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Paint Bank cow

PHOTO BY BONNIE CRANMER

It's time to enter the Blue Ridge Games and get outside to win

Bonnie Cranmer
Contributing writer

Craig County has a wealth of outdoor opportunities for fun. The Blue Ridge Games invites players to enter for prizes in our region for doing what you're already planning. If anyone loves hiking, biking, fishing and the thrill of a scavenger hunt, this is the contest for them. Craig County is one of several localities participating in the Blue Ridge Games and sees benefits for Craig residents who participate.

It's an easy process to register, first as a WSL Insider, then with the Blue Ridge Games website at <https://www.wsls.com/contests>. Registration for the games is \$20 if those interested want a T-shirt or free just to participate. After registering, use the PinIt feature to log

outdoor adventures to earn points from Aug. 12 through Sept. 6. Watch progress with other participants in the games and compete for exciting prizes.

Fenwick Mines Day Use Area is a wonderful family outdoor experience that can be entered for points. Located off Rt 615 near New Castle, the trails and property provide ample hiking, biking and fishing adventures. The trail system threads through a lush and vibrant forested environment. Watch for turtles and lizards, birds and other wildlife along the path. The recent rains have added some much-needed water to the ponds and creeks. A fish or two may be swimming in the waters on select sections of the trail. There is a picnic shelter, horseshoe pits and handicap accessible trails to explore. Once

you're back in a service area, be sure to PinIt on the website to register points.

Head further up Rt 311, over picturesque Potts Mountain into Paint Bank to explore historic Tinglers Mill behind the Paint Bank Store. The historic mill wheel turns with splashes and whispers of the tales it has seen. The mill, the store and the Paint Bank community are a step back in time and well worth a hike around town. Those interested can feed the fish at the USDA trout fish hatchery and even at the Mill Pond. Fishing in Paint Bank can be a relaxing afternoon excursion, with one's own equipment or renting a pole at the store. After getting back to more connected areas, be sure to log adventure on the PinIt page of the Blue Ridge Games to get account points.

Craig County has opportunities for biking, too, and many of the back roads and forest trails are well known to biking enthusiasts. It is always recommended to wear easy to see clothing and safety equipment on a bike when riding on rural routes. Pastoral landscapes and scenic vistas are abundant, so be sure to capture a photo or two of the adventure, then PinIt to keep up with the competition in the Blue Ridge Games.

If planning any outdoor activities in August, the Blue Ridge Games has a way to get outside and win prizes. Remember to PinIt every experience to achieve the most points during the Aug. 12 through Sept. 6 period. Winners will be announced on Sept. 9 and the Craig County

See Games page 2

Division reminds families of electronic device policy

As the new school year starts for students of Craig County Public Schools, the division is reminding families of the middle and high school policy regarding the use of personal electronic devices, which was updated last month. The policy is as follows:

Generally

The Craig County School Board recognizes that student access to cell phones and other electronic devices is common in current society. It is imperative, however, that students, parents, and staff understand there are appropriate and inappropriate times for the use of such devices. Schools must provide a learning environment free of unnecessary distraction and disruption. The Craig County School Board establishes expectations for student conduct so that public education is conducted in a safe and respectful atmosphere, free of disruption and threat to persons or property, and supportive of individual rights.

Expectations for students

The use of cell phones (and all other personal electronic devices including, but not limited to headphones, earbuds, smart watches, gaming devices, tablets, and other Bluetooth-enabled or Wi-Fi capacity devices) is prohibited during the regular school day (8:00-3:45). Upon students' arrival at school, and continuing through dismissal from school, cell phones and other electronic devices are required to be out of visible sight and either silenced or powered off. Cell phones and other electronic devices must be placed out of sight in a backpack, in a personal bag or pocket book, or in a school provided locker. Failure to comply with this expectation will result in the following actions:

First offense

Parent/guardian contacted, verbal warning, and device will be confiscated until the end of the day. In school or after school detention may be assigned.

Second offense

Parent/guardian contacted, the device will be confiscated, and the parent or guardian must retrieve the device from school. In school or after school detention will be assigned

Third offense

Parent/guardian contacted, the device will be confiscated, and the parent or guardian must retrieve the device from school. In addition, for a period of 30 calendar days, the student shall be restricted from possessing a cell phone or electronic device at school during instructional hours. The student will be required to check their device into the office at arrival, and retrieve it following dismissal. Students who violate this restriction will be subject to further discipline, including after school detention, Saturday school, and/or suspension.

Cell phones and other electronic devices may be used

- When students are attending non-instructional afterschool events/activities;
- When students have a documented medical exception approved by the school principal, school nurse, or physician;
- When students are riding the school bus, as long as such use is not distracting or disruptive.

Students must use earbuds or headphones when listening to music or watching videos while on the bus.

- If needed for a class (i.e Computer Science)

Students and Parents are encouraged to leave cell phone devices at home if possible. Craig County Public Schools shall not be responsible for theft, damage, or loss of cell phones or other electronic devices. CCPS reserves the right to ban individual cell phones or electronic devices for major infractions or repeated violations of this policy.

Parental involvement and responsibility

Each parent of a student enrolled in Craig County Public Schools has a duty to assist in enforcing this policy, along with the Standards of Student Conduct. Parents are encouraged to limit and monitor the use of cell phones and electronic devices for all students. For more information about "How digital media is changing our children's mental health", see the ParentGuidance.org link or the CCPS website.

Expectations for teachers and other school personnel

Teachers and other school personnel are expected to strictly enforce this policy so that students experience consistent expectations and consequences in all school settings. Teachers and other school personnel who confiscate devices must store the device in a safe place until the first available opportunity to turn it over to school administration for safe keeping and documentation. Cell phones or electronic devices will remain in storage until retrieved by the appropriate persons. Confiscated devices may be retrieved during normal school office hours or at specific times designated by the principal or designee.

Teachers and other school personnel are expected to model expectations and are prohibited from using

See Policy page 2



The food available changes each month to provide what's fresh and in season, along with regular ingredients like spices, flour and eggs.

Benefits of fresh food with visits from Feeding Southwest Virginia

For those who aren't aware, the twice monthly Feeding Southwest Virginia truck has loads of healthy food for Craig County residents. On the second and third Wednesdays each month, the staff and volunteers with Feeding Southwest Virginia visit New Castle to provide fresh fruits and vegetables plus many kitchen staples. The food available changes each month to provide what's fresh and in season, along with regular ingredients like spices, flour and eggs.

Making a difference to the food insecurity in the region is the mission of Feeding Southwest Virginia. "In Craig

County alone, just under 600 neighbors are not getting enough to eat," stated Emma O'Neill of Feeding Southwest Virginia. People using the EBT program double their value with available produce. Anyone can shop for the wide variety of items offered from canned goods to cereals, with some changes each month.

"Fresh fruits and veggies are so expensive, making healthy eating a challenge. But by shopping at the mobile marketplace, I've been able to manage my diet better and have even lost 8 pounds! The convenience and support have been a

game-changer for me," said a shopper recently. Convenience and support are essential components of the program. The staff of Feeding Southwest Virginia are a caring and professional team.

The huge refrigerated truck arrives to the New Castle Christian Church on Rt 311 on the second and third Wednesdays each month. On the second Wednesday, hours are from 3-5 p.m. On the third Wednesdays, hours are from 4-6 p.m. The parking lot fills quickly with shoppers picking up essentials and fresh seasonal produce. People arrive by car, truck

and even bicycles with baskets to pick up their monthly purchase.

Those in need of help should contact the Craig County Social Services office at 540-864-5117 for assistance. Emergency services are available and applications for additional help can provide food and other services. Hunger is a real problem with a solution in the Craig County community, officials said. The Craig County Department of Social Services provides citizens with access to adequate, affordable, high-quality human and social services, working with partners like Feeding Southwest Virginia.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Bears take title

From the June 15, 1994 edition of *The New Castle Record*

The Craig County T-Ball teams have reached the end of another year. The coaches and players should be very proud of the hard work achieved, and the coaches are greatly appreciated and the parents should also be thanked for the dedication they have shown by supporting the T-Ball program. The T-Ball championship was won by the Bears Team for a back to back 1993-94 championship. The coaches for the Bears are Ronnie Price and Ken Wood, the players are as follows: Tyson Woods, W.R. Tripp, Michael Dewease, Joseph Rowan, Jesse Carper, Calin Crush, Jenny Reynolds, Andrew Wilson, Phillip Webb, Daniel Garman, Alex Helms, Christopher Dewease, Robbie Stahl, Casey Garman, John Price, Chance Lawrence, Michael Dewease, C.J. Crowder, Barry Lamb, Randall Foster, Ivan Breedlove, Travis Susser, Katherine Caldwell.

-Prepared by Shelly Koon



FROM THE NCR ARCHIVES

Games from page 1

Tourism Commission is anticipating many Craig County spots will be on the PinIt map from residents participating. "Your Next Adventure

Awaits" is the calling card of the outdoor beauty of Craig County starting on Main Street and beyond.



Tinglers Mill



Fenwick Mines Day Use area

PHOTOS BY BONNIE CRANMER

Policy from page 1

cell phones and other electronic devices during scheduled class time or other times when personnel are responsible for the instruction and/or direct supervision of students. Teachers and other school personnel may use cell phones when on break, during planning time, and to communicate with staff on school-related issues.

electronic devices to:

- a. tease, bully, intimidate, threaten or harass another individual
- b. collaborate with, encourage, or incite others to participate in violent or unlawful acts on school property or at school-sponsored activities. This includes creating and sharing video of an act in a manner that causes a disruption or disturbance.
- c. create, possess, exchange, distribute, post, or transmit any

photograph, digitized image, or video of a person in any condition of nudity, or a person engaged in any sexual act, or illegal action prohibited by state or federal law.

2. Refusing to surrender a cell phone or other electronic device when directed to do so by school personnel. Such refusal shall result in school suspension or other disciplinary action.

Students engaging in such conduct are subject to disciplinary action. At a minimum, the cell phone or other electronic device will be confiscated and used as evidence, and the student will be restricted from possessing a cell phone or electronic device at school for the remainder of the school year. Other consequences, including short or long-term suspension or expulsion, may apply based on the outcome of the investigation.

Virginia Western Community College fuels Roanoke Valley economy on many levels, new study finds

ROANOKE – Virginia Western Community College contributes over \$300 million annually to the regional economy, according to a new study.

The report from data analytics firm Lightcast found that Virginia Western added \$329.1 million in income to the Roanoke Valley economy in the year studied, fiscal year 2021-22.

Those \$329.1 million in contributions come from three sources: college operations, students and alumni. The net impact of the college's operations spending added \$32.9 million in annual income to the regional economy. The expenditures of students who relocated to the Roanoke Valley or who would have left if they had not attended Virginia Western added \$3.5 million in income to the Roanoke Valley economy. Significantly, the net impact of Virginia Western's former students currently employed in the regional workforce amounted to \$292.7 million in added annual income.

"Virginia Western has invested great energy into being a responsive contributor to the Roanoke Valley's economy," said Dr. Robert Sandel, president of Virginia Western. "The Lightcast study shows the many ways the College helps fuel the valley's

economic engine."

Virginia Western's impact supported 4,405 jobs. For perspective, the activities of Virginia Western and its students support one out of every 46 jobs in the Roanoke Valley.

On an individual level, Virginia Western students see tangible benefits of investing in their education. The average Virginia Western graduate receiving an associate degree in the year studied will see annual earnings that are \$8,900 higher than a person with a high school diploma or equivalent working in Virginia.

Students' increased earnings in turn help taxpayers see a return on investment. Taxpayers provided Virginia Western with \$21.6 million of funding in the year studied. For every dollar of public money invested in Virginia Western, taxpayers will receive \$2.40 in return, over the course of students' working lives.

On a larger scale, for every dollar invested in Virginia Western in the year studied, people in Virginia will receive \$8.00 in return. Altogether, the social benefits of Virginia Western equal a present value of \$574.5 million. These benefits include \$390.9 million in added student income over a 40-year working career, \$138.4



COURTESY PHOTO

Virginia Western's economic impact supports 4,405 jobs in the Roanoke Valley.

million in added business income, \$32.9 million in added income from college activities, as well as \$12.2 million in savings related to reduced government spending for health, the justice system, and income assistance in Virginia, thanks to a more educated workforce.

"Not only do our students reap

benefits when they attend Virginia Western, but the ripple effects of their decision to attend here spread out to benefit our community," Sandel said. "This rigorous study highlights the significant gains that society reaps from investing in Virginia Western."

-The Salem Times-Register

Recipe of the Week



Shelly Koon
Contributing
Writer

One of the things I enjoy during the summer is traveling. Trips to the beach are usually centered around where we are going to eat. When I'm on vacation, I love to try all kinds of foods! FOMO while traveling is a thing. Even though I (try to) eat everything in moderation, I still eat everything!

I am by nature a planner. I hate surprises. If I have a list to check off, I am happy. This means that on the weeks leading up to a trip, I will eat anything from the fridge in a binge of clean-out meals. This leaves a lonely jar of jam and mustard behind, no milk to spoil or vegetables to rot while I am gone.

Although a vacation usually leaves me feeling refreshed and recharged mentally, when it comes to my body, I sometimes feel I like I need a vacation from my vacation when it's all said and done. Welcome home! You have no food in the house and you must eat vegetables. That's where frozen vegetables that steam in their own package are a must. Steam some frozen broccoli, green beans, vegetable medley, carrots, peas, etc.

Once I'm back home, being intentional about what I eat helps me come down softly from the "treat yo self" high of a week away, and makes it easier to move forward with a renewed sense of energy and optimism. I've found that certain foods help me get my feet back on the ground after a vacation, and that cooking at home in the weeks after a trip helps ease the inevitable sting of blown travel budgets, too.

This week's recipe is for Fiesta Mac and Cheese. This casserole can be made and then frozen to eat later. It is baked from frozen so there is no thawing when you get home after a long day's driving. Just pop it in the oven and bake while you microwave a bag of veggies to go with it.

- 2 red onions, halved and thinly sliced
 - 2 ears corn, shucked and kernels removed (about 1 1/2 cups)
 - Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
 - Two 4-ounce cans diced green chiles
 - 6 tablespoons salted butter, plus more for the pan
 - 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
 - 3 cups whole milk
 - 2/3 cup half-and-half
 - 3 tablespoons adobo sauce from canned chipotles
 - 1 cup cubed processed cheese, such as Velveeta
 - 2 cups freshly grated Monterey Jack cheese
 - 2 cups freshly grated pepper jack cheese
 - One 10-ounce can diced tomatoes and chiles, undrained
 - 1 cup tortilla chips, crushed
 - Chili powder, for sprinkling
 - 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro (I leave off the cilantro)
- Directions:**
Bring a pot of water to a boil.

Cook the macaroni in the boiling water until just undercooked. Drain and set aside. Meanwhile, heat the olive oil in a large cast-iron skillet over medium-high heat. Add the red onion and corn and season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring, until the onion turns golden brown and the corn begins to blister, 4 to 5 minutes. Stir in the green chiles to combine. Set aside.

To make the sauce, melt the butter in a large pot over medium heat. Sprinkle in the flour, whisking to combine. Let the roux cook for a minute or so, whisking constantly. Pour in the milk, whisking constantly, followed by 2 teaspoons salt and 1 teaspoon pepper. Cook the white sauce until thick and bubbly, 3 to 5 minutes. Add the half-and-half and adobo sauce. Add the processed cheese, 1 cup of the Monterey Jack and 1 cup of the pepper jack and continue to cook, stirring, until the cheese all melts. Add the

cooked macaroni and stir to coat. Fold in the diced tomatoes and chiles.

Butter a 9-by-13-inch disposable foil pan. Layer with half of the macaroni mixture, then half the corn mixture. Repeat the layers, ending with the corn mixture. Sprinkle the remaining 1 cup Monterey Jack and 1 cup pepper jack over the top. Sprinkle the crushed tortilla chips all over the cheese, then sprinkle with chili powder.

To bake immediately, preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Bake until bubbly and hot, 20 to 25 minutes. Sprinkle over the chopped cilantro and serve.

To freeze the casserole for later, let cool completely, then cover with aluminum foil, fold over the edges to seal and freeze.

If cooking from frozen, preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Cook, covered, for 50 minutes, then uncover and bake until light brown and bubbly, about another 20 minutes.



COURTESY PHOTO

Fiesta Mac and Cheese

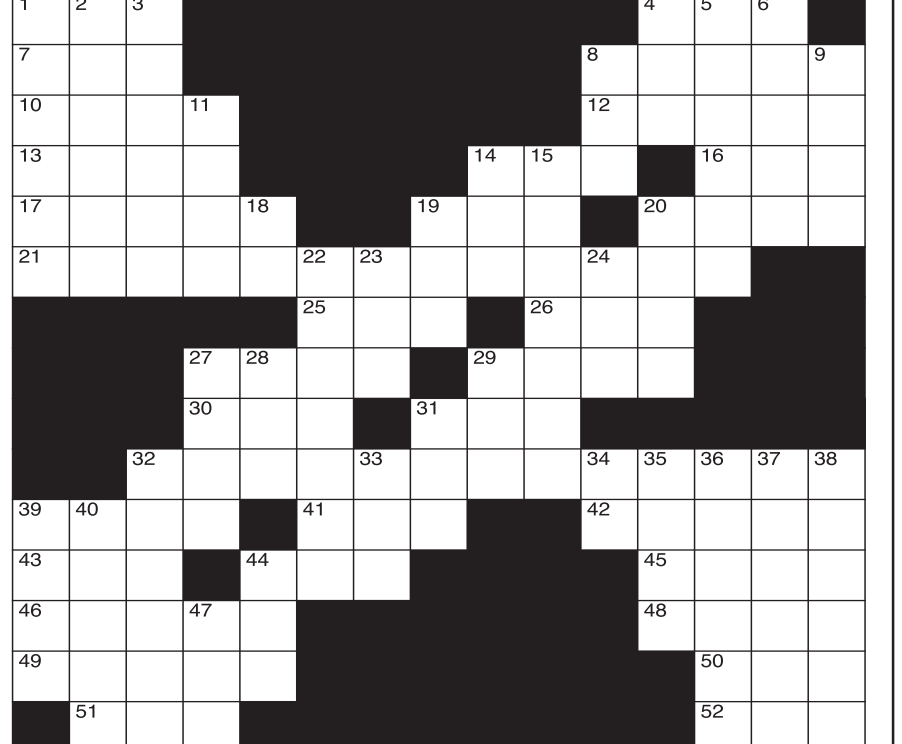
- Ingredients**
- 1 1/2 pounds elbow macaroni
 - 2 tablespoons olive oil

Upcoming public meetings scheduled in Craig County

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Aug. 19
Town of New Castle Town Council Meeting at New Castle Town Hall at 7-8 p.m.</p> <p>Aug. 20
Planning Commission Meeting will be held at 6 p.m. at the Craig County Administration Building.</p> <p>Tourism Commission Meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Craig County Administration Building.</p> | <p>Sept. 5
Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting will meet at the Craig County Courthouse at 6 p.m.</p> <p>Sept. 10
Economic Development Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m., at the Craig County Administration Building.</p> <p>Sept. 17
Tourism Commission Meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Craig</p> | <p>County Administration Building.</p> <p>Oct. 3
Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting will meet at the Craig County Courthouse at 6 p.m.</p> <p>Oct. 8
Economic Development Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m., at the Craig County Administration Building.</p> <p>Oct. 15
Tourism Commission</p> |
|--|--|--|

- Meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Craig County Administration Building.
- Nov. 7**
Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting will meet at the Craig County Courthouse at 6 p.m.
- Nov. 12**
Economic Development Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m., at the Craig County Administration Building.
- 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*

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Midway between east and southeast 4. Sun up in New York 7. Japanese honorific 8. Czech name for Prague 10. Ochocinco's first name 12. Steep cliffs (Hawaiian) 13. Scots word for "home" 14. Upper class young woman (abbr.) 16. Monetary unit of Albania 17. Raise 19. Drain of resources 20. Uncultured, clumsy persons 21. Hikers use them 25. Retrospective analysis (military) 26. Tibetan form of chanting 27. Influential European statesman | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 29. Soluble ribonucleic acid 30. Monetary unit of Romania 31. Round green vegetable 32. Well acquainted with 39. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid 41. Basics 42. "The Godfather" actress Keaton 43. Snakelike fish 44. Tall deciduous tree 45. Russian river 46. Long Balkans river 48. Ancient Greek coin 49. Senegal's capital 50. Unwell 51. Snout 52. Low bank or reef of coral | <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abstain from 2. Vast desert in North Africa 3. Cover the crown of a tooth 4. A major division of geological time 5. Urban center 6. Crook 8. Parts per billion (abbr.) 9. Questions 11. A pack of 52 playing cards 14. Recording of sound 15. Pithy saying 18. Atomic #22 19. Soviet Socialist Republic 20. Plant with ridged seedpods | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 22. Innate 23. Investigative body for Congress (abbr.) 24. Soda receptacle 27. Spanish stew: ___ podrida 28. Viet Cong offensive 29. Large body of water 31. Beginning military rank 32. Dissimilar 33. Counteroffensive system (abbr.) 34. Shows who you are 35. Chinese dynasty 36. Type of verse 37. African nation 38. Quite 39. Former Bucks star Michael 40. Showed again 44. Body part 47. Steal |
|---|--|---|--|

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OPINION

News from the 9th: Educator expense deduction



Morgan Griffith
Representative

Some of my best legislative ideas come from people around the district.

I regularly attend public events to make myself accessible so you can share your thoughts and concerns.

Among my stops this summer was the New River Valley Fair in Dublin.

I got to call some bingo and speak with fairgoers. One local public school teacher expressed concern to me about paying out-of-pocket for school supplies. The teacher is Elissa Grantham. She felt the current \$300 tax credit was insufficient.

My recollection is she said the current deduction is “doodly-squat.” Whether that’s the wording she used or not, she clearly felt the deduction failed the reality in the classroom.

The National Education Association website reports that studies show educators spend on average somewhere between \$500 and \$750 of their own money every year on things students need. This article from last year was based on studies conducted in the years prior to that.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, ninety-four percent of teachers reach into their wallets to buy classroom supplies.

The Educator Expense Deduction was first enacted in 2002. Eligible educators for the federal tax credit include K-12 teachers, instructors, counselors, principals or aides who work for at least 900 hours a school year in a school that provides elementary or secondary education as determined under state law.

This deduction was unfortunately not around when my mother and her co-teacher, Ms. Clara Winkler, taught sixth grade for Roanoke County schools at Broad Street Elementary. I remember their dedication as they made sure to purchase enough supplies and materials for their classroom in order to enhance the educational experience of their students.

While the classroom expense tax deduction used to cover \$250, adjustments increased it to \$300 in 2022.

But per the statistics above, \$300 falls far short of what educators typically spend on a yearly basis to meet student and classroom needs.

This is likely further exacerbated by Biden-Harris era inflation. Many teachers are having to make difficult financial decisions on top of spending

money for their classrooms.

The Los Angeles Times found that between August 2022 and June 2023, the prices for writing tools and supplies, including crayons, highlighters, pens and pencils, have increased an average of 18.5 percent.

As an example, the cost of planners, binders and folders surged an average of a 48.5 percent increase in cost during that time, and the increase in the price of “paper and forms” was eighty percent!

Given these struggles under the Biden-Harris economy, like others, educators are in a pinch.

Following my interactions with Grantham at the New River Valley Fair, I introduced legislation to provide educators breathing room and increase the Educator Expense Deduction to \$1,000.

Students and educators will reap the benefits of greater access to classroom resources, particularly those in distressed and underserved communities.

A significant tax achievement was passed by a Republican House, a Republican Senate, and President Donald Trump. The bill became known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Individual income tax rates were cut, and the standard deduction was increased.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act helped families! The Child Tax Credit almost doubled. The maximum per-child credit amount went from roughly \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Families also benefitted from the tax bill because it facilitated school choice. Families could use 529 college savings plans for elementary and secondary education expenses.

Many of the provisions in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act are set to expire in 2025. As inflation hinders the ability of many to make a decent living, the expiration of these tax cuts will further hurt American families and consumers.

Americans work hard at their jobs. It is only fair for their paychecks to reflect that.

I will continue to speak with folks on the ground and get their ideas as to what we can do better.

As the school year begins for many in the Ninth District, I would like to thank every educator for your contributions, the dedication to your students, and your care for their education.

Teachers care for their students, whether it was in the second half of the twentieth century like my mother, or like today, the teacher at the Dublin fair. The least we can do is to help them.

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:** • **TRAFFIC SWITCH:** During the nighttime hours of Friday, August 16 through the next morning on Saturday, August 17, traffic will be shifted towards the median just past the southbound on-ramp at exit 140 through mile marker 138. If weather impacts the shift, the traffic switch will be held Saturday, August 17 into the morning of Sunday, August 18. • **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 offramp 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. • **LANE CLOSURES:** Nighttime alternating lane closures are possible on I-81 northbound or southbound between mile markers 104-106. o 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 Monday, August 12. • **ROUTE 605:** Alternating lane closures and flagging operations may be

See VDOT page 5

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

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COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, STATE OF GEORGIA

Melanie Ripley, Petitioner, v. Enrique Ripley, Jr., Respondent.

The petitioner having filed a Petition before this court for a hearing and it appearing to this Court that the whereabouts of said Respondent, ENRIQUE RIPLEY, JR., are presently unknown to the Petitioner and Petitioner having therefore requested an Order directing service to be made upon said party by publication of summons as by law provided and it further appearing that Respondent cannot be found with due diligence within the State of Georgia; IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, that service of process be made upon ENRIQUE RIPLEY, JR. by publication as provided by law.

This 31st day of July, 2024. HONORABLE Judge Erica Tisinger Superior Court of Carroll County Coweta Judicial Circuit

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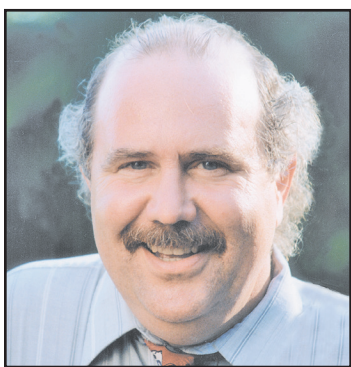
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A story that needs to be told



Brian Hoffman

Roanoke native Jae McCadden and Salem baseball legend Billy Sample have been working on a project they hope will make it to the silver screen and touch some lives, and baseball is a part of it.

McCadden began his professional career in sports working for the National Basketball Association and National Hockey League front offices in sales. He grew up around sports, as he's the son of long time Roanoke politician and social activist Delvis "Mac" McCadden. Mac was a professional baseball umpire, including a stint in the Carolina League, and Jae was a fixture around Salem Municipal Field, which is ironically enough now named for Sample.



Jae McCadden is a Roanoke Valley native now financing independent films in New York City.

Jae showed a knack for forming partnerships with companies to invest in major sports teams and in 2010 he turned his interest to financing independent films. Now living in New York City, he formed TubbyTownFilms in 2017 and has structured financing with major banks and film productions for independent films.

McCadden optioned the

script, "Love for An Iron Horse" a couple of years ago. It was introduced to him by Ann Champion, a Glenvar graduate, about a decade ago.

"At that time I wasn't in a position to impact from behind the camera as I was just a film financier on smaller movies," said McCadden. "I always thought the story was relatable and could see the appeal from not only the commercial standpoint but also something that could resonate with everyone."

The story is not really about baseball, but dreams.

"No matter how much money you have or accolades you've collected over the years, we all still have them," said Jae. "A couple of years ago while walking around New York City I was on the phone with Ann, frustrated that a major film opportunity had fallen apart, and she encouraged me to pick up 'Iron Horse' again. I remember I was on the corner of 59th and Central Park. Anyway, I went home and read it again and found it to be a message that I needed at the time. I said to myself, maybe I should give Jim a buzz, and the rest is history."

"Jim" is Jim Meredith, a longtime educator in the Lynchburg School system and a Glenvar graduate as well. He wrote the script for "Love for an Iron Horse" over 30 years ago on a typewriter, and it's visually based on his memories of growing up on the Roanoke River in Salem.

"He would ride his bike to town from Antrim Street, down Mill Lane across the Low Water Bridge, across two sets of railroad tracks all the way to Academy Street where his paper route began," said McCadden. "In the screenplay, 12 year old African-American boy William lives on a river which separates the Black community from the White community. This was not the case in Salem, but William's bridge becomes the passageway to uncertainty and adventure."

The river separates two cultures that have more in common than they think. William's railroad is on the main line somewhere between New York City and St. Petersburg, Florida, where the New York Yankees have spring training.

"If you know that the great Yankees' player Lou Gehrig was known as the Iron Horse you'll likely start to imagine

the story for yourself," said McCadden. "William loves baseball but his only point of reference is what he has heard on his Aunt Rachel's radio and a few baseball cards. While on an errand to town for Aunt Rachel, William sees White Boys playing baseball and he's captivated. But, in a southern town in the 1930's, the two races did not mix."

In this story a white boy, named Charlie, befriends William but their growing friendship creates a series of racial incidents. The name of the project, still a working title, is a play off the great Lou Gehrig and the train that runs through this Virginia town.

"After executing a deal with Jim (Meredith), I assembled a team starting with Susan Michels of SWE Films," said McCadden. "She produced Spike Lee's 2020 film 'Son of the South.' She agreed that the message in this script was something the world needed at the time as well."

"We thought this story could use a little bit more of something, and what better time to add former Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Famer and Billy Sample? Even though he played a little over a year with the New York Yankees, it made sense to bring him on."

Sample, who played in the big leagues nine years with the Rangers, Yankees and Braves, has dipped his toe into the film industry as well with his "Reunion 108" several years back. Billy read Meredith's script and was eager to get involved.

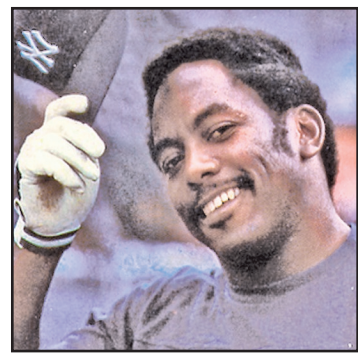
"Everyone knows Mac McCadden, but actually I had met Jae in New York City when he and my oldest son, Ian, were working on a project," said Sample. "Ian has produced some small works and even wrote a script with and involving Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr. of the Fifth Dimension, which has yet to be green-lighted."

"After understanding the theme and reading the script, I think that this will be a feel good movie, but with some hard twists and turns. I felt a tug of sentiment knowing that screenwriter Jim Meredith, a white man, had to deal with racism from whites while going to Glenvar because he has the same name as renown civil rights leader James Meredith."

Sample opened up his Major League Baseball contacts to Jae

to continue to make the movie a reality. Billy will also serve as a baseball consultant for the project.

"I try to make sure that the movie is as accurate as possible to the time setting of the movie," said Sample. "The other producers are probably tired of me already, but I can't



Billy Sample is a Salem native and a member of the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame.

have a broadcaster from the late 1950s calling his name on the radio when it's in the late 1930s.

"I was an advisor for the Showtime movie, 'Joe Torre, Curveballs Along the Way' and I had to eat the editing mistakes. The producer, who wasn't allowed on set because he went over the budget with his actors hires, relied on me for evidently more than I could cover. At the premiere of the movie, I held my breath until the end, but just before I could exhale there was one horrible glitch because the director didn't shoot enough footage to cover the scene. This won't happen with this picture, as I'll be in close communication with the editors, if not there in person. I'll be on set otherwise."

Meredith suggested that McCadden reach out to Leigh Anna Fry, a Salem High School and University of Virginia graduate. She had been familiar with the script for many years through her mother, the late Freda Crosswhite Fry, who taught both Jim and Anna at Glenvar High School and knew Billy Sample when he was at Andrew Lewis High in the early '70s.

"Leigh Anna is currently an actor residing in Los Angeles, and is no stranger to sports nostalgia films," said McCadden. "She appeared in the 2015 film 'Coach of the Year,' based on a true story about a Richmond swim team trying to win a state championship without a pool to practice in."

Sample saw a lot of himself in the script. Growing up in Salem when segregation was still an issue, Billy had to deal with racism as an everyday fact of life. His athletic prowess made him a popular figure starring in baseball and playing receiver on some outstanding Andrew Lewis High School football teams, but that only went so far.

"This film reminds me a bit of meeting Ronnie Galliher, who only lived a couple of short blocks away in the segregated part of downtown Salem," said Sample. "We played against each other in football, he wearing the green and white of the American League team, and me wearing the Halloween black and orange colors of the Baby Eagles."

The "Baby Eagles" were named after the G.W. Carver High School Eagles. Carver was the school for black children in Roanoke County and located in Salem. It still stands and is now an integrated elementary school.

"Ronnie invited me to come out for his little league team," remembers Sample. "I wasn't getting much playing time with the neighborhood team, so I ended up playing for Dr. Pepper, coached by the tough taskmaster, Junior Epperly, where I derived some significant self-esteem from playing baseball."

McCadden is considering filming some of the scenes in the Roanoke Valley. It's still a work in progress, but he has high hopes it will become a reality in the near future.

"Since acquiring the script, the project has attracted interest from some big talent and a couple of Hollywood Studios," he said. "The team looks to begin principal of photography soon."

Sample feels it has a lot to offer. While the plight of minorities is improving, there's still a long way to go.

"It seems to me just when I think racism is waning, and believe me I don't look under rocks for it, something happens to slap me back to reality," he said. "I had a couple of incidents in the last few years that had me asking, 'really?' And the Utah women's basketball team's receiving racial taunts gave me another slap, unfortunately, in a perverse way."

"It makes this script still very relevant."



PHOTOS BY JIM AND REGINA DEVINNEY

The Craig County football team is practicing in preparation for their first scrimmage, scheduled for this Friday against Stonewall Jackson High School in Quicksburg. The Rockets will open the regular season at home against Bland County on August 30.

Roanoke College soccer team will open season August 30

The Roanoke College men's soccer program has released the 2024 schedule with 18 games on the calendar, including nine home games in 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. "Opening with three NCAA Tournament teams from last fall will give us great tests right from the start, and then we have some very exciting home matches throughout the schedule as well."