

**GUTHRIE INSURANCE AGENCY INC.**  
HOME~AUTO~BUSINESS~FARM~LIFE~HEALTH



**LeAnn Croy**  
OFFICE MANAGER/CSR

PH: 540-864-6688  
TEXT: 540-486-2970

leann@guthrieinsurance.net  
www.guthrieinsuranceva.com  
GUTHRIEINSURANCE@YAHOO.COM  
Licensed in VA, WV, TN & NC



# THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



**IGA EXPRESS**  
**FOUNTAIN DRINKS**  
**.99¢**  
**GOPHER MARKET**



## Annual Hearts game brought out many times



**The winners, Tommy Zimmerman, Tina Pierce, Emily Smith, Rosemary Stamper, Sharon Zimmerman, Bill Frazier and Jakob Hannah, took home candy boxes. Rosemary was the grand prize winner and Emily got the booby prize. The game started over 50 years ago in Ms. Layman's home. Missy Frazier has the original Hearts game that she had, as Ms. Layman gave it to her.**

COURTESY PHOTO

## Virginia Western Nursing Program achieves 100% pass rate on NCLEX

ROANOKE — Virginia Western Community College announced last week that its Nursing Program has achieved a 100% pass rate of graduates sitting for the NCLEX-RN exam in 2023 on the first attempt.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), a not-for-profit organization, has developed and recently updated the NCLEX to assess nursing school graduates in the U.S. and Canada. Graduates must pass the National Council Licensure Examination to become registered nurses.

Forty Virginia Western graduates, all of whom received an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing in May 2023, sat for the NCLEX-RN exam last year between April 1 and Dec. 31. All passed on the first attempt, which is the first time in at least 10 years this has occurred.

The national average of graduates from associate degree programs passing the NCLEX-RN on first attempt was 87.75% in 2023.

"The point of the NCLEX is patient safety," said Lauren Hayward, Virginia Western's administrative officer for nursing. "It's to prevent people from entering practice who can't demonstrate clinical thinking or clinical judgment."

The 2023 cohort was the first to take the Next Generation NCLEX (NGN). Through research and review dating back to 2009, the NCSBN identified a critical need for clinical judgment in entry-level nursing. The NCSBN found that newly licensed nurses have been required to make progressively more complex decisions about patients, an increasing amount of whom are acutely ill.

The NGN format "has a different scoring plan," Hayward said. "It still has the same NCLEX-style questions. But it also has a huge focus on case study testing scenarios." The NGN test aims to measure clinical judgment, and questions are geared toward application of knowledge rather than simply memorization.

"NCSBN truly did a top-notch job getting us

trained for those changes. They resourced us for almost a decade, and they continue to update resources annually," Hayward said.

Interim Nursing Program Head Kathy Smith, an associate professor at Virginia Western, noted that long before the 2023 graduates sat for the NCLEX, they were accustomed to the new format. "We started experimenting with making changes to the structure and format of our tests, what it looked like, to make it look more like NGN style," Smith said. "So when the students went to NCLEX, it was like, 'Okay, I know this. I've seen this format before.'"

In 2022, Virginia Western's pass rate was 96.83% on the first attempt. Previous to that, however, pass rates slumped during the intense challenges of COVID, slipping below the bar of 80% passing on their first attempt in 2020 and 2021. Success in 2022 came after tireless efforts of faculty to perform curriculum review, scrutinize what concepts students struggled with in testing, and implement a coaching program to prepare each cohort for the NCLEX.

Even with the 100% success, Virginia Western's nursing faculty are constantly looking for more ways to support student learning. "We analyze every test after we give it for how our students scored on it, and that gives that gives us feedback every year," Smith said. Two nursing faculty members review every test. "So every faculty here is embedded in in the curriculum and the testing and the analysis of the testing."

Hayward noted that clinical practice is constantly in change, and that the level of a nurse's responsibility has increased every year.

"We have so much respect for the students, people who are stepping up in this economy and in this profession at this time, and saying, 'I want to do this.' We're behind them," said Hayward. "We do all that we can from our side to help them focus on what's important. It's really inspiring. It's tremendous what the faculty do to help the students succeed."

-The Salem Times-Register



COURTESY PHOTO

**Virginia Western's 2023 Associate of Applied Science in Nursing graduates all passed the NCLEX-RN exam on the first attempt—a first in at least the last 10 years.**



COURTESY PHOTO

## 6th Annual Community Church Chili Cookoff held

Craig Valley Baptist Church and Grace Baptist Church hosted the 6th Annual Community Church Chili Cookoff on Feb. 24. Four churches participated, with over 70 in attendance and 10 chili entries. The winners were 1st place—Brent Montgomery from Craig Valley Baptist, 2nd place—Steve Dufree from St John's and 3rd—Karen Walker from Craig Valley Baptist. Organizers reported that it was a fun event with good food, fellowship and music. See photos from event page 2.

## Va. General Assembly oks bill legalizing skill games

**Graham Moomaw**  
**Virginia Mercury**

After a rapid turnaround on what was thought to be a complex piece of legislation, both chambers of the Virginia General Assembly voted Friday to approve a bill repealing the state's ban on slots-like skill games.

The votes were a major victory for a large coalition of gas station and restaurant owners, who said the ban had deprived them of badly needed gambling revenue that they believe helped many small businesses survive the COVID-19 pandemic.

Explaining the final bill on the Senate floor, Sen. Aaron Rouse, D-Virginia Beach, described it as a compromise that leaves no one fully happy but still achieves the goal to "help small businesses and optimize revenue for the commonwealth."

The proposal passed the Senate 31-9 and cleared the House of Delegates by

a narrower vote of 49-43.

The legislation now heads to Gov. Glenn Youngkin, whose office previously said he had "serious concerns" about the pending skill game legislation but has not yet weighed in on the final version approved Friday.

"This skill game bill will allow Virginia's small business owners, many of whom are first-generation Americans, to keep their doors open, their employees working, and continue contributing to the community," restaurant owner Rich Kelly, president of the pro-skill game Virginia Merchants and Amusements Coalition, said in a news release applauding Friday's votes.

The legislation includes a 25% tax rate on the machines' gross receipts, and would allow up to four gambling machines in business licensed by the Virginia Alcoholic

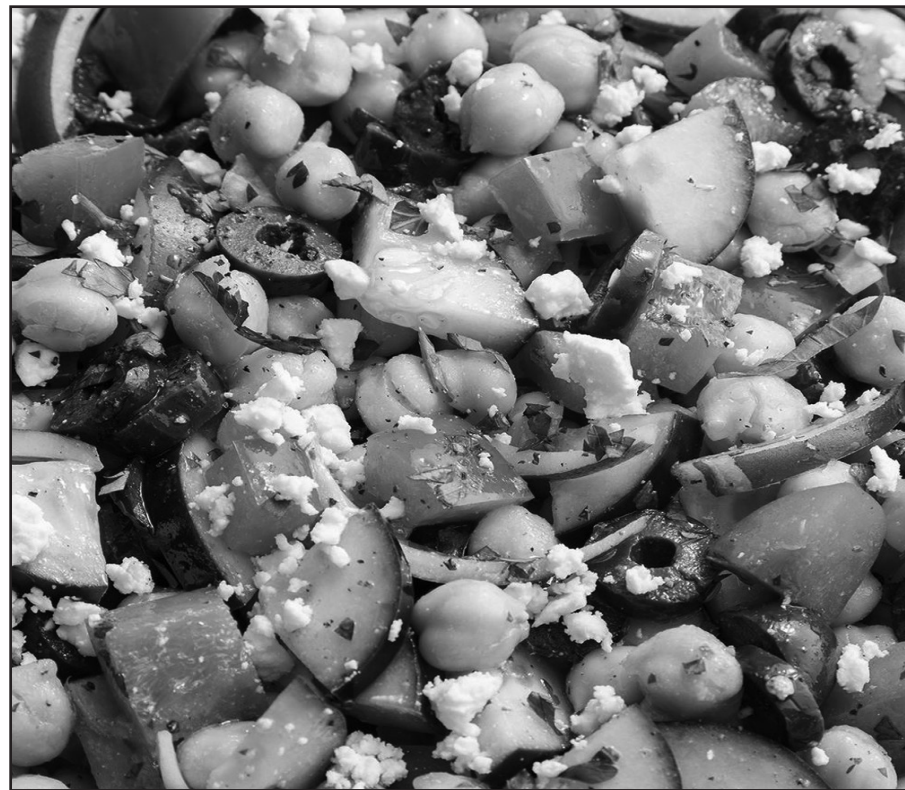
See Games page 2



# Recipe of the Week



**Shelly  
Koon**  
Contributing  
Writer



Kosher salt  
Freshly ground black pepper

**For the lemon-parsley vinaigrette**  
1/2 c. extra-virgin olive oil  
1/4 c. white wine vinegar  
1 tbsp. lemon juice  
1 tbsp. freshly chopped parsley  
1/4 tsp. red pepper flakes  
Kosher salt  
Freshly ground black pepper



**Instructions:**  
Preheat oven to 350°F. Meanwhile, prepare coconut chicken by coating breasts in egg wash and then covering with a mixture of coconut flakes, sweet paprika, and salt and pepper. Place encrusted chicken on a sheet pan and bake in oven for 10-15 minutes or until starting to brown (165°F internal temp).

While the chicken bakes, assemble the salad by tossing together chickpeas, cucumber, bell pepper, red onion, olives, and feta. Season with salt and pepper. To make the vinaigrette, in a jar fitted with a lid, combine olive oil, vinegar, lemon juice, parsley and red pepper flakes. Close the jar and shake until emulsified, then season with salt and pepper. Dress salad with vinaigrette just before serving. Once the chicken has cooked, remove from oven, and let cool slightly before slicing and serving over top of the chickpea salad.

**Coconut chicken with chickpea salad**

**Ingredients:**

**For the chicken:**

- 2 chicken breasts or 4-6 chicken tenders
- 1/2 cup unsweetened coconut flakes
- 1-2 tsp sweet paprika
- 1 egg
- Salt and pepper

**For the salad:**

- 2 (15-oz.) can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 1 medium cucumber, chopped
- 1 cup halved cherry tomatoes
- 1 bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 red onion, thinly sliced
- 1/2 c. chopped kalamata olives
- 1/2 c. crumbled feta

# Upcoming public meetings scheduled in Craig County

**March 7**  
Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting will meet at the Craig County Courthouse at 6 p.m.

**March 11**  
Library Board of Trustees Meeting at Craig County Library at 6 p.m.

**March 18**  
Town of New Castle Town Council Meeting at New Castle Town Hall at 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**March 19**  
Congressman Morgan Griffith citizen comment period 9 am – 10:30 am at Craig County Courthouse Breakroom.

Planning Commission meeting at Planning Commission at 7:00-8:00p.m.

**March 20**  
CPMT MEETING CPMT - Department of Social Services at 1 p.m.

**March 28**  
Department of Social Services Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**April 4**  
Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting will meet at the Craig County Courthouse at 6 p.m.

**April 8**  
Library Board of Trustees Meeting at Craig County Library at 6 p.m.

**April 15**  
Town of New Castle Town Council Meeting at New Castle Town Hall at 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**April 16**  
Congressman Morgan Griffith citizen comment period 9 am – 10:30 am at Craig County Courthouse Breakroom.  
Planning Commission meeting at Planning Commission at 7:00-8:00p.m.

**April 17**  
CPMT MEETING CPMT - Department of Social Services at 1 p.m.

**April 25**  
Department of Social Services Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**May 2**  
Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting will meet at the Craig County Courthouse at 6 p.m.

**May 13**  
Library Board of Trustees Meeting

at Craig County Library at 6 p.m.

**Community Event**  
Rocket to the Rhythm at CCHS Community Sock Hop will be held Saturday, April 6, 6:00p.m-10:00 p.m at the high school gymnasium. Dinner begins at 6 p.m., and live band, 40 Years After, begins at 7:00 p.m.Admission: Adults \$7, Kids \$3. Proceeds will benefit CCHC, After Prom, Junior Class and FFA.

**Ongoing**  
Feeding Southwest Virginia 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.

# 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 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: craigcountycommunitychurch@gmail.com.
- ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
Located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on 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: Rural health care & pharmacies



**Morgan Griffith**  
Representative

Since coming to Congress, I have worked to find ways to protect and promote access to health care for rural Americans.

One aspect of rural medicine I have tried to help on a federal level is pharmacies. For many in rural areas, visiting pharmacies and interacting with pharmacists is one of the most important points of access

for health care in small towns and communities. Pharmacists are trusted members of the community, who help provide relief to those in need.

Pharmacies have faced some tough challenges. Not long ago, UnitedHealth Group (a health care group that operates Optum and United Healthcare platforms) was the victim of a cyberattack. This complicated prescription deliveries for six days as many pharmacies were unable to process prescriptions. Pharmacies have also faced challenges as this country continues to deal with chronic drug shortages, ranging from chemotherapy

drugs to antibiotics to ADHD medications. Though wanting to help, some pharmacies have been unable to dispense critical, life-saving medications.

Over the years, I have looked for ways on a federal level to assist pharmacies, while also helping Americans get better access to health care. Below is a summary of bills I recently introduced or co-sponsored that are related to pharmacies.

H.R.5393 - Transparency and Fairness for Pharmacies Act  
Pharmacists, including rural pharmacists, have been increasingly charged retroactive fees, known as Direct and Indirect Remuneration (DIR)

fees, after prescriptions are filled. These fees hurt, and sometimes destroy, the pharmacists' business. Imagine you bought a product for resale for \$1 and sold it for \$1.03. You find out later that without telling you, the company changed the price several months after you sold the product and now has the right to come back and say, "Oh, we really should have charged you \$1.20." You have now lost 17 cents on the transaction. That's how DIR fees work. Believe it or not, this happens to pharmacists routinely.

To make matters worse, a majority of these pharmacists say they receive no clear information

about when and why these DIR fees will be collected. Many also noted that DIR fees can total tens of thousands of dollars each month. In response to this, I introduced the Transparency and Fairness for Pharmacies Act, which takes steps to help rein in and bring more transparency to these DIR fees and all pharmacy fees by Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs).

My bill would require the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to create standardized quality metrics for health plans and PBMs to use when determining payments

See The Ninth, page 5

## Sen. Chris Head offers legislative update from Richmond



**Chris Head**  
District 3

Dear Friends,

As we finish the 8th week at the General Assembly this year, work is beginning to wrap up. By the time you read this, most, if not all, bills will have

been acted on in committee, and the last of the bills are being debated on the Senate and House floors. Conference committees are hashing out the differences between similar bills that passed the House and Senate to determine the final versions to be presented to both chambers. The final budget to be sent to the Governor is being negotiated.

A LOOK BACK AT THE SESSION

While the work of the General Assembly continues,

many bills have already made it through the House and Senate—or have been defeated. Unfortunately, with Republicans in the minority in the House and Senate, Democrats have used their majority to push through some bills that will hurt Virginia families, limit freedom, and undermine the Commonwealth's economy. Here are some of the misguided bills that Democrats used their majorities to push through the General Assembly and send to the Governor for his review.

Democrats pushed through a bill (SB 1) to raise Virginia's minimum wage by about 20%, setting it at more than double what federal law requires. Wages have risen due to tight worker availability without government intervention. The market is working, and we need to let it continue.

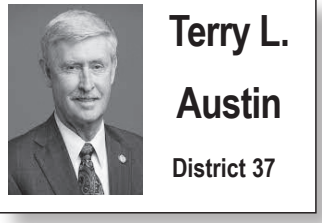
Democrats aggressively continued their attacks on the 2nd Amendment with bills that would ban almost all semi-automatic pistols (SB 2), undermine reciprocity for law-

abiding permit holders (HB 466), and fine law-abiding Virginians if they leave their firearm visible if it is locked in their car (SB 447).

Democrats pandered to a massive national far-left union, allowing them to decide what teacher pay is in Virginia (SB 104). I want to do everything possible to support teachers, so we have outstanding educators in our classrooms. Still, we cannot turn over control of

See Head, page 5

## Del. Terry Austin offers legislative update from Richmond



**Terry L. Austin**  
District 37

To the Constituents of the 37th House District:

The eighth week of Session has concluded, leaving one more week for the General Assembly to complete its work for the 2024 Regular Session. This week's action was largely in committee, where I am pleased to report significant progress was made in fighting Virginia's deadly fentanyl

epidemic. As you may recall, the House version of a bill banning the manufacture of fentanyl-laced pills was recently killed. However, a Senate bill that would criminalize the use of pill presses to manufacture fake pills laced with fentanyl is still advancing through the body. My Republican colleagues and I pushed hard to get this bill a hearing, and I'm pleased to report that it was reported to

the floor on a unanimous vote from Appropriations and will likely be up for final passage on Monday. Our schools continue to deal with fentanyl overdoses as students may be told they're buying a friend's prescription medication, when in fact they're obtaining a fake pill with a deadly dose of fentanyl. Some students have needed CPR to be revived; others have not been so fortunate.

Also occurring during this time are bill conferences. This is where similar but nonidentical Senate and House bills that have passed out of each chamber are placed into conference committees. Delegates and senators then confer with one another to agree on a bill that can be presented and voted on by both chambers. One such

See 37th, page 5

**THE NEW CASTLE RECORD**

USPS 378-080  
(540) 389-9355  
1633 W. Main St.  
Salem, VA 24153  
www.ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*  
Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor* aboyd@mainstreetnewspapers.com  
Brian Hoffman, *Sports Editor* bhoffman@ourvalley.org  
Debbie Nixon, *Graphic Designer* dnixon@ourvalley.com  
Edmee CR Hasler, *Graphic Designer* edmee@mainstreetnewspapers.com  
Wendi Craig, *Advertising Consultant* advertize@ourvalley.org

Give us your view: aboyd@mainstreetnewspapers.com

To subscribe: 540-389-9355

The New Castle Record (USPS 378-080) is published weekly for \$46 a year in Craig County, \$50 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$54 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., 1633 W Main St., Salem, VA 24153. Periodical postage paid at New Castle, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE NEW CASTLE RECORD 1633 W. Main St., Salem, Va. 24153

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.

## Roanoke College Super Tuesday Poll

Virginians weighed in ahead of Super Tuesday; President Biden's ratings down, Donald Trump favored in the commonwealth's Republican primary, and the latest on November's general election.

The Institute for Policy and Opinion Research (IPOR) at Roanoke College has been asking Virginians about the Super Tuesday primary and looking ahead to the November general election. IPOR also asked about public attitudes related to state and national politics, as well as opinions on public figures and organizations.

IPOR interviewed 705 adult residents of Virginia between Feb. 11 and Feb. 19, 2024, in a survey of public attitudes related to state and national politics, opinions on public figures and organizations, and election thoughts for Super Tuesday and the November general election. The survey has a weighted margin of error of 4.62%.

2024 Republican Nomination and Potential General Election Matchup

### Roanoke College Poll

As Super Tuesday approached and Virginians cast their ballots in the Republican primary on March 5, the Roanoke College Poll continued to measure Virginians' opinions about the current race for the Republican presidential nomination, including who they would most prefer to be the Republican candidate for president in 2024.

Amongself-reported Republicans, Donald Trump has a huge lead of 75% as their first choice to be the Republican nominee for president in November, followed by 15% for

Nikki Haley and 8% for someone else. Support for both candidates has increased since November as other candidates have dropped out of the race; Trump is up 24% and Haley is up 5%. When asked about their second choice for the nominee, 6% chose Trump, 25% picked Haley and 56% would prefer someone else.

We asked Virginians about their intention to vote in the Republican primary on Super Tuesday (March 5, 2024) and 56% of Virginians indicated that they were very or somewhat likely to vote. Of those likely voters, Trump holds an 8-point lead over Haley (51% to 43%). Among likely voters on Tuesday, Democrats prefer Haley (87%) over Trump (10%), Republicans choose Trump (80%) over Haley (18%) and the closeness of the race comes from independents who prefer Haley (54%) over Trump (44%).

See Poll page 5

# COMMUNITY SERVICE DIRECTORY

**GUTHRIE INSURANCE AGENCY INC.**  
HOME~AUTO~BUSINESS~FARM~LIFE~HEALTH  
Need a quote or policy information?  
**PH: 540-864-6688**  
**Text: 540-486-2970**

WWW.GUTHRIEINSURANCEVA.COM  
GUTHRIEINSURANCE@YAHOO.COM  
LICENSED IN VA, WV, TN & NC

ANGIE GUTHRIE-PONTON  
OWNER/AGENT  
ANGIE@GUTHRIEINSURANCE.NET

LEANN CROY  
OFFICE MANAGER/CSR  
LEANN@GUTHRIEINSURANCE.NET

**MHC**  
Monroe Health Center

**Craig County Health Center**  
226 Market Street - New Castle, VA  
Phone: (540) 864-6390 Fax: (540) 864-6356

\*Physical Exams \* X-ray Services  
\* Laboratory Services \* Acute Care  
\*Mental Health Services \* Well Baby Checks  
**ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS**

**Paitself Funeral Home**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE ONLINE AT WWW.PAITSSELF.COM  
ONLINE OBITS, CONDOLENCES, DIRECTIONS,  
COMMUNITY SERVICES, ON-LINE PRE-ARRANGEMENTS.

SIGN IN AT THE GUEST BOOK  
AND GIVE US YOUR THOUGHTS

PO Box 326, 286 Main Street • New Castle, Virginia  
**540-864-5142**

*Classified Advertising  
Really Works!  
Call (540) 389-9355*

**Guthrie Insurance Agency**  
**We Insure Farms**  
Angela Guthrie-Ponton, *Owner/Agent*  
207 Main Street, New Castle • (540) 864-6688

**ADVERTISE With us**

To advertise in this space, call  
Wendi Craig at 276-340-2445  
advertize@ourvalley.org

# The Ninth page 4

to pharmacies. H.R.5400 - Preventing Disruptions to Universal Service Funds Act. PBMs act as an intermediary between pharmacies, insurance companies, drug manufacturers, etc. whose purpose is to negotiate drug prices. We have seen that PBMs can manipulate drug prices through various ways to enhance their own profits, hurting Americans' bottom line and the pharmacies who deal with them.

I co-sponsored H.R. 5400, which would modernize Medicare and enhance PBM accountability by preventing them from discriminating against pharmacies

that are willing to contract with them, helping seniors seek care closer to home. This will ensure that PBMs do not provide unfair contracts to independent pharmacies where that independent pharmacy wouldn't accept the contract because the reimbursement rate for medications is so low their patients would lose access to that drug.

H.R.1770 - Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act  
Pharmacies have the ability to provide a variety of services beyond just filling prescriptions. Currently, certain tests and vaccines administered by pharmacies are

not reimbursable by Medicare.

I co-sponsored legislation, Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act, to establish a federal reimbursement mechanism for pharmacists' services under Medicare and ensure patients can continue to access essential care and services provided by pharmacists. This will now allow for Virginia pharmacists to test and treat for strep, flu, and COVID-19 and get reimbursed by Medicare for it.

H.R.5526 - Seniors' Access to Critical Medications Act  
Many seniors living in the Ninth

District and in other rural areas are not physically able to travel to pick up their much-needed prescriptions, whether it be from pharmacies, doctor's offices, etc.

I co-sponsored legislation, Seniors' Access to Critical Medications Act, that would allow for patients to have their caregivers/loved ones pick up the prescription on their behalf, making life easier for seniors.

These bills are just some ways I am currently helping pharmacies and rural Americans. I will continue to explore other ways to promote and protect access to health care.

# Head page 4

Virginia to a national labor union.

Democrats passed a bill to allow non-citizens to become police officers (and to even become police chiefs) (SB 69). Our senior public safety roles should be held by citizens, especially in a period where Democrats in Washington have allowed a flood of criminals and gang members to enter through our Southern Border.

Democrats have long sought to undermine our efforts to protect innocent lives by drastically expanding the number of abortions in the Commonwealth, including in the third trimester. Now, they are pushing through so-called "right-to-die" legislation that will make Virginia a magnet for those seeking physician-assisted suicides (SB 280). I have tremendous empathy for anyone who is suffering from a terminal illness. Still, physician-assisted suicide demeans the value of human life, and Virginia should not be supporting these efforts.

At the same time, the Democrats killed common-sense bills that Republicans were pushing:

Republicans pushed legislation

(SB 52) that would allow drug dealers knowingly selling laced fentanyl to be charged with murder in the case of an overdose and death. Democrats killed this bill in a radical soft-on-crime approach to reduce the prison sentences of murderers.

Republicans pushed a bill (SB 3) to end the mandate that requires Virginians to follow vehicle standards set by an unelected board of California bureaucrats. Democrats voted the bill down.

Republicans tried to crack down on picketing that seeks to intimidate judges, witnesses, jurors, and other participants in the judicial process (SB 223). Democrats blocked the bill in committee.

The list of bad bills that passed and good bills that were killed due to the Democratic majority in the Senate and House goes on and on.

LEGISLATION  
This week I had 5 more bills pass the House and now they head to the Governor's desk for action.

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 (39-0-1) and passed the House (96-0).

SB 145 clarifies in the Code of Virginia that a special conservator of the peace may possess simultaneous registration with the Department of Criminal Justice Services as an armed security officer pursuant, provided they meet the requirements for each licensure. This bill will help SCOPs improve their capability to respond to threats within their respective jurisdictions. SB 145 passed the Senate (40-0) and passed the House (99-0).

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 (39-0) and passed the House (97-0).

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 156 passed the Senate (40-0) and passed the House (91-4).

SB 420 will expand non-legislative citizen membership on the Board of Visitors at Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, empowering the Board with greater oversight and meeting transparency. SB 420 passed the Senate (40-0) and passed the House (96-0).

CONSTITUENT VISITS  
This week I enjoyed speaking with those who came by to visit on issues of higher education, housing, and preserving history—to name a few! If you are in Richmond during Session, please come by and see us.

# 37th page 4

bill is the budget, which remains in conference. As one of six House conferees appointed by the Speaker, my colleagues and I are tasked with working alongside our Senate counterparts to craft a budget that can be passed out of the General Assembly and sent to the Governor. It is important to understand that with Democrats in the majority, the final product will not be completely aligned

with Republican priorities. That being said, during this process I will work to ensure that the budget is one that takes into account a conservative approach to our priorities in the district and the region.

As for my bills, all have completed their respective journeys through the legislative process except for HB1505, which has been referred to Senate

Finance and Appropriations. HB1505 seeks to level the playing field for Virginia's college sports by preventing athletic organizations from limiting how higher education institutions can choose to support their athletic programs. With other states allowing their universities more flexibility when it comes to recruiting, the Commonwealth has fallen behind and will continue to do so. This

bill will codify policies that are currently giving our competitors an advantage for their sports programs, and I am hopeful that it reports out of committee and is voted upon favorably by the Senate.

As always, 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.Virginia.gov or 804-698-1037.

# Poll page 4

Of the entire sample, 40% of Democrats, 84% of Republicans and 55% of independents self-identified into the "likely voter" category.

Looking ahead to the general election in November and likely matchups for the presidency, President Joe Biden maintains a four-point lead over Trump (47% to 43%). If Haley were to be the Republican nominee, she would have a nine-point lead over Biden (49% to 40%).

Since we last asked in November, more Virginians would consider voting for an independent candidate in November, up 5% to 50% compared to 45% of Virginians considering an independent candidate three months ago. When asked about the most important issue Virginians consider when voting, jobs and the economy (27%), immigration (17%), inflation (13%) and abortion (9%) were reported.

**Approval, Favorability, and Directions of Virginia and Nation**

Virginians' approval of Gov. Glenn Youngkin remains approximately the same as our polls from May 2023, with 53% of Virginians approving of the way Youngkin is handling his job as governor. In that same period, Biden's job approval has decreased among Virginians, down nine points from an approval rating of 42% in May to 33% in this poll. In November, Biden's approval was at 37%, and this poll marks the first time that more than 60% of Virginians disapprove of the way Biden is

handling the presidency.

The percentage of Virginians who believe things are generally on the wrong track in Virginia and the nation remains stable from our last poll, with 42% reporting that things are on the wrong track in Virginia and 73% reporting that things are on the wrong track in the nation. As for the legislatures at the national and state levels, 16% of Virginians approve of the way Congress is handling its job (up two points since November, but within the margin of error) while 49% approve of the way the Virginia General Assembly is handling its job. The approval rating for the General Assembly increased four points since November and is within the error margin of its approval one year ago (48%).

With the General Assembly considering bills that would potentially authorize and allow retail sale of cannabis in Virginia next year, the poll partnered with Biology Professor DB Poli, coordinator of the new Cannabis Studies Program at Roanoke College, to ask Virginians about their level of support regarding the possible laws. We found that 63% of Virginians strongly or somewhat support laws that would help small businesses compete with pharmaceutical companies and existing medical cannabis dispensaries while only 15% somewhat or strongly oppose. A similar proportion (60%) strongly or somewhat support laws that would regulate education needs for dispensary workers in Virginia with only 12%

indicating any level of opposition. Responses were largely non-partisan, with majority support among Democrats (68% and 62% for the two questions), Republicans (56% and 53%) and independents (70% and 55%).

We continue to ask Virginians about their favorability ratings for key political figures and found slight changes since the last Roanoke College Poll. Approximately 48% of Virginians report a favorable impression of Youngkin (down two points), while 41% report an unfavorable impression (up two points). At the national level, 35% of Virginians report a favorable impression of Biden, which is another four-point drop from our last poll in November. About a third (35%) of Virginians report a favorable view of Trump while 61% report an unfavorable view (up six points since November). For the first time, we asked Virginians about Nikki Haley, with 29% having a favorable view, 50% having an unfavorable view and 18% not knowing enough about her to indicate their favorability. We again asked Virginians about their impressions of the U.S. Supreme Court, with 40% reporting a favorable view and 49% an unfavorable view of the court; this is relatively unchanged since November.

There continues to be substantial partisan gaps in Virginians' attitudes, including 42- and 47-point gaps in Youngkin's approval and favorability ratings, 55- and 60-point gaps

in Biden's approval and favorability ratings, and a 78-point gap in Trump's favorability rating. Since November, Democrats' job approval and favorability of Biden both fell eight points. These gaps also appear in Virginians' attitudes about the direction of the nation (30-point gap) and favorability rating of the U.S. Supreme Court (32-point gap). However, we found no partisan gaps in the favorability rating for Haley among parties (31%, 32% and 34%, respectively, among Democrats, Republicans and independents).

**Analysis**  
"Ahead of Super Tuesday, it's not too surprising that former president Trump is likely to win the commonwealth's Republican primary," said David Taylor, director of IPOR and professor of mathematics at Roanoke College. "Among Virginians that self-reported a likelihood of voting on Tuesday, Trump holds an eight-point lead over former ambassador Nikki Haley, but based on what we've seen in the past, I would expect actual voter turnout to be lower than what our poll found. Trump has a 62-point lead among Republicans and Haley has a 10-point lead among independents, so while a Trump victory is the likely outcome, Haley will capture several of Virginia's 48 delegates up for grabs."

"Partisanship continues to shape Virginians' views on national politics and, to a lesser degree, state politics. Governor Youngkin's job approval among Republicans remains high, but his approval among

Democrats has increased almost 10 points since November. We also found that both Democrats and Republicans agree that the commonwealth is generally heading in the right direction. Nationally, though, about 40% of Democrats and just about 10% of Republicans say the country is heading in the right direction."

"What's interesting to look at is a snapshot four years ago relative to this month's poll. In 2020, about 40% of Virginians said that the country was heading in the right direction; now that figure has dropped to nearly 25%. When asked about the direction of Virginia, results today roughly mirror those at the same time four years ago. When our poll in 2020 asked about former president Trump's job approval, he had a 36% approval rating compared to incumbent Biden's approval now of 33%. His current approval is the lowest IPOR has seen since Biden took office, when his approval was 47% among Virginians."

"What's changed? Our state is generally considered either a swing state or one that leans a bit to the left. Biden's favorability rating of 35% now compared to 37% four years ago is relatively unchanged, but his unfavorability rating (61% now compared to 37% in 2020) has

nearly doubled and nearly matches Trump's favorable/unfavorable ratings in 2020 and in this 2024 poll. Despite Virginia Republicans' strong desire for Trump to be the party's candidate in this November's general election, the Roanoke College Poll found that Trump leads Biden by four points in November's race but Haley would lead Biden by nine points if she were the nominee."

**Methodology**  
Interviewing for the Roanoke College Poll was conducted by The Institute for Policy and Opinion Research (IPOR) at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia, between Feb. 11 and Feb. 19, 2024. A total of 703 completed interviews came from random telephone calls to 425 Virginians, and 278 responses were drawn from a proprietary online panel of Virginians. Interviews were conducted in English. Cellphones constituted 69% of the completed phone interviews.

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

E	C	M	H	I	E	P	P	T
D	H	A	L	P	A	U	L	O
P	A	L	O	A	D	D	E	R
P	I	E	R	C	E	A	M	B
W	O	K	A	L	M	B	U	S
S	L	I	M	E	L	U	N	A
D	A	O	P	R	E	S	S	U
I	T	O	L	O	B	O	P	I
T	I	F	F	A	N	Y	L	A
S	A	L	P	A	O	A	S	E
H	O	R	S	E	M	A	R	I
P	O	P	E	L	A	C	E	S
O	R	E	S	Y	L	E	M	S
P	A	C	E	O	S	P	S	T

**Tickle Oil & Propane**

**Serving Craig County**

**Call today for prices!**

**540-626-6000**



*Now delivering propane!*

**We accept all major credit cards.**

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



# BUSINESS SERVICES DIRECTORY

**DR FAME**  
ALLERGY  
ASTHMA

540 404-9598  
1002 APPERSON DR • SALEM, VIRGINIA 24153  
WWW.DRTOMFAME.COM

**FOX 910**  
Roanoke  
and 104.3 FM  
ATLANTA BRAVES

**CBS SPORTS RADIO**

**ROANOKE'S #2 NEWS TALK AND SPORTS RADIO STATION**  
(Nielsen Fall 2022 book)  
www.foxradioroanoke.com  
(540) 343-7109

**Lisa Martin, REALTOR®**  
Serving the industry for 30+ years  
Roanoke Valley & Blue Ridge Mountains  
**Premier, REALTORS**  
(540) 597-0480  
Lisa@Lisa2buy.com • www.Lisa2buy.com  
1638 Roanoke Road, Suite 101  
Daleville, VA 24083

**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices**  
A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC

**MHC**  
Monroe Health Center

**Craig County Health Center**  
226 Market Street - New Castle, VA  
Phone: (540) 864-6390 Fax: (540) 864-6356

\*Physical Exams \* X-ray Services  
\* Laboratory Services \* Acute Care  
\*Mental Health Services \* Well Baby Checks  
**ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS**

**CARPET RE-STRETCHING!**  
**STEVEN W. DURRANCE FLOORS**

Repairs • New Sales • Expert  
**540-776-9591**  
**Cell: 540-353-7908**  
Licensed & Insured  
carpetroanoke.com

**Sunflooring Inc.**  
**STEVE SMITH**  
With over 40 years of experience

Specializing in Hardwood Floors,  
Hardwood Refinishing, Laminate Flooring,  
Engineered Floors, Ceramic Tile,  
Carpet and Luxury Vinyl Plank

**540-556-3100**

CENTURY 21  
Wampler Realty  
64 Wendover Road  
Daleville, Va 24083  
Cell: 540-312-7792  
Office: 540-992-2500  
sfleshmansells@hotmail.com

**SHERRYE FLESHMAN** REALTOR®  
Each office is independently owned and operated

**WE BUY COIN COLLECTIONS**  
Top money paid  
FREE estimates

**EADES & LOWER INSURANCE**  
5007 Carriage Dr., Suite 100  
P.O. Box 21483  
Roanoke, VA 24018

**SHERRI STINETTE HOLT**  
INSURANCE AGENT

Cell (540)819-9179 • Office (540)981-1124  
Fax (540) 981-1266  
sherri@eadesandlower.com  
www.eadesandlower.com

AUTO | HOME BUSINESS | LIFE

**Residential and Commercial Construction**

540-966-0688  
PO Box 630  
Daleville, VA 24083  
www.southerntracellc.com

**WE BUY COIN COLLECTIONS**  
Top money paid  
FREE estimates

Contact us at  
540-988-2420

**Windy Ridge Tree & Mulching Service**

Contact us today for a free quote!  
540-473-5176  
fincastletreedr@gmail.com  
windyridgetreedr.com

**Colonial Title and Settlement**

Serving the Greater Botetourt & Roanoke Valley communities with all your real estate needs for residential, commercial, construction with MLA services, Assist with 1031 Real Estate Exchanges, Purchases, Refinances and More!!!!

**Call Loretta, Debbie or Kristi for your next move!**

**540-966-1260**  
1215 Roanoke Road, Daleville

**SENIOR FOR SENIORS**  
PAINTING & RESIDENTIAL MAINTENANCE

Cell: 540-293-4271

**HARDWOOD FLOORS**

• Cleaning  
• Waxing  
• Beautification

Save 10% NOW!  
540-776-9591  
Cell: 540-353-7908

**STIHL PARTS & SERVICE**  
New and Used Equipment & Parts Available on All Brands  
Husqvarna • CubCadet • Toro • MTD • Murray • Echo  
Poulan • Honda • Mulch • Top Soil • Fill Dirt • Firewood • Sand  
Gravel • Brick Chips • (Tandem Truck Hauling • Excavating • Grading)

**Specialized Saw & Mower, Inc.**  
3954 West Main Street, Salem  
• John King, President (540) 380-3901  
• Shelley Buchanan, Mgr.  
• Jo Maitland, Office Mgr. (Sales and Service)

Credit Available  
Equipment Rental  
Pick Up & Delivery Available

**LIMITED TIME SAVINGS**

**King's Hauling & Excavating, Inc.**

• Housing Foundations  
• Land Clearing  
• Stump Removal  
• Road Building  
• Pond Building

**John King, President**

• Septic Tanks  
• Yard Grading  
• Demolition Work  
• Tandem & Tri-Axle  
• Dump Truck Hauling

Free Estimates • Licensed & Insured • Satisfaction Guaranteed

Beat the Spring Rush!  
3954 West Main Street, Salem  
(540) 380-3901

Topsoil/Sand Gravel/Mulch Asphalt Milling.

**STATEWIDE ADS**

**The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted IN AS LITTLE AS A DAY**

**\$1000 OFF**  
AND  
**No Payments & No Interest For 18 Months\***  
OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/24

**BCi BATH & SHOWER**  
CALL NOW (844) 945-1631

\*Includes product and labor, bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and well surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 3/31/24. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. \*\*Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2024 BCI Acrylic, Inc.

**STATEWIDE ADS**

**AUCTIONS**

ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Advertise your upcoming auctions statewide and in other states. Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audiences. Call this paper or Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, landonc@vpa.net

**FAMRS/FISH**

Live Fish for stocking ponds. Many varieties available. Delivery to your pond or pickup available. Call Zetts Fish Farm for information. 304-995-9202, Cell 304-820-6986.

**STATEWIDE ADS**

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**

Vinyl Replacement Windows Installed! Starting at \$350 Call 804-739-8207 for More Details! Ronnie Jenkins II Windows, Siding, Roofing and Gutters! FREE Estimates! Call 804-739-8207 for More Details! American Made Products!

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-947-1479 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

**STATEWIDE ADS**

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-844-902-4611

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-614-6667

**STATEWIDE ADS**

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-844-945-1631

Safe Step, North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step

**STATEWIDE ADS**

1-877-591-9950

**SERVICES**

**DIVORCE**-Uncontested, \$475+\$86 court cost. **WILLS**-\$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. **Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook)**, 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. <https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com>.

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 888-608-4974

**DENTAL INSURANCE** from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-888-550-3083 www.dental50plus.com/virginia #6258

Alaska, Europe, Hawaii plus dozens of other popular trips! Starting at \$1649 per person (double occupancy req'd.) **YMT Vacations** plans everything, leaving you to relax and enjoy. Call 1-855-743-0491 for more details. Use promo code YMT2024 for \$250 off. Limited time only.

Become a Published Author. We want to Read Your Book! Dorrance Publishing-Trusted by Authors Since 1920. Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive Services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution. Call for Your Free Author's Guide 1-888-366-7596 or visit [dorranceinfo.com/vapress](http://dorranceinfo.com/vapress)

**It's not just a generator. It's a power move.™**

Receive a free 7-year warranty with qualifying purchase\* - valued at \$735.

Call 844-947-1479 to schedule your free quote!

**GENERAC**

\*Terms and Conditions apply.

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

**SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB**

1-877-591-9950

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

**SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB**

**LIFETIME LIMITED WARRANTY**

FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

Make the smart and **ONLY CHOICE** when tackling your roof!

**ERIE** Metal Roofs  
FREE ESTIMATE  
1.844.902.4611

Limited Time Offer! **SAVE!** Up to **50% OFF** ON YOUR INSTALLATION + TAKE AN ADDITIONAL **10% OFF**

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc. ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a "Do Not Call" list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on [homesiteinc.com/compliance](http://homesiteinc.com/compliance). All rights reserved. License numbers available at [erie-metal.com](http://erie-metal.com) or [erie-licensing.com](http://erie-licensing.com). VA License Number: 2702029944

**OUTER BANKS, NC - VACATION RENTALS**

**Over 500 Vacation Homes**

Entire Outer Banks from Corolla's 4x4 to Hatteras Island! Family time is what it's all about!

Book NOW! Weeks are filling up fast!

877-642-3224 [brindleybeach.com](http://brindleybeach.com)

# SPORTS

Send story ideas & announcements to bhoffman@ourvalley.org

## Rockets have high hopes for baseball season

Daylight savings time begins this Sunday and a day later the light will shine on the 2024 edition of Craig County High School baseball. The Rockets will open the new season with a 5 pm game at Glenvar on Monday, March 11.

The Rockets graduated just three players from last year's 7-14 team and look to improve on that record. Corey Smith will begin his second year as head coach and he has a terrific assistant in Craig County's Jason Lucas, who coached many of these boys to successful seasons in recreation and travel ball.

Craig has some talent returning, including three players who were second team All-Pioneer District last year. Senior Matthew Lucas was second team at utility as

a junior and he'll be a pitcher and middle infielder for this year's team. Senior slugger Drew Duncan returns at first base, where he was second team all-district, and Jaycob Wolfe was second team as a sophomore. He'll be a solid portsider on the mound and a tough stick in the middle of the order.

Senior Hayden Reynolds was Honorable Mention all-district last year and he returns as a middle infielder. Joseph Charette was also Honorable Mention as a freshman and he can catch, pitch and play corner infield.

Seth Parsons is another senior and returning juniors include Cameron Huffman, Isaiah Wenthe and James Smith. Returning sophomores are Luke Potter and Hunter Sowers and freshman Kadin Authors is also on the varsity.

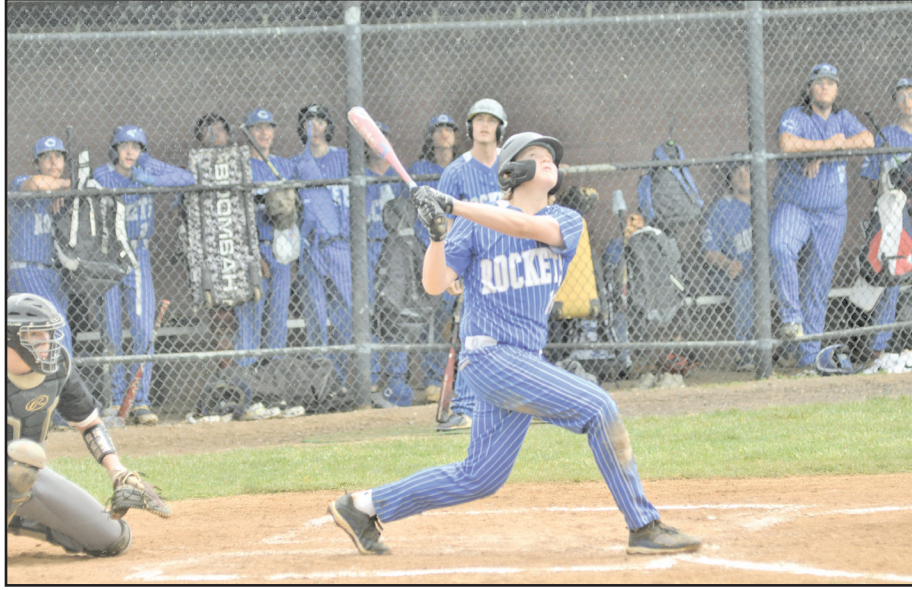
The Rockets will miss graduated all-district pitcher Zach Peters but Smith has a stable of arms to choose from with Lucas, Wolfe, Charette, Reynolds, Sowers and Wenthe all available to log time on the mound.

"We have high expectations for our returning key players," said Lucas. "Our goal is to make it to the Region C tournament."

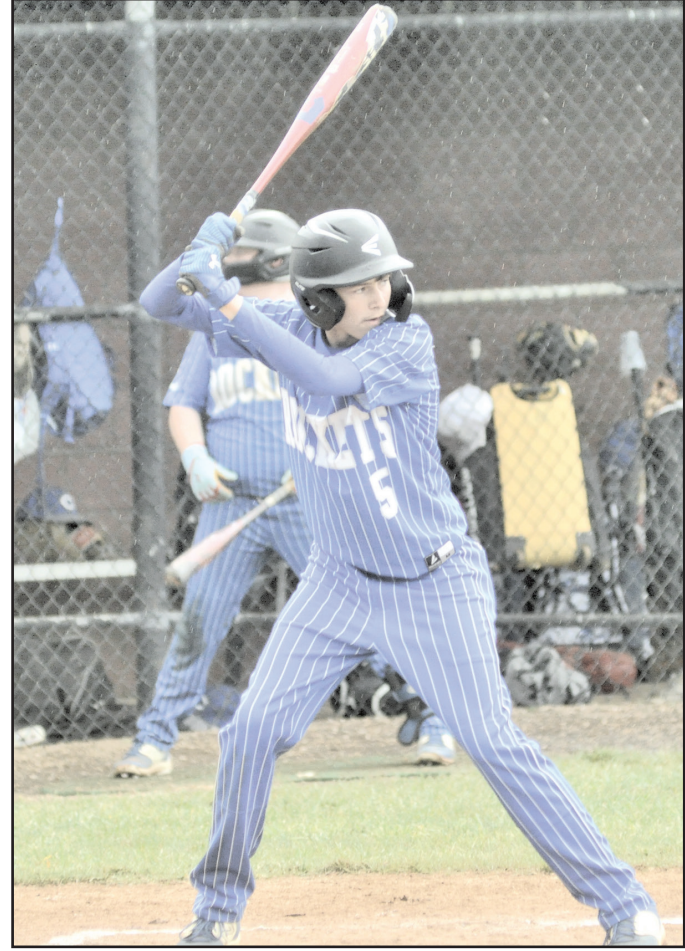
The Rockets barely missed making the region last year and a strong schedule should get them prepared for postseason play. After Monday's game with Glenvar, who always has a quality Class 2 program, the Rockets will take on William Byrd in Vinton next Wednesday, March 13. The Terriers are Class 3 and have one of the top programs in the Roanoke Valley at any level.



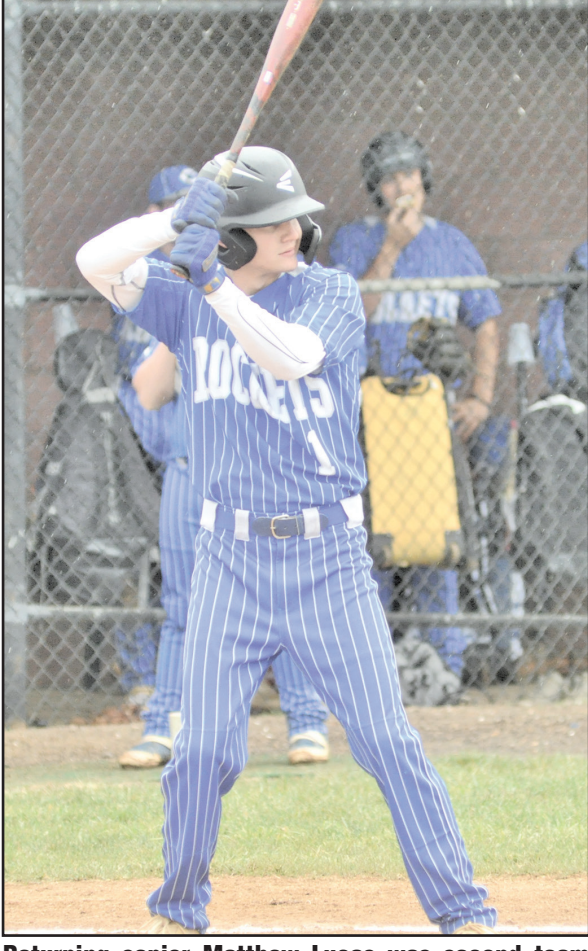
Catcher Joseph Charette was Honorable Mention All-Pioneer as a freshman.



Senior Drew Duncan was second team all-district last year at first base.



Senior Hayden Reynolds was Honorable Mention All-District last year.



Returning senior Matthew Lucas was second team All-Pioneer District last spring.



Jaycob Wolfe, a junior, was second team All-District as a sophomore.

BRIAN HOFFMAN AND CHELSEA LOUDEN PHOTOS

## Softball team opens Monday at Glenvar

The Craig County softball team will open the 2024 season on the road Monday with a game at Glenvar. The Rockets look to improve on last year's 8-10 season that ended with a loss to Auburn in the Region 1C tournament. Auburn went on to win the state championship for the fourth year in a row.

"I'm very excited for the upcoming season," said Craig coach Elaina WolfeCarper. "We've got a talented group of girls this year, and I anticipate that we will see the hard work they've been putting in pay off during our games."

WolfeCarper's main concern is replacing graduated workhorse pitcher Sara Jones. Sara was a first team All-Pioneer District pitcher last season and she could be counted on to give the Rockets quality innings every game. This year the duo of junior Nevaeh Hypes and sophomore Kammie Fisher will split time on the mound. Fisher was a second team All-District pitcher as a freshman and both girls saw some time

on the mound last spring.

"Kammie and Neveah have both been putting in a lot of work in the off-season," said WolfeCarper.

Craig's three seniors are returning second team all-district catcher Lily Hutchison, firstbaseman Karly Potter and outfielder Randalyn Taylor. Potter and Taylor were both Honorable Mention all-district as juniors.

"Our three seniors are outstanding leaders," said WolfeCarper.

Other juniors on the team include Layla Dooley, Ashlyn Keen and Hayleigh Flowers. Sophomores are returning second team all-district secondbaseman Kallie Fisher, Cheyenne Bell, Jenna Boitnotte and Daileigh Donithan.

"I'm also very pleased to have a JV team this year, which goes such a long way to building a strong program," said WolfeCarper.



Karly Potter is a senior firstbaseman for the Rockets who was All-Pioneer Honorable Mention.



Randalyn Taylor is a returning senior who was All-District honorable mention.

Photos by  
Brian Hoffman  
and  
Chelsea Loudon

Senior Lily Hutchison returns behind the plate for Craig after earning second team all-district honors.



Sisters Kammie(left) and Kallie Fisher were second team All-Pioneer as freshmen.