

Book Fair returns to McCleary on Nov. 13-17

Pam Dudding

Contributing writer

When TVs go out, the internet is down and all that is left is silence. This is when a good book comes in handy to sit down and enjoy.

'When we look back on our childhood, many of us have fond memories of being read to, of snuggling up and enjoying a favorite story with the people who love us," Librarian Karen Jones shared. "Study after study shows that early reading with children helps them learn to bond with their parents and read early themselves. Those early readers are more likely to find success later in life."

She added, "Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures."

Noted author, Bali Rai says, "Reading for pleasure is the single biggest factor in success later in life, outside of an education. Study after study has shown that those children who read for pleasure are the ones who are most likely to fulfill



The annual Book Fair at McCleary Elementary School is open to the public and will have thousands of books for every age.

Chronic Disease and Health Behaviors- Tobacco Use

Carilion asking community to complete assessment surveys in Craig Co.

Roanoke Valley

Bedford County

Franklin County

Salem City, VA

Service Area

Botetourt

VA Roanoke City, VA

Virginia United State

County, VA Craig County, VA

Social I	Drivers	of Hea	lth
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Report Area	Percent Population in Poverty ¹	Cost-Burdened Households ²	Households with No Motor Vehicle ²
Roanoke Valley Service Area	11.2%	23.86%	6.29%
Bedford County, VA	8.8%	19.11%	2.91%
Botetourt County, VA	7%	18.04%	3.49%
Craig County, VA	11.5%	15.66%	7.47%
Franklin County, VA	11.2%	19.82%	5.45%
Roanoke County, VA	8.1%	22.26%	1 24%
Roanoke City, VA	17.9%	32.88%	11.93%
Salem City, VA	10.5%	25.02%	6.34%
Virginia	10.3%	28.17%	6.04%
United States	12.8%	30.34%	8.35%

See **Book Fair**, page 2

Pam Dudding **Contributing writer**

There are many surveys done amongst communities to keep up with research but also to help a community to information

Jim Cady is assisting the Carilion Clinic in spearheading a Carilion Clinic Community Health Assessment survey within Craig obtain County to about certain topics that Craig

County has no data on or needs updated data.

There are results of surveys from three years ago, however Craig County did not participate.

"I'm hoping for a

this year," Cady shared.

Adults Age 18+ as Curre nokers (Age-Adjusted)

16.7%

15.30%

15.60%

18.00%

17.80%

14.30%

20.10%

15.70% 14.07%

13.80%

Cady has placed paper copies for community members use in; the county office, health health department, care clinic, library and Katie's Animal

click on the barcode on the form.

"Communities come in many sizes, shapes and colors, and as a result, community health improvement efforts also vary. In the

Current Smokers, Adult, Percent of Adults Age 18+ by ZCTA, CDC BRFSS PLACES Project 2021 Over 23.0%

Under 17.1% No Data or Data Suppressed

COURTESY IMAGES

is one constant: people working together. Our key partners in this work-HRV, Roanoke City and Alleghany Health District, and YOU!" Carilion shared.

See Carilion, page 2



PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM CADY

The decision was made to shut down a 3-mile section of Cumberland Gap Rd due to fire equipment and falling debris onto the road and having to protect two residential structures adjacent to the fire.

Fire on Cumberland Gap Road finally contained

Pam Dudding **Contributing writer**

On Sunday Oct. 29, many people in the town of New Castle watched as smoke came from Sinking Creek Mountain.

Questions flooded the Facebook pages as people were concerned and had a right to be, as a locus tree had fallen over a power line and started a fire in the crisp dry leaves of the season and started spreading fast due to the high winds.

"The Cumberland Gap Road fire was discovered around 2 pm on Sunday afternoon," Darryl Humphreys shared. He is the Craig County emergency management/

See Fire, page 2

Craig County Community Christmas happening with the **Angel Tree at Food Country**

Pam Dudding **Contributing writer**

Many families get excited this time of year as the holiday season seems to bring many loved ones together and people have a tendency to want to give more.

"For the 2023 Christmas season, and hopefully many more seasons to come The Craig County Department of Social Services and the Craig County Public Schools are teaming up to provide Christmas to local families and children this year," shared Alex Bunnell, family services specialist.

They will also be receiving assistance from The United Way and Craig Botetourt Electric Cooperative to make this a successful holiday season.

This event is called The Craig County Community Christmas.

"The school sent home letters to families asking if they were in need of Christmas assistance and those letters have since been turned in and our team has begun pairing these families/ children with sponsors sign-up thus far," Bunnell shared.

An Angel Tree located at Food

Country will be set up again, as they are still seeking individuals or families to sponsor a child.

Also, Craig County Public Schools will be conducting their Snow Court fundraiser/dance to raise money for this event again this year.

"These funds will be utilized to buy for our older youth (high school age) and allow for local JVG students to earn credits," Bunnell said. "Be on the lookout for the Snow Court jars that will be set up around town as the dance will be held Dec. 1."

Donated toys/items from people who wish to donate will need to be turned in by Dec. 4 to the school, as sorting will begin that week.

"We will begin inviting those families that signed up for assistance to pick-up their gifts Dec. 11-15," shared Bunnell.

Those who would like to sponsor a family, have a monetary donation, or would like more information in general about this event should contact Alex Bunnell at CCDSS at (540) 864-5117, Ext 242, or she can be reached via email at alex.bunnell@dss.virginia. gov or by calling/texting 540-765-9817.



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276.637.6485 • citizens.coop





Carilion from page 1

Insurance Coverage

Report Area	Percent of Insured Population Receiving Medicaid	Uninsured Population
Roanoke Valley Service Area	16.03%	7.35%
Bedford County, VA	12.27%	6.48%
Botetourt County, VA	8.26%	5.54%
Craig County, VA	20.41%	3.71%
Franklin County, VA	17.99%	9.26%
Roanoke County, VA	11.05%	4.82%
Roanoke City, VA	27.04%	10.53%
Salem City, VA	10.98%	6.01%
Virginia	14.48%	7.88%
United States	22.19%	8.77%

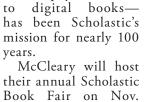
Demographic Profile—Population Density

Report Area	Total Population	Population Density (Per Square Mile)
Bedford County, VA	79,462	105
Botetourt County, VA	33,596	62
Craig County, VA	4,892	15
Franklin County, VA	54,477	79
Roanoke County, VA	96,929	387
Roanoke City, VA	100,011	2,352
Salem City, VA	25,346	1,746
Virginia	8,631,393	219
United States	331,449,281	94

Book Fair from page 1

their ambitions. If your child reads, they will succeed - it's that simple."

Connecting kids with stories they love, in whatever format they prefer—from fiction to nonfiction, chapter books to graphic



novels, physical books

their annual Scholastic Book Fair on Nov. 13-17. Funds raised from this event will be

SPECIAL SALE Cow/Calf Pairs & Bred Cows Featuring over 100 head of Cows

Friday, Nov. 10, 2023 @ 6:00pm



870 Park Street Christiansburg, VA used to purchase new books for the McCleary library.

Students will be able to shop at the fair during their library time.

"The fair will also be open on Wednesday, Nov. 15, from 3:30-6:30 p.m. so that grown-ups can come and shop with their children," Jones said. "In addition, parents and guardians who attend the "BINGO for Books" event on Thursday evening will be able to shop after the event."

The Book Fair offers specially priced books, including popular series like "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" and "Minecraft", award-winning titles, new releases, adult bestsellers, and other great reads from dozens of publishers.

Book Fair customers may help the school build classroom libraries by purchasing books through the Classroom Wish List program. "In addition, the Book Fair will feature the All for Books[™] program, where students can share the

thrill of reading with others by donating change loose to purchase books from the Book Fair for the school library,' explained. Iones 'Scholastic Book Fairs® then matches those monetary donations with a donation of up to one million dollars in books from The Scholastic Possible Fund."

Jones concluded, "The Book Fair is one of the most important events in the school calendar as it celebrates and encourages reading, which is vital to every child's success in school, and in life. The fair also gives kids access to good books, which will motivate them to read more. The Book Fair provides an opportunity for the community to get involved in a universal mission: encourage kids to read every day so they can lead better lives."



services soordinator.

"When Station 4 (New Castle Volunteer Fire Department) arrived on scene they began working on a fire line. Due to the size and steep terrain and the wind conditions the decisions was made to dispatch additional departments for assistance," he said.

These included, Station 1 (Johns Creek Volunteer Fire Department), Station 2 (Paint Bank Volunteer Fire Department), Station 3 (Simmonsville Volunteer Fire Department) and Station 5 (Upper Craigs Creek Volunteer Fire Department).

"The Virginia State Forestry was notified along with the National Forestry for their assistance," said Humphreys. "Station 8 Craig County Volunteer Rescue and Station 9 Career EMS were on scene for medical services and the Craig-Botetourt Electric responded and removed the tree from the power line."

Concerns were

equipment and falling debris and having to protect two residential structures adjacent to the fire," Humphreys added.

The Craig County Sheriff's Office and New Castle VDOT crews took care of the road closure.

"We know that this was a burden to citizens but had to been done for their safety and the safety of fire crews working the fire," he said. "We want to thank the citizens for their cooperation during this time. The road was reopened at 4 a.m. Monday morning for commuter traffic."

Humphreys concluded that The Virginia State Forestry and the National Forestry had been working on maintaining the fire line throughout the week with crews walking the line using leaf blowers and hand rakes to remove leaf litter that has been falling off the trees away from the fire line.

Sadly, the fire burned around 100 acres of mostly private land with some of it involving National Forest Land. He also noted that over the next week there would be visible smoke as the crews continued to watch over it intensely.

Chronic Disease—Heart Disease Adults Age 18+ Ever Age-adjusted death rate per Report Area Diagnosed with CHD (Age-100,000 pop 2 Heart Disease Mortality. Adjusted)1 Age-Adjusted Death Rate (Per 100,000 Pop.) Roanoke Valley Service Area 5.2% 78.9 Bedford County, VA 4.90% 73.3 Botetourt County, VA 4.90% 76.5 Craig County, VA 5.50% 60.6 300 Roanoke Valley Service Franklin County, VA 5.50% 66.7 Area (171.7) Virginia (150.8) Roanoke County, VA 4.70% 67.2 United States (164.8) Roanoke City, VA 5.80% 96.4 Salem City, VA 5.00% 105.6 76.5 Virginia 4.81% United States 5.20% 91.5

Chronic Disease and Health Behaviors—Diabetes and Obesity

Report Area	Adults Age 20+ with Diagnosed Diabetes, Age-Adjusted Rate	Adults Age 20+ with Obesity (BMI > 30)	Percentage of Adults Age 2 with Diagnosed Diabetes (Age-Adjusted), 2019
Roanoke Valley Service Area	10.2%	30.8%	
Bedford County, VA	9.7%	30.7%	0% 15% Roanoke Valley Service
Botetourt County, VA	8.3%	27.4%	Area (10.2%) Virginia (8.7%)
Craig County, VA	6.8%	23.9%	United States (9.0%)
Franklin County, VA	9.6%	38.5%	Percentage of Adults Obe (BMI > 30.0), 2019
Roanoke County, VA	11.6%	26.8%	
Roanoke City, VA	11%	32.5%	
Salem City, VA	8.3%	28.5%	
Virginia	8.7%	28.6%	0% 509 Roanoke Valley Servio

Call for more information 540-382-2291 or 276-620-1533

Everyone is invited to attend the Book Fair, purchase a book for a child, the school or for oneself. There will be thousands of books available. expressed on the Facebook pages as well as many prayers sent out.

"The decision was made to shut down a 3-mile section of Cumberland Gap Road due to fire



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

www.ourvalley.org

VDSS offering applications for low-income fuel assistance

The Virginia Department of Social Services is currently accepting applications for fuel assistance. Local families and individuals can apply through the Craig County Social Services. The Energy Assistance Program provides state support to assist low-income households in meeting their home energy needs such as electricity, natural and liquid propane gas, oil, kerosene, coal and wood. Assistance may also be available for delivery and installation charges as well as connection or re-connection fees. To apply online or check eligibility for benefits assistance, visit the CommonHelp website at commonhelp.virginia.gov. Those interested may also submit by phone - Enterprise Customer Service Center, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. (855) 635-4370.

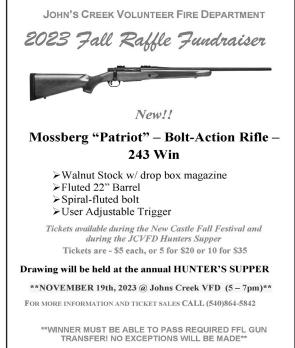
To qualify for fuel assistance, the maximum gross monthly income:

Household Size	Monthly Income Limit
1	\$1,822
2	\$2,465
3	\$3,107
4	\$3,750
5	\$4,392
6	\$5,035
7	\$5,677
8	\$6,282
Each additional person	\$642

-The New Castle Record

John's Creek Volunteer Fire Dept. Hunter's Supper is coming up

John's Creek Volunteer Fire Department is holding its Annual Hunter's Supper Fundraising Sunday, Nov. 19 at the Forks of Johns Creek Christian Church located beside JCVFD from 5-7 p.m. to raise funds in an effort to support continuing operations: building maintenance to ensure we have a proper structure to protect our firefighting equipment, vehicles and to hold regular meetings, keep up with vehicle maintenance so they are ready to go at a moment's notice and to keep those vehicles from freezing in the winter, update firefighter turnout gear (every ten years to maintain its protection effectiveness - equipment



COURTESY IMAGE

effectiveness - equipment used by the firefighter for their protection in order to fight fires of pants, jacket, helmets, gloves, footwear and hood etc.). Turnout gear costs \$5,000.00 per set for the basics. Located at 116 Dicks State and includes: pork the includes: pork the includes: pork tenderloin, side dish, roll, drink and dessert. Also, they are having a rifle raffle drawing at the end of supper. The rifle is a Mossberg "Patriot" – Bolt-Action Rifle – 243 Win with a drop box magazine, Fluted 22" Barrel,

e dish, Spiral-fluted bolt, and dessert. User Adjustable Trigger. having Tickets available during drawing Hunters Supper - \$5 supper. each, or 5 for \$20 or lossberg 10 for \$35. Tickets can te-Action be purchased during in with the event or earlier by with contacting one of our agazine, calling 540-864-5842.

SC

OBITUARIES *Knickenbocker, Rhonda Burrows*

Rhonda Burrows Knickenbocker of VA Beach VA., and formerly of New Castle and Salem VA, passed away September 26, 2023 at the age of 59 after a short but courageous battle with cancer. She was preceded in death by her husband, Michael Knickenbocker, parents Barbara Reynold Burrows and Richard

Burrows. Left to cherish her memory are the children, Jennifer (Lucas) Heintzelman, Anthony (Jordan) Knickenbocker, Daid (Katlin) Knickenbocker and Barbara Knickenbocker (Chris Taylor). Grandchildren Audrey Jones, Cardelia and Charley Heintzelman, Riley and Avery Knickenbocker, Mikey Knickenbocker, C.J., William and Adam Taylor. Siblings, Terry (Eugene)Ratliff, Judy Harbin, Roy Burrows, Roger (Cara) Burrows, Rick (Michelle) Burrows, Paul (Lisa) Burrows and Mark Burrows Numerous nieces and nephews and cousins. Private services will be held at a later date.

Upcoming public meetings in Craig Co.

Nov. 15

A CPMT meeting at CPMT – Department of Social Services will be at 1 p.m.

Nov. 20

The New Castle Town Council will meet from 7-8 p.m. at the New Castle Town Hall at 339 Market Street in New Castle.

Nov. 21

Rep. Morgan Griffith will hold a citizen comment period from 9-10:30 a.m. in the courthouse breakroom.

Dec. 7

The Craig County Board of Supervisors will hold its monthly meeting at the Craig County Courthouse at 6 p.m.

Dec. 18

The New Castle Town Council will meet from 7-8 p.m. at the New Castle Town Hall at 339 Market Street in New Castle.

Dec. 19

Rep. Morgan Griffith will hold a citizen comment period from 9-10:30 a.m. in the courthouse breakroom.

Dec. 20

A CPMT meeting at CPMT – Department of Social Services will be at 1 p.m.

Jan. 4

The Craig County Board of Supervisors will hold its monthly meeting at the Craig County Courthouse at 6 p.m.

Jan. 15

The New Castle Town Council will meet from 7-8 p.m. at the New Castle Town Hall at 339 Market Street in New Castle.

Community events: Nov. 16

The Maywood Garden Club will hold its annual fundraising auction on Nov. 16, at the Simmonsville Fire Department. It will start at 6 p.m. Virginia "Bluebell" will be the auctioneer. Items will include crafts, baked goods and Christmas items.

Nov. 18

Waiteville Community Center (WCC) will sponsor their 4th Annual Hunters Supper on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 4 to 6 pm. The eat-in or take-away meal will include chili, slaw, cornbread, dessert and a drink for \$15. For information, call 304-772-3060 or email waiteville@ frontier.com.

Ongoing

Feeding southwest Virgnia will be offering food twice a month on the second and third Wednesday of the month from 3-5 p.m. and 4-5 p.m., respectively. All community members are welcome to purchase fresh produce and other canned and boxed items. EBT recipients receive 50% off their fruits and vegetables.

Booster Club of Craig Schools meet on the third Monday of each month in the school cafeteria at 6 p.m. Community members are encouraged to attend and to join to support the kids of Craig County as they need the participation of more people.

Every Friday. Craig County Genealogy Library is open 1-4 p.m. 152 Main Street. High school annuals, family histories and genealogy resources. Contact 540-864-7023. *-The New Castle Record*



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

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

FIRST BAPTIST

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

GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

HEBRON UNITED METHODIST

Pastor 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., Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

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

282 Salem Ave., New Castle; 864-5212; Pastor Bill Frazier. Sunday Service: 10 A.M.; Wednesday night Bible study at 6:00 P.M. for K-5; If you need a ride to church, please contact Calvin Duncan by 8 P.M. on Saturday at 864-5321; www.nc-cc.org.

NEW CANTERBURY PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP

Pastor John D. Abbott, Hwy 621 (10 miles), phone: 540-580-5837, Sunday 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.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

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 -'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: craigcountycommunity-church@gmail.com.

ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

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

OPINION

Awareness Stroke Day (October 29) is a good time to remind ourselves how to help prevent and recognize strokes, the leading cause of long-term disability in the United States and the fifth-leading cause of death. Even more startling is that the stroke rate has gone up among young and middle-aged Americans over the last 30 years. Over 30% of strokes occur in people under the age of 65, and 10% affect those under 50 years old. Unfortunately, residents of our RCAHD communities experience higher rates of hospitalizations for asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure, and stroke (according to 2020 Virginia hospital admissions data) compared to the rest of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

What is a stroke?

A stroke, or brain attack, happens when blood flow to your brain is blocked by a clot or a blood vessel bursts in your brain. The brain needs a constant supply of oxygen and nutrients. Without them, brain cells begin to die after just a

reason, it is an emergency if blood supply to the brain is stopped, even for a short time. Knowing the signs of a stroke and getting immediate medical attention immediately can save lives.

Anyone can have a stroke at any age. But your chance of having a stroke increases if you are older and have certain risk factors. Some risk factors for stroke can be changed or managed, while others, such as family history can't. Like most health conditions, maintaining a healthy lifestyle is the easiest way to reduce your risk of stroke:

If you smoke, quit. Smoking doubles the risk of stroke. The great news is that the risk begins to decrease as soon as you quit and can fall to that of a nonsmoker after two-to-five years. Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW for free support for yourself or a loved one.

Know your numbers: blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol. Do what you can to keep these levels within normal range.

Stay active, eat healthy and stay at a healthy weight. Even light physical activities, such as gardening, housework, or slow-paced walking can contribute few minutes. For this to stroke prevention. The

key is to stay active and avoid prolonged periods of inactivity.

If you have heart disease, get treatment.

While staying healthy can go a long way toward reducing risk, it's also critical that everyone knows the signs and symptoms of a stroke. Patients who receive treatment within three hours of their first symptoms often have less disability after a stroke than those who received delayed care.

Internalize these warning signs of stroke, commonly abbreviated to the letters BE FAST:

Balance — Has the person suddenly lost their balance?

Eyes - Has the person's vision suddenly changed in one or both eyes?

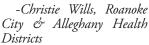
Face — Does the person's face look uneven? If you can't tell, try having the person smile.

Arms — Is one arm weak?

Speech — Is the person having trouble speaking or using slurred speech? Do they seem confused?

Time — Call 911 immediately.

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, seek help immediately. Mere minutes can make the difference between paralysis, temporary permanent damage, or death. If you experience any signs of stroke, like arm numbness or weakness and it doesn't go away in a few minutes, don't delay — call 911 and get checked out. It could make a meaningful, lifesaving, perhaps difference.



Stroke Awareness Day | News from the 9th: Our Country Needs More Nurses and Caregivers



country

currently facing a dire

staffing shortage when

it comes to nurses

and caregivers. The

recently reported that

according to a survey

of 170 Virginia nursing

homes from this fall, 44

percent of homes have

been forced to pause new

admissions at least once

since June 1 because

they have been unable

to find enough nurses

and caregivers to care for

residents. More than 90

percent of nursing homes

surveyed said they have

had to ask employees to

work overtime or take

extra shifts due to the

problem nationwide,

not a new one. Since

the late 1980s, due to

regulators have put in

place requirements to

ensure nursing homes

have "sufficient nursing

staff" and that there is a

registered nurse (RN) on

site for a minimum of

then exacerbated by the

COVID-19 pandemic.

The problem was

eight hours a day.

Not only is this

it's

shortages,

lack of staff.

staffing

unfortunately

is

Mercury

Our

Virginia

Nursing homes nationwide zoning requirements for about 245,000 lost employees during the pandemic. As of April, the health care structures sector has only regained 55,000 of those workers.

to care for our sick and elderly. The job is not only physically demanding, but need of assistance close also mentally taxing. This by, instead of seeking has led to high turnover out a full-time care rates for nursing staff (52%) in one year).

Our country must find new ways to alleviate this problem as soon as possible, as it is only expected to get worse due to our ageing population.

On September 1st, the Administration Biden released a proposed rule that costs and hopefully lead will have the unintended consequence of making our nursing shortage worse. Nursing homes would have to ensure a registered nurse is on site 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

While the intent of this rule has merit, we must face the reality we live in our country does not have enough nurses and caregivers. This minimum staffing standard would not only significantly raise costs for residents but would also lead to the closure of nursing homes that can't meet the new staffing requirements. This life. Had the parents is particularly true in rural areas where there is an even greater shortage of nurses tiny home, their son and caregivers.

During a recent Energy Blacksburg close and Commerce Health family and friends. Subcommittee hearing, we discussed this crisis and the proposed CMS rule.

During the hearing, I spoke to witnesses about one possible alternative option. When I was in the Virginia House of Delegates, I drafted a law that waived



residents that wanted to erect temporary family on their property or the property of a family It takes a special person member. This structure would allow families to keep their loved ones in facility. This allows the individual in need of care to stay close to family. In this scenario, family will take care of some basic needs, thus health care workers can be brought in for periods of time as needed. This should have the benefit of lowering to a lower burnout rate for our nurses.

This could have been beneficial for a family in Blacksburg who testified on the bill. The parents attempted to bring their sick son home multiple times, but because they didn't have a medically sterile room, their son kept getting infections. In order to properly care for their son, both parents quit their jobs to be with him at the University of Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville during the last months of his had the option to build a medically outfitted could have stayed in to

Will this solve our nursing shortage? No. Is this a perfect solution? No. Will it work for every family? No. But we have to start thinking outside the box if we are going to solve this problem. I am working on a federal level to get

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

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www.ourvalley.org

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whichever is lower in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101. Rockville, MD 20852. 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-

comprised of approximately three, three-story structures, located on the campus of a senior living community called the Chesapeake, which is located in and around 955 Harpersville Road, Newport News, Virginia 23601, (ii) roof an HVAC replacement and renovation at existing structures on the Chesapeake campus, and (iii) other renovations and reconstruction within the existing structures on the Chesapeake campus. The maximum amount of Bonds expected to be issued for this component of the financing is \$50,000,000.

AUTHORITY for a Convenience Grocery Store license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

KUNALSINH VASHI,

Messenger to be published once a week for four consecutive weeks.

Enter the 11th day of October 2023. Robert M. D. Turk, Judge I ask for this:

A. Steele III (VSB No.

No. 27409) Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No. 86372)

Paul L. LaBarr, Ésq. (VSB No. 91609) Gregory L. Haynes, Esq.

(VSB No. 37158) Seth R. Konopasek, Esq.

208643-6. **ABC NOTICE**

Santa Rita LLC., trading as Lentini's, 1396 Roanol Road, Daleville, VA. 24083

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Retail Restaurant or Caterer Application-Restaurant Wine, Beer, Consumed On and OFF Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Nasim Faltas, Owner.

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this licens 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.

(3)To finance and refinance the costs of designing, developing, constructing and equipping (i) approximately 18 independent living units in a cottage-style independent living development comprised of approximately 18, up to 3-story structures and related parking and amenities located on the campus of a senior living community called The Glebe, which is located in and around 200 The Glebe Boulevard, Daleville, Virginia 24083 (which is in Botetourt County), and (ii) an expansion of one or more existing structures on The Glebe's campus to expand and improve the dining and community facilities. The maximum amount of Bonds expected to be issued for this component of the financing is \$30,000,000.

(4)To finance and refinance the costs of designing, developing, constructing and equipping (i) approximately 40 independent living units in both a cottage-style and "hybrid home" independent living developments and 20 memory care units comprised of approximately 22, up to three-story structures located on the campus of a senior living community called The Summit, which is located in and around 1400 Enterprise Drive, Lynchburg, Virginia 24502, and (ii) the renovation and expansion of one or more existing structures for the purpose of expanding and improving the dining, fitness and community facilities of The Summit. The maximum amount of Bonds expected to be issued for this component of the financing is \$90,000,000.

(5)To finance, if and as needed, other capital projects at the facilities listed above, amounts required for reserves. working capital, capitalized interest, costs of issuance and other financing

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.

Legals - City of Salem

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on November 15, 2023, at 7:00 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

1. 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 800-802 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 existing bona fide business, of the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA pertaining to

signs 3. Consider amending Chapter 106, Zoning, Article 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 development regulations; Article III Use & Design Standards, section 106-304.21 pertaining to short term rentals; section 106-316.3

94358) THE LAW OFFICE OF JAMES STEELE PLLC 304 Brambleton Ave Roanoke, VA 24015 Tel: (540) 339-7775 Fax: (540) 492-42544

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA, a Political Subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Complainant, v. K M. HESLEP, ET AL, KELLY Respondent(s). Case No. CL23-1257

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Complainant, County of Montgomery, Virginia, for delinquent real estate taxes against certain real property located in the County of Montgomery, Virginia, described as follows: Tax Map No. 058-A 61 Account No. 008614 All that certain tract or parcel of land, with the improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereunto belonging situate, lying and being in the Mount Tabor Magisterial

District of Montgomery County, Virginia containing 85.69 acres, more or less further designated as Parcel ID 008614, Tax Map Number 058-A 61. And being a portion of the same real property conveyed to Kelly M. Heslep, from W. L Underwood and S. E Underwood, husband and wife, by Deed, dated November 15, 1933 and recorded November 22, 1933 in the Montgomery County Circuit Court Clerk's Office in Deed Book 96 at Page 339. This description is made subject to all easements Conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservations of record which affect the property herein described including but not limited to those recorded in Deed Book 119 at Page 358, Deed Book 144 at Page 467, Deed Book 255 at Page 294, Deed Book 255 at Page 299.

IT APPEARING that an Affidavit has been made and filed stating that due diligence has been used

(VSB No. 97065) Garrett W. Patton, Esq. (VSB No. 98345) Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC P.O. Box 31800 Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800 Phone: (804)545-2500 Facsimile: (804)545-2378

TACS No.: 779604

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 FREDIEF 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 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

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BUSINESS SERVICES DIRECTORY



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THE NEW CASTLE RECORD · WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023 · PAGE 7 www.ourvalley.org Rend Collective set for Salem debut in April

Rend Collective, the popular Contemporary Christian worship band from Northern Ireland, is coming to the Salem Civic Center on Sunday, April 7, 2024, for a night of uplifting and upbeat praise music. The band is an eclectic collection of multi-instrumentalist performers who have produced two No. 1 albums on the Christian charts and produced a song of the year in "Counting Every Blessing."

"The Rend Collective Experiment came together as a few friends started to pray and seek God," Gareth Gilkeson,

the band's leader and percussionist said. "Before we knew it, people just started gathering around us and we had more than 100 people involved, musicians and artists, bank workers and teachers, and together we tried to figure out our faith."

band has The now grown into an international success touring with Chris Tomlin, Mercy Me, Tenth Avenue North, Lecrae and others. Their first live album "Campfire" was released in 2013 and this tour is a celebration of 10 years of that landmark recording

for the band. "We're

putting together a completely different kind of tour with all the cozy campfire feelings and folksy nostalgia of that era," he said. "Plus, we're going to play all the new classics we've written since then, but presented in a totally new way. Basically, all the stuff you, hopefully, love about Rend.'

Tickets, which can be purchased at the Salem Civic Center Box Office or online at ticketmaster. com, start at \$28 and go up to \$48.

-The Salem Times-Register



The performance will be on April 7 at the Salem Civic Center.

COURTESY PHOTO

REO Speedwagon, Rick Springfield coming to Salem in 2024

Classic rock and roll hitmakers REO Speedwagon and Rick Springfield are once again joining forces on the road in 2024 and bringing their tour to the Salem Civic Center on Tuesday, March 26. Tickets go on sale Friday, Nov. 3, at 10 a.m. and they range in price from \$35 to \$169.

REO began its musical journey way back in 1967 at the University of Illinois. In the 55-plus years since then, the band has sold more than 40 million records and charted 13 Top-40 hits, including number one standards Feeling'



The performance will take place at the Salem Civic Center on March 26.

"Keep On Loving You" 40 sound, and it had and "Can't Fight This mass appeal worldwide. The record contained The band's biggest the hit singles "Keep On album success came in Loving You" and "Take 1980 with the release It On the Run." That of "Hi Infidelity". landmark album spent That album signaled a 15 weeks in the No. 1 switch to a more Top slot, and it has sold more

than 10 million copies in the United States alone. Lead singer and guitarist, Kevin Cronin, now 72, still leads the REO effort.

Rick Springfield, a timeless 74-year-old, is a versatile entertainer

with a remarkable career spanning over four decades. As a Grammy Award-winning singer, songwriter, and musician, he has sold 25 million albums and delivered 17 U.S. Top 40 hits, including "Jessie's

Girl" and "Don't Talk to Strangers". Beyond music, he's made his mark as an accomplished actor in films like "Ricki and the Flash" and TV series like "Supernatural" and "American Horror Story.'

COURTESY PHOTO

Tickets can be purchased at the Salem Civic Center Box Office or online at ticketmaster. com.

-The New Castle Record

Vdot 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 17.

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

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.

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 five-mile 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 present.

WILDWOOD TRAFFIC SHIFTS ON 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 off-ramp intersection at Wildwood Road and adding interchange lighting at exits 137, 140 and 141. Expected completion in early 2026.

I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY - Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the Montgomery/Pulaski County line. The old bridge is being demolished. Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure

ROUTE 605: Alternating lane closures and flagging operations will be present on Route 605, 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

EXPRESSWAY I-581/220 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 delays.

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

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 way.

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 15.



ROCKETS FINISH SEASON WITH LOSS AT MEADOW BRIDGE

The Craig County football team finished a rebuilding season with a 30-14 loss at Meadow Bridge, West Virginia last Friday. With the loss the Rockets finished the season at 2-8.

"We got a couple of players back," said coach Jim Fisher, who saw his team beset by injuries this season. "Carter Price and Ethan Sink were back on the offensive line. We expected to play better offensively and we did. We had 261 yards of offense, 180 yards rushing and 81 passing." Penalties hurt the

Rockets. "We gained yardage

but penalties stopped a couple of drives," said Fisher. "We should have scored more points. I told the kids it would take 35 points to win but we were held scoreless the first half. We still have holes on defense and we knew we would have trouble stopping the power run game, and we did. They didn't have any success through the air but didn't really need to



Coach Jim Fisher(right) is optimistic about the future of the football team.

throw it. They just kept it on the ground and we couldn't do much about it."

Despite the final record of 2-8 things are looking up for the Rockets. They started this season 2-1 before injuries took a toll on the team, and some young boys got valuable experience for the future.

"Certainly 2-8 is not what we had hoped for the 2023 season," said Fisher. "We knew we would be young but were hoping if things went right, we could at least be a .500 team with an outside playoff shot. We felt like if we got Tyler Fitzpatrick and Trevyn Francisco back, both were lost for the entire 2022 season, we would have a great stable of offensive weapons. Unfortunaely, that did not come to fruition for us, and more importantly for them.

We had Tyler for a little

PHOTO BY CHELSEA LOUTHEN

The Rockets take the field during a game this season. Craig finished up the regular season last Friday with a 2-8 record but high hopes for the future.

over one game and Trevyn less than a quarter. We still had some very good skill kids but we lost Noah Paxton for the season and Josh Craft got dinged up. That left us with just one healthy back for the majority of the year. On paper, the offensive line looked serviceable but one big kid chose not to play and then we had a couple quit. We ended up being really young up front but still serviceable until the injuries started popping up."

The Rockets are already planning to hit the weight room to prepare for next fall. There's a "dead period" until November 15, but the boys are anxious to hit the weights after that.

"We are very excited about the 2024 season," said Fisher. "We return 11 offensive starters and 10 defensive starters from the team that was at Bland week one. A year older, bigger, faster, stronger and with some much needed experience, we feel like we will be pretty good.

"I think we can be a playoff team. Kids were wanting to start off-season lifting today but VHSL rules have a winter dead period. We are anxious to get back on the field with a healthy team again."

SOX ANNOUNCE BROADCASTING TEAM FOR 2024 SEASON



The Salem Red Sox are teaming up with the Virginia Tech School of Communication for the fourth consecutive year ahead of the 2023 baseball season to broadcast all 2024 Red Sox home games. Giovanni Heater and Carter Hill will be the voices of the Salem Red Sox for opening day, set for Friday, April 5. Games will be aired on streaming services and MiLB.com. Heateris currently a junior at Virginia Tech, studying Sports, Media and Analytics. This will be his second year as a broadcaster for the Salem Red Sox. Gio was born and raised in Syracuse, NY and placed as an STAA second team All-American last year. He has play-by-play experience

on the ACC Network Extra, calling baseball, lacrosse, volleyball and soccer. He has also called baseball and softball on the Virginia Tech Sports Network from LEARFIELD.

Giovanni serves the Broadcaster as Coordinator of Play-by-Play Broadcasting for Virginia Tech's student sports organization, 3304 Sports, where he Hokie football calls and basketball. Heater also works for Tech Sideline, hosting "The Tech Sideline Podcast," "Triumph Spotlight," and other projects. Hill is currently a junior at Virginia Tech in the Sports Media and Analytics (SMA) program. A lifelong sports fan, Carter grew up just down the road from the school campus, graduating from Blacksburg High School in 2021. He has been heavily involved in the SMA program since arriving his freshman year, broadcasting seven different sports and covering football and

men's basketball for 3304 Sports, the student sports media program at Virginia Tech, where he currently serves as the co-editor-in-chief.

Carter also is broadcatassociate for Virginia Tech softball, where he calls games on behalf of the program on the Virginia Tech Sports Network from Learfield. He regularly host TSL Today, a daily podcast that covers all things Virginia Tech sports for Tech Sideline. He also writes feature stories and handles content for Virginia Tech Athletics and will occasionally fin in fo co-host The Bear Tailgate Show, the local pre-game show for Tech football and man's basketball games. spent Carter the past two summers broadcasting summer collegiate baseball in Eastern North Carolina, both for the Wilson Tobs in the Coastal Plain League in 2023 and for the Tarboro River Bandits in the Premieer Collegiate League in 2022.



TO IO BT BRIAN HUFFMAN

CRAIG GIRLS ON ALL-PIONEER VOLLEYBALL

The All-Pioneer District volleyball team was announced last week and Craig County had two girls named Honorable Mention. Layla Dooley(left in photo) and Kailyn Jones were both named to the team. Layla is a junior and Kailyn is just a freshman. Hannah Armstrong of Bath County was named district Player of the Year and Chrisy Harmon of Bath is the Pioneer Coach of the Year.

Sports Media & Analytics students at Virginia Tech study sports journalism and work in the school's digital broadcast studio, newsroom and media lab. Students learn in real-world environments through extensive field work on campus and at stadiums and arenas th roughout the ACC and the country.

"We are very excited to continue to the partnership with Virginia Tech School of Communication," said Red Sox general manager Allen Lawrence. "This collaboration is a great opportunity for students in the program and a perfect fit for providing on-air coverage for our fans."

CIAA FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP IS AT SALEM STADIUM SATURDAY



Virginia Union University and Fayetteville State University, the top football teams from the Northern and Southern Divisions of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA), the nation's oldest historically black athletic conference, will battle this Saturday, November 11 at 3 p.m. ET when the conference hosts the 2023 CIAA Football Championship game at Salem Stadium.

Advance general admission tickets to the Football Championship are \$15, Youth or Student with IDs are \$10. Both are available now at Ticketmaster.com. Admission for children ages 7 and under is free. Tickets are also available at the Salem Civic Center Box Office (Monday - Friday: 8 am - 5 pm).

CIAA VIP Tickets for the football championship are available for advanced purchase only on Ticketmaster. com. While supplies last, a \$30 upgrade will include FREE VIP reserved parking, one-time entry to CIAA Hospitality Tent sponsored by the City of Salem, and a FREE Championship Program. You MUST present your Hospitality ticket to gain access for parking and to get into the tent.

Family-friendly activities during the football finale include free tailgating and a fireworks display after the game. The always crowd favorite marching bands and cheerleading squads will also be a part of this year's championship experience. After the contest, fans are encouraged to stay for an extravagant fireworks display and the awards presentation.

Fayetteville State University finished the regular season with an 8-2 overall record and a 8-0 mark in conference play and 5-0 in the Southern Division. Virginia Union won the Northern Division with an overall record of 9-1, 7-1 record in conference and 5-0 within the division this season.

The Virginia Union versus Fayetteville State series began in 1974 and VUU's Panthers lead the overall series 15-11-2. Fayetteville State and Virginia Union have met only once in the conference Championship game and FSU's Broncos won that contest 23-19 in Durham (N.C.) in 2003. The Virginia Union Panthers have won nine CIAA crowns (1917, 1923, 1973, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1986 and 2001). Virginia Union's last CIAA Championship game appearance was in 2007, losing to Shaw by a score of 24-21.

The Broncos clinched their sixth consecutive division title with a win on October 28 and will be looking to repeat as CIAA Champions. Last year, Fayetteville State edged Chowan 31-28 on 43-yard field goal as time expired to capture its fourth conference crown.

Virginia Union grabbed sole possession of the division on the last day of regular season play as the Panthers defeated the Virginia State last Saturday afternoon in Richmond, Va. by a score of 30-20 and before a nationally televised audience and jam-packed Hovey Field.

These two teams already met in inter-division action this year on September 23rd with Virginia Union playing host to visiting Fayetteville State and the FSU Broncos would prevail 10-7 over the Panthers. Fayetteville State's Jacob Meneses booted a 27-yard field goal which hit off the left upright and went through with just six ticks remaining in the contest. Playing in a steady rain for the entire game, neither team could muster much offense. Virginia Union tallied 184 yards of total offense and Fayetteville State managed just 92 yards of total offense.

Players from both teams will take part in community outreach programs in the Salem area the day before the game. Virginia's Blue Ridge and the city of Salem will host team luncheons where all-conference selections from both championship participants will receive recognition.

A clear bag policy will be enforced on site by the CIAA. Clear backpacks, clear totes and clear storage bags will be allowed with no size restrictions. Coolers and umbrellas are not permitted.

Parking is free and fans are encouraged to begin their tailgating festivities at 9:00 a.m. with gates opening at 12 noon.