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"The Voice of Craig County"

Wednesday, November 22, 2023

High school senior chooses to be a firefighter in Craig County

Contributing writer

Young people have the opportunity to learn helpful skills from people who wish to be a mentor. Griffin Domby 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 Dobyns-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

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

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

"One of the seniors the name of Griffin and this morning Mr.



This photo was taken of Griffin Domby, 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 Dobyns-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.

Domby," Braun said. "After graduation he went on to join the U.S. was a young man by Forest Service fire crew Bryan Kerns informed route 42 near the look us that he was in route with his crew to the New Castle area to help with the forest fire up

"I got the chance

See **Senior**, page 7

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

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 perpound 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 8to 16-pound whole frozen turkey was \$.87 per pound, down from \$1.43 per pound in the Nov. 3 report. The Nov. 10 report also said 66.9% of Southeast stores

RICHMOND—As the cost were running sales promotions, a traditional Thanksgiving meal, versus just 13.8% in the Nov. 3 report.

"Although turkeys are plentiful 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 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

"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

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

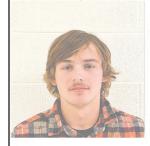
See **Price**, page 4





Carter Calfee-SS/10th

Josh Craft-LB/11th





Mason Huffman- LB/10th

Tristan Dooley-LB/10th



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 nondistrict 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 **Rocket**, page 2



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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 "Perhaps there Son. 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 "Walking loss. 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

The beautifully decorated historic home is all set to warmly welcome families inside 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
- 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!"

<u>Ubituaries</u>

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 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 nephews. A visitation 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 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

一下 安坐下 安坐下 安坐下 安 WISHING ALL OF OUR PAT <u> HAPPY & JOYOUS THANKSGIVING!</u> **CRAIG COUNTY CRAIG COUNTY HEALTH CENTER DENTAL CENTER** 226 Market Street 230 Market Street New Castle, VA New Castle, VA 540-864-6390 540-864-5556 Happy Thanksgiving

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

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Email letters to the editor to

aboyd@mainstreetnewspapers.com

OPINION

Thankful for reading

Library Corner Marge Lewter

Numerous social media platforms mark the beginning of the holiday season each November with "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-beread pile.)

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

See Library, page 4

News from the 9th:

Thanksgiving Through the Years



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

Telephone: _

Chesapeake Bay on beneficent Author of all the 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 Almighty God." Unfortunately, the Berkeley Hundred settlement would last only a few years due to attacks by Native Americans.

Saratoga, which were pivotal to America receiving the foreign the Continental Congress declared the first national American Thanksgiving.

Then. in George President 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

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 following the Battles at them to support a national holiday. Finally, after 17 years of advocacy, President Lincoln was persuaded assistance it needed to win to designate the final the Revolutionary War, Thursday in November as Thanksgiving.

> Mrs. Hale is also believed to be responsible 1789, 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

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

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 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.

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.

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 unchartered 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

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

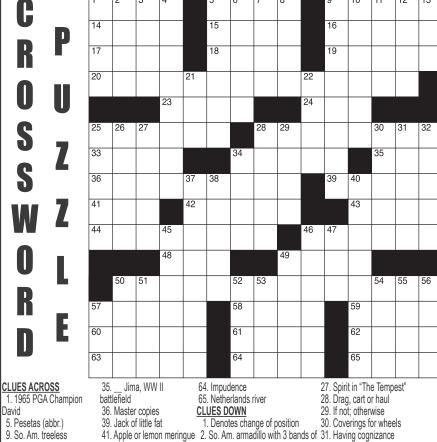


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Mater, one's school

25. Old English poet or bard

26. Persian wheel used to raise

13. Air-launched missile

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 Bodh

54. Ancient Greek City aka Velia 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

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

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Megan Mehrer, Graphic Designer megan@ourvalley.com Wendi Craig, Advertising Consultant advertise@ourvalley.org

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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!", 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

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. watch

always Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade while I'm cooking

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

Thanksgiving regarded as being the beginning of the fallwinter 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

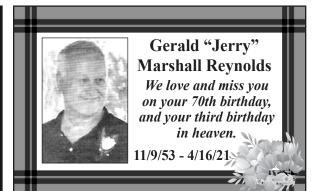
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CLERK The Town of Troutville is looking for an experienced business professional to support the Town with an array of clerical functions. The ideal candidate will have a degree in business or 5 years of accounts payable/receivable experience. Candidate must have excellent communication.

organizational and interpersonal skills and be able to work with Microsoft Office Tools as well as financial software applications. Duties include the answering of phones, general secretarial duties water billing, collections, bank deposits, and other duties as assigned or needed. Candidate must have the ability to work in a self-directed environment. Selected applicants will be called for an interview Hourly rate is negotiable. Retirement and health

benefits are available. All resumes must be received by December 5, 2023, 3:00 PM. Send resume to: Town of Troutville. Resume, P.O. Box 276, Troutville VA 24175 or laura.bumgarner @gmail.com

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Help Wanted Carpenter

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Legals - City of Salem

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular

meeting on Monday, November 27, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider

approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA: Consider the request of GKM Properties, LLC, property owner, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a two family dwelling on the property located at

802 Maryland Avenue (Tax Map # 147 – 2 - 1). 2. Consider amending Chapter 66, Article I, In General, Section 66-7, Nonconforming signs and 66-9, Removal of signs no longer advertising

800-

existing bona fide business, the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA pertaining to signs. 3. Consider amending

II District Regulations, Sections 106-208.2, 106-214.2, 106-216.2, and 106-218.2, pertaining to permitted uses; Section 106-216.3 pertaining to site

Chapter 106, Zoning, Article

development regulations; Article III Use & Design Standards, section 106-304.21 pertaining to short term rentals; section 106-316.3 pertaining to accessory

uses, residential; Article IV Development Standards, section

106-404 pertaining to parking requirements; section 106-406 miscellaneous

provisions pertaining to storage containers; and Article VI Definitions and use types section 106-600 pertaining to definitions of the CODE

OF THE CITY OF SALEM.

Legals - City of Salem

VIRGINIA. If approved, Salem City Council intends to adopt the ordinance(s) associated with the above item(s) on first reading, with a second reading of those ordinance(s) at a subsequent meeting. Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development. 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall

have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests. THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA

BY: H. Robert Light Clerk of Council

ABC NOTICE

SAPPHIRE HOSPITALITY LLC., trading as FAIRFEILD INN AND SUITES, 121 SHERATON DRIVE, ROANOKE COUNTY, SALEM, VA. 24153-0121.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Beer and Wine license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Vishnu Patel, Sole Member

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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Montgomery County

Legals -

Order of **Publication**

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, 20-104 Case No.**CA23000019-00**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia,

in re: The Adoption of a Minor Child Under Eighteen Years of Age, to be known as SERITA DANIELLE TICKLE By: MILDRED ANNE TICKLE, FRED LEE TICKLE, JR.

The object of this suit is to

obtain an adoption of the

minor child, Serita Danielle McLemore, by your petitioners, Mildred Anne Tickle and Fred Lee Tickle, Jr., husband and wife. An affidavit having been made and filed, pursuant to Virginia Code §8.01-316 (1950), as amended, showing that the biological father, Kenneth McLemore (aka Kenneth Lee Sturdivant), despite the exercise of due diligence on behalf of Petitioners, could

not be personally served

Legals -Montgomery County

with legal process for this

action and his last known

address is unknown, though he is known to be residing in and around the Montgomery County, Virginia area. It is further ORDERED that this Order shall be published once a week for (4) successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation, serving the Montgomery County, Virginia, the locality of father's last known whereabouts, and contemporaneously posted in a conspicuous location at the Montgomery County Courthouse Enter this 1 day of November, 2023. Robert M.D. Turk, Judge I ask for this: R. Cord Hall, Esquire, VSB 77637 R. Cord Hall Attorney-At-Law, P.C. 106 S. Franklin Street, Suite B-2

Christiansburg, VA 24073 (540)318-0707

(540)381-0505 fax

Counsel for Petitioners

Legals - Town of Vinton

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF VINTON, **VIRGINIA**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please be advised that the Vinton Town Council will hold a public hearing at its meeting on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia, concerning the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$500,000.00 in the Grant Fund for a Community-wide Brownfields Assessment Grant from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The purpose of the EPA Community-wide **Brownfields Assessment** Grant is to evaluate underutilized commercial properties and/or perceived brownfields sites throughout the community that are in need of revitalization by performing Phase I and Phase II Environmental Assessments at each identified location. The

program will also allow for

the development of

Legals - Town of Vinton

design concept plans, site specific remediation/redevelopment

plans, and marketing materials to be created for each site, with the hope of engaging potential developers to consider taking on the redevelopment project. Section 15.2-2507 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, requires any

locality to hold a Public Hearing in order to amend its budget when any

such amendment exceeds one percent (1%) of the total expenditures shown in the currently adopted budget. Any additional information on this public meeting is available in the Town Manager's Office, located in the Vinton Municipal Building, (540) 983-0607. Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate in this public meeting should contact the Town Manager's

office at (540) 983-0607. Antonia Arias-Magallon Administrative Manager

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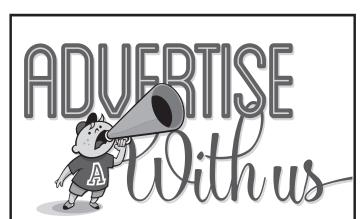
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Senior from page 1

to meet Griffin and have met many other great students from Dobyns-Bennett High School through the Pulaski club," Braun continued. "I feel the work they do is extremely important, and this story needs to be told."

She added, "We are so grateful for all those who have stepped up to help with this fire!"

Domby learned many skills while serving with four of his classmates on the Dobyns-Bennett High School Prescribed Fire Team, one of, if not the only high school prescribed fire team in the

The students are trained by Bryan Kerns, a 20-year veteran of wildland fire, and meets all the requirements to participate in live fire events.

Additionally, the students are prepared to begin work as wildland firefighters upon graduation.

Domby was on the control burn at The Coyote Valley controlled burn, which was an 8-acre fire aimed at restoring native grasses to the hillside.

"This, and other burns conducted at the Frist's property are having great success in promoting the remnants of native grasslands that once painted the entire valley," Kerns said. "On this burn, Griffin was responsible for igniting a backing fire off the top of the hillside and patrolling to ensure the fire stayed within the control lines.

He added, "This experience helped the many hours of PowerPoint presentations, videos, and reading come to life as the students experience the

beauty, power, and restorative effect of fire."

After Domby graduated from Dobyns-Bennett High School in Kingsport, Tennessee in May of 2022, he accepted a full-time permanent wildland firefighter position with the George Washington & Jefferson National Forest.

"The training and industry certifications he earned while in high school set him apart from other young applicants and has quickly emerged as a leader on his crew," Kerns explained. "Almost one year later, Griffin returned to Craig County with his U.S. Forest Service wildland fire crew to respond to the Penny Hollow Fire. He and his crew continue to fight wildfires in the region as this fall continues to stretch resources thin.

V DOT ROADWATCH

Interstate 81

I-81 & ROUTE 11 BORING SCHEDULED -Mountain Valley Pipeline is expected to perform boring is tentatively scheduled across I-81 near MM 130.11 between October 26 and November

INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXIT 137 TO EXIT 141 – The \$179 million design-build project to widen both directions of I-81 between mile markers 136.6 and 141.8 from two to three lanes is underway. Work is being performed along a fivemile section of both northbound and southbound Interstate 81 in Roanoke County and the city of Salem. Barrier wall is in place along the shoulders. Two lanes of I-81 traffic in each direction are expected to 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 traffic impacts in this area on northbound and southbound I-81:

ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC IMPACTS:

WORK ZONE SPEED: Drivers should adhere to posted 60 mph speed limits in the work zone and allow space when following a vehicle. Narrow spacing in lanes due to barrier walls, lack of shoulders and lane shifts in various locations, are

TRAFFIC SHIFTS ON WILDWOOD ROAD: Expect a work zone with traffic shifts and narrow width on Wildwood road after exiting I-81 southbound on exit 137 heading towards Salem. Southbound and northbound I-81 exit and entrance ramp narrows are possible at Route 311.

TRAFFIC SHIFT ON EXIT 140: Expect a quick merge into traffic onto Thompson Memorial from the southbound exit ramp of exit 140. Work zone located at bottom of the ramp for work on the I-81 bridge at the underpass.

RAMP CLOSURES: Ramp closures are possible during nighttime hours, 12 a.m., to 5 a.m. Drivers should watch for message boards dates and times the ramp will be closed.

LANE CLOSURES: Alternating left and right lane and shoulder closures during nighttime hours between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, are possible. Lane widths will be reduced to 11 feet. Nightly lane closures may be in place along the right lane with possible nightly ramp narrows as needed for guardrail and shoulder strengthening.

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 offramp intersection at Wildwood Road and adding interchange lighting at exits 137, 140 and 141. Expected completion in early 2026.

I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 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 for Summer 2024.

SLOW ROLLS: A slow roll operation may be in place daily, Monday through Friday, between mile marker 101 and 105 northbound and between mile marker 109 and 105 southbound, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. 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. LANE CLOSURES: Nighttime alternating

between mile markers 104-106 from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. ROUTE 605: Alternating lane closures and flagging operations will be present on Route 605,

lane closures will be in place on I-81 northbound

located under the New River Bridge, for work overhead on the bridge.

I-81 PAVING OPERATIONS - Weather permitting, crews will be performing paving operations along Interstate 81. Right and left lane closures may be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS - Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 170 to 89, 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.

Interstate 581 I-581/220

EXPRESSWAY 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.

I-581/220 LANE & RAMP CLOSURES FOR PAVING AND MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS IN ROANOKE COUNTY- Weather permitting, crews will be milling and paving along Interstate 81. Right and left lane closures will be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours. Drivers should expect possible

Roanoke County

SIDEWALK PROJECT ON SOUTHBOUND WILLIAMSON ROAD IN HOLLINS AREA -Work is underway on a project to construct new sidewalk along the section of southbound Route 11 (Williamson Road) between Plantation Road and Peters Creek Road. Drivers in the Hollins area can expect periodic right lane closures on southbound Williamson Road between 9 a.m. and

2 p.m. As work progresses, occasional nighttime lane closures also will be scheduled. The sidewalk project is expected to be completed in summer 2024.

STARKEY ROAD AND BUCK MOUNTAIN ROAD ROUNDABOUT - A road project to construct a single-lane roundabout at the intersection of Route 904 (Starkey Road) and Route 679 (Buck Mountain Road) is in progress. The new roundabout is now open to traffic and drivers should be aware of the new roundabout configuration. There will be occasional flagging operations in place between the 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the intersection of Starkey Road and Buck Mountain Road, drivers should still expect lane closures with flaggers controlling traffic for final paving, additional concrete pouring and pavement marking until the project is finished. Final completion is expected in late spring 2024.

LANE CLOSURES WITH FLAGGING OPERATIONS: Lane closure times of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. have resumed due to school now being in session.

ROUNDABOUT: The roundabout configuration has been set up. This means drivers should continue around the circle without turning left and that drivers in the circle have the right of

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY CLOSURES IN ROANOKE AREA - Blue Ridge Parkway will be repairing slope failures and road closures with detours may be in place. Visit their website at www.nps.gov/blri/planyourvisit/roadclosures.htm for more information.

MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE Mountain Valley Pipeline is expected to begin full construction again by mid-July. Temporary intermittent flagging operations will be in place in the county throughout the remainder of the project (with a tentative completion date of February 2024) to load/unload equipment at crossings and construction entrances. Scheduled completion is February 2024.

PAVING OPERATIONS – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place and flaggers may control traffic at times during daylight or nighttime hours. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

Botetourt County

ROUTE 650 UTILITY CLOSURE - Route 605 (Coaling Road) will be closed between Route 652 (Mountain Pass Road) and Route 765 (Derek Drive) on November 8.

ROUTE 658 CLOSURE FOR PIPE REPLACEMENT - On November 13 through November 15, Route 658 (Davis Road) will be closed at house number 564 for a pipe replacement between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. There is no outlet for the residents beyond the pipe replacement location. The project is expected to be completed by 3 p.m. on Wednesday, November

Touse Is

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. San Kang.

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**

FIRST BAPTIST

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

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 Chanmi Lee, 347-684-2607, 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, Jonathan Lee, pastor, 864-6622.

Sunday: Worship Service 9:00 a.m., Children's Church 9:15 a.m., Sun-

day School 10:30 a.m. **NEW CASTLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH** "WHERE YOUR HEART CAN FEEL THE DIFFERENCE"

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Saturday at 864-5321; www.nc-cc.org.

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NEW CANTERBURY PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP Pastor John D. Abbott, Hwy 621 (10 miles), phone: 540-580-5837, Sun-

day Prayer 10:00-10:30 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday 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 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. San Kang, 364 Main St., New Castle, Va. Sunday School 10AM, Worship 11AM; UMW 3rd Wednesday@1PM, Youth and other programs, Bible Studies.

99 2nd Street, New Castle. Tel: 540-473-3691. Email: StJohnnewcastle@gmail.com. Mass is on Sunday at 11:15 AM. **CRAIG COUNTY COMMUNITY CHURCH -**

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC 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

If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Wendi Craig at 276-340-2445 or email advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

SPORTS

Send story ideas & announcements to bhoffman@ourvalley.org

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

Former Major League average and 124 strikeouts 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

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 Rolaids Relief Award, presented to the outstanding closer in the National League. That season he had 39 saves

with a 1.57 earned run

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

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 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.

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



Matthew Lucas(#1) scores against Glenvar.

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.



Hayden Reynolds shoots a jump shot.



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.