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Licensed in VA, WV, TN & NC



THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



WE SELL KEROSENE

Early voting underway for March 5 Craig County Super Tuesday primaries

Robert Freis
robert@mountainmedianews.com

Craig County, like other Virginia localities, will hold a 'Super Tuesday' dual presidential primary elections on March 5. All precincts and polling places in Craig County will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on that day.

Virginia conducts open party primaries and does not register voters by party affiliation, which means that every qualified voter is entitled to participate in the single party primary of their choosing.

In a dual party primary, all Virginia voters are eligible to participate in either the Democratic Party primary or the Republican Party primary but may only vote in one or the other. As a result, all voters are required by law to indicate to an Officer of Election present at the polling place whether they would prefer to mark a Democratic ballot or a Republican ballot.

Candidates on the Democratic Party ballot are Marianne Williamson, incumbent Joseph Biden, and Dean Benson Phillips.

Candidates on the Republican Party ballot are Chris Christie, Ryan Binkley, Vivek Ramaswamy,

former president Donald Trump, Ron DeSantis and Nikki Haley.

Early voting for the March 5 presidential primary elections began Jan. 19 at the Craig County Voter Registration Office located at 155 Main Street in New Castle, next door to the county health department office.

The last day to vote early is March 2. Virginia law requires all voters to present an acceptable form of registration when voting early or when voting at a precinct.

Joanna Ryan, Craig County's voter registrar, said her office will also be open for early voting on Saturday, Feb. 24 and Saturday, March 2 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will not be open on Saturday, Feb. 19. If you have questions concerning local elections, you wish to register to vote, or would like to serve your community on election day, please call Ryan at: (540) 864-6190 or email: vote@craigcountyva.gov

The deadline to register to vote or to update your address on your existing voter registration for the March 5 primary is Monday, Feb. 12.

Any citizen needing to register to vote or update their address may do so by appearing in person at

the county voter registration office, mailing a completed application to PO Box 8, New Castle, VA 24127, or by using the citizen portal at <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/voterinformation>

If you are not a registered voter, you have until Feb. 23 to do so in order to participate in the March 5 primary.

You can register online, in person at the registrar's office or through the mail. A Virginia Voter Registration Application can be found online at <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/voter-forms/>

Deadline to apply for a ballot to be mailed to you is Feb. 23 at 5 p.m.

In order to be qualified to register to vote, you must:

Be a citizen of the United States
Be a resident of Virginia

Be at least 18 years of age by the next general election

Not be a convicted felon or have had your voting rights restored

Not have been declared mentally incapacitated or have had your disabilities removed

"We're always looking for people

See **Voting**, page 2



ROBERT FREIS PHOTO
A sign outside the county registrar's office.

Virginia Western calling for distinguished alumni nominations



The Virginia Western campus.

COURTESY PHOTO

ROANOKE — Western Alumni Association established the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2006 to recognize those alumni who have achieved outstanding success and made a lasting impact on their community. The prestigious award is intended to showcase the diversity of Virginia Western graduates and their range of influence on the region.

Prior honorees:
2023 – Dr. Brenda L. Hale '89 and Joe Gaither '77
2022 – Elvir Berbic

See **Alumni** page 3

Program to educate families about mental health

Robert Freis
robert@mountainmedianews.com

Craig County schools are offering a unique program early next month to help educate families about the mental health and well-being of their children.

'Your Child's Anxiety' is the name of the Feb. 7 program, which begins at 6:30 p.m. at Craig County High School. Participation is free.

It will be the first workshop planned during what the school system is calling a 'Mental Health Series.'

Of the workshop, the school system says parents can "learn simple strategies that will help parents respond to their children's anxiety. When applied, these skills will help the child and parent bond, allowing the child to identify

and work through their anxiety more effectively."

The program is being conducted cooperatively by Craig County Public Schools and a national mental health organization called parentguidance.org. It is affiliated with a Utah-based nonprofit called the Center for Human Connection.

"Parenting is hard," says parentguidance.org on its website. It also quotes statistics stating 50% of parents worry that their child is struggling but don't know what to do; 32% of parent feel their child is unhappy; and an estimated 10-20% of adolescents experience mental health conditions.

"The mission of the Cook Center for Human Connection is to bring together the best organizations, programs, and

products to prevent suicide, provide mental health support, and enhance human connections essential for people to thrive," according to the center's website.

"The foundation's current focus is on supporting children, families, and schools in eradicating suicide, as well as offering resources and support for those with mental health issues and their caregivers. This is done through a variety of grants to schools, programs for parents, and global resources to bring greater awareness to the support needed for those affected by suicide," according to the center's mission statement.

"We are proud to partner with this organization to help provide important information and support to our parents and community. We hope to see you

there as we continue to strengthen the ties between school and home to be the best we can be for our children," according to a statement from Craig County schools.

The school system says everyone is invited to attend the event, either in person or remotely via Zoom.

Also, a dinner will be held at the high school at 6 p.m. on Feb. 7 before the event. There is no cost to attend this meal and attendees will be entered into a drawing.

County schools are asking any interested attendees to register for the event online at <https://cookcenter.info> and to complete a survey.

More information is available at the Craig County Public Schools website or Facebook page.

Craig-Botetourt scholarship application period to open Feb. 1

Robert Freis
robert@mountainmedianews.com

The Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative has announced that the application period will open Feb. 1 for its annual scholastic scholarship competition.

A combination of weighted criteria is used in the selection process: 40% financial need; 40% academic achievement; and 20% personal statement.

Funds can be applied towards tuition, student fees, room and board, or textbooks.

Any high school or

home-schooled senior graduating in spring 2024 whose primary residence is served by the Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative, is eligible to apply for a scholarship to be applied to a two- or four-year college or trade school.

An applicant must

be entering his or her first semester at a post-secondary or technical/trade school in the fall of 2024.

Two Craig County High School students, Jodie Snyder and Tyler Van Dyke, were named as 2023 scholarship recipients.

The Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative serves the rural section of seven counties in Western Virginia and West Virginia, including Craig County.

Questions about donations and the application process should be directed to scholarship@vmdaec.com. Applications

will be accepted until April 1.

The electric cooperative is headquartered on Craigs Creek Road in New Castle. It is part of a larger system of 15 locally owned electric cooperatives in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware, serving nearly 2 million people.

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OBITUARIES

Keffer, Robert M.

Robert M. Keffer, also known as Bobby, Uncle Bob and Hammer, 90 of New Castle, passed away peacefully at his home on Sunday, January 28, 2024. He was born in the Sinking Creek area of Craig County on September 3, 1933.

He was a lifetime member of Bethel United Methodist Church. After serving in the U.S. Army, he returned to Craig to be a full-time farmer. He loved farming, gardening, family and many close friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Forrest M. Keffer and Elizabeth (Kate) Jone Keffer; sisters,

Geniviece Schreiber and Sue Nicodemus.

He is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Kate Weeks Keffer; sister, Shirley Garman; daughter, Joan Caldwell (husband Robbie); sons, Lyndell Keffer (wife Mary Ann Cantley Keffer) and Lane Keffer (wife Angie Ferguson Keffer); grandchildren, Sara Caldwell Santos (Mike), Abby Caldwell, Ashley Chicette (Anthony), Mallory Keffer, Evan Keffer, Levi Keffer, and Chase Keffer; 5 great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

The family would like

to thank his caregivers, Tracy Early, Alydia Bevins, and Bobbie Hunter. We also wish to thank Carilion Hospice. We ask that memorial donations be made to Bethel United Methodist Church.

Funeral Services will be held 2:00 PM, Thursday, February 1, 2024 at Bethel United Methodist Church with Pastor Emory Tarpley officiating. Interment will follow at Ross Cemetery. The family will receive friends 1:00 -2:00 PM before the service.

Arrangements by Paitsel Funeral Home. www.paitselfh.com

Mountain Castles SWCD to host winter banquet

Mountain Castles Soil & Water Conservation District will host a winter banquet on Monday, Feb. 5 at the Fincastle Fire House. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. and will be catered by the Mill Creek Baptist Church Alaska Missions Team. In addition to providing updates to ongoing conservation efforts, the

district will recognize its "Clean Water Farm Award" winners and its "Educator of the Year." The banquet is free, but reservations are required. RSVP with Tim Miller at (540) 797-0217 or tim.miller@mountaincastles.org.

-The New Castle Record

Public meetings scheduled in Craig County

Feb. 1

The Craig County Board of Supervisors will meet at the Craig County Courthouse on Court Street in New Castle from 6-7 p.m.

a.m. in the courthouse breakroom.

The Craig County Planning Commission will meet at 7 p.m. in the Administration Building on Court Street in New Castle.

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.

Feb. 12

The Library Board of Trustees will meet at the Craig County Library on Main Street in New Castle from 6-7 p.m.

Feb. 21

A CPMT meeting at CPMT - Department of Social Services on Court Street in New Castle will be at 1 p.m.

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.

Feb. 19

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.

Feb. 22

The Department of Social Services Board will meet from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Court Street in New Castle.

Feb. 20

Rep. Morgan Griffith will hold a citizen comment period from 9-10:30

Ongoing

Feeding southwest Virginia will be offering food twice a

-The New Castle Record

Voting page 1

to work on Election Day," Ryan said about volunteer poll workers. Contact her at the county registrar's office if you are interested and available.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, SAMPLE BALLOT
County of Craig
REPUBLICAN PARTY PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY
 Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Instructions:
 To vote for a candidate, fill in the oval next to the name, like this: ●.
 If you want to change a vote or have made a mistake, ask for another ballot.
 If you make marks on the ballot besides filling in the oval, your vote may not be counted.

President	Vote for only one
	<input type="radio"/> Chris Christie <input type="radio"/> Ryan L. Binkley <input type="radio"/> Vivek Ramaswamy <input type="radio"/> Donald J. Trump <input type="radio"/> Ron D. DeSantis <input type="radio"/> Nikki R. Haley

Authorized by Electoral Board of the County of Craig
 155 Main Street
 New Castle, VA 24127-8077

The authority statement printed above must be removed and replaced with the appropriate authority statement for the candidate, committee, individual or group using this ballot for their own purposes. The authority statement used for this ballot must comply with the requirements

END OF BALLOT

Sample of Republican Craig County ballot.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, SAMPLE BALLOT
County of Craig
DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY
 Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Instructions:
 To vote for a candidate, fill in the oval next to the name, like this: ●.
 If you want to change a vote or have made a mistake, ask for another ballot.
 If you make marks on the ballot besides filling in the oval, your vote may not be counted.

President	Vote for only one
	<input type="radio"/> Marianne Williamson <input type="radio"/> Joseph R. Biden, Jr. <input type="radio"/> Dean Benson Phillips

Sample of Democratic Craig County ballot.

COURTESY IMAGES

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

1. Shed tears
5. Luxury jewelry designer
10. Goddess of wisdom
12. Convert into a particular form
14. Working-class people
16. It borders Canada (abbr.)
18. A princess can detect its presence
19. Red-brown sea bream
20. Defunct retail empire
22. Vase
23. Demeter's equivalent
25. Monetary unit of the Maldives
26. French and Belgian river
27. Small amount
28. High schoolers' test
30. Animal's foot
31. Some is red
33. Per ___: each
35. Swedish jazz pop duo

CLUES DOWN

1. Global public health agency
2. Snake-like fish
3. Midway between north-east and east
4. Dabbed
5. TV show
6. Folk singer DiFranco
7. Canadian flyers
8. Of the dowry
9. Commercial
10. The act of imitating
11. Equipment used to broadcast radio or TV signals
13. Lands of an emir
15. Swiss river
17. Island
18. Monetary unit of Afghanistan
21. One who surrenders under agreed conditions
23. Garfield is one

CLUES ACROSS

37. Plate for Eucharist
38. Train line
40. Russian pop duo
41. Stake
42. Plant by scattering
44. Female sibling
45. City of Angels hoopsters (abbr.)
48. Popular cookie brand
50. Group of Niger-Congo languages
52. A team's best pitcher
53. Vomits
55. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
56. Men's fashion accessory
57. Its capital is Pierre (abbr.)
58. Expensive cut of steak
63. Popular James Cameron film
65. A ___: relating to knowledge gleaned from deduction

CLUES DOWN

12. Small boats used in the Black Sea
29. Small savory Spanish dishes
32. Body part
34. Touch lightly
35. Popular grilled foods on a stick
36. ___ Hess: oil company
39. Antelope with a reddish coat
40. Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
43. Pink Floyd's Roger
44. Short and thick
46. Small, sac-like cavities
47. Performer ___-Lo
49. Entrails of animal used as food
51. ___ King Cole, musician
54. Where construction is done
59. Chap
60. Investment vehicle
61. Often mixed with tonic
62. Holiday beverage egg ___
64. Against

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

Recipe of the Week



Shelly Koon
Contributing
Writer

According to Pennsylvania Dutch superstition, if a groundhog emerges from its den on Feb. 2 and sees his shadow he will go back inside and there will be 6more weeks od winter weather. If he does not see his shadow, spring will be early. The days in February seem the same, very monotonous. As winter drags on, we all get tired of the cold and dark days. Groundhog Day Syndrome is the feeling that you're reliving the same day repeatedly. Nothing has changed, and it seems as though you're doing an identical routine every single day and week. This feeling of sameness is called Groundhog Day based on the 1993 movie with Bill Murray. His character Phil has fallen into a rut.

This rut includes covering Groundhog Day for the past four years. Within the first few minutes the movie premise is set up. Phil is a jerk doomed to repeat the day until he learns compassion, empathy, and love. Food shows up all through this movie. Day to day the meals are on repeat. But as the movie progresses Phil changes things up and makes eating interesting. He gets to eat with no consequences. The way he handles this always makes me laugh.

I find that in the winter I tend to make recipes on repeat. Usually because it's a good recipe and it's very easy to make. A go-to repeat recipe is great for hurried nights or a need for a potluck dish. Make ahead meals to freeze or a meal for someone in need. This week's recipe is one I make often. This is a very basic recipe. But it can be changed and added to as needed. You can use sausage, ground beef, ground turkey, cooked chicken, or no meat at all in this recipe. I have added pepperoni, tiny meatballs, or

browned ground beef. Vegetables such as spinach, bell pepper, mushrooms, and onion added are good too. I change the cheese out with whatever I have on hand. I have used a four cheese Mexican blend many times. Do NOT cook the pasta. Add the pasta uncooked to the casserole mixture. It will cook along with the rest of the ingredients. This recipe can be made in advance. You can assemble the casserole and refrigerate overnight, then bake. This recipe freezes well after baking and reheating when ready to serve. Store leftovers in an airtight container in the refrigerator. Reheat leftovers in the microwave.

Life can seem to be on repeat, but we can change it up and make it better. Life is meant to be lived. Make a repeat recipe and enjoy Groundhog Day.

Baked Penne (basic recipe)

Ingredients:

1(16 ounce) box pasta (Rigatoni,

Penne, Rotini or Ziti) DO NOT PRECOOK

1 (24 ounce) jar tomato sauce
1 full jar water (24 ounces)
2 cups mozzarella cheese, shredded
Parmesan cheese for sprinkling the top

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Lightly grease 9x13x2-inch casserole dish; set aside.

Combine uncooked pasta, 1 jar of Sauce and 1 jar of water in a 13 x 9 inch baking pan. Cover tightly with aluminum foil. If adding other ingredients, add to pasta, sauce, and water now. BAKE 50 minutes. Uncover and stir well. TOP with mozzarella cheese. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese to help with browning and add more cheese flavor. Bake uncovered for an additional 10 minutes or until cheese melts and pasta is tender.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Book review of 'The Girls: A Novel' by Emma Cline

Library Corner

Alex White

Evie Boyd is living in her ex-boyfriend's rented house to figure out what she should do with the rest of her life. One night the ex-boyfriend's son and his girlfriend show up unannounced and start bringing up her unpleasant memories of the summer of 1969. When Evie was 14 years

old she was involved with a group of hippies that are the fictionalized versions of Charles Manson and his family. During that time, she was dealing with loneliness and depression from her parent's divorce, her best friend rejecting her, and everyone being too wrapped up in their problems to care about her. That's when she meets Suzanne and goes out to the ranch where she feels special and needed. However, over time what started as a peaceful and friendly community ends

up becoming more crazed and sinister until something snaps. Evie will try anything to fit in with her new family, but at what cost?

This historical fiction of the Charles Manson family and the horrific crimes they've committed is more concerned with character growth than with what truly happened. There is a lot of information and dialogue that have been done and said by Charles Manson and others, but some characters, events,

and other facts are rearranged and ignored for the sake of the narrative and probably to respect the real-life people that many of these characters depict. Nevertheless, the book does a great job of showing how someone could get mixed up in situations like this and has the reader question what their actions would be if they were in this scenario. This book is not going to be for everyone as it depicts situations involving sexual abuse, violence, and drug use. However, it can be

enjoyable for those who want to explore the mindset of victims of cults and how they can be devastating to not only the communities they destroy but also the individual's sense of self. A good companion piece to go along with the reading of this book would be the Helter Skelter documentary which is also available at the Craig Library. This documentary goes into great detail about the event and will help contextualize the material after you finish reading.

Alumni page 1

'06 and Jason Peters
2021 – Mary Catherine (Kate) Lawrence '06
2020 – Tony Pearman '10
2019 – Deborah L. Petrine '74
2018 – Elizabeth Testerman '06
2017 – Dr. Carol Swain '78
2016 – Mary B. Loritsch Ed.D., R.T. (R) '74 and Michael A. Crawley
2015 – Deborah A. Yancey '97 and '98
2014 - Chief Craig S. Harris '00 & J. David Wine '73
2013 - Cheryl Cunningham '86
2012 - Anne Hogan '76
2011 - Carolyn Webster '81

2010 - Russell H. Ellis '80
2009 - Shirl D. Lamanca '75 and Dennis R. Cronk '72
2008 - Donna L. Mitchell '81
2007 - Dr. Kent A. Murphy and Charlotte C. Tyson '84
2006 - John B. Williamson, III '75
Anne Hogan ('76) serves as chairwoman of the Alumni Association. The Association fosters a mutually beneficial relationship and interaction between the college, its alumni, and the community, connecting with the college community to recognize and foster the diverse talents and successes of Virginia Western graduates.

Distinguished Alumni eligibility requirements:

To be eligible for nomination, the candidate must:

Be a graduate of or have completed a minimum of two semesters at Virginia Western Community College.

Have attained extraordinary distinction and success in his or her profession or life.

Be a person of such integrity and stature that the College will take pride in his or her recognition.

Have attained regional, statewide or national prominence and significant involvement in civic, cultural or

charitable affairs.

How to nominate:

Anyone may nominate a Virginia Western Community College alumna/ us or former student for this award by completing a nomination form. This form can be submitted online or downloaded from the College's website at viriniawestern.edu/ alumni. Two letters of reference are also required.

Deadline:

Nominations must be received by Feb. 29.

-The New Castle Record

God's House Is Always Open

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 Lorraine 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.graceassemblycatawba.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

News from the 9th: Sweden set to join NATO



Morgan Griffith
Representative

The Kingdom of Sweden was a great power in Europe, controlling much of the Baltic region during the 17th and early 18th centuries.

Its decline was marked by Sweden's loss at the Battle of Poltava. In July 1709, King Charles XII and the Swedish army lost to a superior Russian force.

The Battle of Poltava was Sweden's greatest military disaster and began the rise of Russia as a European power.

The Russian Empire continued to expand over the next 200 years and during World War I, communists took over the country and formed the Soviet Union.

After World War II it was clear the Soviet Union was going to attempt to continue to expand their empire and control over puppet governments. To counter that, many countries in Europe and the United States formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Once the Soviet Union collapsed in the early 1990s, many countries in Eastern Europe (Estonia to Bulgaria) joined NATO in an effort to prevent future Soviet (now Russian) control.

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February of 2022, both Finland and Sweden formally submitted applications for membership to NATO.

In order for a new country to join NATO, each of the existing members must vote in favor of the new members. While almost all of the NATO member countries voted in favor of both Finland and Sweden in 2022, Hungary and Turkey did not.

Turkey initially opposed both countries joining NATO as they had provided support to Kurdish groups

seeking a Kurdish homeland (deemed as terrorist organizations by Turkey).

While Finland did eventually receive approval by all member countries, and formally joined NATO in April 2023, it is taking a bit more negotiation for Turkey to approve Sweden's membership.

This included Sweden tightening their anti-terror legislation and agreeing to work closely with Turkey on concerns of national security. Separately, the United States must also approve the sale of F-16 fighter jets to Turkey.

Now that Turkey's Parliament has voted in favor of Sweden's membership, the last step is for Turkey's President Erdogan to sign the protocols.

Though Hungary technically has not yet ratified Sweden, Hungary's Prime Minister released a statement saying the government supports Sweden's membership.

Russia's rhetoric towards Ukraine prior to invasion is very similar to Russia's rhetoric regarding NATO members

Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. This rhetoric creates a concern they want to reconquer these NATO countries and a Russian versus NATO war in the region would destabilize Scandinavia and the Baltic.

Further the border between Poland and Lithuania, known as the Suwałki Gap, is another flashpoint between Russia and NATO countries. While Belarus is to the east, there is a Russian enclave to the west of the Gap, the Kaliningrad Oblast, created after World War II when Russia took the territory from Germany, which formally was East Prussia. Today, it is heavily militarized by the Russians, including warships, warplanes, and nuclear weapons.

Sweden's membership in NATO could prove to greatly benefit the alliance as Sweden's military strength significantly increases NATO's capabilities in Scandinavia and the Baltic.

Sweden's defense industry is one of

See **The Ninth**, page 5

Sen. Chris Head offers legislative update from Richmond



Chris Head
District 3

fast, including me. **CHILD SAFETY BILL BLOCKED BY DEMOCRATS**

My Republican colleagues and I were both dismayed and puzzled by Democrats killing a bill to protect children from sex offenders.

Senator Danny Diggs offered what seemed to me a commonsense idea. Keep convicted child sex offenders at least 100 feet away from State Parks where children congregate. Children and their families deserve to be able to enjoy Virginia's parks without worrying that a known sex offender might be lurking in the park or just outside of it.

Democrats decided to focus on the concerns of the sex offenders rather than the safety

of children. They claimed the bill was overly broad. One supporter of the Democrats' position even testified that it was "pointlessly cruel" to bar sex offenders from public parks—as if that outweighed the cruelty they caused to the children they assaulted.

Republicans sought to return the focus to where it belonged—the safety of children and their ability to play without fear, but the Democrats would have none of it. They decided that the "cruelty" to sex offenders was more important than child safety and killed the bill.

DEMOCRATS DRIVE UP INFLATION WITH HIGHER MINIMUM WAGE

To keep Virginia a top place for business, the General Assembly needs to pass laws that lower costs for families, reduce red tape, and encourage entrepreneurs and economic growth. Senate Democrats seem committed to doing the opposite.

One example? The minimum wage. In their first bill of the session—SB 1—they proposed a 25% increase in the minimum wage over just two years. If this becomes law, many struggling small businesses or companies will be forced to come up with money they do not have by raising prices. And we all know that higher prices are another way of saying "inflation."

While I want everyone to

earn a good living, a business forced to close cannot pay anyone any wage. And raising costs results in higher prices for everyone. Virginians cannot afford any additional inflation at this point.

Besides, as Governor Glenn Youngkin noted, the market is taking care of this. Wages are rising on their own due to more competition for workers. The government does not need to pile on when the market is already doing the job.

I will update you on this as the legislation moves through the General Assembly.

LEGISLATION

My first bill as a Senator passed the floor unanimously

See **Head**, page 5

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

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The New Castle Record encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Record reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length content and style. News of public interest is solicited from all sections of the county.

Del. Terry Austin offers legislative update from Richmond



Terry L. Austin
District 37

To the Constituents of the 37th House District:

The second full week of the 2024 General Assembly session has concluded, and the House of Delegates has hit full stride. Committees are working through the more than 1,500 bills introduced. Policy differences are becoming apparent as debate unfolds, with disagreement on the value of family farms, housing policy, and our constitutional rights on full display.

I remain concerned about the legislation passed out of the House this week that makes major changes to the way family farms will be required to conduct business. Instead of trusting farmers and their employees to agree on terms

of employment, this legislation mandates wages and will likely drive a significant number of our remaining family farms out of business. Seasonal workers come to the U.S. because they can earn more money than they can in their home countries. If this bill becomes law, the system that provides this opportunity will no longer be sustainable. Rather than have difficult jobs, there will be no jobs. I oppose this legislation and will continue to work with my colleagues to protect the farmers who put food on our tables. Generational family farms will become a relic of our past if policies like these are implemented.

Democrats have also introduced bills that would increase the cost of housing. This includes legislation creating rent control in Virginia and permitting localities the ability to mandate the installation of sprinkler systems in new residential construction. Rent control is a power given to local government to either set maximum housing rents or limit the amount of rent increases over a fixed period. While

this may sound good in theory, the practical effect is that price controls create shortages and disincentivize property improvements. A study on rent control in San Francisco determined that it reduced available rental properties by 15 percent and "likely drove up citywide rents, damaging housing affordability."

Mandating the installation of sprinkler systems in new townhome and apartment construction is well meaning but will only serve to exacerbate the high costs of purchasing a home. Townhomes are often the best option for new home buyers, and this mandate would further diminish the ability of someone who wants to build equity from having the opportunity to do so. As for legislation mandating sprinkler systems in new apartments, I was successful in leading the committee to kill this bill. New materials, technology and building standards continue to improve as it relates to fire detection and prevention. The reality is that housing affordability will not improve across Virginia if

See **37th**, page 5

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The Ninth page 4

Europe's largest, producing some of the best defense equipment on the market. One example of this is the Saab JAS 39 Gripen, a supersonic fighter aircraft, produced by Swedish aerospace and defense company Saab AB. The Gripen is designed to take off and land on short runways and can be refueled and rearmed in a matter of minutes.

As a result, Sweden's Air Force is one of the largest in Europe, which possesses at least 100 fighter jets. These fighter jets provide critical support to Army and Navy forces as they conduct operations in the Baltic and Arctic regions.

Sweden's strategic position in Northern Europe and powerful

submarine force are also key to keeping waters navigable in the Baltic Sea. The Baltic Sea is a shared waterway with Russia, and it bottlenecks, limiting access to ports in eight countries. Sweden's knowledge of navigating the Baltic Sea and their submarines which work well in the Sea's shallow water, could all prove to be important for

NATO's future success.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine brought into sharp focus Russia's desire to expand far into Europe once again. The importance of the NATO alliance, and bolstering its capabilities, has become clear and with Sweden in the alliance, it looks to become stronger than ever.

Head page 4

this week! SB 133 will help physician assistants across the Commonwealth by allowing PAs who are employed by a hospital or employed in certain facilities operated by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services or in Federally Qualified Health Centers designated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to practice without a separate practice agreement if the credentialing and privileging requirements of the applicable facility include a practice arrangement.

I also had two other bills clear the Senator floor and now head over to the House of the Delegates for consideration.

SB 134 will help the Craig County Economic Development Authority continue to operate at full capacity by allowing the Craig County Board of Supervisors

to appoint one of its members to its EDA. SB 134 passed the Senate on a 39-0-1 vote and moves over to the House.

SB 154 will assist Virginians with their advance health care planning by streamlining existing processes on Virginia's Advance Health Care Directive Registry and by expanding the types of documents that are eligible to be included on the registry to now include any other document that supports advance health care planning, including Durable Do Not Resuscitate Order or portable medical order forms. SB 154 passed the Senate unanimously (39-0) and heads to the House.

Several of my other bills are making their way through their respective committees and on to the Senate floor.

SB 156 will assist in facilitating the Wells Fargo expansion in Roanoke County through post-performance

grant funding after meeting metrics for capital investment and the creation of at least 1,100 new full-time jobs at the facility.

SB 132 will help expedite assessments of the Health Insurance Reform Commission (HIRC), by requiring that whenever the Chairman of the House Committee on Labor and Commerce or the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor requests that the Commission assess a legislative measure containing a mandated health insurance benefit or provider, the HIRC is to complete its assessment and submit a report for each such request within 24 months. SB 132 successfully reported from the Senate Committee on Rules (11-1) and will be on the Senate floor next week.

More of my legislation will be heard in committee next

week as everything moves through the legislative process. You can follow my legislation as it makes its way through the General Assembly HERE and all 2024 bills introduced by members of the Senate of Virginia and the House of Delegates HERE.

CONSTITUENT VISITS

Week 3 was another active week for constituent visits! This week, I enjoyed speaking with constituents and advocates for small business issues, energy policy, healthcare, agriculture, education, campaign finance reform, and much more! If you are in Richmond during session, please come by and see us in Room 619 in the General Assembly Building.

KEEP AN EYE ON THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

As always, I want to encourage you to watch the General Assembly session. Of course, you are always

welcome to visit us in person in Richmond and view the proceedings from the gallery. You can also stream each day's session HERE. Session typically begins at noon each weekday, although that time can vary based on the workload. You can check the schedule on the Legislative Services Calendar HERE.

As we look to Week 4 on Monday, please let me know where you stand on legislation impacting you. You can email my office at senatorhead@senate.virginia.gov or call us at (804) 698-7503.

I'll continue to be in touch next week with another update from the General Assembly. In the meantime, you can also follow me on Twitter @SenChrisHead or like my Facebook page to stay current with all the action in Richmond. Have a great week!

37th page 4

these policies become law.

There are also a significant number of bills that have been filed that would impact our Second Amendment rights, including bans on certain types of firearms. I will continue to join my Republican colleagues in voting against these bills and advocating for common sense approaches for those wanting to possess firearms. This includes a bill carried by one of my Republican colleagues to extend a tax credit for gun safes, something once considered bipartisan. Unfortunately, it did not make it out of subcommittee.

As for my bills, I am pleased to report that three have reported unanimously out of their respective sub and full committees. Two bills, HB839

and HB840, support the VA250 Commission's efforts to celebrate and promote our nation's 250th birthday in 2026. The third bill, HB237 implements recommendations from the Joint Legislative Audit and Review

Commission (JLARC) to improve the GO Virginia program. GO Virginia encourages regional collaboration to identify, establish, and foster high paying job opportunities, and has been successful in doing so since being implemented in 2015. HB237 adds the Secretary of Labor, a position created after the establishment of GO Virginia, to the state board and reduces the local match so that funds to support these efforts can be more quickly deployed. Successful projects include

establishment of the Blue Ridge regional health sciences talent pipeline, the Alleghany Drone Zone, and numerous CTE workforce and continuing education training programs.

This week local Treasurers and Commissioners of Revenue came to Richmond to discuss their respective office priorities. These Constitutional Officers provide a vital service for our local governments and are a great resource for constituents who have questions related to taxes and assessments. I also had the pleasure of meeting with members of the Alleghany and Craig 4-H and FFA Chapters. It is always refreshing to hear these young men and women talk about their passion for farming and volunteer experiences.

These visits are always a great reminder that our younger generations do have the desire and capacity to work hard and serve others. To all the volunteers who take the time make these programs a success, thank you. Recognition of your commitment does not go unnoticed, and I was happy to see that Ms. Nancy Moga was joined by former Secretary of Health Dr. Bill Hazel as they both received awards for their long-time support of 4-H. Your commitment to our youth is the greatest service of all.

It is an honor to serve you in the Virginia House of Delegates. If I can be of assistance to you, or you would like to share your position on legislation, please do not hesitate to contact me at DelTAustin@House.

VDOT Roadwatch

Interstate 81

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.

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: Drivers may experience a periodic quick merge into traffic onto Thompson Memorial Drive 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 NB & SB BRIDGE REHAB OVER ROUTE 100 AT EXIT 98 - Beginning late March 2024, work will begin on I-81 rehabbing the northbound and southbound bridges over Route 100 at Exit 98. Lane and shoulder may be in place on Route 100 north and on I-81 northbound and southbound, 8 p.m. - 6 a.m. Flagging operations may also be in place on Route 100 north for up

to eight-minute slow rolls. Both northbound and southbound on and off ramps at exit 98 for I-81 traffic will remain fully operational for the duration of this project. Estimated completion date is summer 2024.

flagging operations will be in place in the county throughout the project to load/unload equipment at crossings and construction entrances. Scheduled completion is February 2024.

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to eight-minute slow rolls. Both northbound and southbound on and off ramps at exit 98 for I-81 traffic will remain fully operational for the duration of this project. Estimated completion date is summer 2024.

Craig County

MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE - The Mountain Valley Pipeline construction project is underway. Temporary intermittent

flagging operations will be in place in the county throughout the project to load/unload equipment at crossings and construction entrances. Scheduled completion is February 2024.

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CRAIG COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FY 2024-2025 BUDGET SCHEDULE

Date	Meeting Information	Purpose
January 16, 2024	4:30 PM: Facilities Walk-Through 5:30 PM: Regular School Board Meeting Location: CCHS Auditorium	Budget Public Hearing
February 13, 2024	5:30 PM: Regular School Board Meeting Location: CCHS Auditorium	Budget Work Session
March 12, 2024	5:30 PM: Regular School Board Meeting Location: CCHS Auditorium	Budget Public Hearing
March 21, 2024	5:30 PM: Board of Supervisors Meeting Location: Craig County Courthouse	County Budget Work Session
April 4, 2024	6:30 PM: Board of Supervisors Meeting Location: Craig County Courthouse	Joint Budget Work Session with the Board of Supervisors
April 9, 2024	5:30 PM: Regular School Board Meeting Location: CCHS Auditorium	Adoption of FY 2024-2025 Budget
April 18, 2024	6:30 PM: Board of Supervisors Meeting Location: Craig County Courthouse	Joint Budget Work Session with the Board of Supervisors (if needed)

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Legals - Botetourt County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 5716 LEE HIGHWAY, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated February 28, 2022, in the original principal amount of \$173,232.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 220000838. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on February 26, 2024, at 12:30 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING AT AN IRON STAKE IN THE EAST LINE OF U.S. HIGHWAY NO. 11 CORNET TO BROWN (FORMERLY MRS. STEVENS), THENCE WITH BROWNS S. 56° 21' 45" E. 303.84 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE LEAVING BROWN AND WITH THE CLERK TRACT S. 35° 36' 00" W. 79.90 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE N. 59° 36' 00" W. 293.05 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EASTERLY SIDE OF ROUTE 11; THENCE WITH ROUTE 11 ALONG A CURVE TO THE RIGHT WITH A RADIUS OF 3500.00 FEET TO A CHORD OF N. 28° 35' 24" E. 96.78 FEET AND AN ARC DISTANCE OF 96.78 FEET TO AN IRON STAKE AT THE PLACE OF BEGINNING AND CONTAINING 0.604 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AS SET FORTH IN THAT PLAT OF SURVEY BY CHARLES R. MCMURRY, CERTIFIED LAND SURVEYOR, DATED AUGUST 16, 1990. TOGETHER WITH THE

Legals - Botetourt County

RIGHT TO USE THAT CERTAIN JOINT DRIVEWAY SHOWN ON PLAT OF SURVEY DATED JULY 16, 1958, OF RECORD IN DEED BOOK 134, PAGE 304, AS SET FORTH IN JOINT DRIVEWAY AGREEMENT DATED DECEMBER 23, 1968, IN DEED BOOK 184, PAGE 669 (ERRONEOUSLY SHOWN AS PAGE 660 IN PRIOR DEED). TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, 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.bwvsales.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: BWV Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsales.com. VA-367530-1.

TRUSTEE SALE OF 105 Shade Hollow Street, Blue Ridge, VA 24064

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated October 3, 2016, in the original principal amount of \$135,681.00, recorded as Inst. 160003659, subsequently assigned to Virginia Housing Development Authority, and modified to the amount of \$127,131.58 as Inst. 210001144, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the County of Botetourt, Virginia, default having occurred in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and at the request of the holder of the note, the undersigned, as Substitute Trustees, either of whom may act, will sell at public auction at the front entrance of the Circuit Court for the County of Botetourt on March 27, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., the property located at the above address and described as 1.00 acre, more or less, beginning at a common corner with W.L. Harris on a 30 foot Roadway leading to Va. State Secondary Route 652, corner marked by an iron pin; thence with said W.L. Harris line, N. 89 degrees 31' W. 223.86 feet to an iron pin corner in said Harris line; thence a new line through property owned jointly by Timothy N. Gilbert and Linda D. Gilbert and Herbert O. Ransom and Mary V. Ransom, N. 11 degrees 18' W. 200 feet to an iron on above said property; thence a new line through same property, S. 89 degrees 31' E. 223.86 feet to an iron in west edge of said 30 foot Roadway; thence with the said Roadway westerly line, S. 11 degrees 18' W. 200 feet to the point of Beginning, subject to a Road Maintenance Agreement recorded in Deed Book 494, Pages 811-817, and together with a perpetual easement 30 feet wide located near Hickory Street for ingress and egress to Va. Secondary Route 652, a portion of this right of way is

Legals - Botetourt County

14 feet wide as shown in Deed Book 579, page 44 and final order recorded as Inst. 030004788, County of Botetourt. TERMS: CASH. PROPERTY SOLD AS IS WITH SPECIAL WARRANTY OF TITLE. A deposit of \$12,000.00 or 10% of the successful bid amount (whichever is lower) will be required immediately of the successful bidder, in cashier's check or certified funds only payable to or signed over to "DOLANREID PLLC, TRUSTEE", balance due within 15 days from date of sale. No personal checks accepted. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower filed for and obtained bankruptcy protection, entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, or if trustee is unable to complete the sale, or if it is set aside or not fully completed for any reason except purchaser's default, the sale shall be null and void, and the purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Upon purchaser's default, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property resold at the risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, reservations and conditions, if any, of record, as well as inchoate liens and any other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. Real estate taxes will be adjusted to the date of sale. All costs of conveyance, deed, examination of title, recording charges, grantor's tax and possession will be at the expense of the purchaser. All risks of casualty immediately pass to the successful bidder. Time is of the essence. Winning bidder must sign a memorandum of sale immediately upon completion of sale. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. Trustee's affidavit and a copy of the notice of sale available at the foreclosure sale. The opening bid is not announced until the sale. Current sale status available at dolanreid.com/foreclosure-sales. THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Legals - City of Radford

ABC NOTICE

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Hardikkumar Patel, Owner
Chirayur Patel, Owner

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING-

The Radford City Council and Planning Commission will hold a joint public hearing on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10 Robertson Street, to consider public comments regarding the following: Proposed amendment to Radford City Zoning Ordinance, Sec. 120.1-228 - Non-Conforming Signs. The proposed amendment will allow for the Consolidation; reconstruction of existing nonconforming off-premise sign structures. Additional information is available at www.radfordva.gov or the Community Development Dept. at (540)267-3188, 10 Robertson Street. Interested citizens are invited to attend this hearing and present their comments.

ABC NOTICE

DPC Living LLC., trading as Sycamore Place General Store, 19758 Main St., Buchanan, Botetourt County, VA. 24066-0000.

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

Debra Conner, Owner

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 - Botetourt County

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY IN RE: ESTATE OF ROBERT LANDRUM HARTMAN, SR. DECEASED NOTICE

Having been requested to do so by Harry Benjamin Hartman, executor of the estate of Robert Landrum Hartman, Sr., Deceased, and in accordance with Section 64.2-550 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, all creditors of Robert Landrum Hartman, Sr., and all persons in any way interested in his estate, are hereby notified that I have fixed the 28th day of February, 2024 at 10 o'clock a.m., at my office at 13 South Roanoke Street, Fincastle, Virginia as the time and place for determining an account of the debts and demands against Robert Landrum Hartman, Sr. or his estate, the priorities among them, and the names of the persons to who, they are due.

All creditors of Robert Landrum Hartman, Sr., deceased, and persons interested in his estate should appear at the time and place named, or any other time or place to which the proceedings may be adjourned, and protect their interest.

Given under my hand this the 29th day of January, 2024.

Malcolm McL. Doubles
Commissioner of Accounts

Legals - City of Radford

ABC NOTICE

CSKS LLC, trading as 101 Corner, 1123 Fairfax St., Radford, VA 24141-5342

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

Hardikkumar Patel, Owner
Chirayur Patel, Owner

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING-

The Radford City Council and Planning Commission will hold a joint public hearing on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10 Robertson Street, to consider public comments regarding the following: Proposed amendment to Radford City Zoning Ordinance, Sec. 120.1-228 - Non-Conforming Signs. The proposed amendment will allow for the Consolidation; reconstruction of existing nonconforming off-premise sign structures. Additional information is available at www.radfordva.gov or the Community Development Dept. at (540)267-3188, 10 Robertson Street. Interested citizens are invited to attend this hearing and present their comments.

Legals - Botetourt County

ABC NOTICE

Tienda Y Taqueria Genesis LLC., trading as Tienda Latina Genesis, 7345 Peppers Ferry Blvd Suite A, Fairlawn, Pulaski County, VA. 24141-8857.

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

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

ABC NOTICE

FRANKLIN MART LLC., trading as Franklin mart LLC, 3001 Franklin Road SW, Roanoke City, Roanoke, VA. 24014.

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

Krunal Nayak
Owner

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 - Montgomery County

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104
Case No. CL23002018-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MELISSA JANE MCPHERSON v. JACOB ANDRE MCPHERSON A/K/A KOBİ MAZUR The object of this suit is to: DIVORCE. It is ORDERED that JACOB ANDRE MCPHERSON A/K/A KOBİ MAZUR appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before MARCH 8, 2024. JANUARY 5, 2024 K. MIKE FLEENOR, JR. JUDGE TIFFANY M. COUCH, CLERK

TOWN OF BLACKSBURG - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

BLACKSBURG TOWN COUNCIL

will hold public hearings on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, regarding the following items:

Legals - Montgomery County

Ordinance 2038: An Ordinance to Amend Town Code Sections 14-200, 14-201 and 14-202

Establishing a Civil Penalty for Certain Trash Violations. The proposed ordinance will amend the Town Code to create a process to address loose trash or garbage in a timely manner.

Ordinance 2040: An Ordinance to Amend Town Code to Establish a New Section 17-315 to Prohibit Overcrowding in Buildings.

This proposed ordinance will incorporate the provisions of § 1001.3 of the Virginia Statewide Prevention Code regarding overcrowding into the Town Code. Violations will be a Class 1 misdemeanor. Resolution authorizing Deed of Dedication for Meadowbrook Greenway Trail The proposed resolution will authorize the Mayor to sign a Deed of Dedication which will designate a portion of the Meadowbrook Greenway Trail as

permanent open space. All persons affected by or interested in the proposed items above may appear and present their views. After each public hearing, Town Council will consider action on the item. Copies of materials related to the above items are on file and can be obtained in the Office of the Town Clerk, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. For land use matters, copies of applications and all related items may also be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/public hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in this meeting should contact Lorraine Spaulding, Town Clerk at (540) 443-1025 or 443-1000 (voice or TDD).

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Boys have two doubleheaders with the girls



Luke Potter brings the ball up for the Rockets.

PHOTO BY CHELSEA LOUTHEN

The Craig County boys will play two doubleheaders with the girls in the coming week as the high school basketball regular season nears a close.

On Saturday the Rockets will host Bland County for a tripleheader. A boys' jayvee game will tip off at 1 pm, followed by the Craig girls against Bland at 2:30 pm. The Rocket boys will then take on the Bears at approximately 4:30 pm for "Senior Night."

Craig will also have a girls-boys varsity doubleheader next Monday, February 5, at Highland County. The girls will play at 5:30 pm with the boys to follow at around 7 pm.

The boys have two games this week prior to the weekend. On Tuesday they were scheduled to host Eastern Montgomery and on Thursday they head to Buena Vista for a Pioneer District game with Parry McCluer.

The Rockets come into the week at 4-10 after splitting two Pioneer District games last week. On January 23 they played host to a tough Narrows team and lost, 83-28. The Green Wave is undefeated in Pioneer District play.

Narrows jumped on top of Craig early, racing to a 15-4 lead after the first quarter and cruising to the win. Matthew Lucas led Craig with 17 points, Hayden Reynolds had six, Luke Potter three and Talon Ritter had two points.

"This is always a tough matchup, and missing a week due to weather did not help," said coach Ryan Frazier.

On Friday in Hot Springs the boys bounced back with a 74-54 win over the host Chargers. Craig had lost the previous meeting in New Castle by 11 points, but the Rockets were able to turn the tables on the Chargers Friday.

"A lot of credit to the players," said Frazier. "We had a team meeting to try and get our play moving in the right direction. The boys bought in and worked really hard in the two practices leading up to Bath. Everyone on the team worked hard and did their job, it was a true team effort."

Lucas and Reynolds combined for 50 points, Matthew with 30 and Hayden with 20. Hayden went 11 for 12 from the free throw line and Matthew went seven for seven from the line to help secure the win down the stretch. Jaycob Wolfe added 14 and Potter had 10.

"Having four guys in double figures just shows how well they worked together, and they did it on both ends of the floor," said Frazier. "This was a great team win that showed a lot of heart, redeeming the home loss at Bath. Very proud of this win, but we need to keep this momentum heading into the last few games of the season and the district tournament."

Rocket girls have busy schedule on the court

The Craig County girls will finish the basketball regular season with six games in 10 days as they try to gather some momentum for the approaching post-season.

The Rockets were at Eastern Montgomery on Monday, followed by a home game with Parry McCluer on Thursday of this week. Both are Pioneer District games.

On Saturday the Rockets host Bland County in a non-district game at 2:30 pm, sandwiched between boys' jayvee and varsity games at 1 pm and 4:30 pm. Then, next Monday, the Rockets go to Highland for a 5:30 pm tip-off that opens a doubleheader with the boys. A day later they'll host Roanoke Valley Christian at home, and on Thursday, February 8, William Byrd comes here for a rescheduled game to wrap up the regular season.

The Rockets come into the week at 2-3 in the district and 5-7 overall. Last week they split two games, losing at Narrows but bouncing back to beat Eastern Montgomery at home.

Craig lost at Narrows, 76-42, on January 22. The Rockets got off to a bad start and couldn't recover, falling behind 24-5 at the outset and 42-13 at the half.

"We were unable to practice the entire week before last Monday because of the snow," said coach Brock Jones. "The girls came out tired and not prepared to play. Practice and snow days hurt us bad as we aren't allowed to practice when school is called off, then we have to make up games which puts

us in a bad spot of three or four games a week. Not much time for prep of the opponents in between those games."

Daleigh Donithan led the Rockets in scoring with 13 points, including three three-pointers. Kailyn Jones had eight points, 11 rebounds and four blocks while Gracie Huffman and Brooklyn Cayton had five points each.

Last Friday at home the Rockets got a big Pioneer District win over Eastern Montgomery, 35-30. Kailyn had 24 of Craig's 35 points to go with 14 boards and four blocks to lead the Rockets while Donithan had seven points.

This game was tied, 13-13, at the half but the Rockets came out fired up after intermission and outscored the Mustangs 13-5 in the third quarter.

"Jenna Boitnette and Kallie Fisher put the lock down on their guards at the top of the key and we rotated well on defense and shut down their offense," said coach Jones.

Sisters Kallie and Kammie Fisher had eight steals apiece and forced East Mont into 32 turnovers.

"They finally said after the game, 'we finally figured out the defense portion that you've been talking about all year and it clicked,'" said Jones. "So, moving forward, with that attitude and approach I hope we keep up the momentum. The girls stayed focused and were talking on defense and it all came together. It was awesome to see them finally believe and dig deep and have each other's back."



Hayleigh Flowers goes in for a layup for Craig.

PHOTO BY CHELSEA LOUTHEN

Wagner will speak at Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame Banquet Sunday

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

Wagner is a 2003 inductee in the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame, and last week he was just five votes shy of being inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame. A 1990 graduate of Tazewell High School, he drew national attention with his mid to high 90s fastball while pitching for Ferrum College. In the 1993 draft the lefty fireballer was the first round, and 12th overall, pick of the Houston Astros. He made his Major League debut in 1995 and in '99 he was the recipient of the Rolands Relief Award, presented to the outstanding closer in the National League. That season he had 39 saves with a 1.57 earned run average and 124 strikeouts in 74 innings.

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

fans with a fastball that often reached the 100 mph mark.

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

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

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

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

Siple, a 1938 graduate of Clifton Forge High School who died in March, 2015, was a player, teacher, coach, professional scout and umpire. A four-year letter winner as a shortstop at Bridgewater College, he competed in the National Semi-Professional playoffs in Wichita, Kansas, then played and managed in semi-pro baseball in leagues throughout Virginia. He coached high school baseball for 24 years and became a professional scout in 1960. Siple scouted for 40 years, first for the Pittsburgh Pirates, then with the Reds and the Phillies. He was also a Virginia High School League umpire for 25 years and is a member of the Bath County High School, Boys Home and Bridgewater College Halls of Fame.

Mike Ruth, owner of the Shoe Doctor and supporter and coach of the Cave Spring Little League program since 1997, will be the recipient of the Wayne LaPierre, Sr. Service Award.

For information on tickets contact Gary Walthall at 540-427-1977 or John Montgomery at 540-761-6751.