

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



**ANGIE GUTHRIE-PONTON,**  
OWNER/AGENT

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

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



# THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



**GOPHER MARKET**

**IGA EXPRESS**

## Craig County farmers receive drought warning advisory from VDEQ

**Bonnie Cranmer**  
Contributing writer

The hot summer everyone has been experiencing has had an impact on local farmers. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) issued a drought warning advisory in July for much of the commonwealth, including Craig County, in the Upper James region. Drought indicators include precipitation, groundwater levels, streamflow, and reservoir levels.

Production of hay and other crops has been affected. While much of the farmland in Craig County is for cattle grazing, animals have also been affected by the drought. The July 19th warning "indicates a significant drought is imminent and is in effect for..." the area. The impacts of the drought extend beyond hay yields. Crop production across the board has suffered, as

evidenced by diminished harvests at local farmers markets. The early termination of several crop seasons is a stark reminder of the extreme weather's devastating effects.

"The first cutting of the hay crop has been off up to 25% with pastures in poor condition," said Jim Joyce, who farms in the southeast section of the county. "Water sources have dried up in some instances and should be checked daily. There is some hope for second cutting hay with recent rains however some hayfields have been sacrificed for immediate pasture," Joyce stated.

The rain in the central and western part of the state has been sparse leading to exceptional dryness within large portions of the Shenandoah, Upper James, New River, Roanoke, and Big Sandy drought evaluation regions. Stream flows are currently below the 25th percentile of normal values for

seven of the 13 drought evaluation regions with three of these regions currently below the 5th percentile (Big Sandy, Roanoke River, and Shenandoah). Groundwater levels for monitoring wells in the Climate Response Network have shown continued declines within the central and western portion of the Commonwealth with nine regions currently below the 25th percentile. Of these, groundwater levels within six drought monitoring regions are currently below the 5th percentile including the Big Sandy, New River, Upper James, Shenandoah, Northern Virginia and York-James.

These alarming statistics underscore the urgency of water conservation measures. The DEQ is urging all Virginians to minimize water usage, diligently

See Drought page 2



PHOTO BY BONNIE CRAMER

Canadian and western wildfires brought hazy smoke to the Appalachians this past weekend.

## Craig County Health Center celebrates National Health Center Week

Craig County Health Center has announced it will be celebrating National Health Center Week (NHCW) 2024, taking place Aug. 4-10. The annual event highlights the essential role Community Health Centers play in improving public health and advancing health equity. Health centers represent the nation's largest primary care network, serving 31.5 million patients nationwide.

This year's NHCW celebration, launched by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), focuses on "Powering Communities

Through "Connections" through a host of scheduled events that include resource fairs, back-to-school drives, health screenings, and visits to health centers by local, state, and national leaders.

With a mission to make high-quality, affordable care available to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay or insurance status, health centers save lives on the front lines of our nation's most pressing public health challenges. They are powered by a workforce of nearly 300,000 dedicated professionals who reach beyond the walls of the exam

room to not only prevent illness but also address the social drivers that may cause it -- climate change, homelessness, substance use disorders, food insecurity and behavioral health.

Nearly 1,500 health centers are the health care home to:

- One in five uninsured people
- One in three people living in poverty
- One in seven rural residents
- Nearly nine million children
- 400,000 veterans

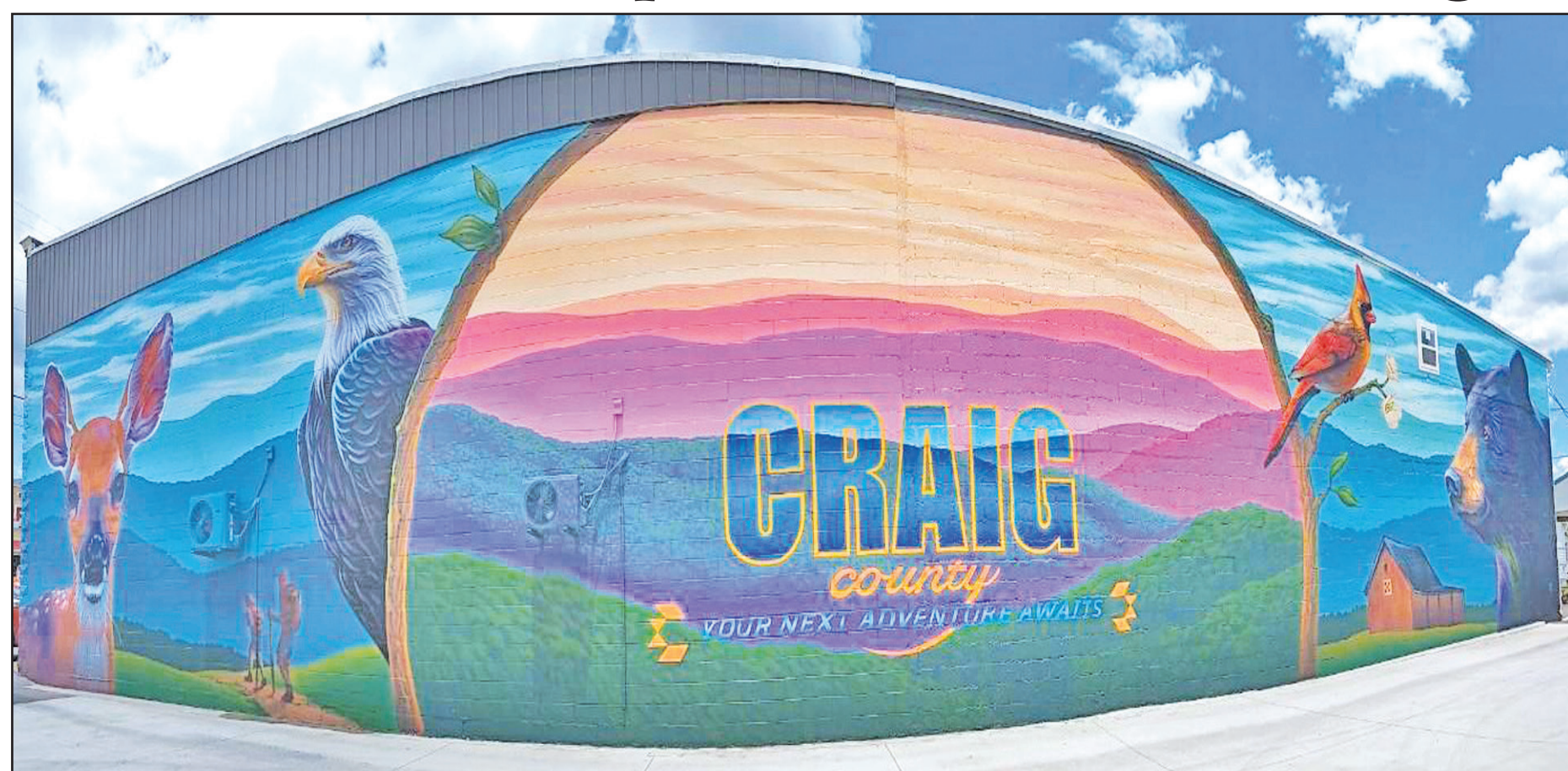
Craig County Health Center is a satellite office of

Monroe Health Center based in Union, West Virginia. Monroe Health Center has served the community for over 50 years, employs nearly 100 employees, and serves over 9,000 patients. Monroe Health Center has locations in Union, Peterstown and Forest Hill, West Virginia, and Craig County Health Center in New Castle; the Craig County Dental Center in New Castle; and school wellness centers in Craig County schools and all Monroe County schools. Craig County Health Center provides a full range of medical services including routine check-ups, well

child visits, immunizations, hearing/vision screening, acute care for injury or illness, behavioral health, counseling, school sports physicals, specialist referrals and follow-up, as well as appointments via tele-health. The Craig County Dental Center offers preventative and restorative dental care to improve oral health, speech, chewing ability, and cosmetic appearance to enhance nutrition, confidence and quality of life. For more information about Craig County Health Center or to schedule an appointment, call 540-864-6390.

-The New Castle Record

## Celebration for completion of mural to be Aug. 3



Mural in downtown New Castle

COURTESY PHOTO

The Craig County Tourism Commission has announced that it is extending an open invitation to the citizens of Craig County to celebrate the completion of the county mural, the first art installation in Craig County. The celebration will be Saturday, Aug. 3 beginning at 10 a.m. at the Farmers Market. Farmers Market vendors will be open for shopping from 9 a.m. to noon, offering an assortment of eggs, meat, produce and handcrafts.

All painter volunteers, including students from Craig County Middle and High School as well as Barn Quilt painter Martha Dillard, have been offered a special invitation to be part of a giant interactive photo shoot in front of the mural at 10 a.m. They came at designated times in May to work on the background and outline painting.

Also at the celebration, the commission will announce the selected names of the mural "critters" from entries submitted on July 4.

Free stickers, tattoos, magnets and tumblers featuring individual aspects of the mural will also be available.

For some time, the blank cinderblock wall in New Castle drew much discussion on social media and among residents. The Farmers Market was an improvement to the once vacant lot on the corner of Middle and Main Streets, but questions about the wall remained. Meanwhile, the commission received a \$30,000 allotment of ARPA funds appropriated by Virginia Tourism Corporation. This program designated funds to every county in the state to be used specifically to promote and encourage tourism. The program ended June 30, meaning that anything not spent by that date would be lost.

The county administrative secretary, Amy Bryson, filed the required paperwork to approve the Mural Project. Bids were solicited and local muralist and artist, Jon Murrill was awarded the contract. The mural chairperson, Tina Crawford,

said "Jon was a great choice. His art can be found throughout the Roanoke Valley as a testament to his imagination and ability." Murrill has a connection with Craig County, as he was the art teacher at Craig County High School for four years.

With input from commission members, Murrill's design captured the natural beauty of Craig County while highlighting the barn quilts and outdoor recreation. In April, primer and repair work was done by local contractor Robert Welch, a lift was rented and the race was on. Murrill supervised almost 30 volunteers and then added final touches himself, while the community watched in amazement as work progressed through the early summer. Several past issues of The New Castle Record carried pictures of the progress. All work was completed, and expenses paid by the deadline.

The Craig County Tourism Commission said that it wishes to thank Neal Cummings, building

owner, who graciously allowed the painting of the mural. Early in the process, he stated, "The addition of a mural along with the new farmers market highlights the commitment local leadership has in promoting the rich history and culture of the area. This will add to the welcoming spirit which New Castle and Craig County are known for."

"The mural has brightened downtown New Castle, providing a vibrant backdrop for Main Street businesses and making a great place for selfies which can be treasured and shared," the commission said. Already, a BMW car club has requested permission to pose at the mural. The center design features the new tagline now being used to promote travel to Craig County: "Your Next Adventure Awaits."

-Submitted by Craig County Tourism Commission

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

## Christmas in July

From the July 13, 1994 edition of *The New Castle Record*

Don't buy me anything for my birthday. For my anniversary, a friendly wave will do. Send me a Christmas card, but don't worry about the gift.

I'm hoping Christmas comes early when the folks in Salem Vote on the proposed new baseball stadium next week. The polls will be open Tuesday, July 19, to see if the public is in favor of building the new stadium. Only Salem residents get a vote, although the stadium will be a huge benefit to the entire valley.

I'm in love with the architect's sketch of the ballpark. It appears to be all but perfect for the need, and then some. The drawings are on display at several Salem locations, including Salem Municipal field, City Hall, and the Salem Civic Center.

The park, if it is indeed built, will be on a stretch of land between the Salem Civic Center youth fields and the football stadium. I've been going over there for months and walking around, envisioning a ballpark in my mind. One day I took a batter's stance, in the snow, at the spot I had pegged as home plate. Still, I tried not to get my hopes up.

Now, less than a week away from the vote, I have my hopes up. I'll be real disappointed if the stadium referendum doesn't pass,

and that artist's rendering has a lot to do with it.

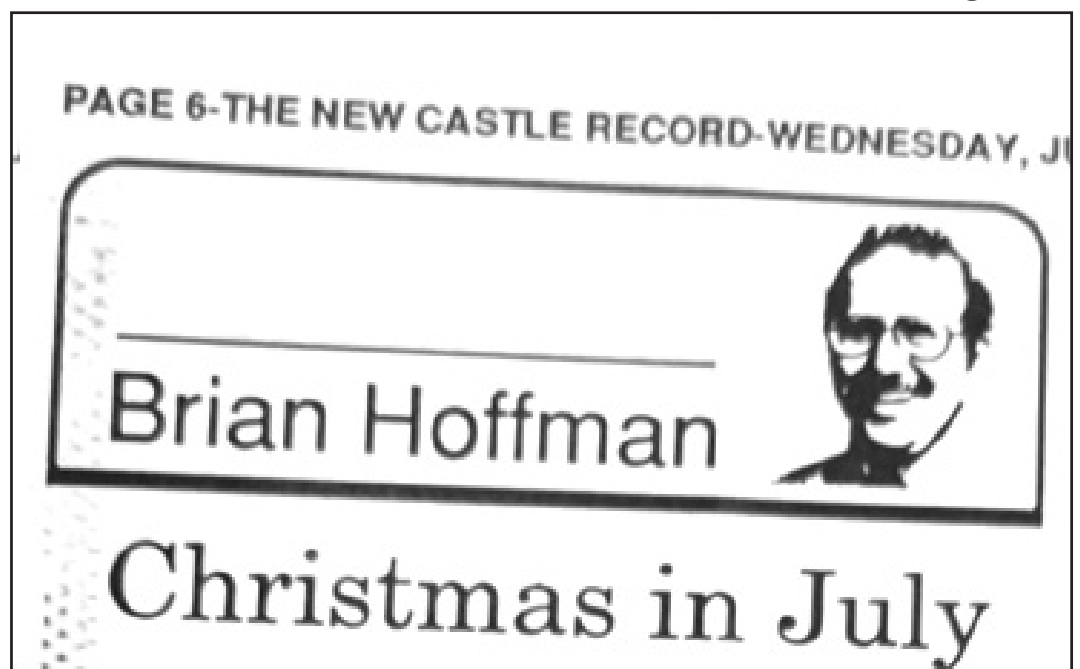
In my wildest dreams I didn't imagine our ballpark could look that good. The press box, where I'll spend close to 70 nights every summer, looks out on the Roanoke Valley with a view that cries out for a paint brush.

I went to the Salem Fair and rode the ferris wheel to check out the view. I climbed to the top of the football stadium to get an idea. It's a perfect place for a ballpark in every way; parking, beauty, accessibility, you name it.

All I want for Christmas is to be able to go to that ballpark next summer. I've been campaigning, shaking hands and kissing babies and wearing a shirt with the artist's drawing. I'm not big on politics, but this is a cause I believe in; baseball.

You see, I love baseball. One of the things that excited me about Salem, Va. when I first came here to go to college was the fact that the town had a minor league baseball team. I had never seen a minor league game before I first came upon Salem Municipal field in 1971, but I've seen many since; well over a thousand, thank you.

Personally, I was always happy with Salem Municipal Field. It isn't new and it has a lot of poles to look around, but it has a homey feel to it. The kids have an nice area to play behind the press box and



FROM THE NRC ARCHIVES

the media gets free food. What else is there?

Well, according to the Professional Baseball Agreement, that just isn't good enough anymore. And, for the third time since I've been here, there is a real threat professional baseball will leave the valley. This time Kelvin Bowles can't ride in from Franklin County on a white horse and buy the team. He was ready to sell it.

Without this stadium, Salem and the surrounding area can kiss professional baseball goodbye. But I don't think that's going to happen. The people have too much sense.

Salem mayor Jim Taliaferro, a great civic leader in his own time, wants this stadium to happen. He's not even

a baseball fan, but he knows what's good for the economy.

Jim once told me if you can't tee it up, he isn't interested. In other words, his favorite sports are football and golf and that's about it. I can count the number of times I've seen him at a Salem baseball game on my fingers and most of the time he was there to throw out the first ball.

Still, Taliaferro understands the importance of keeping the team here. An independent company did an economic impact study that backed that up.

I'd like to think the people of Salem, baseball fans or not, would realize this and overwhelmingly approve the ballpark. Being a baseball fan isn't a criteria.

There are plenty of things I'm not interested in, but I realize they're important to the overall quality of life.

If the park is approved, I'd like to suggest a name. On the site you have Salem Stadium for football and the Salem Civic Center for indoor events. How about, for the baseball facility, "Salem Park?"

It doesn't say much, but it says it all. It will be a "park," with green grass and warm evening sun and folks relaxing at the ballgame. It will be a place people will love.

It will be, if the folks in Salem say they want it with their votes next Tuesday. And if that happens, it will truly be Christmas in July for this baseball fan.

-Prepared by Shelly Koon

## Drought from page 1



PHOTO BY BONNIE CRANMER

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) issued a drought warning advisory in July for much of the commonwealth, including Craig County, in the Upper James region.

monitor drought conditions, and promptly address any leaks. As the situation worsens, alternative water sources and storage solutions may become necessary for many residents

and businesses with compromised infrastructure such as wells.

The agricultural community in Craig County, like many others across the state, is grappling with the

consequences of this unprecedented drought. With late summer market calves expected to be lighter than usual, the economic implications for farmers are profound. As the region

continues to endure dry conditions, the need for support and innovative solutions to mitigate the impact on both farmers and the environment becomes increasingly critical.

## Upcoming public meetings scheduled in Craig County

**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. 13**  
Economic Development Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m., at the Craig County Administration Building.

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

**Aug. 20**  
Planning Commission

Meeting will be held at 6 p.m. at the Craig County Administration Building.

**Sept. 5**  
Tourism Commission Meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Craig County Administration Building.

**Sept. 10**  
Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting will meet at the Craig County Courthouse at 6 p.m.

**Sept. 17**  
Economic Development Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m., at the Craig County Administration Building.

**Sept. 17**  
Tourism Commission Meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Craig County

Administration Building.

**Oct. 3**  
Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting will meet at the Craig County Courthouse at 6 p.m.

**Oct. 8**  
Economic Development Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m., at the Craig County Administration Building.

**Oct. 15**  
Tourism Commission Meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Craig County Administration Building.

**Community Event**  
Bingo Night will be held August 3 at the High School cafeteria, 25239

Craigs Creek Rd., New Castle, Va. 24127. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. Early bird games start at 6:15 p.m. There will be 10 free door prizes, pull tabs, and cash prizes. All proceeds benefit the CCRCA and the Upper Craig Creek Fire Department. Questions? Contact Sheri Sloss at 540-580-4193.

**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

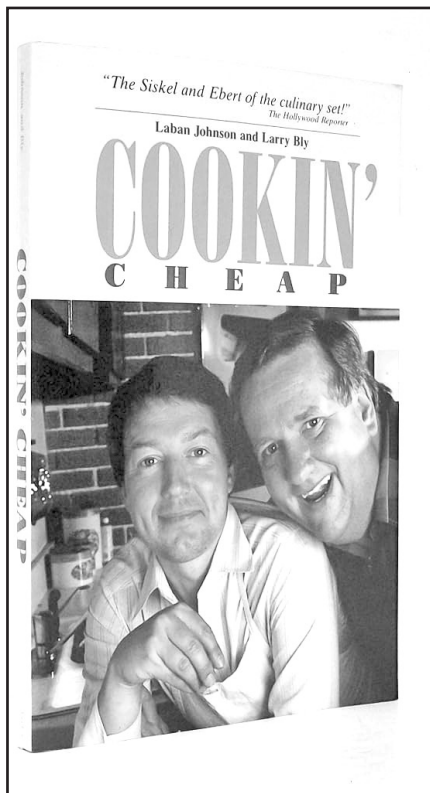
# Recipe of the Week



**Shelly Koon**  
Contributing  
Writer

The other day as I watched a baking show on “Food Network,” I remembered all the cooking shows I watched growing up. PBS is where we watched all sorts of chefs, not just Julia Child, great as she was. Jeff Smith on “The Frugal Gourmet,” Martin Yan on “Yan Can Cook,” Justin Wilson on “Louisiana Cookin’” and Graham Kerr on “The Galloping Gourmet” were shows I watched with great interest. They were all slightly different and even exotic to me. Smith brought fine dining to regular households, Yan brought a sense of fun and was cooking exotic food (at least to me), Wilson asserted the strong personality of a celebrity chef and yet was completely himself “I garontee”, and Kerr was famous for leaping over chairs onstage with glasses of wine to start his show. Since this was all before cable TV networks these cooking shows were often produced locally and then syndicated to public television stations around the U.S.

When I moved to Salem in 1983, I was thrilled to learn that one of my favorite cooking shows was produced in Roanoke at Blue Ridge Public Television. “Cookin’ Cheap” starred Laban Johnson and Larry Bly who made dishes from ingredients found in local supermarkets and did not hesitate to show the prep work involved. Doris Ford and Doug Patterson were also on the show.



Many of the recipes were sent in by viewers. Laban and Larry often did not know what the recipe tasted like until they cooked it. We all found out together if it was any good. Now, there is a “Cookin’ Cheap” fan page on Facebook and Larry Bly comments often. Mostly to dispel rumors that he is dead. Full of comedy and tasty food with the occasional location shoot, “Cookin’ Cheap” was (and is) a fun show to watch. Luckily, some of the show episodes have been digitized and can be seen on PBS online and on You Tube. There is a “Cookin’ Cheap” cookbook out there, but I have not found one yet. Online they are going for up to \$80. I’ll keep checking thrift stores around



COURTESY PHOTOS

town. This week’s recipe is from an episode of “Cookin’ Cheap.” Doris cooked this dish and both Larry and Laban liked it (episode 1811 Slosh and Squash). My mom noted this on her recipe card, and I found the show on YouTube. As with most of the shows, the title doesn’t suggest what they are cooking.

**Broccoli casserole**

- 2 10oz boxes frozen chopped broccoli or 1 20oz bag chopped broccoli
- 1 stick margarine or butter, divided
- ¼ lb Velveeta cheese

1 stack ritz crackers  
Cook broccoli according to package directions. Drain off any liquid.

Melt together ½ stick margarine and Velveeta cheese. Stir until melted.

Crush Ritz crackers until fine and mix with ½ stick melted margarine.

Place broccoli in 9x13 pan. Spread cheese mixture over top. Top with Ritz crackers. Brown in 350° oven for about 30 minutes. Mom added more cheese and more crackers to hers. She would often take this to church potlucks, and an empty dish came home.

It is that time of year again when everyone I know who has a garden are offering me zucchini. This time of the year there is no avoiding this long green summer squash. I often wonder why people don’t have an abundance of beans, cauliflower or carrots to give away. If it isn’t the squash, it’s the product of the squash; bread, muffins, cakes, pancakes, pickles, or cookies. With our recent hot weather most gardeners are having difficulties. Squashes like zucchini and yellow squash do really well in extreme heat. As long as they get about 2-3 inches of water a week. They may wilt during the day but they will still grow the fruit. And yes, zucchini is technically a fruit. It comes from seeds and grows on the flowering part of the zucchini plant. Zucchini comes from squashes first domesticated in Mesoamerica over 7,000 years ago, but the zucchini itself was developed in Italy in the later half of the 1800s and reintroduced to the Untied States by Italian immigrants in the 1920s. Many countries including Thailand, Vietnam, Bulgaria, Egypt, France, Greece, Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, Britain, and Italy have their favorite recipes for zucchini. Courgette is the French name, Zucchini the Italian. Zucchini is the plural so if you only have one it’s zucchini. Zucchini is rich in vitamin B6 which helps to regulate blood glucose. And yes, zucchini is safe for dogs to eat. Adding raw sliced or diced zucchini to salads is a nice addition. Adding shredded zucchini to your spaghetti adds some green to your meal and you won’t even know it’s there.

To pick zucchini look for smooth, blemish free skin with a dark green color. If you see mold, black spots, browning, yellowing, shriveling, or wrinkling on the skin of the zucchini it has likely gone bad. To store zucchini in the fridge, keep the squash whole, dry and unwashed. Store them

in a plastic or paper bag with one end open to encourage air flow and put them in the refrigerator crisper drawer. They will keep there for 1 to 2 weeks before the skin starts to shrivel.

To freeze zucchini chose small to medium ones and shred them with a cheese grater. Fill a freezer safe bag with 2 cups of shredded zucchini. Push out as much air as possible before sealing the bag. Date and use within the next 12 months. When ready to use, thaw and drain the zucchini before adding to your recipe.

This week’s recipe is a simple one that’s easy, quick and healthy.

**Sautéed zucchini**

- 1 ¼ pounds of chopped zucchini (2 medium)
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1 scallion/green onion thinly sliced (optional)
- ¼ cup grated parmesan cheese (optional)
- Salt and pepper to taste

Cut up the zucchini into rounds, half-moons, or chop into bite sized pieces. Melt the butter in a wide skillet over medium high heat. Add the zucchini and garlic and cook, stirring occasionally, until the zucchini is browned in places and tender, 3 to 5 minutes. Turn off the heat, stir in the onions, and cheese. Taste and season with salt and pepper (adding the salt at the end of cooking keeps the zucchini from turning mushy and soggy). Serve immediately.

There are several variations to this simple recipe. Add another type of cheese, I like feta cheese but goat cheese or sharp cheddar works too. Try another spice blend like Cajun, Italian, or curry spices. Stir in chopped tomatoes and cook until the zucchini is crisp tender and the tomatoes are slightly squishy and release some juices.



COURTESY PHOTO

**CROSSWORD**

		1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	
										10		
		12								13		
		14								15		
16									17			
18			19						20			
21				22	23	24	25		26			
		27						28		29	30	31
				32				33				34
				35						36		
			37									38
	39								40	41	42	
43						44	45	46				
47							48					
49						50						

- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Disco light
  7. London radio station
  10. Aerospace Co. Morton
  11. Capital of Puglia, Italy
  12. A phantom or apparition
  13. Packed wine
  14. The ocean below 6000 meters
  15. 1st dynasty: AKA Xia
  16. Every
  17. Six (Spanish)
  18. His ark
  20. Segment or a circle
  21. Pres. Johnson or Obama
  26. 12th Greek letter
  27. The First Lady
  32. A blood group
  33. Takes to task
  35. Prints money (abbr.)
  36. Airbus manufacturer
  37. A instance of selling
  38. 12th month (abbr.)
  39. Baseball’s Ruth
  40. 1959 Nobel biochemist Severo
  43. Weights deducted to obtain net
  44. To lie scattered over
  47. 6th Jewish month
  48. Physical maltreators
  49. Founder Franklin
  50. Published
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Fish of the genus Alosa
  2. Rock singer Turner
  3. Muslim weight from 1 to 5 pounds
  4. Turkish unit of weight
  5. Bovine genus
  6. Popular shade tree
  7. The principal foundation of
  8. La \_\_\_ Tar Pits
  9. Spanish hero soldier
  10. Brains egg-shaped grey matter
  11. Fundamental
  12. Bast
  13. Small angels
  16. Not or
  17. S Pacific island group
  19. Ad \_\_\_: impromptu
  22. Gen. \_\_\_ DeGaulle
  23. Hasidic spiritual leader
  24. Aluminum
  25. Considerate and solicitous care
  28. Popular Canadian phrase
  29. Consumed food
  30. Hayfields
  31. About Andes
  34. Secondary School Certificate
  35. Pen maker Castell
  37. Brand of clear wrap
  39. Past tense of bid
  40. Resort city on Lake Biwa
  41. Big Bear was chief
  42. A group of cattle
  43. The bill in a restaurant
  44. People of the Dali region of Yunnan
  45. One point S of due E
  46. Pig genus

## FREE FLY SWATTER

(WITH YOUR SUBSCRIPTION)

The New Castle Record is not simply a newspaper. It can be a useful device to help get household pests under control. Sure we keep you informed of news in your area, but we do more! Your copy of The New Castle Record is one heck of a way to swat a fly or nail a mosquito ... simply roll it up and give it a try (after you have finished reading, of course). And best of all, we'll send you a new fly swatter every week for a year with your subscription!

### THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

**DIGITAL ONLY**

One Year Digital Subscription (recurring) **\$29.00**

**DIGITAL & PRINT**

Yearly Print & Digital Subscription **\$67.00**

**PRINT ONLY**

Yearly Print Only Subscription **\$46.00 In County**  
**\$50.00 Out of County**  
**\$54.00 Out of State**

### SUBSCRIPTION TO NEW CASTLE RECORD

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ or call (304) 647-5724 to pay by credit card

Mail to: Circulation Department, NEW CASTLE RECORD,  
P.O. BOX 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901 or call us at (304) 647-5724.

# OPINION

## News from the 9th: To czar or not to czar?



**Morgan Griffith**  
Representative

The House of Representatives voted recently on a resolution condemning the failures of the Biden-Harris Administration to secure the United States southern border.

President Biden appointed Kamala Harris to oversee migration on our southern border. She was given much authority and was colloquially referred to as being the “border czar” (see CNN coverage at the time).

As everyone knows, border crossings dramatically increased during the Biden-Harris era. The encounters at our southern border hit a record-high in December of 2023, with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) tallying over 300,000 encounters.

Pew Research Center found that U.S. Border Patrol reported roughly 16,000 encounters at the U.S.-Mexico border in April of 2020.

“Encounters” is a word

whose definition combines the total of apprehensions and expulsions.

Under the Trump Administration, the U.S. imposed a series of policies to stem the tide of encounters at our southern border.

Among those was the Migrant Protection Protocols, known as the “Remain in Mexico” policy, requiring migrants to wait in Mexico while their asylum cases were processed.

Another was Title 42, restrictions allowing federal authorities to stop migrant crossings if it was in the best interests of public health to prevent the spread of contagious diseases.

As a result, many migrants did not enter. The Trump policies helped!

Despite the success of these border policies, the Biden-Harris Administration either did not use these policies or allowed them to expire.

On Biden’s first day in office, he froze border wall funding.

I visited the border shortly thereafter and saw border crossings with gates wide open because the Biden-Harris Administration refused to pay to have the mechanized gate closing apparatus that was sitting next to the gate installed.

Taxpayers had paid for the finished gate. They also had paid for miles of uninstalled wall.

Biden-Harris left the supplies lying unused to rust. Subsequently, when migration exploded, Biden assigned Harris the leadership position to address migration at our southern border.

But for whatever reason, Harris didn’t visit the border for months. And as best as I can determine, that one visit was her only visit.

She didn’t speak with the current chief of U.S. Border Patrol, Jason Ownes, nor his predecessor, Raul Ortiz.

Rodney Scott led the agency during the Trump Administration. However, the Biden-Harris Administration removed Scott!

How did Harris fare in her communications with other countries?

Well, the results speak for themselves.

CBP reported that in April of 2024, the southern border had almost 180,000 encounters!

That means in four years, the number of migrant encounters at the southern border increased more than ten-fold!

Where are they coming from?

China, Haiti, Venezuela, and Uzbekistan are just some of the countries.

In June, eight suspected terrorists from Tajikistan were arrested in the United States by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). It is alleged they have ties to ISIS!

All had crossed the southern border.

Virginia is no stranger to the repercussions of an open border.

Earlier this year, two Jordanian nationals attempted to breach the Marine Corps base in Quantico. It is reported that one of them got into the U.S. by crossing the border just six weeks prior!

An open border contributes to national security risks.

But in this election year, the Biden-Harris Administration has tried to play catchup.

They announced in June new executive actions restricting asylum claims and expediting removal of unauthorized migrants.

Biden-Harris always had the power to implement restrictions.

But for some, it is a little too late.

Laken Riley, a University of Georgia student, and Jocelyn Nungaray, a twelve-year-old

Texan, are two young girls who were murdered this year by illegal immigrants. These are just two well-publicized cases among the vast number of crimes committed by illegal immigrants who crossed the border during the Biden-Harris era.

An open border serves the interests of criminals and gangs, not law-abiding Americans.

Lack of action by so-called “czar” Harris is inexcusable, unacceptable and dangerous.

House Republicans have tried to stop the Biden-Harris open borders agenda.

That included passing H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023, to restart construction of the border wall and equip border personnel with needed technologies and funding.

The House also passed the Laken Riley Act, which requires federal officials to apprehend and detain undocumented immigrants who commit serious crimes such as burglary, shoplifting or larceny, until they are removed from our country.

The Democrat-controlled Senate has not taken up these bills.

An open border must not stand, and I will continue to fight to build the wall and close the border.

# Aging and brain health

From the moment we are born, our brains are constantly changing. In infancy and adolescence, the neural networks in our brains experience periods of enormous growth. These brain networks are essential-

they help us learn, think, remember, and organize our memories. As we age and learn, we develop larger vocabularies and greater knowledge from our accumulated experiences. Yet, by the time we are 30-40 years old, our brains typically start to shrink in different places, and we may experience more challenges finding words, recalling names, multi-tasking or paying attention.

We have learned that the brain maintains its ability to change and adapt so that as we age, we can manage new challenges and tasks. Just as we take care of our heart to live a long life to our best potential, we need to take care of our brain for our cognitive health. While brain health can be affected by age-related changes, other causes of change can include injuries such as stroke or traumatic brain injury; mood disorders such as depression or substance use disorder;

### Dr. Cynthia Morrow

Roanoke City and Alleghany Health Districts Health Director

and diseases such as Alzheimer’s and related dementias, some of which have genetic predispositions.

**Dementia**  
Dementia is a general term referring to a loss of cognitive function—remembering, thinking, and reasoning—severe enough to interfere with everyday life. Dementia is not a specific disease, but an overall term describing a wide range of symptoms. It is not part of the typical aging process, rather it is caused by damage to the brain from disease or trauma. Alzheimer’s disease is the most common cause of dementia. Other causes include vascular dementia, Lewy body dementia, and frontotemporal dementia.

#### Ways to Protect Your Brain

While we cannot

control our genes, there are many environmental and lifestyle factors that we can control to reduce our risk of cognitive decline.

Preventing or controlling high blood pressure in midlife- ages 40s to 60s- helps both our heart and brain.

Being physically active (adults are recommended to get at least 2-3 hours of walking or other physical activity each week) also helps our hearts and brains.

Participating in programs that teach people how to move more safely and help prevent falls, a common cause of serious injury, including injuries to the brain.

Improving specific skills appears to help maintain cognitive health in older adults. While current available evidence does not support claims that playing certain computer or online games can improve your memory and thinking, research

does support that some activities such as music, dance, creative writing or learning new skills such as quilting or photography can improve cognitive health.

And one of the most important things: Staying connected.

#### Staying Connected with Social Activities

Data from studies with more than 7,000 participants ages 65 and older determined that social engagement, such as visiting with family or doing volunteer work, was associated with better cognitive health. To strengthen your social connections, consider volunteering or joining a group focused on an activity you enjoy, such as walking.

#### Taking Care of Yourself and Your Loved Ones

If you have concerns about your own cognitive health, or you suspect your loved one may be affected, learn about normal changes with aging and those that indicate the need

See Brain 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* advertise@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.

# 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.PAITSSELFH.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**  
**advertise@ourvalley.org**

# VDOT Roadwatch

**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:** LANE CLOSURES northbound and southbound possible for various work on the project during nighttime hours.

**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 or quick merges into traffic onto Thompson Memorial Drive from the southbound or northbound exit ramps of exit 140 off of I-81. 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 DECK OVERLAY AT PEAK CREEK MILE MARKER 95.7** - Repair work is underway 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 Montgomery/Pulaski County line. Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may

be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 98 to 109. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated for Summer 2024.

**LANE CLOSURES:** Nighttime alternating lane closures are possible on I-81 northbound or southbound between mile markers 104-106.

Nighttime left lane closures scheduled on I-81 southbound during nighttime hours, 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. the next morning, beginning Monday, July 29 through Friday, August 9.

**ROUTE 605:** Alternating lane closures and flagging operations may be present on Route 605, located under the New River Bridge, for paving operations and work overhead on the bridge.

**SLOW ROLLS:** Slow rolls may be utilized periodically on both the northbound and southbound lanes from mile marker 98-109 for structural steel deliveries and setting beams.

**I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS** – Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81 between mile markers 170 to 89, right and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during

nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

**ROANOKE COUNTY**

**HIGHLAND ROAD CLOSED FOR GREENWAY CONSTRUCTION** – Beginning June 18, Highland Road will be closed between Hogan Road and Rutrough Road for construction of the Roanoke River Greenway through the Blue Ridge Parkway underpass by Roanoke County. The roadway will reopen by August 14, 2024, before the first day of school for Roanoke County Public Schools.

**APPALACHIAN TRAIL BRIDGE OVER ROUTE 311** – A new pedestrian bridge is under construction over Route 311 at McAfee Knob trailhead. The trailhead parking lot is currently closed and will remain closed during construction. Bridge beams were placed across Route 311 on the new bridge on June 11. Flagging operations will be in place daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Occasional slow rolls during nighttime hours are possible. Alternate areas for parking and updates on the shuttle can be found by calling 540-387-5588 or visiting the shuttle

website at [www.roanokecountyva.gov/McAfeeShuttle](http://www.roanokecountyva.gov/McAfeeShuttle). Expected completion by end of 2024.

**BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY CLOSURES IN ROANOKE AREA**

Blue Ridge Parkway may be repairing roads in our area that require road closures and flagging operations and detours may be in place. Visit their website at [www.nps.gov/blri/playourvisit/roadclosures.htm](http://www.nps.gov/blri/playourvisit/roadclosures.htm) for more information.

**MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE**

The Mountain Valley Pipeline construction project is underway. Temporary intermittent flagging operations will be in place in the county throughout the project to load/unload equipment at crossings and construction entrances. Scheduled completion is January 2025.

**CRAIG COUNTY**

**MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE**

The Mountain Valley Pipeline construction project is underway. Temporary intermittent flagging operations will be in place in the county throughout the project to load/unload equipment at crossings and construction entrances. Scheduled completion is January 2025.

**Brain** from page 4

for a checkup: Ask your loved one to obtain a complete medical checkup. If they have Medicare, ask their health care professional for the Medicare Annual Wellness exam that includes screenings such as detection of cognitive impairment. Learn how hearing loss can affect memory loss. Make it a priority to complete legal, financial, and advance care planning, including essential planning documents. If you are a caregiver, taking care of yourself is one of the most important steps you can take. When your needs as a caretaker are taken care of, your loved one

will benefit too. The person experiencing the cognitive changes, caregivers, and other companions on this journey will need information, support, and guidance along the way. Contact your local Area Agency on Aging, the Alzheimer's Association, or visit the Virginia Family Caregiver Solution Center at [vf.virginiannavigator.org](http://www.vf.virginiannavigator.org) to find resources.

Sources:  
<https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/brain-health/how-aging-brain-affects-thinking>  
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/156/2023/01/Dementia-Road-Map->



**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

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

**Tickle Oil & Propane**  
Serving Craig County  
Call today for prices!  
**540-626-6000**

Now delivering propane!

We accept all major credit cards.

**JOB VACANCY**

The Craig County Dental Center in New Castle, VA is seeking a **Dental Assistant**. Are you a dental assistant passionate about helping patients achieve their best oral health? Look no further because The Craig County Dental Center in New Castle, Virginia is looking for you! We're seeking a dental assistant with experience to join our team. If you do not have experience but have a desire to learn, please apply! The ideal candidate should have experience using Electronic Dental Software and be passionate about dental care.

Responsibilities include assisting dentist during procedures, managing patient records, and performing other dental-related duties. If you are a hardworking, reliable team player who always puts patients first, we encourage you to apply. Must have good communication skills and be able to establish a good rapport with patients and staff. The dental office hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 8am to 5pm, no weekends. Criminal Background Check and Drug Screen are required. If you are looking for a job in a great atmosphere working with an amazing team, this is a perfect opportunity for you!

Please submit your resume along with completing an employment application and submit to Monroe Health Center, ATTN: Stephanie Aliff, Human Resource Director, P.O. Box 590, Union, WV 24983 or email to [saliff@monroehealthcenter.com](mailto:saliff@monroehealthcenter.com). You can download an application by visiting our website at [www.monroehealthcenters.com](http://www.monroehealthcenters.com)

We value diversity in experiences and background. Monroe Health Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Open until filled.

# 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 Wentz, 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](http://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.

**ECKANKAR**  
Eckankar, The Path of Spiritual Freedom, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. The Roanoke Eckankar Center is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. A light and sound service is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 11:00 a.m. Since contracting COVID-19 may still be possible, please take the health steps that are best for you. It is appreciated that by attending you are taking responsibility for your own health. Visit [www.eck-va.org](http://www.eck-va.org) or call 540-353-5365 for other Eckankar teachings and for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar can lead you to spiritual freedom.

**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, [aglady@pastor@msn.com](mailto:aglady@pastor@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](http://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 Wentz, 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](http://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](http://www.paxtonchapelchurch.com); email at [paxtonchapel@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto:advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com)

# Marketplace

THE FINECASTLE HERALD

The Vinton Messenger

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

SALEM TIMES REGISTER

News Messenger

RADFORD News Journal

## Help Wanted



### Director of Fund Development

Nonprofit seeks an individual with experience developing, leading, and managing a fundraising strategy and program to increase individual and corporate donations. Must have a minimum of 6 years' experience with demonstrated success in development and managing a portfolio of donors and closing gifts of \$1,000 or more.

Salaried position for enthusiastic self-motivated professional with excellent verbal and written communication skills.

Actively identify, cultivate, and close gifts in support of TAP. This includes both financial and in-kind donations.

Build and manage a portfolio of 75-100 individual and corporate donors and prospects with an annual giving capacity of \$1,000+. Within this list, identify, actively cultivate, and close gifts. This portfolio movement will be reviewed monthly with the President/CEO to ensure it reflects significant prospect movement from identification to cultivation to solicitation to stewardship.

Work in coordination with the President/CEO to seek out and secure quarterly speaking engagements at civic or community events to promote TAP and its programs and cultivate prospective donors.

Must have a bachelor's degree in communications, marketing, public relations, or related field

Experience in strategic planning for development, major gifts, capital campaigns, corporate and marketing initiatives.

For a full job description please visit Indeed.com or at our website [www.tapintohope.org](http://www.tapintohope.org) Salary: \$60,000-\$75,000/yr. Submit cover letter and resume to: TAP, Human Resources, Job Code DFD-CA, PO Box 2868, 302 2nd St SW Roanoke VA 24011 or fax to 540-345-1944

TTY: 540-345-4096 AA/EOE/Drug Free Workplace Bilingual ability is a plus

## Van for Sale

**FOR SALE 2005 Chrysler Town & Country Van**  
Starts and runs but motor needs work Has new tires \$800 or best offer (540) 389-9355

## Dogs/Livestock



If veterinary care is unavailable or unaffordable, ask for Happy Jack® products to control fleas/ticks/stable flies & mosquitoes. H&H Outdoors. 254- 2420 ([www.happyjackinc.com](http://www.happyjackinc.com))

## Legals - Craig County

appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before AUGUST 21, 2024 @ 10:00AM. JULY 22, 2024 TIFFANY COUCH, CLERK

## Legals - Botetourt County

### TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 362 LOWE STREET, BUCHANAN, VA 24066

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated March 12, 2018, in the original principal amount of \$88,065.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 180000875. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on August 30, 2024, at 2:00 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows:

LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA: TWO-THIRDS OF LOT NO. EIGHTEEN (18), FRONTING 88.92 FEET ON WATER STREET, AND RUNNING BACK BETWEEN PARALLEL LINES 167.77 FEET TO THE REAR LINE OF SAID LOT NO. 18; THE WEST ONE-THIRD OF SAID LOT ADJOINS AN ALLEY KNOWN AS SECOND ALLEY, AND BEING THE SAME LAND THAT WAS CONVEYED TO H.S. HODGES BY J.E. HODGES AND M.F. HODGES, HIS WIFE, BY DEED DATED JUNE 18, 1934, AND RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN DEED BOOK "X" AT PAGE 34. LESS AND EXCEPTING THAT PORTION OF THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED LOT

SECURING 44 FEET ON WATER STREET AND RUNNING BACK BETWEEN PARALLEL LINES 167.77 FEET, THAT WAS CONVEYED TO H. J. SMITH AND EDRA SMITH, HIS WIFE, BY THE SAID HARRY S. HODGES AND LENA S. HODGES, HIS WIFE, BY DEED DATED NOVEMBER 6, 1948, AND RECORDED IN THE AFORESAID CLERK'S OFFICE IN DEED BOOK 100, PAGE 282, TO WHICH SAID DEED REFERENCE IS HERE AND NOW MADE. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagor or the Mortgagor's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at [www.bwvsales.com](http://www.bwvsales.com). Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229.

For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: [www.bwvsales.com](http://www.bwvsales.com). VA-370006-1.

## Legals - Montgomery County

### Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104 **Case No. CL24-1097 VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA, a Political Subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA, a Municipal locality of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Complainant, v. HAZEL TERRY JUSTICE, ET AL., Respondent(s).**

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION**  
The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Complainant, county of Montgomery, Virginia, for delinquent real estate taxes against certain real property located in the County of Montgomery, Virginia, described as follows: Tax Map No. 526-2404 Account No. 010023

All that certain lot or parcel of land with all improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto belonging situate, lying and being in the Town of Christiansburg, Riner Magisterial District of Montgomery County, Virginia, designated as Tax Map Number 526-24 4, Parcel ID Number 010023, being located on the south side of Lee Highway (now Radford St) fronting 58 1/2 feet thereon and extending back 150 feet.

And being the same real property conveyed to Lucy Campbell and Hazel Terry Justice, as joint tenants, from J. C. Snidow and Lillian L. Snidow, husband and wife, by deed, dated November 14, 1944 and recorded November 16, 1944 in the Montgomery County Circuit Court Clerk's Office in Deed Book 134 at Page 250.

This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservations, of record which affect the property herein described. **IT APPEARING** that an Affidavit has been made and filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the identity and location of certain parties to be served, that the last known addresses for the Respondents herein are as follows: Hazel Terry Justice, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Lucy Campbell aka Lucy Mae Terry aka Lucy Mae Nichols, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Elizabeth Terry Grier, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Hobert L. Terry, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; James Monroe Terry, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Clarence William Terry, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Mary Terry, whose last known address is unknown; Robert Terry, Jr., whose last known address is unknown, Patricia Terry, whose last known address is unknown; and that any officers, heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the Respondent named herein are made parties Respondent to this action individually and/or by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby

**ORDERED** that the parties herein and all Parties Unknown and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before August 31, 2024 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of The County of Montgomery, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause. Entered on the 22day of July, 2024 K. Mike Fleenor, Jr. Judge

I Ask For This: John A. rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805) Jeffrey A Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591) Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409) Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No.86372) Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609) Gregory L. Haynes, Esq.

## Legals - Montgomery County

(VSB No. 37158) Seth R. Konopasek, Essq. (VSB No. 97065) Garrett W. Patton, Esq. (VSB No. 98345) Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC P.O. Box 31800 Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800 Phone: (804) 545-2500 Facsimile (804) 545-2378 TACS No. 495984

## Legals - City of Salem

### Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission,

at its regular meeting on August 14, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Hold public hearing to consider the request of Seaside Heights, LLC, property owner, to rezone the property located at 1590 West Main Street (Tax Map # 140-1-3) from LM Light Manufacturing District to HBD Highway Business District.

2. Hold public hearing to consider the request of Sherwood Memorial Park, Inc., property owner, for a Special Exception Permit to allow for the expansion of the cemetery into the adjacent property located at 1221 Lynchburg Turnpike (Tax Map # 117-1-8) with condition. If approved, Salem City Council intends to adopt the ordinance(s) associated with the above item(s) on first reading, with a second reading of those ordinance(s) at a subsequent meeting.

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia.

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY: Christopher J. Dorsey Executive Secretary

## Legals - City of Salem

### Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem,

at its regular meeting on Monday, August 12, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114. N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Hold public hearing to consider the request of Seaside Heights, LLC, property owner, to rezone the property located at 1590 West Main Street (Tax Map # 140-1-3) from LM Light Manufacturing District to HBD Highway Business District.

2. Hold public hearing to consider the request of Sherwood Memorial Park, Inc., property owner, for a Special Exception Permit to allow for the expansion of the cemetery into the adjacent property located at 1221 Lynchburg Turnpike (Tax Map # 117-1-8) with condition. If approved, Salem City Council intends to adopt the ordinance(s) associated with the above item(s) on first reading, with a second reading of those ordinance(s) at a subsequent meeting.

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia.

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY: H. Robert Light Clerk of Council

## 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](mailto:landonc@vpa.net)

### FARMS/FISH

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

### HOME IMPROVEMENT

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

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 1-877-591-9950

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

## STATEWIDE ADS

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.

### 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>.

**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 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/virginia)

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)

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

Switch and save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more information, call 1-855-262-5564

# BUSINESS SERVICES DIRECTORY



**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



**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

**ADVERTISE With us**  
  
 To place your ad, call 540-389-9355




**BAG**  
 A GREAT DEAL IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!  
 To place your ad, call 389-9355

**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**





**Residential and Commercial Construction**  
 540-966-0688  
 PO Box 630  
 Daleville, VA 24083  
 www.southerntracellc.com



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


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



**Robbie Caldwell**  
**540-444-4444**

**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



**ADVERTISE HERE!**  
 To place your ad, call 540-389-9355



Contact us at 540-988-2420


**Shopping Starts Here Newspaper Advertising Works!**  
 To place your ad here, call 540-389-9355



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



**Rory "Tater" Benson, REALTOR®**  
 540.353.7173 cell  
 540.989.4555 office  
 tbenson@mkbrealtors.com

**HARDWOOD FLOORS**  
 • Cleaning  
 • Waxing  
 • Beautification  
**Save 10% NOW!**  
 540-776-9591  
 Cell: 540-353-7908

**Local Help with your Medicare Questions**  
 \* Supplements \* Part D \* Advantage Plans  
 Sheryl Etzler Crawford  
 Licensed Health Insurance Broker  
 (540) 314-7210  
 crawfordsheryl@gmail.com



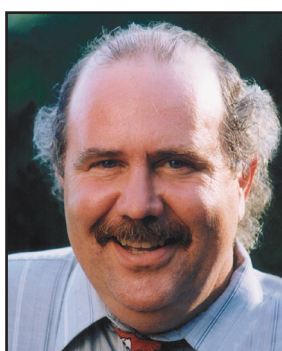
\*We do not offer every plan available in your area. Currently we represent six (6) organizations which offer 64 products in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov, 1-800-MEDICARE, or your local State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) to get information on all your options.\*

*Want to keep up with local news, sports and events?*  
**SUBSCRIBE TODAY • Call (540) 389-9355**

# SPORTS

Send story ideas & announcements to [bhoffman@ourvalley.org](mailto:bhoffman@ourvalley.org)

## Brian Hoffman column: First look at the Olympics



**Brian Hoffman**

In the words of semi-celebrity Kelly Clarkson, the first week of watching the Olympics has been "incredibly cool."

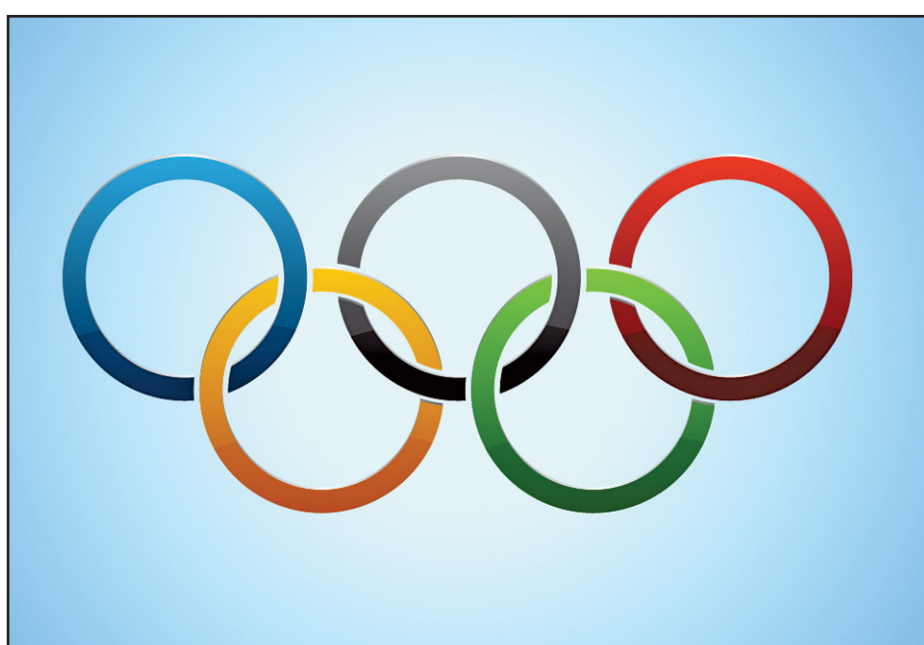
It's Monday as I write this column and I've been glued to the TV since Friday watching the summer Olympics in Paris, taking time out to check on the Yankees and Red Sox. In three days I must have seen the Eifel tower 100 times, and Snoop Dogg even more times than that. And, yes, that was actually Spike Lee at the United States basketball game even though no Knicks are on the team.

Friday's opening ceremonies had to be the most elaborate in the history of the Olympics, even topping Hitler's Berlin games. Usually the teams march into some stadium dressed in colorful attire and carrying their flag. Then they assemble on the infield after circling a track and when everyone is in the stadium they light a big torch and go home.

Not so Friday in France. These opening ceremonies were like a four-hour Broadway show on the water, as boats carried the teams down the Seine River. There were 85 boats filled with over 10,000 Olympic athletes and there was some kind of music or dance number all along the way, from Lady Gaga to Celine Dion.

The opening ceremonies were hosted by Mike Tirico, who did a really nice job, Peyton Manning, who added insight and backstories to many of the athletes, and Clarkson, who said everything was "cool." Why she was selected to be on the telecast, I have no idea. I would have understood if she was out on some boat singing, but her obvious lack of knowledge about anything relating to sports or the athletes got annoying after a while. We had Snoop to tell us everything was cool.

A couple observations. I was amazed at how many of the countries I'd never heard of. I was never good in geography but I watch Jeopardy just about every night, so I should have come across most of them. I looked it up and there are 54 countries participating from Africa, 48 from Europe, 44 from Asia, 41 from the Americas



COURTESY IMAGE

and 17 from Oceania. I had no idea 48 countries could fit into Europe.

As for Africa, I suspect many of them change their name every couple years. I used to like to look at my Rand McNally Atlas of the World before we had the internet, and I swear most of the countries in Africa had different names when I was growing up in the '60s.

I was surprised at how many countries had names ending in "stan," and I wasn't sure where most of them were. Included in the list are, in alphabetical order, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. I'm starting

to think Borat came from a real country, but I can't say for sure.

Then you have the "and" countries, which makes me think two countries combined into one so their high school teams can play in a higher classification. Included in this group are Antigua and Barbuda, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, and Trinidad and Tobago, which sounds like some kind of hot sauce. Honestly, tell me if you know where all those countries are located? And one that I know, Turks and Caicos Islands, didn't even send a team. You'd think they'd have some kind of

boating team at the least.

Let me assure you I'm not making fun of these countries. We have plenty of stuff right here in the USA to make fun of these days, so we don't need to look elsewhere. I'm sure Saint Kitts and Nevis is a wonderful place, and it was great to see folks from Central and South America on a boat.

As for the sports, baseball and softball aren't in this year's games but break dancing has been added. Does that make any sense to you? And when are they going to add pickleball?

Getting back to Snoop, did you see the interview NBC did with Simone Biles' parents when they were with Snoop? They

mentioned how they'd met Snoop once before but he replied that he didn't recall. Simone's adopted mother, Nellie, said they saw him at a New Year's Eve celebration and asked if they could get a picture. She went on to say how Snoop told them to give him a couple minutes and, "in two seconds he was gone." Sounds like when I witnessed John Riggins blowing off autograph requests from Redskins' fans. At least Snoop had an excuse, as he was likely stoned out of his mind on New Year's Eve.

I'll be anxious to watch the rest of the games for the next week and a half. I love the track, and I really enjoy watching the basketball. It's amazing to see how good some of these teams (ie South Sudan men) are when we expect our players to blow out everyone else. And isn't it something to see how good LeBron James can still be?

Whatever you think of the games it's nice to see folks from different countries getting along, even though they did be sure to put the North and South Koreans in different boats. If the United States and Chinese athletes can hug each other after a close race maybe there's hope for the world after all.

Maybe.

## Rockets will open football practice on Thursday, volleyball tryouts for Craig teams are next week

The Craig County football team will open practice for the 2024 season this week. The Rockets will practice from 3:30 to 5:30 pm and 6:30 to

8:30 pm on the practice field behind the high school.

The football team is scheduled to open the season at home on August 30 against

Bland County. A road game at Auburn follows, then an off week before heading to Montcalm, West Virginia on September 20. The second

home game is September 27 against Twin Valley.

Volleyball tryouts for Craig County High are next week. Varsity, jayvee and middle

school tryouts will be August 5th from 5-7 pm, Monday through Wednesday, with practice starting Thursday, August 8th, after school.

## Kaminski is named baseball coach at Roanoke College

Brett Kaminski, formerly the assistant baseball coach and recruiting coordinator at Ferrum College, has been hired as the new head baseball coach of Roanoke College.

Kaminski was a large part in bringing in 65 student-athletes to the Ferrum baseball program the last two years through the recruiting process. In 2024, the Panthers led the Old Dominion Athletic Conference with 101 stolen bases and Ferrum had a team batting average of .304. The lineup included two players that hit over .420. Kaminski practice planned for all team activities, including weightlifting and conditioning, and also served as hitting instructor and outfield coach.

"Brett was such a valuable member of the athletics staff the three years I worked with him here at Ferrum," said Gary Holden, Ferrum College Associate AD & Sports Information Director. "He exceeded expectations in everything he did from practice preparation, to coaching in games, recruiting, social media and administrative paperwork. Brett made a quality experience for and a positive impact on our baseball players. I'm excited for him to lead Roanoke College's baseball program as he makes his head coaching debut."

Kaminski came to Ferrum from NCAA Div. II Tiffin University in Ohio, where he was an assistant coach responsible for player development and recruiting. In 2021, Tiffin's offense ranked first in the Great Midwest Athletic Conference (GMAC) in batting average, runs scored, hits, doubles, walks, and on-base percentage. The Dragons were also ranked in the top 50 nationally in batting average, hits, walks and on-base percentage. Tiffin went on to place five position players on the GMAC All-Conference team in

that season.

Prior to Tiffin, Kaminski spent two years at NAIA school Webber International University in central Florida, where he was a graduate assistant and an assistant coach. The Warriors were nationally recognized in 2019 & 2020 and fell just one win short of the program's first NAIA World Series appearance in 2019.

Kaminski attended and played baseball at Webber International from 2016-18. He was a member of the three teams that won more games (in that span) than any other team in program history. In 2016, the Webber offense set new records for runs scored, home runs, extra base hits, total bases, and stolen bases. In 2017, Webber made its first NAIA Tournament appearance and set a program record for season wins. The 2018 Warriors clinched the program's first conference title in the Sun Conference Tournament and made another NAIA playoff appearance.

"I'm pleased to have Brett join our staff," said Curtis Campbell, Roanoke's Director of Athletics. "There was a consistent theme when I talked to people about Brett 'he's a baseball guy, he's a hard worker, he's organized and a great recruiter' all of those traits will make him successful in his new role. I look forward to watching him take our program to new heights."

Kaminski earned his bachelor's degree in Sport Business Management in 2018, and his master's degree in Criminal Justice Management in 2020 from Webber International. He and his wife Katelyn Kaminski, the RC competitive cheerleading coach, live in Roanoke with their one-year-old daughter, Kinsley.

"Taking on the role of head coach for Roanoke College baseball is an incredible honor," said



COURTESY PHOTO

Kaminski. "I want to thank the administration for their trust in me, and my family for their constant support. I'm excited to build on this program's strong foundation, instill a culture of hard work and dedication, and lead these young men to new heights. Together, we'll strive for excellence on and off the field."

## VHSL invites public input at area meeting

VHSL staff is asking the public to attend community meetings to get to know the VHSL, ask questions, share ideas, and concerns

Virginia High School League staff will conduct two-day area meetings throughout the state through August 28 to review all aspects of the League's athletic and non-athletic programs before the school year begins.

The VHSL is extending an

exclusive invitation to the public to attend the Day 1 meeting in their area, allowing attendees to ask questions, provide input, or share any concerns they might want to share with the VHSL staff. Executive Director Billy Haun, Assistant Director for Compliance Ty Gafford, and other VHSL Assistant Directors will lead the meetings. The public is invited to interact one-on-one with VHSL staff.

The 2nd-day area meetings are for principals, athletic directors, coaches, sponsors, guidance counselors, and others interested in and responsible for interpreting VHSL rules and regulations. In addition, invitations will include school boards, administrative staff, and the news media.

Topics for review will include School, eligibility, VHSL Handbook legislation,

sportsmanship, drug use among athletes (fentanyl), and discussion on other issues of interest.

The closest meeting to the Roanoke Valley will be held at Glenvar High School on July 31 and August 1. The public is invited to the July 31 session, which will begin at 6:30 pm in the Glenvar High auditorium. The second day is the strategic planning meeting and it will

begin at 9:30 am.

Other VHSL meetings will be held at Heritage High in Lynchburg, Abingdon High School, Sherando High School, South County High in Lorton, Grassfield High in Chesapeake, Heritage High in Newport News, Hermitage High in Henrico County, Massaponax High in Fredricksburg and Monticello High in Charlottesville.