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SALEM TIMES-REGISTER

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OurValley.org

Salem, area residents reflect on what 2020 taught them



Salem Sheriff April Staton hugging her niece, Charlotte Grace



Chair of the Salem Democratic Committee Nathan Auldridge (dark coat) with loved ones Madge Myer, Teresa Auldridge, Lawrence Coulston IV, Megan Auldridge Coulston and Lawrence "Cole" Coulston III, from left to right.



Salem resident Carrie Cox and her family's bulldog, Layla.

Shawn Nowlin
shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org

So much can be said about 2020. For most people, this has been an incredibly transformative, challenging and life-changing year. Unlike chess, life isn't always black and white. Humans are creatures of comfort and habit so when life tosses a curveball, people need time to adjust to a new reality.

When 2020 began, it was just like any other year. People made New Year's Resolutions, plans for visiting family and close friends over the summer and established concrete goals for each month. No one could have envisioned how the year would ultimately turn out.

Salem and area residents of all ages and backgrounds were asked to share the challenges they've faced and the lessons they've learned throughout 2020. The most common answers given —

taking care of one's health, cherishing relationships more and taking a more selfless approach to life — are hopefully sentiments that will stick moving forward.

This year, said Salem resident Carrie Cox, was the year I learned to really treasure the family that I have and the life that my husband and I have created.

She added, "It was finding out what your values are and what really matters most and embracing that whole-heartedly. It was also

the year of thinking of others and acting for their benefit, even if they don't always reciprocate."

Former Glenvar High student Brooke Cronin had her son Tyler in April. The biggest thing she says she learned this year was to not take things for granted moving forward.

"I've been surprisingly lucky to have a support system and family that loves me. But not everyone has that, and I think especially in this time, we need to

help others," she added.

Said RAM House Executive Assistant Molly Archer, "This year was one of change for me, but in good ways. I learned a lot of things, including to rest more because it is so essential to our overall well-being."

Remembering 2020 for Cynthia McKinley will be a mixture of pain, sorrow and lost memories. Pain because so many have

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Students spread 'Christmas Cheer' throughout the Salem community



Drew Harless, a member of the SHS DECA Leadership Team, shopping at Wal-Mart.

Shawn Nowlin
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More than 30 children in Salem who may not have gotten a gift this year will receive one thanks to a group of high school students who participated in a school project.

Christmas Cheer is an annual event for the Salem High DECA Chapter in which members raise money to take elementary pupils Christmas shopping for themselves and their families. What began nearly 30 years ago as an annual concept to benefit a few children has grown significantly over the last three decades.

Since 1999, Kris Harless has

served as Salem High's Marketing Teacher.

Guidance counselors, she says, tirelessly work each year to identify the children who could benefit from the shopping the most.

"We typically get lists from the families and take the elementary school students shopping and come back to the high school for gift wrapping, lunch, games and sometimes a visit from Santa," she added. "We also provide stockings for each of the students, filled with fun items."

From fundraising to gift delivery, COVID-19 changed the

See Cheer, page 7

Christmas spirit sprinkled throughout the community by Santa



By dressing up as Santa, Larry Wills got a chance to spread holiday joy to seniors, adults and children all over the city throughout December.

Shawn Nowlin
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A Salem man named Larry Wills started dressing up as Santa a few weeks ago and driving around the city using a Lift-N-Go to spread some holiday cheer. He has been especially popular on Main Street, regularly interacting with seniors, adults and children.

When Wills makes a Facebook post about his Santa experiences, he says people usually respond with emojis or kind words. Said Anthony Van Rhyn on December 21, "Thanks Larry. You are blessed to be doing what you do. Happy holidays." On December 17, Laura Fizer wrote, "You are amazing Larry."

Wills, 52, remembers what the holidays were like growing up in Salem. "My parents divorced when I was five. While my mom was an amazing nurse at Richfield Living, we still grew up extremely poor. We didn't have a lot, but our neighbors and the

community always looked out for us. Salem has always been a tight community," he said.

Spreading cheer and joy during the holiday has been a passion of Wills for as long as he can remember. Earlier this month, while riding around the city, he came across a Marine from Toys-4-Toys. After having a conversation, Wills said he wanted to make a \$100 donation to the nonprofit organization. Because of the community's generosity, Wills added, I was able to give a donation to that Marine of roughly \$6,500.

"That money will be used to help children in need during the holidays. Giving back to the less fortunate feels great," he said. "I asked the Salem community to pitch in, and not surprisingly, they did just that. I love my hometown."

A 1987 graduate of Salem High School, Wills has been the President of Larry Wills and Associates Insurance on West 4th Street since 1998.

Faces of 2020: remembering community members lost in 2020



Christopher Fisher, 30, passed away in his home on Sunday, January 19.



Ninety-year-old Judith Paxton passed away on Monday, December 7.

Shawn Nowlin
shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org

Towards the end of December, the Salem Times Register has traditionally filled the pages with retrospectives of news from the previous 11 months. In addition to that, the decision was made this year to honor every obituary that ran in the paper this year.

To say the least, 2020 has been a year unlike any other. Some of Salem's brightest stars lost this year range from children to seniors, from educators to maintenance workers, from cisgender individu-

als to members of the LGBTQ community. The community continues to mourn the death of every lost individual, and the outpouring of support will continue into next year.

Below is a list of every obituary that ran in the Salem Times-Register this year.

January

Anita Elmore, Carl Bowe, Christopher Fisher, Dennis Epperson, Dennis Hannah, Wanda Duncan, Ella Ross, Levi Mayo, Reese Garland and Ruth Johnson.

February

Anna Boggs, David Repass,

Dreama Wyrick, Faye Richardson, James Bradley, Larry Hale, Martha Testerman, Norman Slocum, Peggy Fridley, Ralph Fisher and Thelma Wise.

March

Antoinette Jolly, Elmer King, Glenn Robinson, Ida Cole, Jerry Bratton and Richard Gordon.

April

Geneva Abbott, Scott Atkinson, Leota Collins, Ronnie East, Martin Halstead, David Handy, Eddie Jarratt, Kenneth Proffitt, Jacob Pillis, Stephanie Ratliff, Harriet Reu-

See Faces, page 2



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The City of Salem has been monitoring the potential spread of COVID-19, and like you, we have been processing a great deal of information. The safety of citizens, school children and visitors is always the number one priority from the Salem Civic Center to City Hall. Emergency Management team members are in constant contact with the Virginia Department of Health, the Roanoke-Alleghany Health Department and area health professionals at our local hospitals. During this time of uncertainty, people are encouraged to monitor the website (salemva.gov) for official city details on closings or cancellations. This site will be updated daily whenever there is new information.

6:30 p.m., dinner and a program, Salem Civic Center.

SECOND MONDAY

Paint Bank Ladies Auxiliary meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the Paint Bank Fire Department. Contact 540-897-5346 for more information.

EACH TUESDAY

•Practice for the Salem Choral Society, 7-9 p.m. each Tuesday in the choir room of Salem Presbyterian Church, corner of Main and Market streets in downtown Salem. Membership is open to anyone who enjoys singing. For more information, go to www.salemchoralsociety.com or contact director Reed Carter at reedchoralsociety@gmail.com.

•Salem Chess Players meet at the Salem Senior

Center, 110 Union Street in Salem from 7-11 p.m. Open to anyone 16 years or older. Instructions are available.

•Salem Kiwanis Club meets 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. for lunch, Salem Civic Center.

•Glenvar Rotary Club meets 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. for lunch in Richfield Retirement's Recovery and Care Center cafeteria, first floor. Guests welcome.

•Knights of Columbus hosts bingo for charity. Proceeds support local charities including RAM House, Madonna House, the Roanoke Rescue Mission, Saint Francis House, food pantries and various youth projects. Games are played from 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. at Gator Hall, at 5301 Williamson Road, near Happy's Flea Market.

•Infinity Acres Ranch Fundraiser from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church at 321 E. Church

Street in Blacksburg. Tickets are \$8 while children eight and younger can eat for \$4. For more information, contact 276-358-2378.

•All ages are welcome to TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly) at 5:15 p.m. at the Salem Senior Center. For more information, contact Linda at 540-389-4207.

•Overeaters Anonymous (OA) meeting, 7 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church at 2011 Brandon Avenue in Roanoke. Contact 540-293-4065 for more information.

•From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., a chair caning and basket weaving class will occur at the Salem Senior Center. While free, attendees are encouraged to bring their own lunch. For more information, contact 540-375-3054.

THIRD TUESDAY

The monthly meeting

for National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) Roanoke Valley Chapter #226 locations and times will now vary. Learn more details by emailing us at nawicroa226@gmail.com.

THIRD WEDNESDAY

Alzheimer's /Dementia Caregiver Support Group at 2 p.m. at Salem Terrace at Harrogate.

FIRST THURSDAY

Roanoke County Woman's Club meets at 10:30 a.m. in the conference room at College Lutheran Church in Salem. New members are welcome.

EACH THURSDAY

The Salem Senior Center's Social Club, known as the 49ers Plus Club, originally started the

senior program in Salem over 40 years ago. They have different speakers and/or activities practically every week. New members are always welcome to show up at the Salem Senior Center at 11 a.m. Contact 540-375-3054 for more information.

EACH SATURDAY

•Salem Farmers Market from 9:30 a.m. to noon, weather permitting. Select vendors will have country sausage, cage-free eggs, grass-fed beef, cage-pasture-raised chicken, homemade rolls, pieces of artisan bread, muffins, seasonal greens and more.

•Overeaters Anonymous (OA) meeting, 11 a.m. at Christ Lutheran Church at 2011 Brandon Avenue in Roanoke.

Be sure to 'Like' the Salem-Times Register on Facebook.

FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAYS

Salem Host Lions Club,

DO IT. SO WE CAN GET THROUGH IT.
Practice safe socializing.

CARILION CLINIC

Faces

from page 1

bush, Mary Tripp and Ida Wallace.

May
Carper Hutchison, Cleo Boyd, Danny Jones, John Dewese, Lucille Huffman, Marian Stephens, Richard Bowles, Robert Barnett and Ronald Lancaster.

June
Barbara Hawks, Charles McFarland, Donald Greer, Jerry Turner, Robert Shults, Thomas Webb and Watson King.

July
Catherine Tate, Mark Hancock, Myat Hoen, Roy Lovejoy, Samuel Greenway, Timmy Smith and William Farrier.

August
Ernest Martin, Glenna Mayo, Irene Leonard, Joyce Robertson, Karanaida Simmons, Randall Agee and Reba Todd.

September
Allen Thomas, Anna Thompson, Clay Francisco and Margaret Vasquez.

October
Thomas Eldridge, Jason Poff, Judy Hall, Bill Wilson Jr., Dennis Porter, Larry Lynch, Mary Tate, Frances Drewry, George Jones, Mary Chisom, Myrtle Brown, Robert West and Ruth Duncan.

November
Betty Mitchell, Deborah Boling, Donnie Fisher, Elizabeth Steele, Elsie

Wade, Julius Darden, N. Helen Major, Ruth Yates, Teresa Wright, Terrance Murphy, Wilma Johnston and Wilma Miller.

December
Elwood Elmore, Pamela Moore, Judith Paxton, Vickie Bohon, John Whitescarver and Mary Scarborough.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cleo Boyd died on Monday, May 25, at the age of 86.

Lights of Love Memorial Tree

At this holiday season we share this time of remembrance. We cherish the special place in our hearts that will always be reserved for our loved ones.

~In Loving Memory~

Joseph Annarino
Margaret Annarino
Doug Barton
Nick Barton
Alex Barton
Cody Barton
Doris Roop Bowers
Dennis Bragg
Marilyn Bray
William Rodney Brown
Wilber & Mary Byer
Aubrey Davis Camden
Elsie Roberts Camden
Darrell Lee Camden
Richard Camden
Melvin Camden
Ellen Camden
Michael Stevenson Camden Jr
Michael "Mitch" Camden Sr
Robert Clark
Phyllis H. Clark
William R. Clark Jr
Megan Clark
William H. Cleary
James & Pearl Conner
Bill Conner
Bill Cooper
Randy Cotton
Edmond Croft
Louise Croft
Elizabeth Curtis
Mary Davis
Dave Davis

Lucille Davis
Jimmie Leslie Deel
Leslie Romulus Deel
E. Lucy Coleman Deel
Cecelia P. DeLong
Kim Marie Barry Dempsey
Robert W. Dickens
Jesse Dickens
Charles Dodd
James Donnelly
Edward Estes Dooley II
Evelyn Decker Dooley
Shelia Rose Dooley
Edward Estes Dooley III
Rick Draper
Clara Early
Melvin Early
Roy Eck
Carolyn Eck
Lowell Eller
Margaret Farris
Duncan Farris
Chris Fisher
James "Jim" Galbraith
Thomas Gearheart
John C. Gleason
Martee G. Gleason
Jim R. Goodwin Jr
Dorothy W. Goodwin
Gladys Goodwin
Frances P. Gordon
Alden Graves
Bill Graves

Donald "Sonny" Earl Gress
Jackie "Lynn" Gurley
Jack Gurley Sr
Robert Guthrie Sr
Helen Guthrie
Jimmy Haley
John C. Hicks Jr
Katherine Hodge
Gerald Hodges
John Holliday
Lori Holliday
Thomas A. Holliday
Robert E. Holliday
Elaine Hudson
June Huff
Ralph Wayne Jenkins
Gertrude Jobe
Edward Jobe
Russell Jobe
Ida Jobe
Danny "Butch" Johnson
Herbert Keenan
Marion Keenan
Dreama Kiser
Joseph Mark Kovacs
Dr. Robert L McClanahan Jr
Smyth Meador
Carol Meador
Mildred Meador
Marie Mewald
Ward & Lucille Miller
Christopher Mills
Richard Montgomery

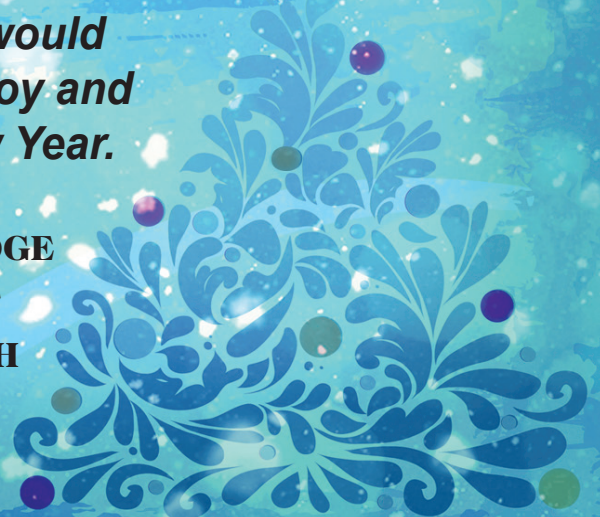
Billy Montgomery
Leona Morris
Margaret Myers
Thomas Newcomb
Nellie Overstreet
Mildred E Owens
James W. "Jimmy" Owens
Holmer Owens
Ruby Owens
Adrian Parris
Joyce Perdue
Junior Perdue
Roy E Pierce III
Margaret Pierce
Gene Prillaman
Kristin Noelle Prillaman
Nelson & Mary Prillaman
Wilma Volpe Ricker
Lynn Mack "Rick" Ricker
Carol Riddleberger
Melvin William Rierson
Bill Roberts
James Herman Roop
Annie Dulaney Roop
James Eldridge Roop
MaryAnn Wise Roop
Cliff Seymour
Sylvia Shepherd
Clarence Short
William "Bill" Simmerman
Betty Jo Smith
Marvin Chapman Smith
Priscilla Smolka

Betty Spradlin
Samuel St. Clair
Donna Dooley St. Clair
Jessica Stephenson
Flora Steven
John Steven
Caitlin Stewart
Mary Ann Tate
George Tate
Kitty Tate
Wilma Lee Teffner
Betty Thomas
Col. Richard Thomas
Janice Thomas
Betty Tomlin
Nancy Toppel
Ella Trail
John Tyree
Michael Thomas Volpe
Robert Waid
Charlotte Waid
Hugh Waid
Nancy St. Clair Willard
Ralph Williams
Michael Williamson
Martha Wilson
Cline Wood
Al & Geraldine Zimmerman
Gary Zimmerman

Blessings from the John M. Oakey & Son family. We would like to wish our families and friends a "light" of hope, joy and peace during the Holiday Season and the coming New Year.



IT IS OUR MISSION TO BUILD A BRIDGE OF TRUST, COMPASSION, RESPECT AND A LASTING RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR FAMILIES DURING THE MOST DIFFICULT OF TIMES



2020 from page 1

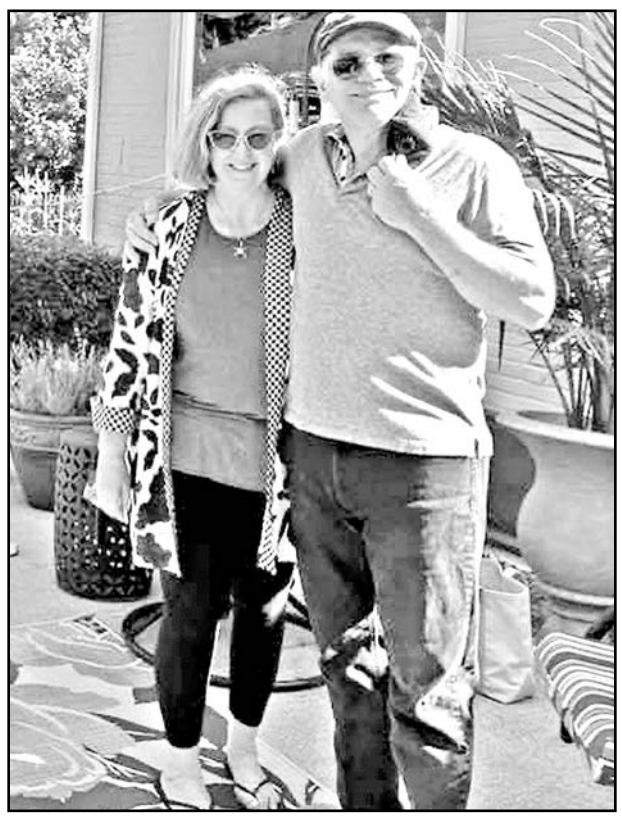


SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Eight-month-old Tyler Shrader, son of Brook Cronin



Killian and Klarissa Hale playing in the fall leaves.



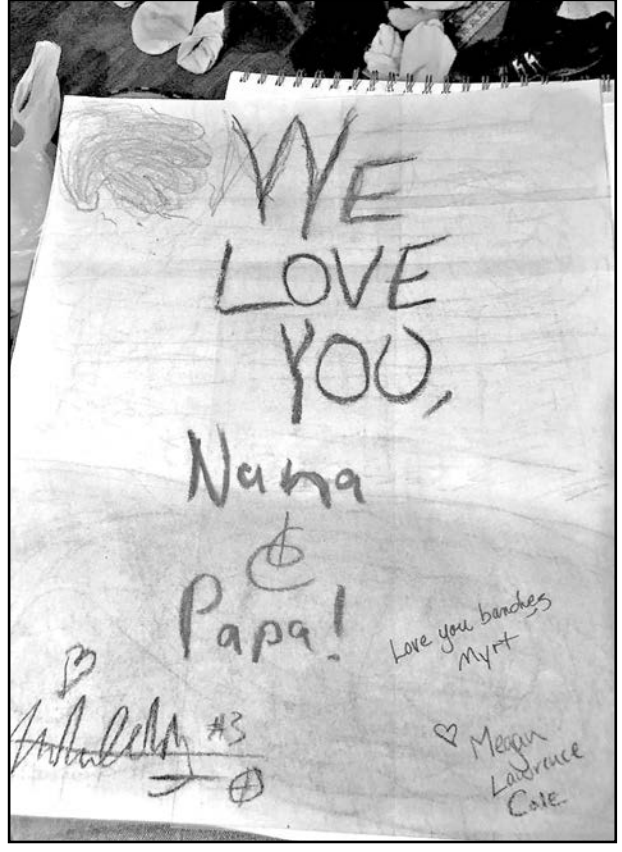
Lisa Clause, Richfield Living Senior Director of Marketing, with husband in their front yard.



RAM House Executive Assistant Molly Archer says this year taught her to appreciate what she has more than ever.



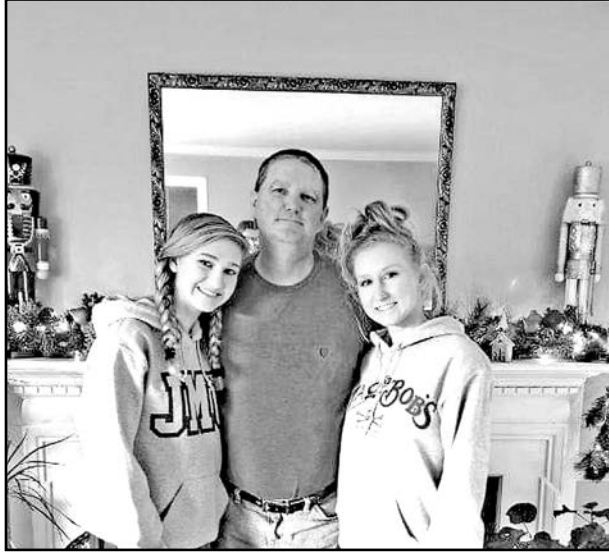
In May, Jazmine Otey graduated from James Madison University. Here she is with her proud dad.



More than ever, encouraging words and selfless gestures are needed.



Michelle Bloom's grandchildren, James Cuddy (eight months), Luciana Berrios (six) and Ava Prince (three), with Santa Claus.



Tony Rippee and his two daughters

died due to COVID-19, including her best friend since elementary school.

"We met in the first grade and she was born one day ahead of me on November 16. I would always call her on that day to make fun of her being older than me," said McKinley. "I missed that call this year and now I'm eternally older than her. I am saddened by lost memories of things that could have been and couldn't happen because of the isolation this pandemic has caused."

Sustainable Roanoke founder Celeste Delgado-Librero says this year has taught her about herself and life more than ever. "We can't abuse nature because we are part of nature. The pandemic is a symptom of the disease caused by extractive capitalism, just like climate change," she said before adding, "I am no longer afraid to say and do what I think. I have woken up to political activism and I intend to continue until my last breath."

The coronavirus pandemic significantly impacted the Salem Music School that Kristopher Hale owns and operates. "I will remember 2020 as the year the world stopped. The first few days after we were all asked to stay at home, I recall sitting by myself in complete silence and the silence was deafening. There were no people coming for lessons or even to get a pack of guitar strings. But I will also remember how we turned the tide and moved music lessons online and started curbside services."

While he hasn't personally lost any loved ones this

year, Jim Search understands that many people have not been as fortunate. "I faced a lot of adversity throughout this year and struggled through it. Through that struggle, I learned to appreciate those who support me and whom I can confide in," Search said.

It never crossed the mind of lifelong Los Angeles Lakers fan Tony McNeal that Kobe Bryant could die tragically from a plane crash. When that happened in January, McNeal says it changed him forever. Never again, he notes, will I take for granted the people I have in my life. Richfield Living Senior Director of Marketing Lisa Clause never knew how resilient she was until she made it through this year. "Thankfulness is a word that I consider every day. This virus is a life-or-death situation that can take those we know and love away at a moment's notice. Many around me have gotten COVID, but not myself," Clause said. "This knowledge spurs me to do more to help, be kind and try to spread hope."

As a nurse, Michelle Bloom will always remember 2020 as the year that healthcare workers gained a lot of respect and were made to feel invaluable and appreciated. "I've seen kindness shown in many ways to complete strangers. The creativity the folks of this

city took to ensure children could trick or treat in a safe manner, visit Santa without risking exposure and food donations to hospital staff will hopefully have a lasting impact," Bloom said.

God, said recent James Madison University graduate Jazmine Otey, forced me to sit down and discover who I am. She added, "With his guidance, I learned that my purpose in life is to spread love and kindness wherever I go. This world is built on hate, but one small act of kindness can impact people in ways you would have never imagined."

This year has given Salem Sheriff April Staton an opportunity to take pause and find gratefulness in the things she has overlooked in year's past.

"I am most thankful for my job and the incredible employees who have given their all during this pandemic," said the sheriff. "As first responders, they have not once hesitated to continue their efforts serving others. While most aspects of our mission have changed, these brave men and women have met these challenges with determination and grit."

Jill Sluss knows how it feels to lose a dear loved one because her beloved father unexpectedly passed in 2019. "This year, I was reminded that every day is a gift and that we should not take anything for granted. I also learned that we need

to slow down and be sure to really communicate with those who mean the most to us because life is so short," she said.

When asked to sum up 2020 in a few words, Salem resident Dave Wyble responded, "a year of turmoil, confusion, loss and separation of loved ones."

"A cousin's wife passed recently due to COVID-19. I met this cousin about ten years ago while reaching my Family Tree and came across him and

his wife. We become awfully close and stayed in contact," Wyble said. "It was a shock when he informed me last month that he and his wife contracted the virus from a healthcare worker, then he contracted it from her. He survived, but she did not."

Said Tony Rippee, "I think it goes without saying that the virus devastated families, normal life, jobs, small businesses, communities and the economy. People need hugs, handshakes and positive interactions like never before."

Salem Mayor Renee Turk says a person's attitude, in addition to adhering to the precautions recommended by scientists, is a great defense against the coronavirus. "Having a positive attitude and acknowledging that there will be an end to the pandemic helps too," she said.

The mayor continued, "the season of Christmas is

also the season for giving. Please remember that there are many others around us that are struggling this year, that have lost jobs and maybe even loved ones. We can still reach out in ways different than what we have done in the past, to family and friends, to local businesses, but especially to those in need."

Chair of the Salem Democratic Committee Nathan Auldridge lost his "Papa" Don Myer in May from a non-COVID infection. "He and my nana were childhood sweethearts, married for 73 years. The only fights I ever saw them have occurred because one of them didn't hear what the other had said. But even on those rare occasions, you could always tell by the way they interacted that they shared an immense amount of love and devotion for one another. We need more of that in the world."

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OPINION

Give Light ~ Eve of Joy ~

Frances Stebbins
Correspondent

{This is a memory from the six decades the author has spent writing about faith communities in daily, weekly and monthly news publications covering the western third of Virginia.}

Going to church on Christmas Eve was never part of my early life, but spending at least part of Christmas Day with my deceased father's family always was.

Being Christmas Eve, or a day before when this paper comes to you, it seems a good time to remember how my custom of keeping the second most holy day in the Christian year—the first being Easter—came about.

Last week I reflected

on the music of the season. In my teen years, it was the custom of my mother and me to join in carol singing at dusk in front of the courthouse in the town of Orange, Virginia. Perhaps 100 people or so gathered there to enjoy familiar Nativity hymns. Piano accompaniment was by a woman active in the Baptist church who also played for the Lions Club.

At home, our cedar Christmas tree had been up for about three days. Mama and I rose early to open presents because we had to catch a train or bus to take us to Charlottesville to spend much of the day at the home of one of my adult first cousins. Married to a professor of architecture at "the University" (of Virginia), she had a home large enough to accommodate perhaps a dozen members of the descendants of the Stringfellow family.

The professor was of Polish background and a Roman Catholic; his wife, who was my cousin, had grown up in a rural part of Albemarle County and was a non-observant Episcopalian. Husband and two sons had been to Mass the night before. Growing up in this religiously mixed family left its scars on the four children and only one, the youngest, would take her faith seriously.

But to return to Christmas Eve and church, my first recollection of being in one on Christmas Eve came in 1951, five months after my late husband Charlie and I were married. We were living in a basement apartment in Petersburg, Virginia, with both of us working for newspapers. He, being not only a man and World War II veteran, but having news experience, was employed by the city's daily, "The

Petersburg Progress-Index." I, in my first job as editor of a regional weekly, "The Southside Virginia News," had less status, but I carefully edited to the style I had been taught in college all the contributed material sent in.

We went out to eat on Christmas Eve after I had finished a busy day "putting the paper to bed." Then something prompted me to suggest we attend a late service at one of the many churches of our common faith.

{Interestingly, in the 18 months we lived in one of Virginia's oldest cities, I wrote a story about a precocious young organist named Richard Cummins who was already playing for a church in his hometown. Years later, we'd connect again in Roanoke when he was the admired and long-time musician on the staff of Greene Memorial United Method-

ist Church downtown.}

I remember little about that Christmas Eve service, but it marked the beginning of my religious observance as an adult. When Charlie and I took jobs on the Roanoke daily afternoon paper, we were drawn to attend a small new Episcopal parish on our first Easter in 1953.

In time, I joined the choir of the little Williamson Road parish. Rectors came and went since the several small newer congregations in that neighborhood were something of a training ground for clergy. Eventually, one started opening the church for worship on Christmas Eve late. I can recall exiting the building at midnight singing "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" into the cold darkness.

By this time, our family had grown to five. My loving aunts and uncles, several of whom had shared in my infant baptism at our family's country place, had moved on to the next world, but the habit of traveling to be with rela-

tives on Christmas Day remained too strong with me to be broken.

Charlie had an elderly aunt and her husband in Clifton Forge. Devout churchgoers, they were childless but welcomed the Roanoke nephew and his young family. Unfortunately, this aunt I can only describe charitably as "silly." Our children hated these enforced trips on Christmas afternoon; my adult daughter now recalls them with great distaste.

Carrying on family traditions can be counterproductive.

Now empty-nesters, Charlie and I moved to our current church in Salem in 1987, and two years later we became residents of the historic courthouse town. In our new church too I joined the choir, and for more than 25 years sang with the late Judy Paxton who died earlier this month of complications of COVID-19.

For years to come this Christmas Eve and Day will bring different memories.

Christmas Traditions

Morgan Griffith
Representative

Christmas is a time of tradition, for families, communities, and throughout our society. For those of us who celebrate, like me, we each have our favorite customs

about this season, whether attending a family gathering or town parade or just hearing a favorite Christmas carol.

How those traditions become things we return to year after year make for interesting stories on their own.

One story caught my eye recently on the Merriam-Webster dictionary website about the phrase "tis the season," a phrase often said around this time of year originating in the Christmas carol "Deck the Halls."

As someone with Welsh ancestry, and as chairman of the Congressional Friends of Wales Caucus, I was glad to learn that this beloved carol had notable Welsh roots. According to Merriam-Webster, the carol's tune was apparently first recorded in a 1784 book entitled Musical and Poetical Relicks of the Welsh Bards. The book was written by Edward Jones, a harpist for the then-Prince of Wales, the future King George IV, and Jones dedicated his work to the Prince.

A century later, the

Welsh tune became linked to a Welsh lyricist. In 1884, a book called The Song Book: Words and Tunes from the Best Poets and Musicians reported that the lyrics to "Deck the Halls" were a translation by Thomas Oliphant of lyrics written by John Jones, a poet who also went by the Welsh name Talhaiarn.

Those lyrics included "tis the season," but they also include the syllables "fa la la la," and the carol's Welsh origins are important in understanding their inclusion.

Merriam-Webster quotes composer John Rutter as saying the song was originally intended for performance by a group of singers and a harpist, the harp being Wales' national instrument. The singers would sing a verse, the harpist would improvise, the singers would move to the next verse, and so on. But harpists are not always available, nor do harps occupy such a prominent place in our culture as they do in that of Wales. As Rutter said, "That only worked in Wales where they had harpists on every street corner." So "fa la la la" would be sung to take the harp's place.

Before reading this article, I had not been

aware of the link between Wales and this Christmas carol so widely known and sung in our culture. One of the remarkable aspects of the Christmas season is how traditions from so many parts of the world have been blended into the celebrations in our country. You may participate in several without thinking much about it—for example, if you put up a Christmas tree in your house, a custom brought to our country by settlers from Germany.

The variety of these traditions for one holiday speaks to the universal message of the Christmas season and also to the melting pot of American culture. We should be thankful that we live in a country where we can celebrate, or not celebrate, according to our beliefs.

This year, the coronavirus pandemic impedes our enjoyment of some of these customs. Community celebrations have been curtailed or cancelled, families are reconsidering whether to have as big a gathering as they might normally have, and the festivities that do take place have as a backdrop the pandemic that has inflicted so much suffering.

Most of us have some aspect of the season we treasure that will not

take place as usual this year. I enjoy participating in Christmas parades in the different towns of the Ninth District. After riding through a town saying "Merry Christmas" and seeing the bright eyes of children and hearing the warm wishes of the adults, I find it impossible to finish a parade without simply feeling good about the world.

Christmas remains a time of hope, and the traditions we come back to each year are also the traditions we can look forward to. I invite you to share some of your own on my official Facebook page where this column is posted.

If you celebrate Christmas, however you do so this year, I hope that it will bring you comfort and joy, and I wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, feel free to contact my office. You can call my Abingdon office at 276-525-1405 or my Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671. To reach my office via email, please visit my website at www.morgangriffith.house.gov. Also on my website is the latest material from my office, including information on votes recently taken on the floor of the House of Representatives.

SALEM TIMES-REGISTER
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The Times-Register 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 Times-Register reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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CROSSWORD

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Twos under par
 - 7. Expresses surprise
 - 10. Shows exceedingly great size
 - 12. At this place
 - 13. One who prints from a plate
 - 14. '95 U.S. Open golf champ Corey
 - 15. Stupefied with alcohol
 - 16. Breezed through
 - 17. A major division of geological time
 - 18. Humble request for help
 - 19. Part of a deck
 - 21. Albanian monetary unit
 - 22. Atomic #22
 - 27. Atomic #18
 - 28. Catholic holiday service
 - 33. Canadian province
 - 34. Capital of Alberta
 - 36. Large African antelope
 - 37. Mexican tortilla sandwich
 - 38. Pigmented eye membrane
 - 39. Baby's food protector
 - 40. Winglike structures
 - 41. Sun-dried brick
 - 44. Those dull in appearance
 - 45. Basketlike baby's bed
 - 48. Purpose or intent
 - 49. Difficult to carry
 - 50. Cry made by sheep
 - 51. More than one spouse
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Incredible edibles
 - 2. About aviation
 - 3. Small biting flies
 - 4. Bulgarian monetary unit
 - 5. Point midway between E and SE
 - 6. Old CCCP or U_____
 - 7. Rubber tree genus
 - 8. Waterless
 - 9. Female chicken
 - 10. Relating to the Hebrews
 - 11. Dig up
 - 12. Diacritic caron
 - 14. Capital of Sicily
 - 17. Shock therapy
 - 18. Cyto_____: surrounds the nucleus
 - 20. Daughters of the Am. Revolution
 - 23. Nincompoops
 - 24. Great battle of 333 BC
 - 25. Salt Lake state
 - 26. Woman (French)
 - 29. A public promotion
 - 30. Social insect
 - 31. Knifed
 - 32. Formal association of people
 - 35. Toff
 - 36. Snaps up
 - 38. Annona diversifolia
 - 40. Opera vocal solo
 - 41. Largest continent
 - 42. Day (Latin)
 - 43. Sole
 - 44. Hit lightly
 - 45. Guy (slang)
 - 46. Black tropical Am. cuckoo
 - 47. Screen Writers Guild

A cup of holiday cheer

Ashley Trainque
Craig County Health Center
Medical Site Manager
Guest Contributor

Many will hear the sound of bells ringing in front of their favorite stores decked out with Christmas decor this holiday season. We listen to Dean Martin belt out, "Baby, It's Cold Outside," and with happy smiling faces, we run frantically about buying gifts for family and friends. In neighborhoods across America, Christmas trees are lighting up living rooms. People sing Christmas carols, veg out on Hallmark Christmas movies, drink hot cocoa by the gallon and stay up late watching the ball drop in New York City on New Year's Eve.

The imagery is fanciful, fun, and brings out images of smiling faces and happiness, but is this real life? For many, this is reality; for some, it is a false front,

a glamorous social media double-life. And still others, this dream is out of reach. They are full of despair. During the holiday season, we want happiness. But, what if we can't seem to fill our cup of holiday cheer?

Life is full of ups and downs. We have mountain top experiences that fill us with delight, like getting married to the love of our life. We also have times of despair, such as sharing the loss of a child, parent, or spouse. For most people, these ups and downs are present at one time or another, and we live our lives somewhere in the middle between the mountain tops and the valleys. Life continues; we adjust to the day's events and keep living, laughing, crying, working.

People remind me of pack animals; we socialize. We tend to connect with those around us that share our views, our dreams, our vision. People have a desire to feel wanted, accepted, secure, and loved. This is why groups so strongly connect, hippies, religious

groups, moms of preschoolers, even! Most people view their family as a home base, the ultimate place of security, acceptance, and love. So then, the loss of group identity or family connectedness can lead to depression. The holidays are when family, friends, and loved ones gather together and well socialize. So, a loss can spiral a person into feeling off-kilter. A person who can "keep it together" most times may feel like they have sunk into a never-ending suction vacuum and can see no way out. For these people, a holiday is a dreaded event.

Depression during the holiday season can seem overwhelming and downright deadly. Yes, you heard me, deadly! Some people may feel that their life is no longer relevant and decide to end their own lives. Combined with the COVID-19 pandemic during the holidays, we will undoubtedly see a rise in depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and suicide rates.

St. Paul's Youth present live nativity



PHOTO BY ARTICE LEDBETTER

The youth of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Salem presented a live nativity Dec. 20 on the church's front steps on

East Main Street. Present were wise men Alex Williams, Leo Hartless, Oliver Farber; angel Ashley Williams, shepherd

Gracie Michael, Caleb Michael as Joseph and Samantha Moran as Mary.

Colin Michael performed

hymns on keyboard. Father David Compton read the story of Christ's birth from Luke 2 verses 1-20. Church member

Kelly Thornhill Farber coordinated the event. The living nativity has been an annual St. Paul's tradition for many years.

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BAPTIST (INDEPENDENT)

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH-7th and Florida Streets, Salem VA. Pastor: Roger D. Counts, 540-389-3818. Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Morning Worship 11:00 a.m., Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m., Wednesday Night Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.

LAKESIDE BAPTIST CHURCH - 447 Dalewood Avenue, Salem, 986-0062, Pastor Carl Goodman. Coffee Bar 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Children & Student Ministry 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Thursday 7:00 pm Young Single Adults, Wednesday Morning Prayer Service 10:00, Lifegroups meeting throughout the week. www.lbcva.com.

SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, 2721 120'Clock Knob Rd., Salem, Pastor: Tim York; Sundayschool, 9:45AM, Sunday morning worship, 11:00AM, Sunday evening, 6:00PM, Wednesday evening, 7:00PM.

TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH - 4339 Daugherty Road, Salem, Greg Irby, Pastor, Church: 380-3567; Home: 389-7240, Sunday School 10:00 AM, Worship Services 11:00AM & 6:00PM, Mid-week Prayer Meeting Wednesday 7:00PM, www.templebaptch.com.

BAPTIST (SOUTHERN)

BETHEL BAPTIST-1601 S. Colorado St., Salem, Pastor Hilton Jeffreys, 389-2376, Sunday: - 9:30 Sunday School; 10:30am Morning Worship; 6:00 Evening Worship; Wednesday 6:15 Preschool & Children Awana and Youth and Adult Bible Study. www.bethelbaptistva.com

MOUNTAIN PASS BAPTIST CHURCH - 311 Catawba Valley Dr., (Ro. Co.) Salem, VA 24153. Rev. Jack Richards, Jr., Pastor, Study 384-6720, Home 427-1508. Sundays: Sunday School 9:45 a.m.; Morning Worship 11:00 a.m., Evening 6:00 p.m. Wed: 7:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting and Bible Study.

RIDGEWOOD BAPTIST-703 Hemlock Road N.W. Roanoke, 342-6492. Roy E. Kanode, Pastor. Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Morning Worship 11 a.m., Awana 5:15 p.m., Adult Bible Study and Youth Fellowship 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.; Fellowship Meal 5:45 p.m.; Praiz Kidz 6:00 p.m.; Family Night Activities 6:30 p.m. website: www.ridgewood-baptist.com.

SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH- 103 North Broad Street, Salem, Pastor, Dr. Heath Rickmond, 387-0416. Sunday School 9:15-10:15 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:30-11:45 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Services 6:15 p.m. www.salembc.net

FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH - Ken Nienke, Pastor, 387-3200. Salem Campus: 1226 Red Lane Extension, Salem, Worship Times: 8:00AM, 9:15AM & 11:00AM. North Campus: 7210 Williamson Road, Roanoke, Worship Times: 9:15AM & 11:00AM. Southwest Campus: 3585 Buck Mountain Road, Roanoke, Worship Times: 9:15AM & 11:00AM. www.fcclife.org.

BRETHREN

GREEN HILL CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN, 2699 Harborwood Rd (Ro. Co.) Salem, (540) 389-5109, Email: greenhillcob@verizon.net, find us on Facebook. Continuing the work of Jesus, Peacefully, Simply, Together. God's Work Our Hands

CHURCHES OF CHRIST/CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

SALEM CHURCH OF CHRIST - 401 West Main Street. 540-389-2400. Minister Eric Evans; Family Life Minister Taylor Plott;

Salem

WORSHIP DIRECTORY



Luke 2:9-15

And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

To list your church, contact Randy Thompson at 540-230-1129 or email advertise@ourvalley.org

9:00-9:45am Sunday Bible Study; 10:00am & 5:30pm Worship Service; Wednesday Bible Study: 6:00 -7:00pm. For more info contact the Church Office.

WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST - 1705 Starview Drive, Salem. Minister Neil Richey, 389-9139, Sunday Bible Study: 9:30 AM, Morning Worship: 10:30 AM, Evening Worship: 6:00 PM, Wednesday Bible Study, 7:00 PM.

CHURCH OF GOD/ANDERSON

COVENANT COMMUNITY CHURCH- 955 Bird Lane, Salem, Va 24153, 389-5639. Pastor: Scott Hudson. Sunday School 10:00AM, Worship 11:00AM; Bible Study 6:00PM.

CHURCH OF GOD/CLEVELAND

SALEM CHURCH OF GOD - 600 Craig Avenue, Todd Stiffler, Pastor, 387-2068, Sunday School 9:30am: Worship and Kids Church 10:30 am, Wednesday Bible Study and Classes at 7:00 pm. www.salemcog.church

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

First Christian Church, 712 Front Ave. Salem, Pastor Dan Netting (540) 389-6831. www.firstchristiansalemva.com. Adult and Children Sunday School - 9:45 am, Worship - 10:45 am. Nursery Provided for both. Everyone welcome

FORT LEWIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH - 2931 West Main Street, Salem, Pastor, Rev. Ben Moore, 380-4636. Website: www.flccsaalem.org. Adult and Children Sunday School, 9:30 AM, Worship 10:30 AM, Disciple Players Drama Ministry, Wednesday 6:00 PM, followed by Adult Choir Practice at 7:00 PM.

ECKANKAR

Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom, is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. Eckankar is a spiritual path that offers a Light & Sound Service on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 11:00 a.m. However, due to COVID-19, the Monthly Service and other ECK programs are now available online through Zoom. Visit www.eck-va.org for program listings or call 540-353-5365 and leave a message. We will return your call.

EPISCOPAL

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 42 East Main Street, Salem, 389-9307. The Rev. Dr. David Compton. Sundays at 10:00 am Holy Communion in church and livestream on Facebook. Wednesday Morning Prayer livestreamed at 11:30 am. facebook.com/st.pauls.salemva/

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN

COLLEGE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - 210 S. College Avenue, Salem VA 24153. Please visit our website www.collegelutheran.org for information on services.

FOURSQUARE

the BRIDGE SALEM CHURCH - 4335 West Main Street, Salem. 540-404-1414 | bridge.salem@icloud.com • www.salemva.church Saturday service, 6pm (Nursery & Kids Church available). Mail: PO Box 1954, Salem. Twitter/Instagram: @thebridgesalem Joey Lyons, Senior Pastor | joey@salemva.church | 540-831-9864

INDEPENDENT

RESTORATION CHURCH - a Community on Mission Following Jesus into the World

- 10:10am Sundays at the Salem YMCA - 1126 Kime Lane, Salem - 540-384-1601 - www.restorationsalem.org. Watch Live at YouTube: Restoration Church-Salem, VA. Facebook: RestorationChurchSalem

NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, U.S.A., INC.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH-226 South Broad Street, Salem. Rev. Melton Johnson, 389-9648. Sunday School 9:30 AM, Sunday Morning Worship Service 11:00 AM, Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM.

SHILOH BAPTIST- 201 South Market Street, Salem, Rev. Adrian E. Dowell, H) (389-0409). (Sundays) 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, (Wednesday) Prayer Meeting & Bible Study for Youths & Adults, 7:30 p.m. (Saturday) 8:00 a.m. - Intercessory Prayer Service, Women's Bible Study Fellowship 9:30am Fridays, Men's Bible Study 7am Saturdays.

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

CHRISTIAN LIFE INT'L - 1 CLI Way, Salem, Ryan Linkous, Pastor, 343-3801, Sunday Worship Service 10:15 AM, (Children's Church and Nursery) Wed, MidWeek Service (Adult, Awaken Youth, M'pact Girls & Royal Rangers) 7 PM. Nursery Provided. Email: office@clchurch.org. Find us on facebook.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH- 41 East Main Street, Salem, VA . 389-3881. Associate Pastor Rev. Janet Chisom, Interim Pastor: Rev. Tupper Garden. Until further notice: Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m. are online only. Please contact the church for online details for Sunday School and worship with us at www.salempres.org, or Facebook, or YouTube.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

(Evangelical Presbyterian Church EPC)
NEW LIFE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH -101 Keesling Avenue, Salem, VA, 387-1311, Rev. Cameron Smith, Sunday 9:15 Prayer/Communion, Sunday School 9:45 am., Sunday Worship 11:00am, 2nd & 4th Sunday children & youth ministry, Wednesday Choir Practice 7:00pm, 1st Wed of month Richfield Ministry. Nursery and children's church available each week. Email: newlife.epc.salem@gmail.com, Web: www.newlifesalemEPC.org. Facebook: facebook.com/newlife.epc.salem

ROMAN CATHOLIC

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP -314 Turner Road, Salem. 387-0491, Rev. Ken Shuping, Saturday Mass - 5:00 p.m., Sunday Mass 10:30am, Daily Mass: Mon 12noon, Wed 6:30pm, Thur 12noon & Fri 12noon; Mass on Sunday at 1:00 pm in Spanish; Confessions Wednesday 5:30-6, Saturday 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. and by appointment.

UNITED METHODIST

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 125 W. Main St, Salem, VA. 540-389-5459. Pastor Alan Combs, Traditional Worship - 8:45am, Sunday School - 9:45am, Genesis Contemporary Worship 10am; Traditional Worship - 11:00am. www.fumcsalemva.org.

LOCUST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH- 3415 Locust Grove Lane, Salem, 380-4303, Pastor Logan Hollenbeck. Drive-In service each Sunday Traditional Worship 9:30 a.m.

Utility Bill Relief Program announced in Salem

~ Residents and businesses are eligible ~

Are you behind on your utility bill payments due to the pandemic? If so, you may qualify for assistance.

The City of Salem recently announced that it is using funds acquired from the Municipal Utility Relief Program to aid citizens who are struggling to pay electric, water and sewer bills.

The city requested and received \$221,083 from the federal government's CARES ACT funding to create the program. Any resident or business owner facing past-due utility bills from March 1 through

December 30, 2020, due to COVID-19, is eligible to apply for assistance. Funds will be awarded on a first come, first served basis.

"The window to apply for these funds is tight, so we hope citizens will share this information with anyone who may be able to qualify," says Rosie Jordan, Salem Finance Director. "We are fortunate to receive this amount of money and we now want our residents who have been adversely affected by COVID-19 to benefit from it."

Applications forms can be downloaded and

printed from the city's website at www.salemva.gov or picked-up at the Utility Collections Office on the ground floor of City Hall, 114 N. Broad St. All forms must be filled-out completely and returned no later than January 20, 2021. They can be submitted in person or via email at utilitycollections@salemva.gov. Interested applicants seeking more information can call 375-3021.

- Submitted by
Mike Stevens, City of
Salem Communications
Director

POLICE REPORT

The Salem Police Department reported the following people were arrested and charged December 1-21. Arrest indicates an accusation, and defendants are presumed innocent unless found guilty in court. Police do not release the names of persons under the age of 18.

Those arrested and their charges were listed as:

December 1 - Christopher A. Lindamood, 59, criminal trespass, public intoxication; and Bridget C. Daniel, 39, unauthorized use of vehicle.

December 2 - Emmitt K. Stokes Jr., 51, assault and battery

December 4 - Kevin P. Daly, 36, shoplifting; and Esperanza R. Thomason, 42, contempt of court.

December 6 - Richard L. King, 32, domestic assault and battery; and Clifton L. Wyatt, 53, assault on police officer, assault and battery.

December 8 - Dale A. Dalton II, 39, possession of controlled substance; James L. Salisbury Jr., 31, failure to appear; and Rhonda S. Williams, 41, contempt of court.

December 9 - James B. Strickland, 36, failure to appear

December 11 - Dustin R. Quesenberry, 23, vehicle burglary, petit larceny

December 12 - Melvin Winbush III, 36, domestic assault and battery; Cletus T. Carroll, 39, failure to appear.

December 14 - Taneisha J. Campbell, 28, possession of controlled substance

OBITUARIES

Scarborough, Mary Louise Trussell

Mary Louise Trussell Scarborough, 80, of Semora, NC, passed away on Sunday, December 20. She is survived by her husband, Robert Edward Scarborough.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert L. Trussell and Wilma Denit Trussell of Salem.

Mary Louise was born in Salem and was a graduate of Andrew Lewis High School; graduate of Madison College (now James Madison University), and the Medical College of Virginia where she received a master's degree in dietetics. She continued her career as a registered dietician both in hospital and later as a private contractor.

She and her husband were active members of Leasburg United Methodist Church in Leasburg, NC. She and Ed were also active in other local and civic activities including Meals on Wheels, as well as sharing her husband's involvement and work as a Shriner helping transport children to the Shriner's hospital in South Carolina over the years. They enjoyed traveling and visiting all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Canada and the Aleutian Islands.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by two daughters, Pat Craft and husband, Kevin and grandson, Todd of New Castle, VA; Caroline Bain and husband, Jim of Salem; and cousin, Harriett Darst of Lynchburg and other relatives and many close friends.

Private funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, December 29, at the Leasburg United Methodist Church with the Rev. Ray Pearce officiating.

Family and friends are welcome to attend the graveside service at 11:45 a.m. on December 29 at the Leasburg Community Cemetery (7550 US Highway 158, Leasburg, NC 27291).

Pallbearers will be Barry Pleasant, George Henderson, Bert Coleman, Jim Edwards, Mickey Yeatts and Johnny Hall.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials may be made to the organization of your choice or the Shriners Hospital for Children, 950 W Faris Road, Greenville, SC 27605.

Condolences may be sent to www.brooksandwhite.com

Whitescarver, John Penn

John Penn Whitescarver, 84, died on December 3 in Stuart, Florida. He leaves behind his wife of 58 years, Elizabeth "Betty" Jones Whitescarver; sons John "Jay" Penn Whitescarver, Jr., David Andrew Whitescarver (Jennifer Whitescarver), grandson Jesse Alex Penn Whitescarver, sister Maslin Kain.

He was predeceased by his parents and a brother, Furman (Pat) Whitescarver Jr. John was born August 17, 1936, and raised in Salem, son of the late Furman B. Whitescarver, Sr. and Lillian (Penn) Whitescarver. He was their middle child, known as Penn by family and close friends.

Penn lived his early years in Salem in a community known as Langhorne Place and attended Academy and Broad Street Schools. After graduating from Andrew Lewis High School, Penn graduated from VMI (Virginia Military Institute) and VA Tech, with degrees in civil engineering. Penn met Betty at VA Tech just prior to him entering the Air Force Flight School in Valdosta, GA. They

were married on June 16, 1962.

Penn proudly served our country in the United States Air force as Captain, B-52 bomber pilot, flying combat missions in Viet Nam. Beyond his military service, Penn served his country by reducing pollutant discharges to the public waters. As a charter employee of the Environmental Protection Agency, he was awarded the EPA Bronze Medal for development of the Nation Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and an award for developing standards that cut water pollution by 700 trillion pounds.

The National Stormwater Center, LLC served Penn's passion for clean water. Now operated by his son, David, the center has trained over 10,000 people to be Certified Stormwater Inspectors and continues to promote municipal coordination of industrial and construction activities to improve the quality of the nation's waters.

Funeral services will be held in the spring of 2021.

Salem VA HCS begins COVID-19 vaccine distribution with moderna

The Salem VA Health Care System will begin COVID-19 vaccination with the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine on Dec. 23 following the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Emergency Use Authorization for this vaccine.

"Salem is eager to offer the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to health care personnel and our Veteran residents of our Community Living Center," said Dr. Jeffrey Thompson, Salem's Chief of Pharmacy. "Receiving the vaccine is like having hope delivered. As vaccine supplies increase, our ultimate goal is to offer COVID-19 vaccination to all veterans and employees who want to be vaccinated."

Salem is one of 113 VA Medical Centers across the country to receive the first limited supply of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Sites were identified based on need for the vaccine according to CDC's 1A prioritization and capacity to store the vaccine at -20C.

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine was 94 percent effective in clinical trials in preventing COVID-19 disease. The vaccine is administered in two doses, 28 days apart. The side effects

appear similar to those of other vaccines and are short-lived.

Thirty-seven medical centers began offering the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to health care personnel and Veterans Dec 14. Fifteen additional VA facilities will receive an allocation of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine the week of December 21.

Even after receiving COVID-19 vaccination, employees and Veterans should continue wearing face coverings, practicing physical distancing and washing hands often.

As vaccines become available for more groups of Veterans, VA care teams will reach out to eligible Veterans to schedule vaccinations. There is no need to preregister or come to a facility to sign up.

Veterans can get up-to-date information on VA's VA COVID-19 vaccine webpage, which launched on December 11, and sign up to receive regular updates on the vaccine on the VA's Stay Informed page.

-Submitted by
Rosaire Bushey,
Public Affairs Officer

Cheer

from page 1

implementation of Christmas Cheer in every possible way this year. Since normal fundraising was unable to happen, Harless and her students had to rely on donations.

"Dixon Pressure Cleaning partnered with us to raise some funds. In addition, some of the DECA members asked friends, family and businesses they're familiar with to also make additional donations," Harless said. "The remaining donations came from faculty members at the high school. We did manage to meet our ultimate goal when all was said and done."

Gestures like giving back to the less fortunate are needed more than ever. Harless says she couldn't be prouder of her students for doing

their part in making a difference in the community. They, she added, include, Dylan Copeland, Conner Fletcher, Jordan Lucas, Ellie Magenbauer, Jacob Massey, Emma Robarge, Filip DeHaven, Drew Harless, Evan Poindexter and Lily Webster.

"We usually take the elementary school students to Wal-Mart on a field trip and then back to the high school for even more fun. This year there were no field trips," Harless said. "My Advanced Marketing Class did some online shopping. For the rest of the shopping, a group of DECA members met me at Wal-Mart one day outside of school to purchase the items on the wish lists. I love being a part of this program every year."

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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, January 11, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room of the Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, 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) Request of Barry E. and Valerie T. Dick, property owners, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a 1,288 SF detached garage on the property located at 1737 Amy Lane (Tax Map #212-1-10).

2) Request of Derbyshire Real Estate, applicant, and Sunset Ridge Holdings, LLC, property owner, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a two-family dwelling on the property located at 703 E. Riverside Drive (Tax Map #232-2-9).

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of the City Planner, 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
James E. Taliaferro, II
Clerk of Council

Legals - Craig County

TRUSTEE SALE OF 99 Laurel Hill Pass, New Castle, VA 24127

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated September 5, 2017, in the original principal amount of \$125,190.00, recorded as Inst. 170000491, assigned as Inst. 200000407, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the County of Craig, Virginia, default having occurred in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and at the request of the holder of the note, the undersigned, as Substitute Trustees, either of whom may act, will sell at public auction at the front entrance of the Circuit Court for the County of Craig on January 7, 2021, at 11:00 a.m., the property located at the above address and described as Lot 2, containing 4.026 acres, together with a 25 foot access easement as shown on plat recorded in Deed Book 114, pages 274-277, County of Craig. TERMS: CASH. PROPERTY SOLD AS IS WITH SPECIAL WARRANTY OF TITLE. A deposit of \$12,000.00 or 10% of the successful bid amount (whichever is lower) will be required immediately of the successful bidder, in cash, cashier's check or certified funds only payable to "BRIAN DOLAN LAW OFFICES, TRUSTEE", balance due within 15 days from date of sale. No personal checks accepted. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower filed for and obtained bankruptcy protection, entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, or if trustee is unable to complete the sale, or if it is set aside or not fully completed for any reason except purchaser's default, the sale shall be null and void, and the purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Upon purchaser's default, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property resold at the risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, reservations and conditions, if any, of record, as well as inchoate liens and any other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. Real estate taxes will be adjusted to the date of sale. All costs of conveyance, deed, examination of title, recording charges, grantor's tax and possession will be at the expense of the purchaser. All risks of casualty immediately pass to the successful bidder. Time is of the essence. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. For Information Contact: Brian Dolan Law Offices, PLLC, and G. Benny Moore Substitute Trustee(s) 12610 Patrick Henry Dr., Ste. C, Newport News, VA 23602; (757) 320-0255

Publish On: December 23 & 30, 2020

Legals - Montgomery County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 **Case No. JJ004492-01-00 & JJ004492-02-00** RADFORD J&DR- JUVENILE DIVISION Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re BOWLING, ALAYNA DAWN RENEE HILL, STEPHANIE /v. BOWLING, DAVID H.

The object of this suit is to: LOCATE PARENTS.

It is ORDERED that DAVID H. BOWLING appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 1/19/2021 2:00pm.

11/16/2020
Sally Davis
Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 **Case No. JJ004492-01-00 & JJ004492-02-00** RADFORD J&DR- JUVENILE DIVISION Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re BOWLING, ALAYNA DAWN RENEE HILL, STEPHANIE /v. LAPP, KRISTEN

The object of this suit is to: LOCATE PARENTS.

It is ORDERED that LAPP, KRISTEN appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 1/19/2021 2:00pm.

11/16/2020
Sally Davis
Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 **Case No. JJ004494-01-00 & JJ004494-02-00** RADFORD J&DR- JUVENILE DIVISION Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re CARSTENS-ZIEGLER, ARIANA LEIGH EAST, AMANDA /v. CARSTENS, RICHARD FRANK; III
The object of this suit is to: GAIN CUSTODY.

It is ORDERED that CARSTENS, RICHARD FRANK; III appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 2/16/2021 2:00 pm.

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CONTEST RULES:

- All entries must be on an official Salem Times-Register entry blank. No duplicates please. No limit on the number of entries as long as the current blank is used.
- Each advertisement on this page includes one football game to be played this week. Find the game in the ad and print your predicted winner on the line corresponding to the advertiser in the list included on this page.
- First prize will be awarded to the person who picks the most games correctly.
- Be sure to include your name, address, and high point total for the week. High point total is decided by the most points scored by ANY ONE TEAM in the games listed for the week. High point total is used to break ties only, and all decisions will be final.
- Clip and mail THE ENTRY PART ONLY to Salem Times-Register, Football Contest, P.O. Box 1125, Salem, VA 24153. Entry must be postmarked by 5 p.m. on the Friday immediately following the date of the paper, or bring your entry by the Salem Times-Register office at 1633 West Main Street in Salem. Your entry must be in the box by 5 p.m. Friday.
- All entries not conforming to the rules may be declared null and void. Decisions are final. For questions call Brian Hoffman @ 389-9355. Winners will be announced in the contest story the following week.

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The Quick Change (see story)

Last contest of the season!!



haven't been cancelled by then they're on the contest. Several times I've had to substitute games on a Tuesday due to cancellations.

In last week's contest we had three games cancelled, the LA-Lafayette game against Coastal Carolina, Michigan State versus Maryland and Florida State against Wake Forest. That left 12 games on the board and Bill Thorne of Salem correctly picked 11 of the 12 to win the contest. His only miss was picking UCLA over Stanford. For his efforts Bill will receive a \$50 gift certificate from Mac & Bob's as well as a large Blizzard from Dairy Queen in Salem.

For last week's "Quick Change" contest I asked you to pick the score of the Clemson-Notre Dame ACC Championship game. The actual score was 34-10 in favor of Clemson and Dan Brugh, one of our weekly contest advertisers, picked the Tigers to win 34-21 and that was the closest. He gets a free oil change from Valvoline and I encourage you to support his Real Estate business as he's one of the good

ones who makes this contest possible.

Also, we had a playoff for the previous week's contest, as Ron Jordan and Pam "The Little General" Cassell finished in a dead heat. In the playoff Jordan came out on top with three misses to defeat the Little General, who missed six. So, Ron also gets a gift certificate from Mac & Bob's and a Blizzard from Dairy Queen.

This week's contest is the final one of the season, and the winner won't be announced until after the Super Bowl. For the last four blanks you have to pick the NCAA FBS champion, followed by the eventual AFC and NFC champs in the NFL and the Super Bowl champ for the last blank. For the "Quick Change" question give me your prediction for the Super Bowl, with both participants and a score.

Since it's the last week we'll also throw in an oil change and a year's subscription to the Salem Times Register to the contest winner. Good luck and have a Merry and safe Christmas. -Brian Hoffman

Well, we made it. This is the 15th and final week of our football contest and we've been able to find 15 games every week.

It hasn't been easy. I usually choose the games for the week on Monday afternoon. My deadline is Tuesday night before I go home, so if the games



ACC CHAMPS

The Clemson Tigers defeated Notre Dame, 34-10, in Charlotte last Saturday to win the ACC football championship. Above, Clemson coach Dabo Swinney gets a Gatorade bath as the clock runs out. Above right, game MVP Trevor Lawrence(#16) holds up the trophy he received for that honor after passing for over 400 yards and three touchdowns. Right, the Tigers enjoy the ACC trophy during their on field celebration. Clemson, the number two team in the nation, will play third ranked Ohio State in an FBS semifinal game on January 1. Notre Dame lost for the first time but is still number four in the FBS rankings and will play top seeded Alabama on New Year's Day.

ACC PHOTOS



Push back of spring semester won't impact RC sports

Roanoke College announced this week that the start of the spring semester for the college has been moved back three weeks. The semester was scheduled to begin in mid-January. However, due to COVID spikes both regionally and nationally the college made the decision to push back the start of the spring semester to February 8th.

The delay in the start of the semester will not have an impact on the scheduled start of intercollegiate athletics. Both Roanoke College and the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) remain committed to conduct intercollegiate athletic competition this spring. Men's and women's basketball is scheduled to start play on Saturday, January 23rd, with both fall and spring

sports conducting their seasons starting in February.

Roanoke College is scheduled to start the men's basketball season with a home game against arch rival Hampden-Sydney, while the women will start the 2020-21 campaign with a three-game road swing. The basketball regular season will conclude on Saturday, February 27th, with a

four-team conference tournament taking place March 4-6.

The ODAC and the swim coaches are finalizing a championship structure that would allow for competition over a two or three-day period. The championship format will be modified from its normal structure and the proposed timeline for the event is the weekend of March 5th.

ODAC athletes conduct food drives for the holidays

FOREST, Va. --- The Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) united during the fall semester, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, to help local organizations by conducting food drives on the campuses of each member institution. The conference's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) organized the conference-wide food drive as its first of two community service initiatives in 2020-21.

"Bridgewater's SAAC has been extremely active this fall, in order to keep athletes engaged in the wider community we are a part of, as well as to keep the fire of competitiveness burning until we are on the field/court/track again," said Erin Fitzpatrick, a Senior for Bridgewater College Women's Track & Field. "We held a competition amongst our teams, with Men's Basketball blowing it out the water. We also wanted to be competitive within the ODAC.

"Being able to give to others during these difficult times is certainly a privilege, which I believe a lot of our athletes recognized, inspiring them to go above and beyond. Especially in comparison to what Bridgewater raised last year, I am very proud of my fellow student-athletes. I am so excited to see how our teams keep this momentum going into the spring, during competition and for D3 donates!"

The drive was a huge success with the ODAC student-athletes and campus communities. Bridgewater College led the way accumulating 6,526 items in the drive. Some ODAC institutions were specific in their efforts to help those in need. Guilford College raised \$625 targeting single-parent households and delivered 10 meals to families from different backgrounds, and gave \$30 gift cards to 10 additional families. Hollins University raised \$834 and pro-

vided 16 families with \$50 Kroger gift cards for Thanksgiving. Randolph-Macon College raised an impressive \$2,865 in cash donations.

All food items and money were donated to a local organization of each school's choice. Overall, the ODAC collected 10,088 items and raised over \$4,900.

The SAAC will conduct its next conference-wide initiative as part of Division III Week, which is held April 5-11, 2021. The ODAC will partner with Water Mission, a non-profit clean water charity that builds sustainable clean water solutions in developing countries and disaster areas. Each institution will raise funds to help bring safe water to hundreds of men, women, and children in Puerto Rico. This marks the third time in four years the ODAC will work with Water Mission.



No games in 2020

Above left, Salem High basketball players go through drills as they prepare for the anticipated season, and right Glenvar players do the same. Due to the current state of the pandemic there will be no games in December for Salem and Glenvar. The teams hope to play in January if conditions improve.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

SPORTS

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Send story ideas & announcements to bhoffman@ourvalley.org, or PO Box 1125, Salem, Va, 24153 • ourvalley.org

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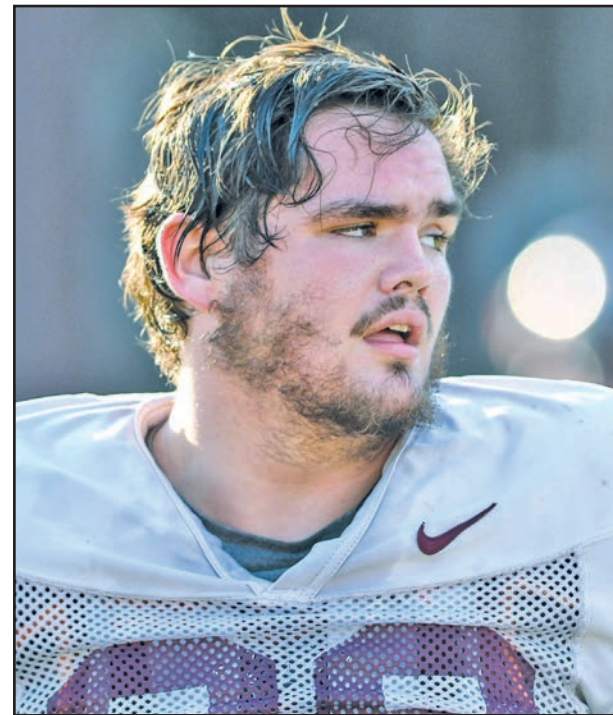
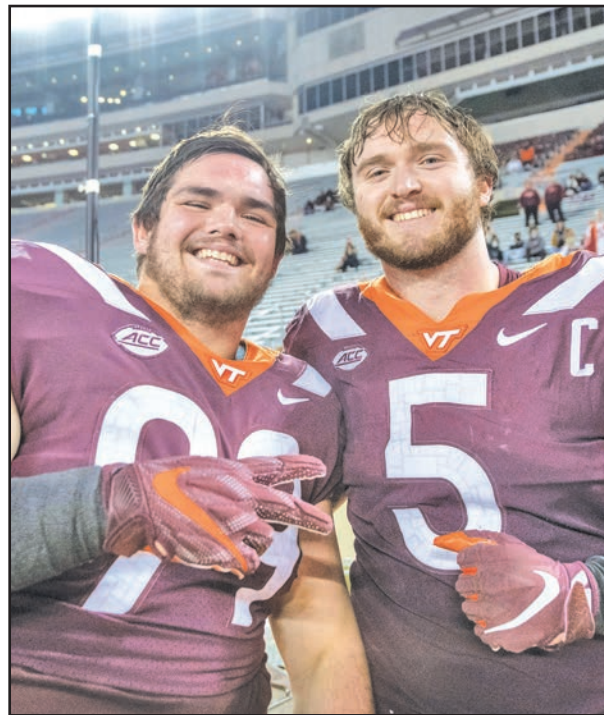
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One goin' out and one comin' in

One local Hokie finished up his collegiate career in Virginia Tech's Commonwealth Cup win over Virginia and another is just getting started. Salem High graduate Zachariah Hoyt (top photos #75) completed his Tech football career in the Hokies' 33-15 win in Blacksburg on December 12. A versatile Senior offensive lineman, Hoyt played in 24 games over the past four years, starting 11. Above right he poses with Tech coach Justin Fuente on Senior Day. He's the son of Salem's Jeffrey and Lisa Hoyt. Meanwhile, Glenvar grad Maxx Philpott (bottom photos #99) is just getting started. Maxx appeared in several games on the defensive line as a redshirt freshman this year. He was on the field when the Hokies closed out the season with the win over UVA. Below left, he enjoys Tech's win over the Wahoos with Senior captain Jarrod Hewitt, a fellow defensive lineman. The Class 2 Defensive Player of the Year for his junior and senior years at Glenvar is the son of Jimmy and Patra Philpott.

PHOTOS BY DAVE KNACHEL, VIRGINIA TECH



Brian Hoffman



And so this is Christmas and what have we here?
A mask on old Santa and distanced reindeer.
The mall is a place where we all like to go
but it's a superspreader of virus, you know.

But wait, do I hear there's some hope on the scene?
It's Pfizer and Moderna, with COVID vaccine.
On Fauci, on Gupta, and bring back Rick Bright
the good whistle blower who knew what was right.

In the year '21 may the sports that we yearn,
be cleared from the virus so fans can return.
And once again athletes will be back in action
enjoying the games and their great satisfaction.

And so when I laugh, like a bowl full of jelly
may the sports that I watch be more than on telly.
The year's almost over, there's real hope in sight.
Merry Christmas my friends, and to all a safe night.

Twas the Christmas of COVID

Twas the Christmas of COVID in the year 2020
and sports as we knew them were far from aplenty.
The cutouts of fans placed in seats with great care
as folks watch at home wishing they could be there.

When Rudy Gobert first came down with the bug
he ticked off a teammate with a well-meaning hug.
That was 285 days ago, as far as I can tell
when sports as we knew them went all to hell.

No baseball, no hockey no March Madness, too
and even the golfers played golf before few.
The baskets returned with their games in a bubble
but only with masks and a whole lot of trouble.

The high school sports seasons were all put on hold
with many a senior left out in the cold.
No districts, no regions, no state games or meets
no honors or trophies or memorable feats.

When things got no better the sports that we saw
were reruns and cornhole and Korean baseball.
The NASCAR returned but was run with great care
with hopes that the crazy fans soon would be there.

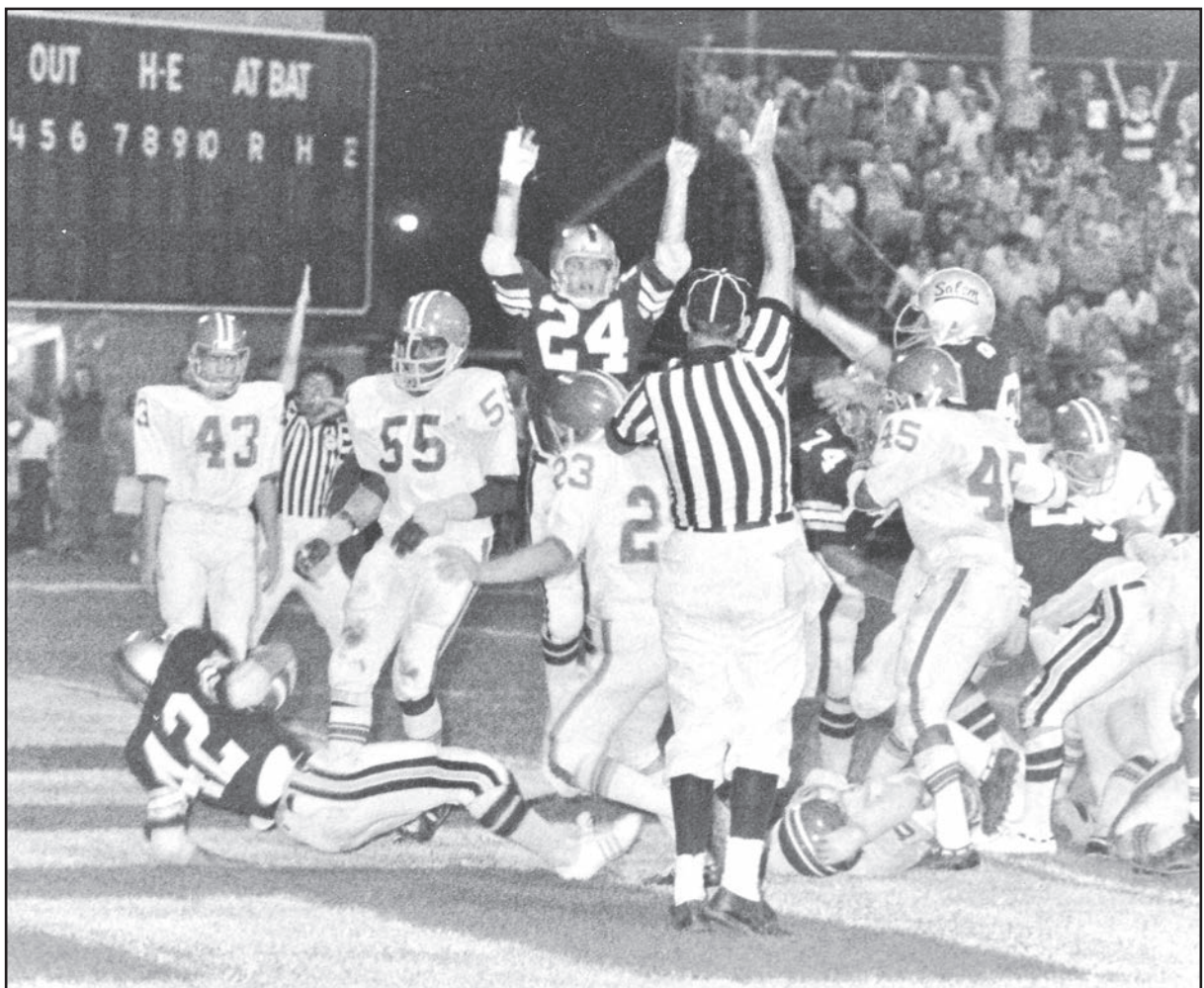
The big leagues returned and was funny to watch
without spitting or slapping or grabbing of crotch.
The Dodgers prevailed by downing the Rays
then Turner spread virus in post-series craze.

By autumn we hoped that things would be better
and high school athletes could still earn a letter.
But sadly the Virginia High School League noted
no football in this state was how the group voted.

The Hokies and Hoos completed their seasons
but won't go to bowls for virus fueled reasons.
The Commonwealth's Cup was won by VT
then Hooker decided to set himself free.

The NFL season is still going strong
with plenty of time for things to go wrong.
The GOAT looks fine as a Tampa Bay Buc
but the Patriots and Newton have run out of luck.

The NBA season will open this week
with Harden in strip clubs to get him a peak.
He hopes to soon be a Sixer or Net
but the Rockets demands have yet to be met.



Tarpley scored first touchdown for SHS

I was sad to learn of the death of Ned Tarpley last week, who battled cancer for the past 10 years.

Ned was a 1979 Salem High graduate who scored the very first touchdown for the Spartans (above) in a win over Lexington on September 2nd, 1977 at what was then Salem Municipal Field. He also scored the very last touchdown for Andrew Lewis High School at the close of the 1976 season, the final year for Lewis before SHS opened.

Ned was a good guy and his son, Phillip, was an outstanding football player for Glenvar High School. Our thoughts are with the Tarpley family over the holidays as they deal with the loss.