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THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



GAS CASH ACCEPTED AT BOTH LOCATIONS



High school senior chooses to be a firefighter in Craig County

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

Young people have the opportunity to learn helpful skills from people who wish to be a mentor. Griffin Dobby has recently benefited from this heritage and now is a great assistance to the community.

"Every year we host a group of high school students, members of the Pulaski Club, from Doby's-Bennett High School out of Kingsport, Tennessee to conduct a controlled burn on our 900-acre farm," shared Rachel Braun, farm manager of The Farm at Sinking Creek.

She said that in the fall of 2022, they burned a large hillside that was about 11 acres.

There were five students along with their teacher, Bryan Kerns, who successfully conducted this burn on a very windy day.

"One of the seniors was a young man by the name of Griffin



COURTESY PHOTO

This photo was taken of Griffin Dobby, in the fall of 2022 at former Sen. Bill and Tracy Frist's property on Sinking Creek in Craig County. Griffin and four of his classmates served on the Doby's-Bennett High School Prescribed Fire Team, one of, if not the only high school prescribed fire team in the country. The students are trained by Bryan Kerns, a 20-year veteran of wildland fire, and meet all the requirements to participate in live fire events.

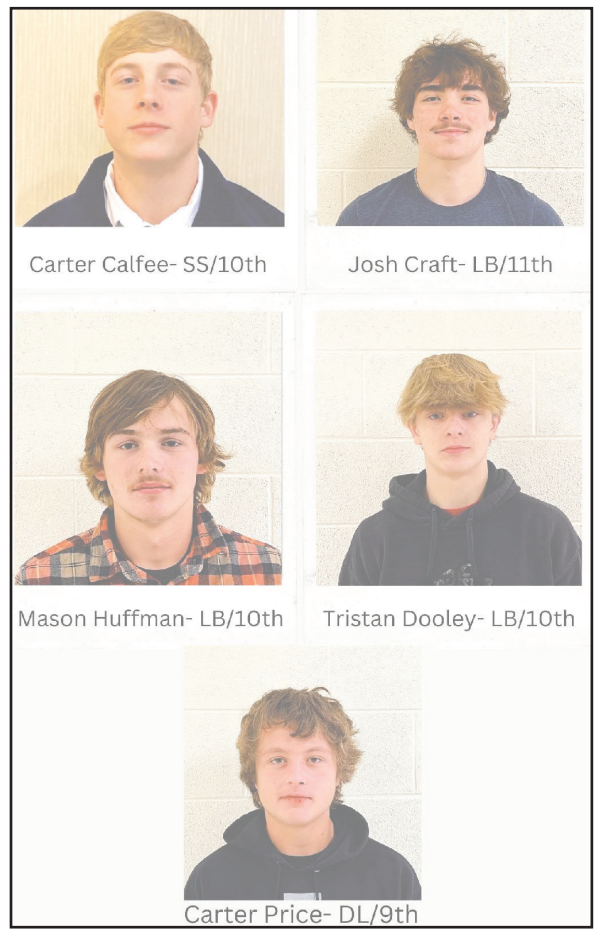
Dobby," Braun said. "After graduation he went on to join the U.S. Forest Service fire crew and this morning Mr.

Bryan Kerns informed us that he was in route with his crew to the New Castle area to help with the forest fire up

route 42 near the look out."

"I got the chance

See **Senior**, page 7



COURTESY PHOTO

Though the season has ended for Craig County Rocket football, the new one is ready to start next week, with conditioning beginning at early morning hours and high expectations. For the season, all year the players competed to be on the top of the tackle leaderboard and ended with these five at the top: Carter Calfee 96.5, Josh Craft 93.5, Mason Huffman 71, Tristan Dooley 60.5 and Carter Price 56.5.

Rocket football regrouping for upcoming year

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

The sport of football in Craig County has always been one which residents support with their presence with gusto.

This year, the strong coaching staff, community members and Booster Club came together to support the students so that they could have an enjoyable season on the new Bermuda grass football field.

Though the season did not end as many were hoping, most in Craig were grateful for the ones who made this happen again, as in previous years, there was no football team at all, so rebuilding comes with some pains.

"As the sun sets on the 2023 season, Team 52 and the coaching staff would like to thank every donor, sponsor, volunteer, school board member, school administration, and member of Rocket Nation that made this season possible. Without each of you, we could not, and cannot, field a team," Coach Jimmy Fisher shared. "This was a season of newness; new field, new weight room, new offense, new defense, and new, young players."

"We had our ups and our downs. A lot of the ups were early in the season, and a lot of the downs were in the latter part of the season," he added. "Part of that was due to attrition. As we were injury plagued, and part of it was that our district schedule is stronger than our non-district schedule. As a team, we got weaker as the season progressed and our weekly opponents were stronger."

Sadly, at one point during the season, the Rockets were down to one starting offensive lineman and no starting defensive linemen.

However, the coaching staff agreed that "This was in no means a disappointing season!"

"This was a season of tremendous growth by a lot of very young players. The injuries may have hurt our on the field performance, but the playing time opportunities and the experience gained by the youngest of our kids will pay dividends in the near future," Coach Fisher said.

For the 2024 season, Team 53 will return all 11 starters on offense, and 10 starters on defense from the team they fielded in game one versus Bland County.

See **Price**, page 4

See **Rocket**, page 2

Average price for a Thanksgiving meal in Virginia costs \$91.30

RICHMOND—As the cost of consumer goods continues to trend upward, so has the price of a Thanksgiving meal.

According to an informal survey conducted by the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, the average cost to prepare a traditional Thanksgiving meal for 10 is \$91.30, or \$9.13 per person.

The survey's menu consists of turkey, ham, stuffing, sweet potatoes, russet potatoes, rolls, carrots, celery, cranberries, green beans, peas, milk and pumpkin pie with whipped cream.

A meal without ham, russet potatoes and green beans costs \$66.88, or \$6.68 per person.

This year's statewide average increased by \$17.39—a 24% increase—from the 2022 average of \$73.91 for a 10-person meal.

Prices reported by volunteer shoppers were collected between Oct. 25 and Nov. 6—before major retailers began offering holiday discounts, promotional sales or coupons.

This year, the average per-pound price for a whole frozen turkey during the data collection was \$2.18. But on Nov. 8, when one major supermarket chain ran its weekly sale ad, consumers could buy a whole frozen turkey for 39 cents per pound.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Nov. 10 retail report indicated that the Southeast region's average price for an 8- to 16-pound whole frozen turkey was \$1.43 per pound, down from \$1.43 per pound in the Nov. 3 report. The Nov. 10 report also said 66.9% of Southeast stores

were running sales promotions, versus just 13.8% in the Nov. 3 report.

"Although turkeys are plentiful in Virginia and across the country this year, with the state's production up 5.5% from a year ago to 15.4 million birds, there has been a trend of retailers waiting to run promotional prices and sales closer to the holidays," noted Elijah Griles, VFBF commodity specialist. "This is consistent with this year's Thanksgiving dinner survey findings."

This is the 20th year Virginia Farm Bureau has conducted the survey, which is based on an annual survey organized by American Farm Bureau Federation. Volunteer shoppers checked prices online and in person at 45 grocery stores throughout the state.

The VFBF survey showed the average cost of a 16-pound turkey was \$34.86, or \$2.18 per pound. This represents a 24% increase in price versus the 2022 average of \$1.76 per pound.

The Farm Bureau survey discovered the average price for a 4-pound boneless ham was \$18.45, while last year the average price for a 4-pound bone-in ham was \$10.24.

"There's a significant price difference between boneless and bone-in ham, which could easily explain the large increase this year," Griles explained.

Consumers pay more for boneless hams because it costs more to produce them due to the processing involved, like deboning and packaging.

As for the other ingredients for

a traditional Thanksgiving meal, the survey showed that a gallon of whole milk was \$3.47; frozen peas, \$1.77; frozen green beans, \$1.84; three pounds of sweet potatoes, \$3.06; a 5-pound bag of russet potatoes, \$4.13; fresh celery, \$1.91; fresh carrots, \$1.17; two pie shells, \$3.43; whipping cream, \$3.47; canned pumpkin pie filling, \$4.21; fresh cranberries, \$2.43; stuffing mix, \$3.30; and a dozen dinner rolls, \$3.80.

Most items increased in price versus 2022 values except for sweet potatoes, russet potatoes and whole milk, which were all less than last year.

The locality with the highest average cost for a traditional Thanksgiving meal was Powhatan County at \$124.84. The locality with the lowest average cost was the city of Richmond at \$57.93 for a 10-person meal.

Inflation continues to affect families across the country, including the nation's farmers.

"Although there is a great deal of volatility and unpredictability in both production costs and marketing of agricultural products, farmers are efficient and effective at what they do and they persevere to provide food for our tables in Virginia, across the nation and around the world," noted VFBF president Wayne F. Pryor.

Consumers do have some options for lowering their Thanksgiving meal costs, Griles said. They can compare store prices, look for special promotions and buy store brands rather than

See **Price**, page 4



Happy Thanksgiving from Citizens

We are thankful to serve you and happy that we can help you stay connected with family and friends near and far.

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John M. Oakey and Son Funeral Home to hold Annual Candlelight Remembrance Service

The holiday season is full of trees and trimmings, caroling and gifts, wonder and joy; but for families who have recently lost a loved one, it can also be a difficult time of grief and heartache. For this reason, John M. Oakey and Son Funeral Home will host its Annual Candlelight Remembrance Service on Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. in their chapel.

"We understand the grief journey that many families go through after losing someone they love," said Cathie Thomas, president of John M. Oakey and Son. "Perhaps there is no time of the year when we are more aware of the empty space our dear one has left behind than during the holiday season."

Dr. Michael Curry, leader of Amazing Grace Global Impact Ministry, will share an inspirational message of healing and hope to help families prepare their hearts for a holiday season following a loss. "Walking through grief can be a difficult and uncertain trek," explained Dave

Vanderpool, manager, "especially for families who are experiencing the first holiday season absent of someone they love."

The beautifully decorated historic home is all set to warmly welcome families inside to share memories and to light candles of remembrance in honor and memory of loved ones lost. "We want to emphasize that this is a special service for the community and not just for families that we have served this past year," said Thomas. "All are welcome."

The reading of the poem, "The Four Candles" is always a meaningful part of the service after which guests are invited to light a candle of remembrance for their dear ones.

"We have orchestrated a meaningful service which we hope will be of comfort to families," said Thomas. The John M. Oakey and Son family has a special gift for each guest as a memento of gratitude for allowing them the privilege of caring for their family during a most difficult

time. "Each family we serve is special to us and becomes part of our family," explained Thomas. "We are so grateful for the faith and trust bestowed upon our funeral home by our community."

Immediately following the service, families are invited to stay for a time of fellowship and light hors d'oeuvres.

Holiday traditions are special at John M. Oakey and Son and the staff would like to invite the community to participate in one of their own by honoring the memory of a loved one on the Lights of Love Memorial Tree. This too is not just for families who have called upon John M. Oakey and Son this past year, but all are welcome to place a "light of hope, joy and peace," on the tree to shine throughout the holiday season.

For more information about the candlelight service or to add a loved one's name to the Lights of Love Memorial Tree, at no charge, call 389-5441 or email info@johnmoakey.com

-Candy Long



Lights of Love Memorial Tree

COURTESY PHOTO

Rocket from page 1

"We will be bigger, we will be faster, and we will be stronger than Team 52," exclaimed Fisher. "We know where the weak spots are in the program and on the team. We will work extremely hard to strengthen those areas."

The Craig County Rocket representatives on the 2023 Pioneer All-District Team were selected:

- Offense:**
- 1st Team Running Back - Carter Calfee
 - 2nd Team Offensive Line - Carter Price
 - 2nd Team All-Purpose - Jaycob Wolfe
 - 2nd Team Kicker - Isaac Lucas
- Defense:**
- 1st Team Defensive Back - Carter Calfee
 - 2nd Team Defensive back - Jaycob Wolfe
 - 2nd Team Defensive Line - Carter Price
 - 2nd Team Linebacker - Josh Craft

Honorable Mention:

- Caleb Fields, Tristan Dooley, Mason Huffman, Blake Wright, Wyatt Huffman, Marcus Donithan, and Noah Paxton

"I am extremely proud of how

they fought through adversity all season," Dowdy shared. "Our motto this season was no excuses, and the kids went to battle despite being shuffled around in multiple positions each week due to losing half of our starters to injuries. I am proud of the fact that they refused to throw in the towel."

He added, "They are already fired up for the morning waits to start on November 27 and they are aware that expectations are sky high next year based on how we performed when healthy. We will miss our few seniors that we had, but our top 16 tacklers will all be returning hungrier than ever!"

The team and coaching staff sends their great appreciation "to every single person that contributed in any way to the 2023 season!"

Those who are interested can keep tabs on their progress and involvement in the community as their coaches are "community focused" to help the team not only build a football team but be a part of building a greater community. Check them out on Facebook: Craig County Rockets Football.

They added, "We hope you will continue to support us for the upcoming 2024 team!"

OBITUARIES

Lipes, Errel Jackson

Errel Jackson Lipes (Jack) age 82 of Craig County passed away surrounded by family on November 10, 2023, at Roanoke Memorial Hospital. Jack was born on October 5, 1941, to the late Erlow and Millie Lipes. Prior to his death, Jack worked at Corning for 25 years where he was a member of the fire brigade, he later retired from Virginia Tech in June of 2010 but continued to work part-time with Blacksburg Auto Parts up until his death. Jack spent many years square dancing with the Star City Promenaders. Any time spent with Jack was time well spent, listening to his knowledge of craftsmanship and gardening. Jack was a founding and life member of the Simmonsville Volunteer Fire Department where he served as an active



member for 47 years. He spent tireless hours working at the fire department whether it be cleaning trucks or planning training events. Jack is preceded in death by his brother Jimmy Lipes and sister Mary Ann Lindamood. Left to cherish his memory is his loving wife of 62 years Hazel Lipes, daughter and son-in-law Lorrie and Lawrence Keffer of Salem Va, son and daughter-in-law Brian and Brenda Lipes of New Castle Va, two grandsons Blake (Hope) Keffer of Salem Va and

Brad (Sarina) Lipes of Newport Va, and three great-grandchildren who were the lights of his life Graylynn and Quaid Keffer and Ashlyn Lipes. Brother Jerry (Rhonda) Lipes of New Castle Va, sisters Evelyn Duncan, Sue Snider, and Cornette Caldwell, and special sister-in-law Hulda Snider as well as many special nieces and nephews. A visitation will be held at Level Green Christian Church on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, from 5-7:00 pm. The funeral will be held at Level Green Christian Church on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 11:00 am, with burial to follow. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in his honor to the Simmonsville Volunteer Fire Department or Level Green Christian Church.

Price from page 1

name brands.

Nationally, American Farm Bureau Federation's survey found the average cost of its classic Thanksgiving meal for 10 was \$61.17, a 4.5% decrease from \$64.05 in 2022. The basic AFBF survey does not include ham, russet potatoes and green beans. With these items included in the AFBF findings, the national average cost for a traditional meal was \$84.75, 8% lower than the cost in Virginia.

Veronica Nigh, senior economist for AFBF, noted that turkey prices nationally were down 5.6% because of the reduction in avian influenza cases.

-The New Castle Record

Be sure to 'Like' the New Castle Record on Facebook.



WISHING ALL OF OUR PATIENTS A HAPPY & JOYOUS THANKSGIVING!

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Email letters to the editor to
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OPINION

Thankful for reading

Library Corner
Marge Lewter

Numerous social media platforms mark the beginning of the holiday season each November with a "30-day Thankful Challenge," in which participants may reflect on all they believe they are thankful for in their daily lives. Responses are shared from all over the country displaying just how thankful people are for their loving family, loyal and caring friends, bellies full of delicious food, the safety and warmth of their home,

their faith, that one wild and crazy co-worker that makes the work days pass quickly, and of course their hearts are just bursting with joy to celebrate the love they have for their children and each other.

This holiday season, as you reflect on all you are thankful for and what has truly shaped and helped mold your life, perhaps take a moment and think about reading. That's right, reading. Is there a book, a library, a librarian, or a story that made an impact on your life? Do you have the most wonderful best friend because you both love Stephen King? Was your local library your home away from home in your

childhood? Are you a teacher because you love to read and share your love for knowledge with the upcoming generation?

The magical world lying in wait behind the doors of a library or beyond the cover of a book evokes a multitude of feelings for many. I believe Roald Dahl best captures the virtue of reading and libraries with his 1988 publication of Matilda. (If you have not read this book, I highly suggest you add it to your to-be-read pile.)

Matilda is a highly intelligent young girl who is neglected by her parents, but finds

See **Library**, page 4

Get the conversation started - family health history

Health Column

Family members may share more than similar looks. Common health conditions such as heart disease, cancer, arthritis, dementia, asthma, and diabetes, as well as rare diseases such as hemophilia, cystic fibrosis, and sickle cell anemia can run in families. Family Health History Day, observed each year on Thanksgiving Day, serves as a reminder to talk with your loved ones about check-ups, including preventive screenings, and your family's history of health conditions.

While a discussion with your family members about health problems and diseases may seem awkward at first, having and sharing this important information with your healthcare provider can help you take steps to protect your health. People who have a family history of certain diseases may have the most to gain from lifestyle changes and screening tests.

Consider starting one-on-one conversation with family members by sharing why you hope to gather the information. Let them know that everyone can benefit from more complete health histories. Young people may not realize the importance of hereditary factors that could cause trouble down the road. Older relatives may know more about family health conditions, especially in those relatives who are no longer living. For persons who are adopted, family health history information may have been shared during the adoption process.

The following steps may be helpful:
Ask it
Ask family members about what conditions they have or had, and at

what age they were diagnosed with them. Talk about chronic diseases like heart disease and diabetes; health conditions like high cholesterol or high blood pressure; where your ancestors are from; and the causes and ages of death of relatives from previous generations. Take a sensitive approach with family members who may not want to share all or certain parts of their health history. Let them know whatever information they can provide will be helpful.

Write it
Keep a record of the information you get from your family. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers a free tool, My Family Health Portrait, to organize the information and share it with your family and your healthcare provider.

Share it
Having a discussion with your healthcare professional about your family history can help you understand what that history means for you and may inform the timing and choice of certain screening tests. Sharing your family health information can also help guide the personal health decisions of other relatives.

Research shows that our overall health is strongly influenced by a combination of genetics, behaviors, and environmental factors. It is important to understand that having a genetic predisposition toward a condition does not mean we will necessarily develop that condition. Understanding the history of our family's health allows us to be better informed, make smart decisions, and live healthier lives.

News from the 9th: Thanksgiving Through the Years



Morgan Griffith
Representative

Every November, families and friends gather across the country to give thanks for the many blessings they have received during the year.

A holiday that many look forward to every year didn't always have such a predictable nature. It took almost a century and a half for Thanksgiving to be what it is today. Some of our country's most influential presidents even played a hand in establishing Thanksgiving as the holiday we know today.

As some may know, the first thanksgiving was celebrated in Virginia in 1619, when a group of 35 settlers and their leader, Captain John Woodlief, set sail from England for the New World, bound for land in Virginia along the James River. This settlement would be known as Berkeley Hundred. This was two years before the pilgrims held their Thanksgiving in Massachusetts.

Sailing into the

Chesapeake Bay on November 28, the group lingered in that area for a few days, weathering a fierce storm, before arriving at Berkeley Hundred on December 4.

Once on shore, Captain Woodlief prayed, offering words that had actually been provided by the Berkeley Company which funded the settlement: "We ordaine that this day of our ships arrival, at the place assigned for plantacon, in the land of Virginia, shall be yearly and perpetually kept holy as a day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God." Unfortunately, the Berkeley Hundred settlement would last only a few years due to attacks by Native Americans.

Later, in 1777, following the Battles at Saratoga, which were pivotal to America receiving the foreign assistance it needed to win the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress declared the first national American Thanksgiving.

Then, in 1789, President George Washington proclaimed Thursday, November 26, as a day of "public thanksgiving and prayer" dedicated to "the service of that great and glorious Being who is the

beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, and that will be."

Though Washington had declared a national thanksgiving in 1789, the holiday had not yet caught on throughout the country and was mainly celebrated in New England.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln designated a national "day of Thanksgiving and praise," thanks in large part due to the actions by American writer and activist Sarah Joseph Hale. Mrs. Hale is perhaps best known as the author of the nursery rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

In addition to many Members of Congress and Governors, Mrs. Hale wrote to five presidents before Lincoln, failing to persuade them to support a national holiday. Finally, after 17 years of advocacy, President Lincoln was persuaded to designate the final Thursday in November as Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Hale is also believed to be responsible for popularizing the Thanksgiving menu. One of the chapters in her novel Northwood: Or, a Tale of New England, is dedicated to describing the dishes of Thanksgiving, including

See **9th**, page 4

Thanks-giving: A day in America to be thankful for

For many of us, it would be difficult to imagine what it would have been like to have landed on a strange land, with a small group of people, to venture out into uncharted thousands upon thousands of acres of land, to create a new home in a place where you would have no idea of what you may come upon each day?

That's bold faith. For the Pilgrims we have read about, it took a lot of faith to do what they chose to do in that time and era.

However, our history also tells us that the celebration of "Thanksgiving" wasn't just the sitting down of the Pilgrims and Indians who made friendship.

It originally celebrated with the later massacres of Indians on this land which the Pilgrims landed upon.

As I read through the literal gory history, I chose not to include it all in this article, as for most of us, this is a

day to celebrate and be thankful for. And, maybe to ask God for forgiveness of our ancestors actions.

Most kids don't even know about the Pilgrims and Indians early venture anymore, as it isn't dwelt upon, or even in the U.S. History books any longer.

Our heritage to look upon is so important, whether good or bad, we learn from it and choose to do better, just as we do in our everyday lives.

In America today, we view Thanksgiving as a day to be thankful, focusing on family, friends, and our relationship with God.

It is said that the Pilgrims arrival at New Plymouth, they composed "The Mayflower Compact which honored God". They began with acknowledging God as faithful and giving Him thanks in advance for

See **Thanks-giving**, page 4

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CROSSWORD

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CLUES ACROSS
1. 1965 PGA Champion David
5. Pesetas (abbr.)
9. So. Am. treeless grassland
14. A fencing sword
15. Do over, as of a house
16. Confederate general Richard S.
17. Seamen
18. Honey bee genus
19. City in central Poland on the Mleczna
20. E. M. Forster novel
23. Jenny __, Swedish soprano
24. Illumined
25. Escargots
28. Surgical clamp
33. Maize
34. Ngerulmud is the Republic's capital

CLUES DOWN
1. Denotes change of position
2. So. Am. armadillo with 3 bands of bony plates
3. About aviation
4. Repairing worn shoes
5. Decapods
6. Having moderate heat
7. Almost horizontal entrance to a mine
8. Somalian shilling (abbr.)
9. Penetrable
10. To be in store for
11. People of ancient Media
12. A way to work the soil
13. Air-launched missile
21. 1/1000 of an inch
22. __ Mater, one's school
25. Old English poet or bard
26. Persian wheel used to raise water

35. __ Jima, WW II battlefield
36. Master copies
39. Jack of little fat
41. Apple or lemon meringue
42. Actress Zellwegger
43. At this place
44. Remunerations
46. Removes writing
48. Fit out a ship with sails, etc.
49. Elinor __, British novelist
50. M. Ali's famous boast
51. Damascus is the capital
58. Worldly rather than spiritual
59. Winglike structures
60. Indicating silence
61. Myanmar monetary unit
62. 100 = 1 tala
63. Translucent, greenish variety of chalcedony
64. Impudence
65. Netherlands river

27. Spirit in "The Tempest"
28. Drag, cart or haul
29. If not; otherwise
30. Coverings for wheels
31. Having cognizance
32. Lugs
34. Sheet of glass in a window
37. Cause annoyance in
38. Sound of a horse
40. Apparition
45. Military land forces
46. Selects by votes
47. A shag rug made in Sweden
49. Anchovy pear tree
50. 8th Jewish calendar month
51. Blood clams genus
52. Benevolent & Protective Order of
53. Birthplace of Buddhism Bodhi
54. Ancient Greek City aka Veiia
55. Capital of Yemen
56. Golf ball pegs
57. Engine additive

9th

from page 3

turkey, gravy, stuffing, pumpkin pie, among others.

With the help of Lincoln's declaration, Thanksgiving became a nationally celebrated holiday. It became federally recognized by Congress in 1870.

In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared November 23 as Thanksgiving, the next to last Thursday that year. It is said that President Roosevelt viewed Thanksgiving as too late that year and wanted to move it forward to give Americans an extra week of Christmas shopping.

Many Americans were upset by the president departing from tradition and refused to celebrate Thanksgiving on the 23rd. Critics called it "Franksgiving" (Franklin's Thanksgiving).

Two years later, acknowledging he made a mistake and attempting to correct it, President Roosevelt signed a law designating the fourth Thursday

of November as Thanksgiving Day. And since 1941, Thanksgiving has since been celebrated as such.

Though it took many years for Thanksgiving to become what it is today, the spirit of the holiday has held true since the founding of our nation. We must not forget to stop to thank the Lord for our many blessings and to thank loved ones for their support and guidance in our lives.

As always, I pray that everyone has a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, feel free to contact my office. You can call my Abingdon office at 276-525-1405 or my Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671. To reach my office via email, please visit my website at www.morgangriffith.house.gov. Also on my website is the latest material from my office, including information on votes recently taken on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Library

from page 3

friendship, love, and comfort in her local library and librarian at first and later in her teacher, Ms. Honey. Dahl describes the importance of the library to Matilda; "So Matilda's strong mind continued to grow, nurtured by the voices of all those authors who had sent their books out into the world like ships on the sea. These books gave Matilda a hopeful and comforting message: You are not alone." Through Matilda's young voice, Roald Dahl demonstrates the utmost importance of books, libraries, and librarians.

As always, we are beyond thankful for the continued support from

our community, our Friends of the Library members and volunteers, and last but certainly not least our library patrons. So, without the fuss of a social media post, Craig County Public Library would like to thank all our supporters for allowing us to be a part of your life, your family, and your community. We have seen many changes over the past several years and hope to continue growing and changing, but no matter what we promise to always keep the door open for magical adventures, grant you the passport to freedom with your library card, and support you on your quest for knowledge.

Thanks-giving

from page 3

their abundant blessings.

History quotes that in 1621 there was a friendship made between the Pilgrims of Plymouth Colony and the Wampanoag tribe in present-day Massachusetts. However, it was after that time when others landed upon the soil and started to massacre the Indians, taking their land and their peace they had discovered.

I know that isn't the "thanksgiving" message you wish to read, but it lets us know that we have come a long way in the USA, to not do terrible things such as that. It is no longer the way of the USA - or shouldn't be. Though, in our world of today, some wonder about events that are happening.

Regardless, we choose to celebrate family, love, friends, and life on this day.

One of the most delicious and huge meals is cooked on the fourth Thursday of November every year.

Families tables are seated with people elbow to elbow and there is usually so much food, some platters and bowls have to be set to the side.

Families in Craig shared how they celebrate, "We always fix dishes and take them to some elderly who don't have family.", "I like it because my mom cooks my favorite dessert, chocolate pie!", "We have all the family over and enjoy an entire day of food, fellowship and football!", "I like it because my family doesn't care if I have third helpings!" and "Thanksgiving is special to us because we invite our



COURTESY PHOTO

As many families gather together, they give thanks for the time they have to spend together as well as the times they had with past family members and friends. May your Thanksgiving be filled with love, laughter and a peace that passes all understanding.

neighbors for a special day of feasting."

Thanksgiving seems to be an important time in most everyone's life because it's a time of giving thanks to God, and to people you care about.

For others, it is a time to give to others by serving at the Mission, soup kitchen, or for many in Craig, they serve our elderly and disabled.

"I always watch the Macy's Day Thanksgiving Day parade while I'm cooking

my Thanksgiving dinner for my family!" one older lady shared. "It has been my personal tradition."

Thanksgiving is regarded as being the beginning of the fall-winter holiday season, as it starts the Christmas spirit for many.

I personally say, "May your holiday be special, your turkey big and your families happy during this special time of celebration!... and it's turkey-time!"

-Pam Dudding

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Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame announces Class of 2024, Major League Baseball great Bill Wagner will be guest speaker

Former Major League Baseball and Ferrum College pitcher Billy Wagner will be the guest speaker for the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame's 32nd hot stove banquet and induction ceremony. The banquet will be held at the Salem Civic Center on February 4, 2024, and the Class of '24 includes Tommy Bayrer, Larry Bowles II, Mikey O'Brien and Paul Siple.

Wagner is a 2003 inductee in the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame. A 1990 graduate of Tazewell High School, he drew national attention with his mid to high 90s fastball while pitching for Ferrum College. In the 1993 draft the lefty fireballer was the first round, and 12th overall, pick of the Houston Astros. He made his Major League debut in 1995 and in '99 he was the recipient of the Rolands Relief Award, presented to the outstanding closer in the National League. That season he had 39 saves with a 1.57 earned run

average and 124 strikeouts in 74 innings.

A seven time all-star, Wagner pitched nine seasons for Houston, two for the Philadelphia Phillies, three with the New York Mets, and also had a stop in Boston before concluding his career with the Atlanta Braves in 2010, saving 37 games in his final season. Wagner finished a 16 year big league career with 422 saves while appearing in 853 games, all in relief. He struck out 1,196 batters in 903 innings and thrilled fans with a fastball that often reached the 100 mph mark.

Bayrer is a Roanoke native and graduate of Cave Spring High School, where he was a standout outfielder. He went on to play at Campbell University and hit .415 his sophomore season before being converted to a pitcher. Throwing in the 90s with a wicked knuckle curveball, he was a 17th round draft choice of the Astros in 2001. He pitched two seasons in the minor leagues for

Houston, including a stint with Martinsville in the Appalachian League.

Bowles II is a Franklin County product who was a standout pitcher and firstbaseman for Franklin County High School, graduating in 1997. He was all-state his senior year and the recipient of the Salem-Roanoke Hall of Fame Ray Bellamy Award as high school Player-of-the-Year. He went on to play at Virginia Tech, where he earned All-American honors in 1999 on the Collegiate Baseball, Baseball Writers Association and Mizuno All-American teams. Larry played for the USA National team in 1998 and was drafted by the Anaheim Angels organization in 2000, where he played one year before his career was cut short by an injury.

O'Brien is another former Ray Bellamy Award winner, earning Player-of-the-Year honors in 2008 after a standout career at Hidden Valley High School. Following that season O'Brien, a

righthanded pitcher, was drafted in the ninth round by the New York Yankees. He pitched professionally until 2018 with stints for the Yankees, Orioles, Reds and Rays organizations, reaching the AAA level in three different seasons. He finished his professional career with a 3.87 ERA over 770 innings pitched, striking out an average of 7.1 batters per nine innings.

Siple, a 1938 graduate of Clifton Forge High School who died in March, 2015, was a player, teacher, coach, professional scout and umpire. A four-year letter winner as a shortstop at Bridgewater College, he competed in the National Semi-Professional playoffs in Wichita, Kansas, then played and managed in semi-pro baseball in leagues throughout Virginia. He coached high school baseball for 24 years and became a professional scout in 1960. Siple scouted for 40 years, first for the Pittsburgh Pirates, then with the Reds and the Phillies. He was also a Virginia High School



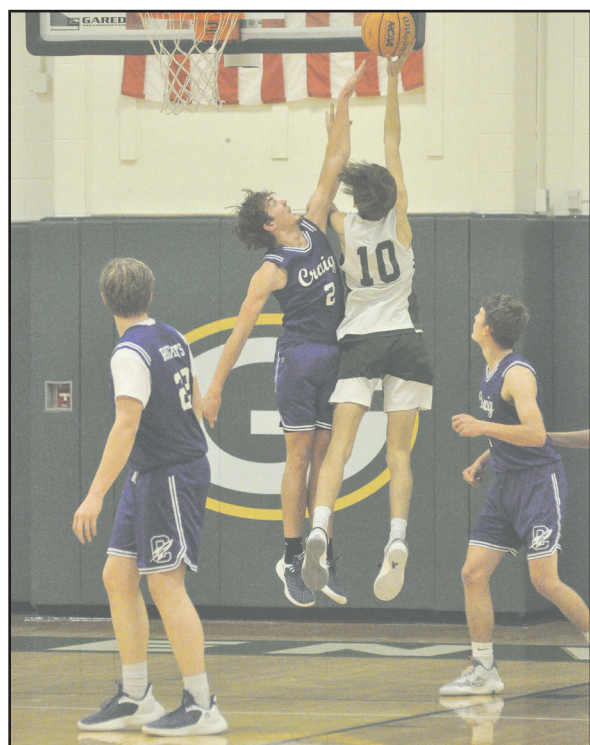
Billy Wagner, who pitched in the big leagues for 16 years, will be the guest speaker at the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame induction banquet on February 4.

League umpire for 25 years and is a member of the Bath County High School, Boys Home and Bridgewater College Halls of Fame.

The Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame was founded in 1991 and honors players and contributors from the counties of Alleghany, Roanoke, Bedford, Botetourt, Craig, Floyd, Franklin and Montgomery and the

independent cities located within the boundaries of those counties. The Hall of Fame building is located on the grounds of the James E. Taliaferro Complex, next to the Salem Red Sox administrative office behind the third base seating area of Salem Memorial Ballpark. It is open to the public on selected nights during the Carolina League season and upon request.

High School basketball opens next week



Jaycob Wolfe(#2) defends the paint.



Matthew Lucas(#1) scores against Glenvar.



Hayden Reynolds shoots a jump shot.

The Craig County High basketball season opens next week with the Craig boys hosting the Boys Home on Monday and the girls at home against Giles a night later, on Tuesday November 28. The

boys scrimmaged at Glenvar High last week and the girls were scheduled to scrimmage at home against Auburn this week. Some shots from last week's scrimmage at Glenvar.



Rockets defend against the Highlanders.



Talon Ritter looks to start the break.



Drew Duncan handles the ball after a rebound.



Coach Ryan Frazier talks to Will Johnson.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN