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# THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



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## Craig County Board of Supervisors tackles transportation, technology, land use

**Bonnie Cranmer**  
Contributing writer

The Craig County Board of Supervisors convened for their regular meeting on June 6 at 6 p.m. VDOT representative Brian Blevins addressed the board regarding current projects. Simmonsville's Jason Matyas requested reduced speed limits in two specific areas on Rt 42: a dangerous curve and a location where a newly established Amish family will be using horse-drawn buggies for transportation. The board acknowledged the need for improved safety measures and will look for further information on this from VDOT. Broadband concerns arose as Jordan Labiosa reported that TDS had sold its Craig County service area to Riverstreet Networks. Additionally, T-Mobile's acquisition of US Cellular would impact

some residents' service. Labiosa emphasized the need for a review of the technology committee to assess how these developments affect Craig County's internet access and explore potential solutions. The Craig Valley Railbed Trail project received positive updates. Woody Lipps reported continued progress on researching the railbed's history and construction. The board unanimously approved a resolution officially appointing Stephanie Keith as the Parent Representative on the Community Policy and Management Team. The supervisors reviewed and approved revisions to the budget. This included allocating funds for schools, approving an operations-to-salary transfer for the remaining fiscal year (2023-24) and establishing necessary

budgetary adjustments for the upcoming year (2024-25). The board also approved the proposed holiday schedule for county employees. A discussion took place regarding a proposed ordinance that would exempt food booths at fairs supporting political or charitable non-profit organizations from specific regulations. County Administrator Dan Collins explained the need for the county attorney to draft the ordinance formally before further action. The public hearing segment of the meeting focused heavily on the proposed land use plan presented by the Craig County Farmers Committee. Angie Guthrie-Ponton introduced the plan and provided the board with a packet of detailed information. Rebecca Frango and Jim Joyce

further elaborated on the potential benefits of implementing a land use policy in Craig County. Joyce provided a real-world example from neighboring Botetourt County, where a property with both a residence and farmland benefitted from a lower tax rate for the farmed portion. He explained the system for recovering "deferred" taxes in case of land-use changes within a certain timeframe. The committee continues to circulate a petition available at local businesses on Main Street, which garnered hundreds of signatures in support of the plan. The formal presentation of the petition to the board is expected at a future meeting. This meeting addressed a variety of topics crucial to Craig County's development.



Frango



Joyce

PHOTOS BY BONNIE CRANMER

See County page 2



PHOTO BY BONNIE CRANMER

Feeding Southwest Virginia is the food bank that serves the region. Feeding SWVA is a part of the Feeding America food bank system.

## New Castle gets two opportunities for fresh and healthy food in June

**Bonnie Cranmer**  
Contributing writer

In Southwest Virginia, one in nine neighbors are food insecure. On the second Wednesday, June 12 from 3-5 p.m. this month, Feeding Southwest Virginia rolls into New Castle with fresh food and other staples to support the community. People with EBT cards are able to use benefits for additional discounts on special foods. Staples include

flour, peanut butter, canned goods, eggs and much more. Feeding Southwest Virginia is the food bank that serves the region. Feeding SWVA is a part of the Feeding America food bank system. Their mission is to serve the 12,400 square mile region "through a network of partners and to develop solutions to address food insecurity throughout our region," their website states.

The New Castle Christian Church is the host for Feeding SWVA on the second and third Wednesdays. On their second monthly visit, June 19, they will be joined by the Wellness Wagon, the refurbished bus bringing acupuncture and relief to the public. "On June 19th, we will be at New Castle Christian Church from 4pm to 6pm. This is another great opportunity with a lot of

participation," says Mike Holcomb, Wellness Wagon coordinator. The Wellness Wagon partners with Feeding SWVA in Craig County to provide free and reduced priced acupuncture and other social services to the community. Acupuncture, a traditional Chinese medicine practice, is renowned for its ability to promote relaxation and

See New Castle page 2

## Virginia State police investigating June 3 Craig County homicide

**Aila Boyd**  
aboyle@mainstreet-newspapers.com

On June 3, the Craig County Sheriff's Office and Craig County Emergency Medical Services responded to a residence on Sage Brush Lane in New Castle for the report of an unresponsive 4-month-old male. When EMS arrived, they found the child was deceased. The child's remains were transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Western District for examination, according to the Virginia State Police. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner determined that the cause of death was a homicide and contacted the Craig County Sheriff's Office with the findings. At the request of Sheriff Craddock on June 5, the Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation,

Salem Division, began the investigation into the homicide. Also on June 5, the Virginia State Police arrested Trevian Demalle Carruth, 26, of Francisville, LA and charged him with second degree murder. Carruth was processed by the Craig County



Carruth COURTESY VSP Sheriff's Office and was charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance. Carruth was transported to the Botetourt County Jail, where he was held without bond. The incident remains under investigation.

## July 4 parade is announced by Craig Valley DAR

The Third Annual Craig County Independence Day Parade will be Thursday morning, July 4. The parade will leave from the Craig County Fairgrounds at 10 a.m. and proceed down Rt. 311 to Main Street. Closing ceremonies and a "non-profit event" will be held at the new county Farmer's Market. The parade is once again sponsored by Craig Valley Chapter, National Daughters of the American Revolution. The chapter is providing all necessary permits for street closures as well as guest judges, prizes and announcers. Letters have been sent to area businesses and organizations, encouraging them to support this patriotic community

event. Parade participants are asked to feature a patriotic theme featuring Red White & Blue. There is no fee, but donations are welcome. Craig Valley Chapter said that it is pleased to announce that the parade grand marshal will be recent high school graduate Karly Potter, who was awarded the Good Citizen Award by the chapter last December. Potter will ride at the front of the parade and will assist with the presentation of awards at the close. Registration forms are available by emailing CraigValleyChapterNSDAR@gmail.com.

-The New Castle Record



COURTESY PHOTOS



# Cooking event to be held at Waiteville Community Center

Waiteville Community Center is sponsoring "Cooking Light & Cool for a Hot Summer Night" on Saturday, July 13 from 4-6 p.m. Don Shaw, who worked as a caterer and chef in

the Northern Virginia area for 37 years, is leading the event again this year. He is happy to share his knowledge and love of cooking. He will demonstrate preparing carried carrot soup,

ricotta stuffed chicken breast with sweet and sour peach sauce, asparagus with orange zest and balsamic glaze, orange pesto vinaigrette quinoa salad, and lemon curd whipped cream with

fresh berries. Recipes will be provided. After the demonstration, participants will enjoy eating these dishes. The cost of the demonstration and meal is \$25 per person and limited

to 40 participants. reservation and payment can be made by contacting Shelby Jennings at 304-772-5503 or shelbyjennings1958@hotmail.com by July 1. Make

checks to Waiteville Community Center and mail to 7644 Waiteville Rd, Waiteville, WV 24984. -The New Castle Record

# Summer Food Service Program sites announced

Feeding Southwest Virginia recently announced the sponsorship of the emergency feeding under SFSP (Summer

Food Service Program). Meals will be available at no charge to all participants at each site and provided, on a

first come, first serve basis, at each of the following sites during the following times. Local sites include: Boys & Girls Club-

Andrew Lewis Middle School at 616 S College Ave. Salem, 24153 Snack: Monday - Friday, 2:30-3 p.m.

Craig County Public Library at 303 Main St. New Castle, 24127 Five-day meal boxes including

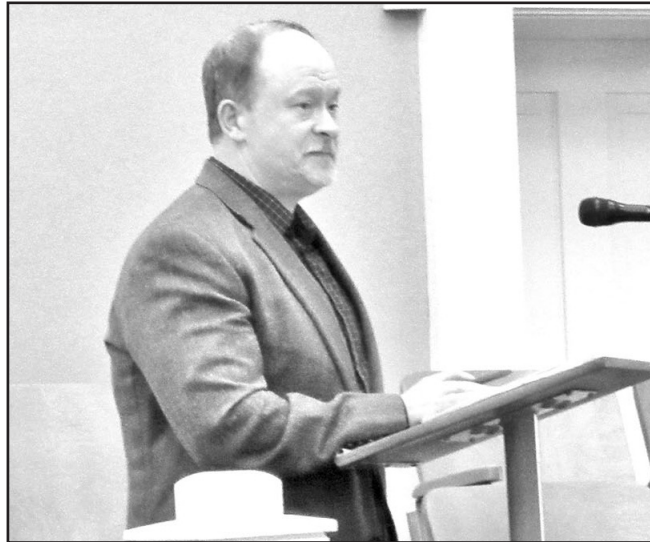
breakfast and lunch: Wednesday, 12-2 p.m.; 6-7:30 p.m. -The Salem Times-Register

## County from page 1

From ensuring resident safety on local roads to exploring solutions for improved internet access and fostering community initiatives, the board of supervisors tackled important issues. The land use plan, presented by the Craig County Farmers Committee, has the potential to significantly impact the county's future and the board will delve deeper into the proposal in the coming weeks.



Guthrie-Ponton



Blevins

PHOTOS BY BONNIE CRANMER

## New Castle from page 1

well-being. The best way to learn about acupuncture is to experience it for yourself. Inside the refurbished bus that arrives on the third Wednesday each month, trained staff will provide a 20-25-minute treatment which calms the client's

central nervous system, and the sense of calm can last for days to weeks. Residents are invited to come out on the two Wednesdays this month and enjoy the access to fresh food and experience the power of

acupuncture. To learn more about these two community organizations contact Feeding Southwest Virginia at <https://feedingswva.org/> and the Wellness Wagon at <https://wellnesswagonva.org/>.



PHOTO BY BONNIE CRANMER

The Wellness Wagon partners with Feeding SWVA in Craig County to provide free and reduced priced acupuncture and other social services to the community.

# FROM THE ARCHIVES

## An extra trip to Salem is not too much to ask *Father and son find a friend on Buccaneers*

By Brian Hoffman, staff writer

From the March 16, 1994 edition of The New Castle Record

Cole Huffman just wanted a baseball, but wound up with a good friend.

Huffman, a 10-year-old Craig County resident, doesn't miss many Salem Buccaneer baseball games. He knows if he doesn't come to the game his favorite player, Chance Sanford, might have to go without sunflower seeds.

Cole is Sanford's biggest fan, and vice versa. Huffman picked him out among the minor league players at Salem Municipal Field because he took a particular interest in the young fan.

"I was sort of a ball hog," said Cole, one of many youngsters who stand along the edge of the fence and beg for the players to toss them a Carolina League baseball.

"He said I was always asking for a ball and I asked him how he knew, and he said he never forgets a face," said Huffman, "He's given me several balls."

Now Chance is Cole's favorite player. "His favorite player used to be Tony Womack, but he switched to me," said Sanford. "He comes just about every night and gives me seeds. It's kinda neat."

Cole and his father, Sonny Huffman, also took Chance out to eat at Mac & Bob's Restaurant in Salem. It's the kind of player-fan love affair you rarely see on the big league level, and that's what makes it special.

"I'd much rather come here than go to a big league game," said Sonny, sitting on the uncomfortable cement

bleachers of Salem Municipal Field. "These players still have time to stop and talk to the kids."

Sonny recently attended his first big league game. His dad gave him tickets to take Cole to Pittsburgh to see the Pirates and Braves for Sonny's 40th birthday. They had fun, but the Salem Buccaneers will do just fine, thank you.

"You're just another spectator at the big league games," said Sonny. "We'd rather come here."

Sonny must love it, because he puts a lot of miles on the car when the Buccaneers are in town. He works the late shift at Yokohama Tire in Salem, just a couple of blocks from the ball park. However, that couple of blocks turns into two hours of driving for home games.

Huffman lives about six miles on the Salem side of New Castle in Craig County. He drives to the game early so Cole can talk to the players, then drives Cole after the game. After dropping off Cole, Sonny turns right around and drives back to Salem to work the late shift.

"it's not that big a deal," said the likeable Huffman. "Most everyone in Craig makes one trip a day, I just happen to make two. Some people think I'm a little off to doing that, but I's Make amore if it meant being about to watch these games. It's my valium. We love coming here."

Sonny grew up in Craig County when there was no Little League program there, so he's used to driving for ballgames. He played in the Salem league and it was a 30-minute drive, one way, every time he has a game or practice.

Cole is lucky to have a local program,



Cole Huffman and Salem Buccaneer Chance Sanford have become friends this year, but Cole hopes Chance will move on to bigger and better things at the next level, and eventually in the majors.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN FROM THE NCR ARCHIVES

and his little league team, Kessler Masonry, opened play last week. Cole played is first game at catcher and he has a bruise on his shoulder to prove it.

Before this year Cole was a second baseman, explaining his affection for middle infielders like Womack and Sanford. Now, however, he's starting to feel comfortable wearing the tools of ignorance; at least when he remembers to wear them.

"That's how he got the bruise," said Sonny. "He got so excited he ran out there without his chest protector and the first warmup pitch hit him right on the shoulder."

Cole would like to be a pro ball player himself one day, but right now he's happy to be a special part of the

Salem Buccaneers' family. And his biggest hope is that his favorite player, Sanford, leaves town. That would mean Chance is climbing toward the big leagues.

"I'll still be his fan when he's in the big leagues," said Cole. "I'm positive of that."

How long a drive is it between Pittsburgh and Yokohama?

\*For those wondering, Chance Sanford made his Major League Baseball (MLB) debut with the Pittsburgh Pirates on April 30, 1998, and appeared in his final MLB game on June 9, 1999 with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

-Prepared by Shelly Koon

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# Recipe of the Week



**Shelly Koon**  
Contributing  
Writer

With Father's Day approaching I can't help but think of my dad. He has been gone for over ten years, but I still think of him often.

My Father (Dad, he was never Daddy) was a type A personality. He was highly organized, he made lists, he shuffled papers, and he always had multiple ink pens. For Christmas one year I gave him several types of ink pens from the office supply store, and he loved it. I am still using his collection of pens. When Dad died, he had one picture in his wallet; my dog at the time, Hazel. No picture of my mom, my brother or me but one of my dog. Dad loved baseball. He enjoyed the local teams just as much as the big leagues. He used to go to watch the kids play at Kiwanis field. He enjoyed fast pitch softball also.

Dad retired from Kroger after 32 years. He was a controller for Kroger, an accountant. Dad was the only one in his family to graduate from College, the University of Arkansas. Dad was an only child. Dad's mother was a talented quilter. She made quilts but she also made curtains, bedspreads, and stuffed toys. Everyone says I get my crafty bit from her. Dad's father worked and retired from Rock Island railroad. He was a hard man; it was his way or the highway. He had dogs and cows on a bit of land and a garden, and this made him happy.

Dad died after a lifelong struggle with Crohn's disease. He basically wasted away over the last two years or so. He had his first major surgery when I was nine months old, so he was sick my whole life. He kept on working and made a great life for my family. His work ethic was exceptionally strong, and he always took ownership in his job and the

company he worked for. He took the shoddy work of others personally even when the company did not. He went to work sick and put in more than a full day's work. When Kroger was downsizing his department, he took early retirement to save the job of his assistant controller. I found that out from mom after he died. Typical of Dad. He could be difficult at times to live with and to please. But I think he was pleased with me. My work ethic is a lot like his. When I call in sick, I am usually so sick I can't see but I still worry and feel bad about calling in. Mainly because Dad worked when he was much sicker than I ever have been.

This week's recipe is for lemon pie, my dad's favorite dessert. Two versions; one clear and one cloudy. That's how Dad described them. Thank you, Dad, for helping make me the person I am.

### Lemon pie-cloudy

**Ingredients:**  
Crust: (or use a premade graham cracker crust)  
1 ½ cups graham cracker crumbs  
6 tablespoons butter, melted  
½ cup sugar  
Pie filling:  
2 (14 ounce) cans Eagle Brand sweetened condensed milk (about 2 ¾ cup)  
3 egg yolks  
¾ cup lemon juice  
1 dash salt

**Instructions:**  
Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.  
For the Crust: Spray a pie dish with non-stick spray. Combine crushed graham crackers, butter, and sugar. Press into prepared pie plate. Bake for 8 minutes.

For the Pie Filling: Using an electric mixer or stand mixer, mix the condensed milk, egg yolks, lemon juice and salt together. Beat on medium speed for 4-5 minutes. Pour into pie shell and bake for 10 minutes at 350. Little bubbles will start to surface. Cover the crust if it starts to brown too much towards the end.

Chill in the refrigerator for at least an hour before serving topped with whipped cream.

### Lemon pie-clear

1 9-inch pie shell prebaked (store bought or homemade)  
1 box Jell-o lemon cook and serve pie mix  
½ cup sugar  
2 ½ cups cold water  
2 slightly beaten egg yolks  
Mix ingredients together and cook over medium high heat stirring until mixture starts to boil.  
Pour into cooled, baked 9 "pie shell. Top with meringue and bake at 425°F 5 mins or until meringue browns.

To make meringue: Beat 3 egg whites until foamy, gradually add and beat in ¼ cup sugar until stiff peaks form.



COURTESY PHOTO

## Upcoming public meetings scheduled in Craig County

**June 17**  
Town of New Castle Town Council Meeting at New Castle Town Hall at 7- 8 p.m.

**June 18**  
Congressman Morgan Griffith citizen comment period 9-10:30 a.m at Craig County Courthouse Breakroom.

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

**June 19**  
CPMT MEETING CPMT - Department of Social Services at 1 p.m.

**June 27**  
Department of Social Services Board Meeting at Department of Social Services Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

**July 15**  
Town of New Castle Town Council Meeting at New Castle Town Hall at 7- 8 p.m

**July 16**  
Congressman Morgan Griffith citizen comment period 9-10:30 a.m at Craig County Courthouse Breakroom.

Planning Commission meeting at

Planning Commission at 7-8 p.m.

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

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

**Aug. 1**  
Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting will meet at the Craig County Courthouse at 6 p.m.

**Aug. 12**  
Library Board of Trustees Meeting at Craig County Library

**Aug.19**  
Town of New Castle Town Council Meeting at New Castle Town Hall at 7- 8 p.m

### Cooking Event at Waiteville Community Center on July 13

Waiteville Community Center (WCC) is sponsoring "Cooking Light & Cool for a Hot Summer Night" on Saturday, July 13 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Don Shaw, who worked as a caterer and chef in the Northern Virginia area for 37 years, is leading the event again this year. He is happy to share his knowledge and love of cooking. He will demonstrate preparing Curried Carrot Soup, Ricotta Stuffed Chicken Breast with Sweet & Sour Peach Sauce, Asparagus with Orange Zest

& Balsamic Glaze, Orange Pesto Vinaigrette Quinoa Salad, and Lemon Curd Whipped Cream with Fresh Berries.

Recipes will be provided. After the demonstration, participants will enjoy eating these wonderful dishes. The cost of the demonstration and meal is \$25 per person and limited to 40 participants. Make your reservation and payment by contacting Shelby Jennings at 304-772-5503 or shelbyjennings1958@hotmail.com by July 1. Make checks to

Waiteville Community Center and mail to 7644 Waiteville Rd, Waiteville, WV 24984.

### Ongoing

Craig County Genealogy Library open Fridays 1-4. p.m. 152 Main Street. 540-864-7023

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.

-The New Castle Record

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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

		1	2	3		4	5	6				
		7				8	9	10		11		
12	13											
14							15			16	17	
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49				50		51					52	
53		54	55					56	57	58	59	60
		61						62				
		63										
		64							65			

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Formed by burning tobacco

4. Luxury automaker

7. Religious residences

12. Crusaders

14. Puzzled

15. In a curt way

18. Selling tool

19. Solid material

20. Gold

21. Thick piece of something

24. Pouch

27. "Wonder Years" actor Fred

30. Strong and healthy

31. Waste matter

33. Apply lightly

34. Type of squad

35. Secret political faction

37. Mock

39. Immoral act

41. Early Syrian kingdom

42. Neutralizes alkalis

44. Loud, confused noise

47. Sweet potato

48. Yemen's largest city

49. Farm state

50. Bird's beak

52. Measures distance

53. Pacify

56. Spanish noble

61. Lodging supplied for public convenience

63. Womanized

64. Not divisible by two

65. Monetary unit

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Used in perfumery

2. Arabic man's name

3. Assess

4. Prickly plants

5. Falsely assess

6. "\_\_\_ the whistle"

7. Mama

8. Rocker \_\_\_ Vicious

9. Toward

10. Prefix meaning within

11. Midway between south and southeast

12. Cause to be embarrassed

13. Pandemonium

16. Fall behind

17. Cantonese

22. Shad

23. A way to make dark

24. Specialized systems consultant

25. Wings

26. Taxi driver

28. Linear units

29. Large Philippine plant

32. Celebration

36. Fugitives are on this

38. Chinese tree

40. Not sour

43. "Bourne" actor Matt

44. Former OSS

45. Runners run this

46. Offered again

51. Sanctuary

54. Food suitable for babies

55. Caused by a reflection of sound

56. Mortar trough

57. Days in mid-month

58. Exhibit the courage to do

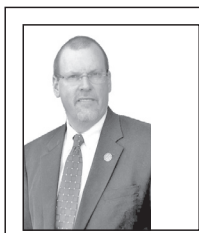
59. Disk of the sun in Egyptian mythology

60. Protects from weather

62. Manganese

# OPINION

## News from the 9th: Fauci and the case for lab leak



**Morgan Griffith**  
Representative

funds for its projects and has proposed debarment of the company.

I believe my exposure of Daszak's lies may have been the straw that broke the camel's back on EcoHealth.

However, government agencies, particularly NIAID, who were allocating taxpayer-funded research grants to EcoHealth, were not adequately monitoring their activities.

According to Politico, Fauci's recent testimony was his first public appearance on Capitol Hill since retiring at the end of 2022.

As I have discussed, the makeup of the virus is unique. SARS-COVID-2 contained a furin cleavage site with a twelve-nucleotide insertion, highly unusual features for a virus that purportedly comes from nature.

The furin cleavage site is what made the virus so contagious.

A furin cleavage site had never existed before in any known coronavirus, as noted by the online publishing platform Medium in an article.

The article also highlights that Wuhan was already testing MERS CoV, a related coronavirus, as early as 2018.

Another issue with the NIAID grant concerned humanized mice.

EcoHealth's experiments in Wuhan involved infecting humanized mice with chimeric viruses. According to an MIT Technology Review report, Dr. Ralph Baric's lab at the University of North Carolina shared his highly modified humanized mice

with Wuhan. NIAID and National Institutes of Health (NIH) approved Baric's lab to do this.

Prior to this, the Chinese did not have access to these high-tech mice.

Giving the Wuhan lab humanized mice allowed them the capability to reproduce their own mice and test viruses.

Laboratory mice can reproduce fast. Additionally the Chinese have not turned over lab notebooks from the tests of coronaviruses on these humanized mice.

The lab notebooks were contractually required to be provided to NIAID!

And remember EcoHealth's required September 2019 report was nearly two years late and was altered after the pandemic struck!

The Chinese were already researching Mers CoV and experimenting with adding a furin cleavage site in that virus.

Let's examine the battle over competing theories between animal transmission and the lab leak.

For natural transmission: you must assume some unknown animal in some unknown location got a coronavirus from a bat, that virus then mutated to have a furin cleavage site with a twelve-nucleotide sequence within a few months or years, then that still unknown animal was sold at a wet market.

For lab leak: we gave sophisticated humanized mice to Wuhan to do coronavirus research for NIAID.

Wuhan was working on putting a furin cleavage site into MERS CoV. And then a coronavirus with a furin cleavage site shows up in Wuhan.

Did Wuhan do non-NIAID coronavirus research? Fauci said it was possible.

I think it's likely. Occam's razor states that the theory with the fewest assumptions is usually correct.

According to that principle, a lab leak makes the most sense.

I am not saying EcoHealth, NIH or Fauci did this intentionally.

But remember that Wuhan never gave EcoHealth the lab notebooks NIAID was entitled to!

Fauci is unable to rule out the theory that COVID-19 originated from a lab leak. He could not account for other research that might be going on in China, and recognized that a lab leak was possible.

The sad truth is we gave the Chinese the tools and ability to experiment with dangerous viruses.

We did this with a Chinese lab that my investigation indicates didn't meet U.S. safety standards.

With the tools we gave them, I believe the Chinese created one of the deadliest pathogens of the modern world.

EcoHealth is being held accountable for its negligence.

Congress should hold federal agencies that were involved accountable too.

## 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 periodic lane closures that require a 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 –** Work is underway on the I-81 rehabbing of the northbound and southbound bridges over Route 100 at Exit 98. Lane and shoulder closures may be in place on Route 100 north and on I-81 northbound and southbound, 8 p.m. to 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.

**I-81 NB & SB DECK OVERLAY AT PEAK CREEK MILE MARKER 95.7 –** Repair work has begun on

the northbound and southbound bridges on I-81 over Peak Creek near mile marker 95.7. This repair work will require nighttime single lane closures for the duration of the project. Lane closures may occur nightly from Sunday night through Friday mornings between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. For the deck overlay process, lane closures may be in place between Sunday nights through Friday mornings. For the southbound lanes these will occur between the hours of 7pm and 10am, and for the northbound lanes between the hours of 6pm through 9am. Details on these closures will be listed below on a weekly basis. Estimated completion is scheduled for end of 2024.

**I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY –** Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the

See VDOT page 5

**THE NEW CASTLE RECORD**

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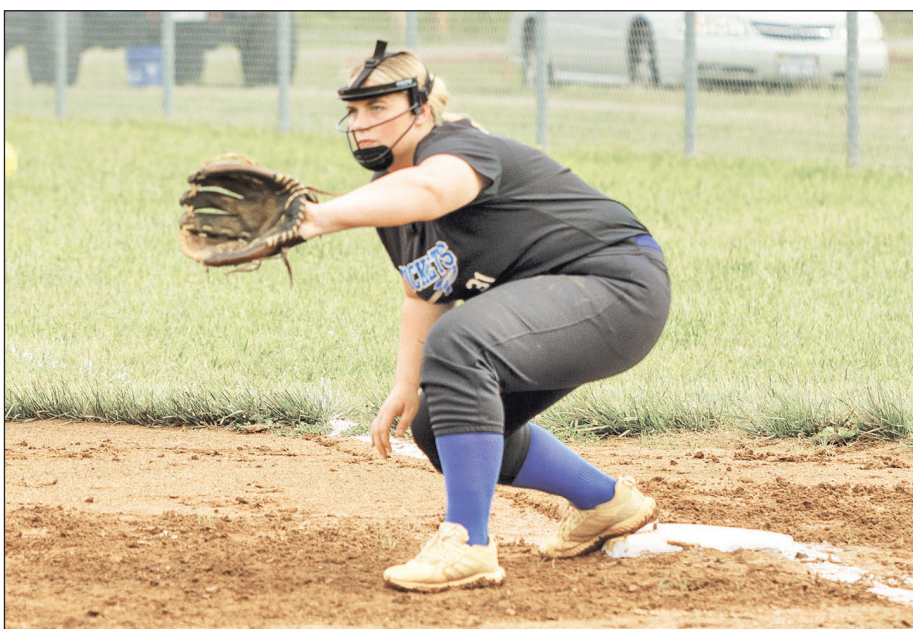
## Four Rockets named to all-region softball team



JIM AND REGINA DEVINNEY PHOTOS

Four Craig County High School softball players were named to the All-Region 1C softball team when the team was announced last week. Second team all-region selections included, left to right, sophomore infielder Jenna Boitnotte, junior outfielder Hayleigh Flowers, senior catcher Lily Hutchison and sophomore pitcher Kammie Fisher. Also, in last week's article about the All-Pioneer District team Kallie Fisher was omitted from the list submitted by the district. Kallie, a sophomore secondbaseman, was an honorable mention selection on the team.

## Potter, Lucas are Craig County B'nai B'rith nominees



Craig County graduated seniors Karly Potter and Matthew Lucas were chosen to be the nominees for the annual B'nai B'rith Athletic Achievement Awards. The B'nai B'rith Awards were initiated in 1951 by the local Israel Friedlander Lodge and recognize senior athletes from 19 area high schools. Each school nominates one young woman and one young man and two winners are named at the annual banquet. Students are judged on the following criteria; 50 percent on athletic achievement, 30 percent on scholarship and 20 percent on personal life. Karly played softball for Craig County High and Matthew was a basketball and baseball standout. Both are good students and involved in community service. The two winners among the 38 nominees were to be announced at the B'nai B'rith banquet at the Hotel Roanoke on Monday of this week.



RECORD FILE PHOTOS

### Roanoke College announces fall club football schedule

The first Roanoke College football practice in over 80 years is a little over two months away and last week the Maroons announced their 2024 schedule. It's a "club" schedule of five games with three scheduled for Salem Stadium.

All five games are tentatively scheduled for 2 pm on Sunday afternoon, beginning with a home game against the Hampden-Sydney jayvee team on September 8th. Two road games follow, with a trip to Shenandoah University to play the Hornets' jayvee team on September 22nd in Winchester followed by a game at Bridgewater College against the Eagles on October 6th. The schedule concludes with two more home games as Fork Union visits on Sunday, October 20th, and the season concludes with the George Mason Club Team on November 3rd.

"If you look at our schedule we play a week and are open a week," said head coach Bryan Stinespring. "That was by design so we can go back and learn and grow from each game. Having both home and road contests is important from a logistics standpoint and the most important aspect of this fall schedule is our development."

Stinespring has a staff of eight assistants along with strength coach Scott Bennett and trainer Keith Doolin. The team has brand new

equipment and uniforms and will be stationed in the C. Homer Bast Center, which is currently being renovated to accommodate the team.

"If the Bast Center was ready we could practice tomorrow," said Stinespring. "Everything seems to be going well and on pace, but you can't really tell until you actually see it when it's finished."

Stinespring has 60 players committed to the team with a couple more who have been offered a spot. Most of the players come from the greater Roanoke Valley area, the Richmond area and Northern Virginia.

"I'd say 80 percent of the players are from our own backyard," he said. "We had four transfers come in for second semester and we're pretty much done recruiting for this year. We've already turned our attention to next year's class."

Roanoke will play a full Old Dominion Athletic Conference schedule in the fall of 2025, hitting the ground running after this year's club schedule. The first practice is scheduled for August 16 on Alumni Field, which is the field inside the C. Homer Bast track.

"If the players were here we could start practice tomorrow," said Stinespring. "We're waiting for a blocking sled, but other than that we have everything we need."

### Roanoke College announces fall soccer schedule

The Roanoke College men's soccer program has released the 2024 schedule with 18 games on the calendar, including nine home games at Donald J. Kerr Stadium.

The regular season opens Friday, August 30, at home against Catholic University at 7:30 p.m. The Maroons will compete in the Oglethorpe Tournament in Atlanta on September 6 and 8 and open Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) play at defending conference champion the University of Lynchburg September 25. Senior Day is set for September

28 against Randolph-Macon College and the regular season wraps up October 30 at home in an ODAC contest against Bridgewater College. The ODAC Tournament begins Saturday, November 2 with the semifinals November 6 and finals November 9.

"With our 2024 schedule we've once more challenged ourselves with a tough non-conference slate in order to prepare for an always competitive ODAC schedule, as well as aim to again push our SOS (strength of schedule) numbers into NCAA selection range," said RC head coach Ryan Pflugrad.

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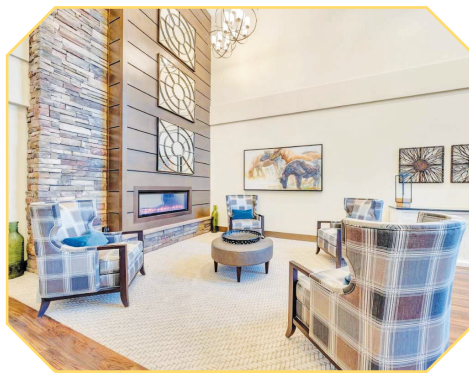
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