9:00 a.m., Children's Church 9:15 a.m., Sunday School 10:30

#### NEW CASTLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH "WHERE YOUR HEART CAN FEEL THE DIFFERENCE"

Sheldon Cosma, Senior 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

#### NEW CANTERBURY PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP

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.

#### PAXTON CHAPEL

Pastor Kenny Davis, 17 Sage Brush Lane, New Castle; "Presenting God's Word Faithfully"; Sunday School 10:00 AM; Sunday Worship Service 11:15 AM; visit us on the web at www.paxtonchapelchurch. com; email at paxtonchapel@ yahoo.com.

#### THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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.

#### NEW CASTLE UNITED METHODIST

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.

#### ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

99 2nd Street, New Castle. Rev. Stephen McNally. 540-473-3691. Mass is on Sunday at 11:15 AM.

#### CRAIG COUNTY COMMUNITY CHURCH -'WELCOME HOME!'

Sunday service 9-10:15am at the VFW building in New Castle. Casual dress if you desire and contemporary praise and worship. If you don't have a 'home' church, please join us at ours with Pastor Gary Burch. Check us out on facebook or contact us at: craigcountycommunitychurch@gmail.com

#### ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH

Located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

> If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com



\$7.50 per hour. Contact Lynn Hurst, General AUDREY E. JOYCE It is ORDERED that the Manager, Salem-Times

Register (540)389-9355 or email lhurst@ourvalley.org

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LOUG

defendant UNKNOWN FATHER appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 07/20/2021 01:00 PM 05/03/2021 Pamela Jarvis

CLERK

#### Legals - City of Radford

#### **TRUSTEE'S SALE** OF 210 INGLES STREET, RADFORD, VA 24141.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated January 25, 2008, in the original principal amount of \$58,087.98 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Radford City, Virginia as Instrument No. 200800100. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at

may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attornev A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. BIDDERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO 면 FOLLOW CDC GUIDANCE AND WEAR A COVER OVER BOTH NOSE AND MOUTH AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING AT THE AUCTION. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a

of Trust, whichever is lower,

certified funds payable to

sale. The balance of the

purchase price will be due

within fifteen (15) days of

sale, otherwise Purchaser's

deposit may be forfeited to

essence. If the sale is set

Purchaser at the sale shall

be entitled to a return of the

deposit paid. The Purchaser

aside for any reason, the

Trustee. Time is of the

the Substitute Trustee must

be present at the time of the

in the form of cash or

communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The

We're Hiring At Natural Bridge State Park Spring to Fall 2021 Contact Ranger (\$12/hr) Greet guests, provide park information and fees, will have merchandise and retail duties

Food Service Tech (\$12/hr) Perform tasks as assigned including, but are not limited to preparing/serving food, refreshments and ice cream, washing dishes, and keeping kitchen area & equipment clean & operable

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Maintenance Tech (\$12/hr) Responsible for routine cleaning and maintenance of restrooms, facilities, grounds, trails, and assisting park rangers with various projects as needed.

Applicant must at least 16 years old and willing to work weekends and holidays

Recreate responsibly, Learn more at www.virginiastateparks.gov/besafe 600-953-PARK (7275) | university

lk currently Radford University students in the City of Radford.

feet of new sidewalk and

remove a midblock

Services may include, but not be limited to: planning, design, developing construction documents. environmental review, submittal of applications to VDOT, surveying, bidding, construction management (including pay requests and VDOT reimbursement submittals) and other professional services as required to complete the project.

The full RFP may be obtained from the City of Radford Website www.radfordva.gov or on the eVA website https://www.eva.virginia.gov

Submit four copies of the proposal along with a searchable PDF file to the City Manager's office, at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Virginia 24141 attention Jay Eanes. The proposal must be received at the City office no later than 4:00 PM on Jun 7, 2021.

The City is an equal opportunity employer. Minority and/or female owned business firms are encouraged to apply.

3) Model # 305 Biloxi

Construction Manual

032023). The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. Additionally, the meeting will be streamed live on the Town of Christiansburg's YouTube channel at www.christiansburg.org/ <u>youtube</u> and will remain on the Town's YouTube page once the meeting concludes. For information on contactless methods for submitting public comment, please visi www.christiansburg.org/ publichearings.

identified as Tax Map

Numbers 527-((A))-200, 202

A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map. Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128 ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg. <u>org</u> with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations





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# **SPORTS** Send story ideas & announcements to bhoffman@ourvalley.org

# **Rockets will host Covington on "Senior Night"**



#### Emily Fowler bats for the Rockets.

The Craig County softball team will observe "Senior Night" on Thursday when the Rockets play



Kylee Clifton is ready to hit.

on the Craig County team. The Rockets have four juniors and the rest of the girls are either freshmen or

sophomores as they build for future success.

The girls got just one game in last week, as a



Gabriella Hypes is on first for the Craig softball team.

game at Narrows was postponed due to inclement weather. That will be made up in Narrows today, weather permitting.

On Thursday of last week the girls played host to Eastern Montgomery and dropped a 15-1 decision. Although it was a lopsided score, the girls played much better than they did when the two rivals met in Ellison.

"In the second inning we had a player get injured, leaving us to play with eight," said coach WolfeCarper. Elaina "Quite a few runs were scored off hits to centerfield with no one playing there, as we had them in left center and right center."

Sara Jones pitched the whole game for Craig and struck out a dozen. She was also two for three at the plate and scored Craig's only run.

"Överall, they played a much better game," said got the bat on the ball, and ĒM's pitcher was pitching very well."

Next week the Rockets will go to Parry McCluer on Thursday, June 3.

## Craig soccer team is 4-2 with Covington coming on Thursday





Ava Greenway(#6) and Logan Kitler push the ball down the field.

Last week Craig split Huffman had five saves in



Clayton Owens(#9) scores for the Rockets.

8-5, dropping a game to had eight saves to keep the Rockets in the game. He was cited by coach Nobles along with Drake, Owens Huffman and Ava Green-The Rockets will have a rematch with Bath next Tuesday in New Castle and the regular season will end with a trip to Parry McCluer on Thursday, June 3.

Alex McDowell(#14) battles Narrows opponents for the ball.

The Craig County soccer team will play host to Covington this Thursday with a 5:30 pm kickoff at Mitchell Field.

The Cougars are a Pio-

neer District opponent, and the Rockets are 4-1 thus far against Pioneer teams. They're 4-2 overall with a non-district loss to had one each. Lucas Taylor

host to Covington, and

that will be a big night for

"Abby" is the only senior

Abigayle Price.

two games against Pioneer teams, defeating Narrows but losing to Bath County. Craig won 5-2 in Narrows in a very physical game, as was expected.

Dalton Henderson had two goals for the Rockets while Bryce Drake, Hunter Ashley and Claire Deplazes Auburn early in the season. had two assists and Mason

the goal. Alex McDowell also kept a ball from going into the cage when he booted it free and clear.

Coach Robin Nobles McDowell, credited Drake, Taylor and Alexis Jones with strong efforts in the win over the Green Wave.

Last Thursday at Bath County the Rockets lost a district opponent for the first time this season.

"It was back and forth," said Nobles. "It was more like a tennis match than a soccer game."

Henderson scored the first four goals for Craig and assisted on the fifth, by Clayton Owens. Taylor had two more assists for Craig and Huffman

# **Remembering Willie Mays Night**



There isn't much good about getting older but there are a few things, like being able to remember watching Willie Mays play baseball in his prime. I did, and I'm not so old that I can't remember.

It was in the early '60s, and I was about 10 years old, give or take a year. Our church group took a bus to a Phillies game every summer and my dad always made sure we had a couple seats for the trip. He wasn't a big baseball fan, but I was falling in love with the game at that stage of my life and I'm sure he enjoyed how excited I was to go to a big league game.

The Phillies played at Connie Mack Stadium at that time, a quaint old ballpark in the middle of Philadelphia that seated about 32,000 people. It smelled of beer on the concourse and the wooden seats were small, but the bleachers were close to the field and it was a great place to watch a game up close.

On this particular season the guy in charge of the trip, Jim Church(that's his real name, by the way), picked a game against the San Francisco Giants for our group to see. They were loaded with stars like Orlando Cepeda, Willie McCovey, Felipe Alou, Juan Marichal and others, but the biggest star of all was Willie Mays.

I can remember the Giants warming up on the immaculately kept green grass, and my eyes never left Willie Mays. He was my favorite "Non-Phillie" player. He could do it all; hit, run, hit for power, throw people out and make spectacular catches in centerfield, ones that are still replayed today. And, he did it all with a flair, losing his cap running the bases or making those "basket catches" of easy fly balls that our Little League coaches would warn us not to try. I can still hear coach "Wormie" Alderfer telling us, "when you get to be as good as Willie Mays you can catch the ball like that,

until then catch it in front of your face and use two hands.'

Here's what I remember most about that game. At one point there were runners on second and third and Mays was due up. Phillies manager Gene Mauch decided to intentionally walk Mays and pitch to Cepeda with the bases loaded. The move backfired when Cepeda hit a grand slam home run off one of the big billboards that sat atop the leftfield pavilion roof at ole' Connie Mack. I'll never forget it.

Hard to believe Willie Mays turned 90 a couple weeks ago. He was one of the all-time greats, and the best ever in the eyes of many.

My trip to Connie Mack in the early '60s wasn't the last time I saw Mays in person. He came to Salem for "Willie Mays Night" in 1985. Our owners at the time, Arthur Hecht and Stanley Waldshan, were from New York and Arthur in particular was a big Mays fan going back to when the Giants were in New York. Somehow they got Mays to come here for a day and here, I can't wait'," recalled a Salem Redbirds Carolina continued. League game.

hospital in the afternoon. threw out the first pitch to The late Jon Kaufman, a the cheers of many at old good friend of mine who Salem Municipal Field, worked for the Redbirds, which is now Billy Sample was in charge of Wil- Field at Kiwanis Park. As lie's trip and he carried a soon as he threw out that bunch of photos for Willie to sign and give away. He told me how impatient Willie got if he didn't get him the pictures as quickly as he liked. Jon was getting irritated with the way Willie was treating him, but about that time Willie took off his watch and Rangers' prospect at the gave it to a patient who was a veteran, and Jon had nothing bad to say after

that. The Redbirds had made a uniform number up "24" Salem jersey to present to Willie before the game that night. He was to throw out the first ball after signing autographs in front of the clubhouse for about a half hour before the game. However, it was a rainy night and the game was delayed, and that got Willie aggravated.

"He kept saying, 'I gotta hop a plane out of

throw out the first ball at Kaufman as the rain delay

Finally the game got Willie visited a local underway and Willie pitch he was "outta there," hoppin' a plane back to wherever he came from.

> It's a game I'll always remember, and not just because of Willie. Mitch Williams, who went on to have a nice career in the big leagues, was a Texas

time and he was our starting pitcher that night. Williams was known to be wild at times, and he was at his wildest on this night. He walked a couple batters, hit one, then walked a couple more as the big crowd on hand to see Willie groaned. Williams never made it out of the first inning before he was relieved, to the relief of the Redbirds' fans.

I'm sure Willie had hopped on that plane before Williams turned on the shower. It was a night I'll always remember and I have Willie's autograph on a baseball to remind me.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Willie Mays signs autographs for fans at a Salem Redbirds game in 1985.