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# THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



PHOTO BY PAM DUDDING

The Old Salem Church, located on Route 42, will be alive with laughter, food and fellowship again this year as the Annual Potluck Picnic is planned for Sunday, August 21 at 1 p.m. Service will follow at 2:30. Last year Bradley and Lowrey read lots of history of the picnics, which all seemed to enjoy.

## Old Salem Church annual picnic scheduled for Aug 21

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

As summer quickly leaves us behind, the fall events start to arise. The Annual Potluck Picnic at the Old Salem Church on Route 42 will be having its annual gathering on Sunday, August 21 at 1 p.m.

After the delicious meal and time of fellowship, there will be a service inside at 2:30 p.m. presented by Billy Frazier. Jean Bradley, with lots of help from her family, Kathy Jones, LeeAnn Mattox and many others, created an event that many look forward to attending. Several even plan to travel from other states for what is almost a "family" reunion of friends.

Though there are no Sunday or Wednesday services, and the lot is empty most of the time, two events still happen like clockwork at the Old Salem Church on Route 42 in Craig County, which creates standing room only events (excluding the COVID pandemic which prevented the gatherings) It takes a lot of diligent work to help to keep

this wonderful tradition alive. The church was established in 1883, and the first Christmas Candlelight service was held in December of 2001. Since, they have only missed one Christmas since due to bad weather and the last to COVID. However, they have two functions annually at the little church: a Homecoming picnic in the summer and the Christmas Candlelight service in December.

"We continue this because it seems so many would be disappointed if we didn't," Bradley shared.

The entire community is invited, and it is a potluck. "There's always so much food to choose from as people bring their favorite dishes to share!" many have said. "But there is always plenty left over too."

And all remember there is no running water or electricity, but a porta-john is on the church property for use. Bring your lawn chair, your favorite dish and enjoy a relaxing and fun afternoon, as Bradley warmly shares, "Everyone is welcome!"

## Library partners with CCCCC to encourage art



The Library has partnered with the Craig County Child Care Center, encouraging artwork. The theme of July was "Oceans of Possibilities."

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

Children can be very creative and when people open doors to their talent, kids can really shine. The Craig County Library and the Craig County Child Care Center are exemplifying this belief.

Michaela Crawford from the Library reached out to the CCCCC to see if they would like to do a reading program with the library. From there stemmed the grand idea of having the kids to do art projects and display them in the library for all to see.

"We have their artwork displayed that goes along with our summer reading program theme, "Reading: Oceans of Possibilities," Crawford shared.

"The library is supplying art projects for each class, infants through school kids so roughly 80 kids," Teresa Tolliver, Director of CCCC shared. "The library drops off the projects and the teachers here help the children do the project and read the accompanying story etc."

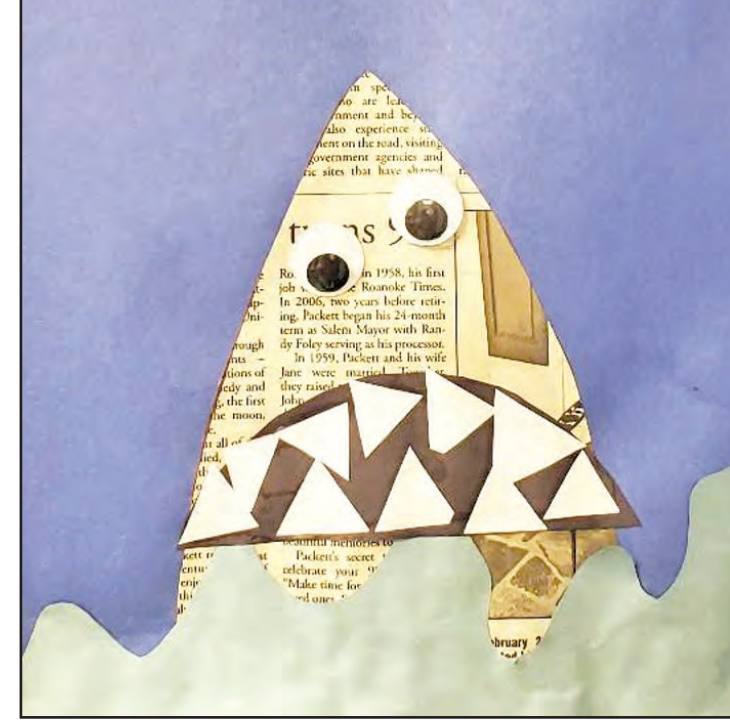
After the kids have completed their reading and art work, CCCCC contacts the library, and they pick them up.

"The kids of course love the projects, and our staff enjoy the activities as well!" Tolliver added.

Crawford shared that the artwork is based on the library's theme for the month. "This month our theme is in sync with our summer reading program and the artwork consists of newspaper sharks, paper plate jellyfish, ocean animal sun



Several kids enjoyed making and coloring paper plates to make their jellyfish.



PHOTOS BY PAM DUDDING

A shark with lots of teeth is one animal in the ocean one student chose to make.

# Journey of Hope rides through New Castle

~ Cyclists raising awareness of issues in disabled communities came through Craig as part of a cross-country journey ~

**Alexander Shedd**  
alexander.shedd@ourvalley.org

Last Saturday, seventeen bicyclists pedaled through New Castle and Craig County on their way across the country. Stopping off at Camp Easterseals for the night, these bicyclists spent their time speaking with locals and working with disabled children at the camp to raise awareness of issues in those communities.

These are the men of Pi Kappa Phi's Journey of Hope, a cross-country cycling journey sponsored by nonprofit The Ability Experience. They signed

up for the journey from PKP chapters across the country, beginning their two-month trek in Seattle, Washington on June 8 to arrive in Washington, D.C. on August 13.

"The mission is to spread awareness for people with disabilities and organizations that support them as well," said Fernando Cortes, the Journey of Hope's public relations coordinator and one of six crew members that drives ahead of the cyclists. In describing the program, he explained, "We go to 'friendship visits,' where we meet with complex

See Journey of Hope, page 2



PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK

The Journey of Hope cyclists came through New Castle and now head to D.C. through Roanoke.

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# Nationally acclaimed author to speak in Craig

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

Reading is still a favorite pastime that brings comfort, joy, and knowledge for many people. The Emporium's owner, Phil Spence is a true connoisseur of books, especially history. His love for learning is appreciated by many who frequent his business, and he encourages authors to speak in our community.

On August 21, at 4 p.m. at the New Castle Volunteer Fire Station, award-winning Southern writer Sharyn McCrumb will give a presentation on her new books.

The Washington Post wrote, "In an earlier life, McCrumb must have been a balladeer, singing of restless spirits, star-crossed lovers, and the consoling beauty of nature. Here that older folk material acts as a refrain to the more realistic narrative... The overall effect is spellbinding."

Sharyn McCrumb is an award-winning Southern writer, best known for her Appalachian "Ballad" novels, which include the New York Times best sellers *She Walks These Hills*, *The Rosewood Casket*, *The Ballad of Tom Dooley*, *The Ballad of Frankie Silver* and *The Songcatcher*.

She also wrote *Ghost Riders*, which won the Wilma Dykeman Award for Literature from the East Tennessee Historical Society and the National Audie Award for Best Recorded Book.

Her intriguing book *The Unquiet Grave* is the story of West Virginia's Greenbrier Ghost and was selected by the Georgia Library System as the 2017 selection for North Georgia Reads; the All Conference Read for the West Virginia State Library Conference; the West Virginia Featured Book at the West Virginia Book Festival; and a featured alter-

nate by the Literary Guild. King's Mountain is the story of the 1780 Revolutionary War battle and the Overmountain Men. It received a DAR Award from the Edward Buncombe Chapter in North Carolina and in June 2015 the Patricia Winn Award for Southern Fiction from the Montgomery County Arts & Heritage Council of Clarksville, Tennessee. King's Mountain is taught in schools and featured at historical museums in four states.

Another interesting book, *St. Dale, The Canterbury Tales*, is in a NASCAR setting, "in which ordinary people on a pilgrimage in honor of racing legend Dale Earnhardt find a miracle." It won a 2006 Library of Virginia Award and received the AWA Book of the Year Award.

Also, her books have been named New York Times and Los Angeles Times Notable Books.

Sharyn McCrumb was named a Virginia Woman of History by the Library of Virginia and a Woman of the Arts by the National Daughters of the American Revolution. She was awarded the Merit Award for Contributions to Appalachian Literature by the West Virginia Library Association in 2017, and the Mary Hobson Prize for Arts & Letters in 2014.

Her novels are studied in universities throughout the world and have been translated into eleven languages, including French, German, Dutch, Japanese, Arabic and Italian.

McCrumb shared, "My books are like Appalachian quilts. I take brightly colored scraps of legends, ballads, fragments of rural life, and local tragedy, and I piece them together into a complex whole that tells not only a story, but also a deeper truth about the culture of the mountain



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Award winning and nationally known author Sharyn McCrumb will be speaking at the New Castle Volunteer Fire Department on August 21 at 4 p.m. Everyone is invited. Books will be available for purchase.**

South." Interested readers can find more information on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SharynMcCrumbAuthor> or at [www.SharynMcCrumb.com](http://www.SharynMcCrumb.com). The public is encouraged to attend. Books will be available for purchase.

# Craig County Health Center celebrates National Health Center Week

Submitted by Craig County Health Center

National Health Center Week (August 7 – 13) is an annual celebration with the goal of raising awareness about the mission and accomplishments of America's health centers over the past five decades.

Community Health Centers provide comprehensive care to 30 million patients at 11,000 service delivery sites in every state and territory in the United States. Health centers save

the health care system more than \$24 billion annually in reduced emergency, hospital, and specialty care costs. Health centers are open to everyone, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. Community Health Centers are patient led. More than 50% of every health center's governing board must be patients of that health center.

In addition to honoring patients and staff, this National Health Center Week honors those front line providers,

staff, and patients who lost their lives during the (ongoing) COVID-19 pandemic. From the very beginning of the crisis, Community Health Centers began finding innovative ways to provide preventative and primary care to their patients.

Craig County Health Center is a satellite office of Monroe Health Center based in Union, WV. Monroe Health Center has served the community for over 50 years, employs nearly 100 employees, and serves

over 9,000 patients. Monroe Health Center has locations in Union, Peterstown, and Forest Hill, WV, and Craig County Health Center in New Castle, VA; the Craig County Dental Center in New Castle, VA; and school wellness centers in Craig County schools and all Monroe County schools. Craig County Health Center provides a full range of medical services including routine check-ups, well child visits, immunizations, hearing/vision screening, acute care for

injury or illness, behavioral health, school sports physicals, specialist referrals and follow-up, as well as appointments via Tele-Health. The Craig County Dental Center offers preventative and restorative dental care to improve oral health, speech, chewing ability, and cosmetic appearance to enhance nutrition, confidence, and quality of life. For more information about Craig County Health Center or to schedule an appointment, call 540-864-6390.

# Bookstore to host Roanoke Launch for bestselling author

Submitted by Book No Further

Book No Further will present the local launch of Beth Macy's new book *Raising Lazarus*, Monday, August 22, at 7 p.m. at Charter Hall in the Roanoke City Market Building. Subtitled "Hope Justice and the Future of America's Overdose Crisis," *Raising Lazarus* tells the story of the everyday heroes fighting to stem the tide of addiction in communities across the country and of the individuals struggling for accountability in America's courts.

After detailing the origins of the opioid epidemic in the New York Times bestseller *Dopesick*, Macy uses emotionally stirring portraits in her new book *Raising Lazarus* to explore potential solutions to the

problem. *Lazarus* is set in the last two years and tells the story of the people on the ground who are helping the addicted.

Esquire magazine says Macy "turns the lens ... the reformers pioneering innovative treatments for the afflicted. Enlightening and exhaustive, it's at once a damning exposé about greed and a moving paean to the power of community activism."

Macy, an award-winning journalist, worked for *The Roanoke Times* and has published two other books in addition to *Raising Lazarus* and *Dopesick*. Truevine tells the story of Franklin County natives George and Willie Muse, two albino African Americans who, in the early 20th Century, were taken and placed in a circus as sideshow freaks and their

mother's search for them. In *Factory Man*, Macy tells the story of John Bassett who sued Chinese

manufacturers for dumping furniture in U.S. markets.

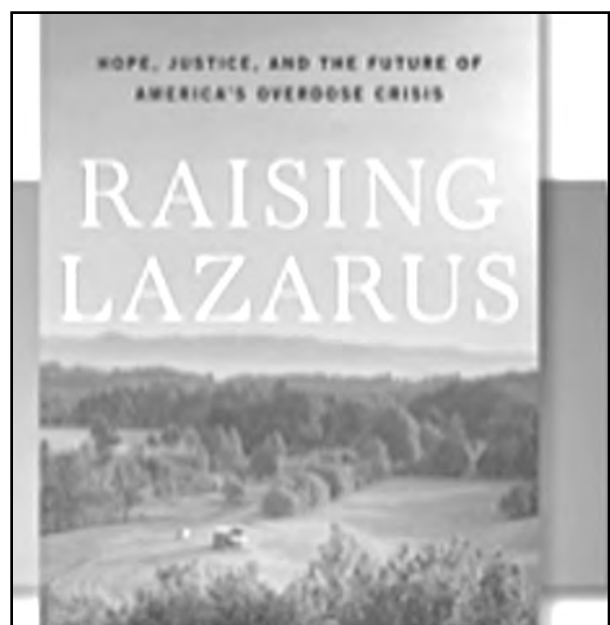
The event will be fol-

lowed by an author signing. Admission is free with purchase of the book, which includes

reserved seating, or \$5 general public. Purchase details online at <https://bit.ly/3xNIWog>.



Bestselling author Beth Macy will launch her new book, *Raising Lazarus*, at Roanoke's Book No Further on Monday, Aug. 22.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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| 59 |    |    |    |    | 60 |    |    |    | 61 |    |    |    |
| 62 |    |    |    |    | 63 |    |    |    | 64 |    |    |    |

- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. Breezed through
- 5. Time units (abbr.)
- 8. Pigeon's murmur
- 11. Moves aside in fright
- 13. Partner to "ahh"
- 14. Taxis
- 15. Monetary units of Turkey
- 16. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 17. Prolific Italian opera composer
- 18. Restaurants
- 20. One's grandmother
- 21. Ancient Greek city
- 22. Italian mountain ranges
- 25. Data
- 30. Acted in an obedient way
- 31. Autonomic nervous system
- 32. Not on the up-and-up
- 33. Mock lightly
- 38. Mimic
- 41. Built
- 43. A neighborhood
- 45. Inflammation of the kidneys
- 48. Semitic fertility god
- 49. Temporary name of Seaborgium
- 50. Wise people
- 55. Tear down
- 56. \_-fi (slang)
- 57. Diamond weight
- 59. Frosted
- 60. Predecessor to EU
- 61. Makes changes to
- 62. Some are secret
- 63. Tooth caregiver
- 64. Old English poet
- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Sign language
- 2. In style
- 3. Norwegian river
- 4. People with impaired hearing
- 5. Large stinging paper wasp
- 6. Bucharest is its capital
- 7. River in Ireland
- 8. Type of TV
- 9. Double-reed instruments
- 10. Spanish motorcycle manufacturer
- 12. Midway between south and southeast
- 14. French commune
- 19. Alike
- 23. A bachelor's apartment
- 24. Foot part between the ball and ankle
- 25. Belonging to a thing
- 26. Japanese classical theater
- 27. Supervises flying
- 28. Not even
- 29. Capital of Saudi Arabia
- 34. Electronic counter-
- measure
- 35. Consumed
- 36. American politician (abbr.)
- 37. Sun up in New York
- 39. Casually looked through
- 40. Revealed the presence of
- 41. Peyton's little brother
- 42. Diana \_\_ singer
- 44. Study of moral values and rules
- 45. Civil Rights group
- 46. Makes less severe
- 47. Made an emotional appeal
- 48. Vivacity of style
- 51. One who is highly skilled
- 52. Gets around in pursuit of pleasure
- 53. Famed guitarist Clapton
- 54. Most common Japanese surname
- 58. Recipe abbreviation

## Art Encouraged

Their summer reading program comes to a close on August 6. Then, they will be giving a grand prize drawing on August 8 which will be a \$25 gift card to Barnes & Noble. A winner will be drawn separately for each age group (kids, teens, and adults). This is the first year the library has had an adult summer reading program.

## Journey of Hope

Individuals and we go to organizations that focus on helping those people, and we just hang out with them, spend time with them, eat dinner, lunch, have dance parties, draw, color with them, just kind of hang out."

The journey takes the cyclists through a total of thirteen states on their way to D.C. Beginning in Washington state, the cyclists ride east to southeast for 12,000 miles through Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Texas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, and finally Virginia. Though the trip is incredibly long and difficult, the PKP cyclists are not professional athletes. "We're just ordinary college students that wanted to do more during the summer," said Cortes. "These guys train ever since they hear about the trip, ever since they get accepted. We have guys who train a month before the trip, and a lot more months before the trip... These are just regular guys that know how to ride a bike, then they really push themselves when they get on the trip." This year, the Journey of Hope celebrates its 35th anniversary. Cortes noted some of the difficulties in moving through back roads (and sometimes highways) that may be different now than in years past, running into issues such as construction and road blockages that the crew members must figure out quickly to get the cyclists through on time. However, they always hit their August mark on time. "We're all the same people, even if we may look different or not be as physical as everyone, we're all still one together," Cortes explained the journey's message. "So there's no reason to treat other people differently." Those interested in joining the Journey of Hope must be enrolled in a chapter of Pi Kappa Phi and apply online through TheAbilityExperience.org.

# New budget gives Virginia's farmers record funding for soil and water conservation

Submitted by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Never-before-seen levels of conservation funding for Virginia's farmers are included in the new state budget. Producers throughout the commonwealth will benefit from expanded cost-share and tax credit opportunities.

Changes to the application for much of this support will also streamline the process for many farmers.

"We are very excited about the historic level of cost-share funding for farmers in the new budget, and grateful to the General Assembly for providing it. The governor has prioritized meeting Virginia's Bay water quality goals, and with this money comes the responsibility to provide meaningful results," said Matt Wells, director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

"We also know that we cannot meet our goals without true partnerships with our Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the agricultural community. This includes engagement, open lines of communication and

mutual trust. We look forward to working with all of our partners to support agricultural best management practices across the commonwealth."

Increased cost-share and tax credits: The Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program, or VACS, is funded at a record high for the 2022-2023 program year with \$123 million.

VACS is the state program that helps farms implement a range of conservation practices that protect water quality. By improving animal and soil health and reducing nutrient waste, these practices also help increase farm profitability — a key issue for producers as inflation rises.

DCR administers the state cost-share program in partnership with Virginia's 47 soil and water conservation districts.

"Virginia's soil and water conservation districts are the one-stop shops for state cost-share signup and practice implementation," said Dr. Kendall Tyree, executive director of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. "We applauded the governor and the General

Assembly for this record show of support for voluntary conservation efforts and look forward to serving Virginia's agricultural community in our district offices."

Farmers may receive up to \$300,000 in state cost-share reimbursement for more than 70 best management practices including:

- Cover crops
- Nutrient management plans
- Forested or herbaceous buffers
- Animal waste systems
- Livestock stream-exclusion systems

Many of these practices can often be funded through a combination of state and federal funds, reducing the farmer's expense to less than 25% of the total cost.

Also available to Virginia's farmers this year are:

Up to \$25,000 in state tax credits for fully implemented agricultural best management practices.

Up to \$50,000 in tax credits for best management practices on lands with an approved resource management plan.

To apply for funding or tax credits, farmers should contact their local soil and water conservation dis-

tricts. Streamlined paperwork for many producers: Farmers in many localities will now find it simpler to apply for funding to support multiple nutrient management and/or cover crop best practices.

Under what is sometimes called a "whole farm approach," a producer only has to submit one cost-share application to

cover all of the nutrient management practices, or all the cover crop practices, established on as much acreage as desired.

Previously, this program was only available to farmers in Essex, King and Queen and King William counties, and in the Chesapeake Bay watershed of the Eastern Shore.

This year, however, farmers in Carroll,

Gloucester, Grayson, Halifax, Mathews, Middlesex, Page, Rockingham, Washington counties — and all of the Eastern Shore — may also participate.

More information on Virginia's soil and water conservation programs can be found at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/>.

The program year ends June 30, 2023.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

**A farmer plants crops using a no-till drill. No-till farming is one of many practices for which producers can receive cost-share funding.**

## HHS invests over \$5.5 million to strengthen health care workforce and improve access to care in rural communities in Virginia

Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services

On August 8, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announced investments of over \$5.5 million in American Rescue Plan funding to grow the health workforce and increase access to quality health care in rural communities in Virginia. The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to improving health outcomes and promoting health equity in rural America. In 2021,

thanks to President Biden's American Rescue Plan, the Department of Health and Human Services invested over \$16 billion to strengthen rural health.

"The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to ensuring all Americans have access to high-quality, affordable health care — no matter where anyone lives," said HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra. "Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, we have significantly improved access to health care for the millions of families who live in rural America. Our work doesn't

stop here with these funds, we can continue working to ensure rural communities have the support they need."

The Rural Public Health Workforce Training Network Program will support four awardees to expand health care capacity in rural and tribal communities through health care job development, training, and placement. This funding includes support for critical health workforce needs in rural areas such as dental hygienists, medical or dental assistants, community-based doulas, and other front-line health care workers. Ad-

ditionally, a national technical assistance provider was awarded \$500,000 to strengthen the ability for these networks to develop formal training and certification programs.

"Among the most important steps we can take to improve access to health care in rural communities, including access to behavioral health care, is to invest in growing the rural health care workforce," said HRSA Administrator Carole Johnson. "Today's announcements are another important part of the Health Resources and Services Administration's strategy to

advance health equity for the nearly 65 million people who call rural areas home."

Nearly one in five Americans lives in a rural area, and rural communities are becoming even more diverse. However, health disparities between rural and urban areas tripled between 1999 and 2019, with rural residents experiencing higher rates of heart disease, respiratory disease, cancer, stroke, unintentional injury, and suicide; and higher risk of maternal morbidity and mortality. Access to quality health care is at the heart of these issues.

## VDOT ROAD WATCH

**CRAIG COUNTY**  
(UPDATED 6-24-22)  
\* ROUTE 311 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER MEADOW CREEK — On March 17, temporary signals began to control traffic across the bridge and will be in place throughout the project. Construction will begin on the northbound side of the bridge and once completed, work will switch to the southbound side. In addition, a section of Route 646 (Allen Street)

between Route 650 and Route 311 will be closed during construction and a signed detour will be in place. All traffic will be detoured to Marshall Street and Kanawha Street to access either 311 or the homes located off Allen Street. Speed limit will be reduced to 35 mph in the work zone with a width restriction of 9 feet. Drivers should expect delays and allow extra travel time through the work zone. Weather permitting, the

bridge is expected to be open to traffic by the end of 2022.

**INTERSTATE 81**  
(UPDATED 8-5-22) \* INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXIT 137 TO EXIT 141 — A \$179 million design-build project to widen both directions of I-81 between mile markers 136.6 and 141.8 from two to three lanes is set to begin. Starting in February

and continuing into the early summer, work will be performed on the inside and outside shoulders along a five mile section of both northbound and

southbound Interstate 81 in Roanoke County and the city of Salem. The shoulders will be built up before barrier wall can be installed for road crews to

work behind. Barrier wall will be installed along the shoulders in the spring and summer. Two lanes

See VDOT, page 5

## OBITUARY

### Abbott, Eric Jonas

Eric Jonas Abbott, 56, of New Castle, VA, went to be with the Lord on Friday, July 8, 2022. He was born on Monday, July 26, 1965, to Anita Abbott McCormick and the late Jerry L. Abbott. Eric was an avid music lover! His favorite pastimes were hunting and fishing. He was also a true Boston Red Sox fan! Eric's greatest joy in life was his family.



In addition to his father, he is preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, E.M. "Roe" and Letha Abbott; maternal grandparents, Luther and Ruby Abbott; nephew, Kerwin Vincent Abbott, Jr; as well as several aunts and uncles.

Left to cherish his memory include his wife, Juliana Walker Abbott; daughter, Desirae Abbott Childers (Timothy); mother, Anita Abbott McCormick, and husband, John; grandchildren, Ayla G. Old, Cole E. Childers, and Charlee M.

Childers; sister, Karen A. Huffman (Richard); brother, Vince Abbott; niece, Adrienne B. Rock (Brandon); great-nephews, Noah LaPrad and Cayden Zysk; numerous cousins and friends.

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, July 15, 2022, at the John M. Oakey & Son Funeral Home in Salem, VA, with Jim Looney officiating.

Burial was followed at the Brickley Cemetery in New Castle, VA.

Friends may visit with the family from 1 p.m. until the service hour at the funeral home. Flowers are encouraged, or you may make a memorial contribution to either organization that Eric was fond of: 5 Points Music Sanctuary, [www.5pointsmusic.com/donate/](http://www.5pointsmusic.com/donate/) or the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. <https://www.jdrf.org/donate/>

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.johnmoakey.com](http://www.johnmoakey.com).

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# Libraries are about stories

## Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community

Part 1

“...All cultures—the dominant and marginalized—have always used stories to validate their existences, make sense of their worlds, and pass on to future generations what they regard as their culture’s collective wisdom.”<sup>1</sup>

Story is at the heart of people’s lives and at the heart of the library. The ongoing pandemic has reinforced this idea in many ways. In the early days of the crisis, as people were urged to stay home and many libraries closed their buildings for a period of time, libraries saw an increased demand for digital

collections that could easily, and safely, be downloaded at home to read, view, or listen to. Libraries then quickly pivoted to offering curbside pickup of materials to satisfy the desire for stories, and they saw those services heavily used. As libraries began to reopen, they saw people coming back to the building hungry not only for interaction with others but also seeking the stories that would help them through hard times that could not have been anticipated. The past two years have seen libraries responding to the community need for story and a recognition from those communities of the important role that the library plays in satisfying that need.

We engage with the world through story. It helps us understand other

people and cultures. It comforts us when we are burdened or gives us insight into the problems that face us. It places our lives in context—historical, geographical, and cultural. For all of these reasons, libraries build collections of materials to read, to listen to, and to watch that support and validate the diverse and complex stories of their users. What is being read, viewed, or listened to is much less important than the simple act of reading, listening, or viewing. And these acts happen every day both in the physical library and through its digital collections. It may be a librarian helping a reader track down a much-loved but less-well-remembered title or author. Or perhaps a library book display that presents a browser with



materials that reflect their own life in an unexpected way. Maybe a storytime that sparks a child’s love of reading or that encourages a parent to read to their child at home. Or someone alone in their home finding an ebook to read or a movie to watch. In each case the library is providing the opportunity for a user to engage with a story.

The library is not only about discovering something new, or finding an old favorite to read, though this is an important part of its role. The social components of reading are equally important to readers and to their communities—book displays and reading lists to browse and share, book discussion groups where members can share

thoughts about what they are reading, interaction with other readers and librarians while browsing for materials, author talks and storytimes that build a love for books and reading. All of these reading-related programs and services build a community of readers who sustain each other and the library. Stay tuned next week for Part Two!

## News from the 9th: So-Called Inflation Reduction Act Taxes and Spends, Won’t Reduce Inflation



From the desk of Rep. H. Morgan Griffith

and-spend reconciliation bill that once appeared dead has returned in the summer of 2022.

Originally dubbed “Build Back Better,” this monster bill now goes by the “Inflation Reduction Act.” The text, however, shows that it does no such thing.

Instead, it seeks to implement provisions of the Green New Deal, impose socialist price controls,

raise taxes, and empower the Internal Revenue Service.

Analysts have already disagreed with the idea that the so-called Inflation Reduction Act would meaningfully reduce inflation. According to the Penn Wharton Budget Model, “The impact on inflation is statistically indistinguishable from zero.” In fact, the model finds that the bill would continue to push inflation upward until 2024.

So the bill does not do what its title says it does, rendering it an example of George Orwell’s Double-speak. But what do its authors and supporters say it will do?

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) tweeted: “The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 will be the largest package on climate change ever passed by Congress.”

The text of the bill supports this contention of Senator Schumer more than it supports the idea of inflation reduction. But the provisions he has in mind will hurt Americans already struggling to cope with soaring costs and unreliable energy while providing negligible benefits to the environment.

Shelling out billions of dollars to subsidize solar and wind power will not

make those power sources more reliable. At the same time, the bill targets reliable and affordable fossil fuels with more taxes. More power plants using fossil fuels will close, but wind and solar will not be able to meet the resulting demand. Handing out billions of dollars in “environmental justice” grants will be little comfort to Americans who cannot be sure their power will stay on.

Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), one of the bill’s negotiators, argues that these provisions are balanced out by a commitment from Senator Schumer, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and President Biden to pass permitting reform separately, apparently including accelerating completion of the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP). There is reason to doubt, however, that these reforms will get enough support from his side of the aisle to become law. Further, many Virginians I know who live in the path of the MVP are opposed to its completion. Progressives may be happy to take what Senator Manchin offers them now and object to his permitting reforms later.

Another major Democrat priority included in this bill is price controls on

prescription drugs. I agree that drug prices are too high and have worked on legislation with Democrats and Republicans to address the problem. The approach to drug prices taken in this bill, however, threatens to harm medical innovation without actually solving the price problem.

The bill’s authors call the price controls “negotiations,” but the negotiations take the form of telling drug companies that they have to come to terms or else be subject to punitive tax rates. When Democrats pushed similar legislation in the House of Representatives, I noted that this provision would run afoul of the Constitution’s takings clause prohibiting the taking of private property for public use without just compensation. After I made that point, the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service agreed with my analysis that this provision was unconstitutional.

In addition to their unconstitutionality, these price controls would lead to less investment in medical innovation, reducing the number of treatments and cures available to patients. That outcome counts as a significant cost to taxpayers.

To pay for these schemes, Democrats opt-

ed to raise taxes and expand the Internal Revenue Service. The bill would spend \$80 billion for the IRS to hire 87,000 new agents to go through the returns of ordinary Americans. A corporate minimum tax would fall heaviest on manufacturing and producing industries such as coal.

President Biden pledged not to raise taxes on Americans making under \$400,000, but citizens of all income levels would feel the hand of government falling heavier upon them.

Reducing inflation should be a priority of the Biden Administration and congressional Democrats. After all, they did so much to cause the problem. But bringing back the same old agenda and calling it inflation reduction is an insult to the Americans now pressured by surging costs and shrinking real wages.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, feel free to contact my office. You can call my Abingdon office at 276-525-1405, my Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671, or my Washington office at 202-225-3861. To reach my office via email, please visit my website at www.morgangriffith.house.gov.

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# Dr Pepper Park brings folk, rock and blues

Submitted by Dr Pepper Park

A lot of talent is headed to Dr Pepper Park in August. Three fun and diverse shows will be headlining the stage at Roanoke's favorite live music venue on August 12th, 13th, & 17th. Each show will feature performers who have perfected their own genre and travel the world playing wonderfully exciting and memorable shows. President of Dr Pepper Park, Waynette Anderson, stated "These shows are going to be a great addition to the season. We are starting off with a Flashback Fridays tribute show and follow up with two amazing artists in genres that have been requested by our community!"

First up, Face 2 Face will be coming to Roanoke on August 12th. This act is the premier tribute to Elton John and Billy Joel.

The piano pair play a wild and fun show perfect for a Friday night. New York native Mike Santoro's fingers flash up and down the keys before he jumps up to grab the mic to belt out such high-energy Billy Joel classics as "Uptown Girl" and "Only the Good Die Young." For the second half of the roughly three-hour show, Kenny Metcalf dons the iconic sunglasses and bedazzled suits of Elton John as he charts his style from the '70s to the present. Don't forget kids 12 and under are FREE for Friday night's performance.

On Saturday, August 13th Dr Pepper Park will host JJ Grey and Mofro. The band has carved out a place in blues history with their unique combination of southern soul and rock. JJ Grey remains an unfettered, blissful performer, singing with a blue-collared spirit over

the bone-deep grooves of his compositions. On-stage, Grey delivers his songs with compassion and a relentless honesty. The support for the show is a perfect match and offers just as much character. Nat Myers is a young talent quickly recognizable as one of the best to play the folk blues in this generation of music.

Later in August the world-renowned Indigo Girls will be headlining Dr Pepper Park. Georgia natives Amy Ray and Emily Saliers spent their careers defining folk rock. The Grammy-winning duo has recorded sixteen studio albums (seven gold, four platinum, one double platinum), sold over 15 million records, and built a dedicated, enduring following. With an opening act by Lucy Roche, this night at Dr Pepper Park will feature two major talents in folk music.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 12 – FACE 2 FACE: ELTON JOHN AND BILLY JOEL TRIBUTE**  
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 13 – JJ GREY & MOFRO WITH SUPPORT FROM NAT MYERS**

**ERS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17 – INDIGO GIRLS WITH SUPPORT FROM LUCY ROCHE**

The gates open at 6:00PM. Dr Pepper Park

would like to welcome guests to bring their furry friends for a great night with the whole family. Tickets, a full season schedule, and policies can be found at [www.drpepperpark.com](http://www.drpepperpark.com)

## VDOT from page 3

of I-81 traffic in each direction will remain open during the project with periodic lane closures scheduled during nighttime hours or outside of peak travel times as needed. Drivers can expect the following lane closures and upcoming impacts on northbound and southbound I-81:

**ROUTE 635 (GOODWIN AVENUE) CLOSURE** – As part of the ongoing I-81 project from exit 137 to 141, Route 635 (Goodwin Avenue) will be closed beginning July 11 where it runs underneath I-81. It will be closed for approximately 30 days for reconstruction to accommodate the widening of the interstate. Drivers will need to seek alternate routes as traffic will not be able to pass underneath the interstate during this time. Estimated to reopen August 11.

**BARRIER WALLS:** Barrier wall installation is in process. Nighttime lane closures will be in place and lane widths will be reduced to 11 feet.

From mid-March until mid-June, nighttime right lane and shoulder closures between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday

From mid-May to mid-June, alternating left and right lane and shoulder closures during nighttime hours between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday

Nightly lane closures may be in place along the right lane with possible nightly ramp narrows as needed for guardrail and shoulder strengthening.

Northbound I-81 lane closures from mile marker 138 to 142

Northbound I-81 exit and entrance ramp narrows possible at Route 311.

The project also includes replacing six bridges, widening two bridges, installing approximately 2.6 miles of sound barrier walls along northbound I-81, improving the southbound exit 137 off-ramp intersection at Wildwood Road and adding interchange lighting at exits 137, 140 and 141 are also included in the project. Expected completion in early 2026.

(UPDATED 8-5-22) \* **I-81 TROUTVILLE REST AREA CLOSURE** – The Troutville Rest Area located on southbound Interstate 81 near mile marker 158 in Botetourt County is currently closed from late May 31, 2022 until September 2, 2022. Signage indicating the closure has been posted in the rest area. During the closure, a temporary concrete barrier wall will be installed in front of the facility. The rest area facility, ramps and parking lot will be closed to the public. This project will extend the ramp into the rest area by 500 feet and the ramp out of the rest area by 2,100 feet. It will also include expanding the truck parking area at the facility by about 10-13 spaces. Work is expected to be completed in early fall 2022.

**REST AREA OPERATIONS:** While the Troutville Rest Area is closed, southbound I-81 drivers can use the Fairfield Rest Area at mile marker 195

in Rockbridge County or the Radford Rest Area at mile marker 108 in Montgomery County. In addition, the Troutville Weigh Station, located on southbound I-81 at mile marker 149, will have portable toilets and parking will be temporarily available for commercial vehicles.

(UPDATED 8-5-22) \* **INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION EXIT 141 TO EXIT 143** – A project to widen the lanes on I-81 in Roanoke in both northbound and southbound directions between Exit 141 to Exit 143 has been underway. All lanes now open and will remain open through winter with periodic lane closures at night as needed. The final surface paving and markings for northbound is underway this summer during nighttime hours, 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Drivers can expect rough pavement. Estimated completion date of the project is summer 2022.

(UPDATED 8-5-22) \* **I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY** – Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the Montgomery/Pulaski County line. The old bridge is being demolished. Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the

north and southbound lanes from mile marker 98 to 109. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by summer 2023.

**LANE CLOSURES:** Nighttime alternating lane closures will be in place on I-81 northbound between mile markers 104-106 from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

**SLOW ROLLS:** Slow rolls may be utilized periodically on both the northbound and southbound lanes from mile marker 98-109 for structural steel deliveries and setting beams.

(UPDATED 7-29-22) \* **I-81 PAVING OPERATIONS** – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

(UPDATED 8-5-22) \* **I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS** – Weather per-

mitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 138 to 152, right and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

(UPDATED 8-5-22) \* **I-81 POT HOLE PATCHING OPERATIONS** – Weather permitting, crews will patch potholes along southbound and northbound Interstate 81. Mobile right and left lane closures will be in place and moving along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

**ROANOKE COUNTY**

(UPDATED 8-5-22) \* **ROUTE 311 AND ROUTE 419 ROUNDABOUT AT HANGING**

**ROCK** - A road project to replace the signalized intersection of Route 311 and Route 419 in Roanoke County at Hanging Rock with a roundabout is set to begin. The new roundabout opened to traffic on July 15. During the remaining construction, lane closures may be in place. Drivers should expect the following:

**TRAFFIC IMPACT AUGUST 8:** On Tuesday, August 9, traffic headed north on Route 419 coming from exit 141 area will need to make a full circle around the roundabout to access north Route 311 toward New Castle. This switch is only planned for one day.

July through November: The new roundabout is now open to traffic. Drivers should still expect nighttime lane closures with flaggers between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday around the roundabout for final paving, pavement marking and sign installation.

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

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# SPORTS

Send story ideas & announcements to bhoffman@ourvalley.org

## FOOTBALL SCRIMMAGE SATURDAY



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

The Craig County football team opened practice last week in preparation for the coming season. Craig will have a home scrimmage against Patrick County this Saturday at 11 am, free to the public.

## CRAIG COUNTY GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM USING THE SUMMER TO WORK ON SKILLS

The Craig County girls' basketball players have had a busy and fruitful summer, attending several camps and continuing to improve.

Kaiylin Jones, Kammie Fisher, Kallie Fisher, Jenna Boitnotte, Maggie Mays, Natalie Fisher and Emily Smith attended a skills camp at Emory & Henry. These girls play on Craig teams from the middle school to varsity school levels.

"It was a good camp for the girls that attended," said Craig County coach Brock Jones. "They worked on individual skills of ball handling, rebounding, defense, passing and strength and conditioning."

Kaylin Jones, Daileigh Donithan, Boitnotte and Kammie and Kallie Fisher also went to a camp at Radford University.

"That was a great camp for the girls that attended," said coach Jones. "Mike (RU coach Mc-

Guire) is a great coach for Radford University and does such a great job with the program. The girls were pushed harder than the Emory camp. They worked on pick and rolls, setting screens, ball handling, two-on-one fast breaks, rebounding, defense, positioning, passing and learning the lifestyle of a Division 1 basketball player. I was really impressed with how detailed and well run the camp was at Radford. Great experience for the kids."

Craig girls played for the Gold Medal at the Virginia Commonwealth games at Liberty University in Lynchburg. Jones and Kallie and Kammie Fisher joined the Virginia Bandits 14U AAU team, a USSSA Sanctioned Group, that practices out of the Old Natural Bridge High School. The Virginia Bandits coach, Chad Bouchard, reached out to Craig coach Jones

in May and asked if Kaiylin, Brock's daughter, was interested in playing for their team.

"He saw some videos on Facebook and saw how serious we push and work the girls at Craig County with basketball," said Brock. "I also invited Kammie and Kallie Fisher, my JV & Middle School basketball Coach Tommy Fisher's oldest girls. I have worked with this age group for about three years now, when we started our own small AAU group that was nothing but Craig County girls traveling to Tennessee to compete. I told Tommy I would like for him to bring Kallie and Kammie alongside Kailyn, who is such a physical girl to be going into the 8th grade. Kailyn is 5'9" now and we have worked together on being physical and on post moves.

"Kailyn played Co-ed Rec. basketball this year and I think all the

boys her age are scared to challenge her in the paint," said Jones. "I am a super proud dad. Watching her do what I loved to do is amazing. She has the same grit and grind that I did when I played. No better feeling than watching her play and being able to coach her."

The competition at the Commonwealth Games was strong, but the Craig girls held their own.

"The competition level was a little stronger, but I am always looking ahead to the future and game planning, scouting and preparing," said Jones. "And Tommy may not know it yet, but based on my plans and ideas I want to do this year on varsity Kallie is going to be a huge asset to our team, giving me another strong ball handler. So, I was really looking forward to them going and competing against stronger competition."

Brock has purchased new Nike uniforms for the varsity girls, the first time in seven years the girls have had new uniforms. The Rockets will be young, but he expects them to compete with second team all-district players Sara Jones and Lexxy Brookman returning along with seniors Anabelle Gregory and Han-

nah Ratliff. "We have a lot of freshmen moving up that could make varsity," he said. "This freshman group is the group I started with two years ago coaching AAU, so there should be a great season coming up for girls' basketball. I'm hoping that the program is making a shift and headed in the right direction."



These Craig girls went to the Emory & Henry basketball camp.



Craig County coaches Tommy Fisher and Brock Jones with, left to right, Kammie Fisher, Kallie Fisher and Kaiylin Jones after winning the Gold Medal at the Commonwealth Games.



Left to right; Kaiylin Jones, Kammie Fisher, Daileigh Donithan, Jenna Boitnotte and Kallie Fisher attended the Radford University camp.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Craig girls will have new home white and road blue Nike Uniforms this winter.