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TIMES-REGISTER

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OurValley.org

‘Let’s play ball’: Salem students, parents passionately advocate for return of high school sports



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Salem High basketball and football players gathered before the start of a school board meeting on January 12 to convey their message.

Shawn Nowlin

shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org

A group of students, parents, coaches and other community members gathered before the start of a school board meeting on January 12 to rally for reopening school sports. Signs supporters brought read “Let Us Play,” “Our Kids, Our Choice” and “Don’t Take Our Last Season Away.”

“The school district’s reluctance to play has been largely stated as a concern for the community-at-large and the potential for community spread. We would argue that there isn’t any additional risk by letting these kids play for their school,” said Salem parent Nancy Scales.

While she acknowledges that

COVID-19 is real, Scales is of the belief that families should be able to make the choice about whether or not their kids play sports.

“We allowed our children at the high school to try out for sports. We fully comprehend and accept responsibility for the risks associated with COVID-19 can bring. We are adults that can take responsibility for keeping our at-risk family members or friends safe,” she added.

Throughout the pandemic, Salem City Schools have closely followed the guidance of the CDC, VDH and the local health department, which is headed by Dr. Molly O’Dell and Dr. Cynthia Morrow. Both doctors have recommended not playing contact sports while the spread of the disease is high – which

it currently is.

On January 11, Salem reported 86 new positive COVID-19 cases, which is more in one day than an entire four-month period (March through June) in Salem last year.

“We have given coaches the green light to enhance practices, share a ball and do drills together, as long as they wear a mask. To that end, we have equipped our athletes with masks that are specially designed for athletic competition,” Salem Communications Director Mike Stevens said. “If these elevated practices go well, our hope would be to get basketball players back on the court in actual game situations by January 25, 2021. This would allow the

See **Sports**, page 7



PHOTO BY SHAWN NOWLIN

Former educator Anita Price telling a powerful story about the grace of Dr. Martin Luther King.

A message of healing, hope and unity for the community

Shawn Nowlin

shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org

It is often said that “if you give a man a fish, he eats today. If you teach him how to fish, he eats for a lifetime.” Gloria Randolph-King, Advisor of the Youth Council for the Roanoke NAACP Chapter, wholeheartedly agrees with that sentiment.

“We have youth that attend Salem, Roanoke City, Roanoke County and Botetourt schools. We also have a Community Coordination Committee designed to correlate the efforts of youth organizations throughout the valley,” she said. “We try to provide knowledge of issues that affect the youth in our community and find ways

to solve them.”

High school sophomore Yolanda Joseph, who has known Randolph-King for years, came up with an idea earlier this year to help people who’ve been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. After much discussion, the Roanoke NAACP Youth Council hosted a “Light Up the Night” vigil in the William Fleming student parking lot on January 16.

Topics broached throughout the event included the recent riot at the U.S. Capitol, ways to bring the community together, the incoming Biden Administration and helping those in need.

Instead of using tradi-

See **NAACP**, page 3

Moose collect coats, hats, gloves to give away

Meg Hibbert

Contributing writer

Winter will be a little less chilly for scores of Salem and Roanoke County residents, thanks to the efforts of the Salem Moose Lodge and Women of the Moose.

They collected 77 coats and 50 sweaters, hats, gloves, pants and hoodies so

far, that will be given away at no charge through Mrs. Dorsey’s Clothes Closet. The drive will continue through Jan. 31, Salem Moose Junior Governor Butch Bryant said.

The donations were presented to Salem Area Ecumenical Ministries board

See **Moose**, page 7



PHOTO BY SHAWN NOWLIN

Protestors, demanding he resign for his support of Donald Trump, display signs in front of Rep. Morgan Griffith’s Salem office on Main Street.

Shawn Nowlin

shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org

With each passing day since the Capitol Hill riots on January 6, Salem native John Richards finds himself asking the same question: Will the Senate agree with the House that Trump incited an insurrection and should be impeached?

A majority of Americans, 56 percent according to a recent ABC News/Ipsos poll, say that Trump should be removed from office and barred from ever running again.

Americans dodged a bullet by electing Biden over Trump, said Salem resident David Harris who added, I’ve always felt

that Trump is temperamentally unfit for political office

Last Saturday, Harris joined about a dozen protestors that gathered outside of Congressman Morgan Griffith’s Salem office to express their frustration. The purpose of the gathering, noted Harris, was to hold our representative accountable for his willingness to put his own agenda over what’s best for the country.

“Honk Against Fascism” and “Resign Morgan since you don’t believe in democracy” were just some of the signs that participants brought to the protest. A huge banner tied to trees called the congressman “complicit in a fascist insurrection.” Several

drivers, seemingly approving of the protestors, honked their horns as they drove by.

“Our issue with Congressman Griffith is that he continues to support Trump. I feel incredibly disgusted with Ben Cline and Morgan because I see their opposition to the election results as an assault on objective reality and our constitutional democracy,” Harris said.

He added, “Trump has strong autocratic tendencies, which are incompatible with democracy. If Trump won a second term, it would have emboldened him toward more extreme authoritarian behavior. It con-

See **Griffith**, page 8



PHOTO BY MEG HIBBERT

Moose Lodge No. 2573 and Women’s Chapter 2232 are collecting coats, gloves and scarves to be given away at Mrs. Dorsey’s Clothes Closet. Showing some of the coats are, from left, Moose members Harry Rhodes, Ann Whitenack and Butch Bryant, with Salem Area Ecumenical Ministries board members Teri Atkins and Garry Lautenschlager.

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.

FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAYS

Salem Host Lions Club,

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 reed.salemchoralsociety@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.

Field of Dreams receives much needed grant

Pam Dudding
Contributing writer

Despite COVID-19 preventing much activity at the Field of Dreams, the Craig Recreation and Conservation Association (CCR&CA) continues to reach for its dreams by completing its final vision.

Recently, they were awarded a much-needed grant to help with the completion of the field.

Debbie Snead, a community citizen and one of the original founders of the Field of Dreams shared, "The Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia has awarded a grant to Craig County's Field of Dreams from their Community Catalyst Funds in the amount of \$8,100, which was approved to support the Field's extensive water project."

The CCR&CA recently completed several infrastructure projects for the Field including, electricity with assistance from Craig Botetourt Electric Cooperative, a well for watering the fields with labor donated by Billy Horn and a detailed water project to get fresh water into the field.

It was explained that the access line for water extends from the town's Public Service Authority to the center of the com-

plex, requiring a 2,500 foot, three-feet deep ditch with two-inch pipe and several Ts.

"Costing \$16,238, the project was expensive, even with labor donated by the Oliver family, but it will be amazing to have water for the drinking fountains, the concession stand and restrooms, and it will significantly increase the value of the property," Snead said. "CCR&CS has provided additional lines and access to water for the neighboring Baptist Church and two private residences in appreciation for the easements they provided."

The water project was the basic infrastructure for creating the next steps in developing the complex.

CCR&CS knows that in addition to supplying future buildings, having fresh water for drinking and restrooms makes the facility more self-sufficient, allowing children to come for the day in a safe and healthy environment.

"And we know there's nothing like a cool drink of water after playing sports on a hot day," they added.

Accessible to all children in Craig, the facility is particularly helpful to low-income families who cannot afford to travel



It's often said that it takes months to move a lot of dirt. The project at the Field of Dreams has proved that right. BJ Oliver and others have moved dirt and cleaned out ditches to allow access lines for water to extend from the town's Public Service Authority to the center of the complex, requiring a 2,500 foot, three-feet deep ditch with two-inch pipe and several Ts. The labor donated by the Oliver family made much of this possible and teams will be happy for the water that will be used for drinking fountains, the concession stand and restrooms.

out of the County for games or other activities, which is important to local parents.

Additionally, the complex encourages children to select community-based sports as opposed to potential at-risk activities or behaviors. The complex is also available to families and organizations for activities and

other events.

Snead added, "The purpose of the grant request was to seek assistance in helping to pay for half of the water project. As noted, the complex is large and the water line is deep and long. Specialized labor, equipment, pipe, and construction costs were high. Although the all-

volunteer project has raised almost half of the funds, the project was started prior to the pandemic and since that time, CCR&CA has not been able to take in sports fees or hold fundraisers to pay for the remaining half of the project."

The grant from the Community Foundation has allowed CCR&CA

to complete the project and begin planning the next phase of construction.

Donations to the Field of Dreams project are tax-deductible and may be sent to CCR&CA, P.O. Box 371, New Castle.

"The children and families are most appreciative," Snead said.

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Expansion of Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve protects forest, strengthens ecosystem services

Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve in Roanoke County has expanded by 394 acres.

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the agency that owns and manages the preserve, acquired the additional land in four separate transactions over the last few months. The final transaction was completed at the end of 2020.

The preserve is now 1,326 acres.

"Poor Mountain Natural Area Pre-

serve is one of Virginia's great treasures," DCR Director Clyde Cristman said. "The expansion adds an important buffer along the western edge of the property. As part of the state natural area preserve system, these forested lands are permanently protected from fragmentation and incompatible use."

Located about a mile south of Salem city limits, Poor Mountain Natural Area

See Expansion, page 3

PHOTO BY VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION.

Piratebush (Buckleya distichophylla) is a globally rare shrub that thrives at Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve near Salem, Virginia.

NAACP

from page 1



Brianna Wilson reading an original poem.

PHOTOS BY SHAWN NOWLIN



Roanoke City Councilman Joe Cobb telling a personal story as event organizer Yolanda Joseph looks on.



Attendees were asked to stay in their vehicles and wear a facemask.

tional candles, the ceremony featured headlights at directed times.

The featured speakers, who were all heard through an FM radio channel via a transmitter, were assistant Youth Council advisor Dawn Bryant, branch president Brenda Hale, Roanoke City Councilman Joe Cobb, Community Coordination Committee Chair Christian Bryant, high school student Brianna Wilson, former Roanoke Councilwoman Anita Price and singer Iranyumva Pergie.

To start the event, Joseph greeted everyone in attendance followed by an invocation from Aron Wilson.

"I am tired of many things that keep occurring in the city. There are people dying, and getting hurt, and people that I know well are being affected by this," Joseph said. "I went to God and then the idea came to my head, so I put a few thoughts together and took it to the executive committee of the NAACP Youth Council. They liked it, so we came together as a team and began to plan it

and turn it into the best event that it could be."

Among those present was William Fleming High Acting Principal Reyhan Deskins. "Highlighting and celebrating our diverse perspectives is one of the best things we can do to promote change," he said. "I am just so proud of everyone holding on and staying steadfast during this pandemic. I know this is only temporary and I can't wait to see everyone mask-less on the other side."

Dr. Martin Luther King visited Virginia numerous times before he was assassinated in April 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee. When high school senior London Paige thinks of the iconic Civil Rights leader, unity and peace are the first things that come to mind.

"He was loving toward everyone around him and I aspire to be a kindhearted peacemaker like him," she said. "Oftentimes, we can better understand each other through calm conversation. I believe many of the nation's problems have been caused by a lack of understanding of one another."

Expansion

from page 2

Preserve is at the center of a large unfragmented forest. Within the understory of this forest is the world's largest known population of a globally rare shrub called piratebush (*Buckleya distichophylla*).

Governor Ralph Northam's Conserve Virginia land conservation initiative identifies the additions as conservation priorities in the following categories: Agriculture & Forestry, Floodplains & Flooding Resilience, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, and Protected Landscapes Resilience.

"Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve now protects more than half of a 2,000-acre forested core, in a landscape with increasing threat of forest fragmentation," DCR Virginia Natural Heritage Program Director Jason Bulluck said. "In a time

when 70% of the world's remaining forested areas are less than 1 km from a forest edge, Poor Mountain will only become more exceptional and invaluable. It is exceedingly important that land protection efforts preserve multiple ecosystem services, from biodiversity and rare species habitat, to clean water and air."

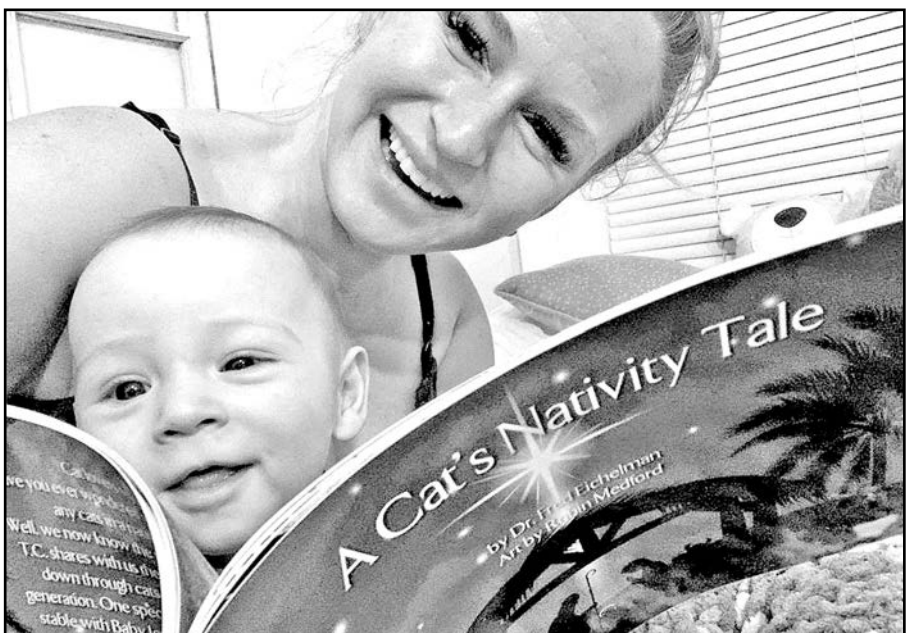
The preserve's forested slopes constitute a portion of the headwaters of four watersheds that flow into the Roanoke River. Protecting and managing these forested headwaters for biodiversity benefits the river's water quality, as plant roots and soil fungi filter out excess nutrients and guard against erosion.

Protected forest also helps to mitigate the impact of urban heat islands in developed areas through evapotranspira-

tion, the process by which trees draw water from their roots to their leaves. This process has a cooling effect on air temperature in the Roanoke Valley, the most developed area in Virginia's Blue Ridge.

Funding for the expansion came from a grant awarded through the Forest CORE (Community Opportunities for Restoration and Enhancement) Fund — a component of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation TERRA program, which administers funds resulting from legal and regulatory actions involving Virginia's natural resources. The Forest CORE Fund was established with \$15 mil-

CommUNITY Church will be getting some special visitors in April



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jenn Gotzon Chandler is an actress who recently, with her husband Jim, went into film production. Their film *The Farmer and The Belle-Saving Santa Land* was a holiday hit on DVD as well as through Hulu and other such outlets.

Their baby, James, is four months old. All three will be in Salem for Happy Trails Virginia Style April 16-18 at CommUNITY Church.

-Submitted by Dr. Fredric Eichelman

POLICE REPORT

The Salem Police Department reported the following people were arrested and charged January 5-11. 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:

January 5 — Alfred L. Cameron, 40, grand larceny

January 6 — Carly T. Lecas, 22, conceal merchandise, false identification to police, obstructing justice

January 7 — Erica L. Barton, 33, pe-

tit larceny; Brett C. Simpson, 29, public intoxication; Kenneth J. Black, 59, public intoxication; Kyle L. Bush, 41, violation of probation; DeAngelo L. Ramsey, 21, burglary, grand larceny, petit larceny, prohibition of wearing mask, tamper with motor vehicle, possess firearm by felon, possesses ammunition by felon, conceal identity, public intoxication.

January 8 — Nicole A. Beaton, 31, public intoxication; Sean P. Burke, 37, shoplifting; and Michael R. Dault, 39, unauthorized use of vehicle.

January 9 — Aaron D. Sykes, 50, contempt of court

Salem Rotary, Interact, Salem Kiwanis collect coats for kids, adults

The Rotary Club of Salem has partnered with Interact and Rotaract Clubs and the Salem Kiwanis Club to collect new or gently worn coats, hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to donate to Mrs. Dorsey's Coat Closet.

Event Chair Rotarian Danny Hall said, "The Closet is requesting children's sizes and X(XX)-Large Adult sizes in particular along with heavy duty coat hangers. All coats should be in good repair, clean, and on a hanger."

A Drive-Thru Coat Drop-Off event is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, from 11-1 p.m. at the side entrance of the Salem Civic Center. Volunteers will pick up donated items from vehicles. Cash donations are also welcome, Hall said, if people do not have time to donate or purchase items.

Submitted by the Rotary Club of Salem



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Salem Rotary Club member Jane Johnson filled her trunk with donated coats for kids and adults that will be distributed through Mrs. Dorsey's Clothes Closet.

-Submitted by Julie Buchanan, Senior Public Relations and Marketing Specialist

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OPINION

Give Light ~ Ram House / Winter Moods ~

{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.}

Roanoke Area Ministries (RAM) has been in the news lately causing me to both consult my yellowed newspaper clippings from more than 50 years ago and my memories going back even further.

The latest news concerns an anonymous offer to pay for a new home for the ecumenical and interfaith ministry to the needy, especially those in inner city Roanoke. In addition, the Good Neighbors Fund Holiday Drive, in which financial gifts from the public are sought to help with operating expenses, brought in an all-time amount of money this year.

I like to give to the holiday drive because it allows me to honor or memorialize a friend, relative or group such as several helpful folk in my East Salem neighborhood. They helped me when my aged Toyota broke down last week at a grocery store and for an emergency trip to a short-term medical facility.

My memories of the square brick building in the West End of Roanoke, the former

home of Our Lady of Nazareth Catholic Church, go back to shortly after late husband Charlie and I arrived to become reporters for the long-gone daily newspaper, "The Roanoke World-News."

That was in 1953. In my new job as reporter of news about churches, I was assigned by the City Editor, the long-gone A.G. (Smitty) Smith, to cover the Catholic funeral of Nazareth's long-time pastor.

Not a driver then, I rode with our press photographer, the late Betty Masters, the few blocks west from the newspaper to the church. I suppose my boss had explained that I would need some guidance, for a layman sat with me and helped me navigate the Rev. James Gilsenan's farewell Mass.

We were in the balcony, for the worship area was packed. Children from the parochial school took up a lot of the pews. In those days, the service was in Latin, and, not being a Roman Catholic, I would have been more lost than I was without Harold Dill's guidance. Later, I would learn that the elderly priest had come from a place in Ireland known as Virginia.

In my role as religion writer, I was in the OLN-RAM structure several times later

Frances Stebbins Correspondent

before a changing neighborhood and Catholic growth in Southwest County caused a move to a new building, and leaders of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond were glad to turn the former church over to a worthy cause.

What will happen to the century-old structure on a rise from the street has not been announced. It's in a complex of buildings owned by the diocese including a retreat house in which single women committed to the church reside, and the St. Francis House food pantry to which members of the valley's four parishes contribute.

As the current director of RAM House remarked recently, the old church has a lot of drawbacks for a day shelter for the homeless with its offices on an upper level and the outside sloping lot. Its personnel have for many years worked closely with the Rescue Mission on the east side of downtown; homeless folk can sleep there and get a hot lunch

in the former church worship area on the main level.

I've written before about how Roanoke Area Ministries evolved in 1972 from what started three years earlier as an effort to establish a Council of Churches for the city; the town of Salem was still fearing possible annexation by Roanoke at that point. Nothing came of a formal council, but congregations working together were a major trend 50 years ago. Practical help resulted.

My old clippings reveal that in its early days, RAM supported a childrens' camp in summer. Over the years, many women's groups from local congregations have rotated in serving lunch to those sheltering in the day. It's good to know that donors to the holiday fund are aware of the increased need this year.

The emotional suffering brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic is giving church folk and others concerned with mental health an opportunity to stress principles long taken for granted. In this winter of anxiety - fear of catching the virus oneself and perhaps dying from it as well as the instability of government - are magnified by "the winter

blues" from which many suffer in cold, wet, dark days.

For senior adults like myself living alone and perhaps with no relatives nearby, being cut off from groups, social fellowships of one's congregation and outdoor activities, including visiting libraries, makes depression inevitable.

The newsletters I receive indicate that a conscious effort is now often being made to pair members with each other so that by frequent phone calls or Internet communication loneliness is eased.

"It's OK to ask for help," an on-air message proclaims. All kinds of free guidance are now available as well as professional counseling.

A week's planning done on Sunday with each day set up on a card made from different colored paper is essential to my mental order. Some routines - like morning cleaning of my cats' litter boxes - are predictable as is doing laundry twice weekly and watching nightly news. I'm glad my church now offers a service on-site though my valued social contact is limited to a wave at the time "the peace of the Lord" ritual is usually observed.

Unexpected events - good and unsettling - take place, but many silent prayers of gratitude fill days rushing forward.

Send letters to the editor at shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org

2021 General Assembly Session has begun

David Suetterlein Virginia State Senator Guest Contributor

The 2021 General Assembly opened on Wednesday with my Senate colleagues and I meeting in person but socially distant at the cavernous Science Museum of Virginia. The House of Delegates convened virtually via Zoom video conferences. It is believed that the House of Delegates' internet meetings are the first time a regular session of a Virginia legislative body has relocated from Richmond since meeting in Fauquier County in 1849 to escape a cholera outbreak.

The very first act of the 2021 Regular Session was a moving tribute to our friend, Senator Ben

Chafin of Russell County who passed away on New Year's Day. Serving next to Senator Chafin on the Senate Agriculture Committee was a joy and an education. He brought years of first-hand knowledge as a generational farmer, a banker and an attorney to the Virginia Senate.

Senator Chafin cannot be replaced, but filling the vacancy created by his passing is critically important to Southwest Virginia and all of rural Virginia. Unfortunately, Governor Northam has chosen to delay the election. In 2019, Governor Northam called a special election for a Fairfax and Loudoun County district to be held 42 days after the vacancy. Last month, he called a special election for a Prince William and Stafford district to be held 28 days after the vacancy. Now, he has called a special election for a Southwest Virginia district to be held 81 days after the vacancy meaning the seat will not be filled before the end of the 2021 Regular Session. The people of Southwest Virginia deserved to have this seat filled with the same

speed that Governor Northam ensured for the people of Northern Virginia.

The decision to hold the election to fill the Senate vacancy belongs to Governor Northam but the decision regarding Senator Chafin's vacant committee seats belongs to the Senate. I am fighting to have Senator Chafin's former seats on the Senate's Judiciary; Rehabilitation; Privileges and Elections; and Education and Health filled during the 2021 Regular Session by other senators from rural Virginia who share Senator Chafin's perspectives and priorities.

This General Assembly, I have introduced legislation to limit the Governor's ability to impose long-lasting emergency orders without legislative approval; increase education opportunities for Virginia children; help get wrecks on the Interstate moved faster; and make election results more transparent. I have also introduced a resolution to finally get Franklin County native and American Civil Rights icon Booker T.

Washington honored at our State Capitol. I plan to update you on the progress of each of these bills in the weeks ahead. You can also read and track the progress of every bill introduced during the 2021 General Assembly by visiting leg1.state.va.us on the internet.

COVID-19 robbed us of the many informative conversations I get to have with citizens at the fair, dinners and community meetings making it all the more important for you to share your views with me. I hope you will take 2-5 minutes and visit tinyurl.com/2021VASurvey on the internet to share your views on laws related to education, gun ownership, marijuana and other issues before the General Assembly.

You can also email me at District19@senate.virginia.gov or call 540-302-8486 to share your thoughts. When you call you might also get to talk with my aides Nikki Thacker and Michael Walsh who help me review legislation and help constituents dealing with issues with state agencies.

2021 State of the Commonwealth Address

Governor Ralph Northam delivered the annual State of the Commonwealth address before a virtual joint session of the General Assembly on January 13. He discussed Virginia's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighted accomplishments from his third year in

office, and shared his vision to continue building a stronger, fairer and more equitable Virginia. He also detailed his proposals to support small businesses, give teachers a raise of more than two

See Northam, page 5



SALEM TIMES~REGISTER

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Give us your view: shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org

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- The shallowest Great
- Floating ice mountain
- Japanese cervids
- Special Interest Groups
- Divertimentos
- Indian wet nurses
- Flatfishes
- Haitian currency (abbr.)
- Southeast
- One point N of due W
- 10 decibels
- Wild oxes of SE Asia
- Ancient Greek City of SW Italy
- A passing glancing blow
- Marriage announce-

- ment
- Tandoor bread
- Mag____: Time
- Portended
- Alicante's 7th city
- Gulf of, in the Aegean
- Strike
- Hill (Celtic)
- Stuart Little's author
- White
- Male sheep
- Indian dresses
- Pears
- Tardy arriver
- Smudge of ink
- Youngsters
- About aviation
- Small ornamental ladies' bag
- Unreturnable serves
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- Round shape
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CLUES DOWN

- Strikes lightly
- Fencing sword
- Hooked pericarp
- Entreats
- Edison's Corp.
- Cooks in an oven
- Amounts of time
- Tooth caregiver
- Spellbind
- Solo opera piece
- Audible exhales
- Siddhartha author
- Coach's game area
- Gross revenue
- Toff
- 1896 Italian defeat (alt. sp.)
- Auto fuel
- A woven structure
- Reveal a secret
- Hawaiian geese
- Brings into being
- Displaced liquid
- Frigid Zone
- Newsman Rather
- Prefix for inside
- Short-billed rails
- Sensory receptor
- Egyptian temple ____
- Ombo
- Challenges
- Photograph (slang)
- Declined gradually
- Tilapia nilotica
- One-edge sword
- Wets
- Small coins (French)
- Twine together
- The middle point
- Sea eagle
- Activist Parks
- Humbug
- Atomic #79

Northam

from page 4

percent, expand access to early childhood education, legalize marijuana and abolish the death penalty.

Below is most of the address.

Good evening, Madam Speaker Filler-Corn, Madam President Lucas, Lieutenant Governor Fairfax, ladies and gentlemen—thank you for inviting me to speak with you tonight.

To my wife Pam, to Attorney General Herring, Justices of the Supreme Court, members of the State Corporation Commission, and my Cabinet and staff, thank you for your service to our Commonwealth.

We do this every year. This speech is one of our rituals as Virginians, when elected leaders come together, from different branches of government, from different political parties, representing every part of Virginia, and every person who calls our Commonwealth home. It's part of who we are and what we do, and it's important to maintain this tradition, even in this most unusual year.

But many things are different this year, of course. Normally, more than 200 people are in this room. Tonight, there are fewer than 20.

Another thing that's different is a part of the ritual that I will miss. In a normal year, when I say something my friends like, they stand up and cheer. That's a nice feeling! And at the same time, the other side of the room sits quietly. But I know you're secretly cheering in your hearts!

Here's some good news: Tonight, you don't have to be quiet. If you're watching from home, when I say something you like, feel free to stand up and cheer me on—no one has to know!

During these challenging times, kindness and calmness must prevail. So many things are different, in all parts of our lives right now. The changes are always on our minds and in our hearts. We miss what was comfortable, and we don't like uncertainty. We don't like being apart, and we long for the day when we can come together again. We are social people, and we are meant to be together. The separation and the absence remind us of what has been lost. It's a heavy burden to carry.

More than 5,000 Virginians have died from COVID-19, including Senator Ben Chafin, from Russell County in Southwest Virginia. He was my friend, and I miss him. Whether on the Senate floor or in my office, his presence always brightened my day.

The stories around his initials, A B C, always were entertaining. I hope that fond memories of Ben will help his family through these difficult times. I ask you to join me in a moment of silence to honor Ben, and everyone who has lost their lives to COVID-19.

We've all experienced loss this year, and it has made us all stop, and ask ourselves some basic questions: What's really important? What do I believe in? Am I taking actions that reflect my values? These are some of the most fundamental questions of life.

We need to ask these questions as a Commonwealth too, and that's what I want to talk to you about tonight. We need to talk about who we are as a state, what we believe in, and the actions we're taking to live out our values.

I want you to know that my heart is filled with optimism and hope when I think about this.

Because while we have just come through a tough year that brought everyone pain and sacrifice, I've seen something remarkable.

Or Katie Gaylord, a school counselor in Williamsburg, who created a T-shirt that said, "Virginia is for Kindness." She did it to raise money for the local food bank. When people asked why, she said, "when we help someone ... you feel more connected to each other, and I think we feel less afraid."

Or our National Guard members, who have their own jobs and lives, but have spent months working to help with our pandemic response, helping with testing and—soon—vaccinations.

Here's my favorite example: the Virginia State Troopers who protected the Capitol of the United States during the insurrection last week. When the Mayor of Washington, D.C. and the leaders of Congress said to me, "send help fast"—these men and women dropped everything and raced to defend our country's temple of democracy. Our Guard members went there too.

While others hesitated, Virginians were first on the scene. It made me proud to see that line of State Police cars racing across the 14th Street Bridge. Senator Tim Kaine told me that when all 100 senators were evacuated to a secure location during the insurrection, they saw TV footage of Virginia troopers entering the Capitol, and they cheered them on, knowing help was on the way.

But sadly, many were injured because of the coup attempt, and two Virginians died. They were officers in the United States Capitol Police. Please join me in a moment of silence for Officer Brian Sicknick and Officer Howard Liebengood.

While the fact that our help was needed is terrible, I am proud we were able to help avert more tragedy. There is nothing to celebrate about the fact that our nation needed help—especially to defend our Capitol from fellow Americans—but we can all be proud that Virginia stepped up.

That's what Virginians do. That's what service means. And this is what it means to live out our values. And that's how I know—with all my heart and all my soul—that we will get through this pandemic: It's because of our limitless ability to care for one another. We are one Virginia.

These stories inspire me, and I want you to know that your government is following your lead—taking action to help people. And we're going to move even faster in this new year.

When we met a year ago, before anyone had even heard of COVID-19, we met in a spirit of celebration. We celebrated new leadership, and the first women to lead the House of Delegates and Senate of Virginia. Congratulations again to Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn and President Pro Tem Louise Lucas. What a difference their leadership has made.

Together, we embarked on a path that was more progressive and forward-looking than ever before. We took these steps because voters sent us here to take action. So we did.

We passed landmark clean energy legislation.

We passed common-sense gun safety measures.

We raised the minimum wage.

We advanced important criminal justice reforms, such as raising the

felony larceny threshold, and ending the practice of taking away someone's driver's license because they couldn't pay court fees.

It's also time to help people by taking more action on affordable housing. We have made record investments in the Virginia Housing Trust Fund that helps make more affordable housing available, and the Rent and Mortgage Relief Program has put almost \$54 million into helping people make their rent and mortgage payments during the pandemic. That program has helped nearly 17,000 families so far.

We've also worked to put a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures for those having trouble paying their rent or mortgage. Now, we need to take action to do more. So we have proposed \$25 million new dollars to the trust fund. This record is more than we have ever invested in helping make sure people have stable housing, and we need to get it done this session.

We need to take action to protect jobs, especially in small businesses. We all know our small businesses need a lot of help to make it through the pandemic—the restaurants, the small gyms, the barber shops and thousands of other small businesses that are struggling to keep the doors open.

Education is the best tool we have to make our Commonwealth a better, more equitable place for everyone. Education helps start our smallest Virginians—our littlest learners—off on the right foot. It trains workers for new jobs. And when we do it right, it gives everyone access to opportunity to build the life they want.

In this pandemic, it's especially important that we continue to invest in education, so that when it's over, we're not just in a position to rebuild—we already have a strong foundation, one built not on sand, but on solid rock.

That's why we're making sure schools don't suffer harm from the challenges of this school year. That means putting \$500 million into schools to make sure they don't lose funding from drops in enrollment this year. We've proposed more than \$26 million to increase the number of school counselors. We also put additional dollars into providing more needed resources for English Language Learners.

Students need counselors now more than ever. School staff and teachers have made great sacrifices this year, and I thank them. But our children have been champions, and I want to thank them as well. They've been through a lot these past ten months. They've made sacrifices and endured a lot of change. We are all grateful.

Investing in education includes giving teachers a pay bonus. We were all proud in 2018 to give our teachers the largest single-year pay raise in 15 years. Last year, I proposed an additional three percent pay raise. That had to be cut from the budget last year. When I first proposed the bonus for teachers a few weeks ago, I said that if revenues improve enough this month, we should convert that one-time bonus into a permanent raise. Well, tonight I have good news: revenues look good, and we're going to have more money than we thought. We need to make this teacher bonus a raise, and make it more than two percent. I look forward to working with you all to get that done.

For children who have

not yet entered kindergarten, I'm proposing a pilot program to provide three-year-olds access to early childhood education programs, and grants to address pay equity for early childhood educators. We want every child to enter kindergarten ready to learn, and to provide equal opportunities to underserved children. I want to thank my wife Pam, the First Lady, for her work and leadership on early childhood education.

To help people get the skills training or education they need, particularly if they're out of work because of the pandemic, my budget invests in the G3 program—Get skilled, get a job, give back. That program helps people get tuition-free job skills training in high-need fields, through our community colleges—and provides the financial aid to help them do it.

We also allocated \$30 million more for financial aid at public colleges and universities across our Commonwealth, and we'll increase Tuition Assistance Grants for students at private institutions to \$4,000. This helps a wide range of schools, like Hampton University, Virginia Union, and Marymount University—recently designated as the first Hispanic-serving institution in Virginia.

It's also time to acknowledge ways that our criminal justice system treats different people unfairly. Marijuana is a great example. We know that while White people and Black people use marijuana at similar rates, Black people are three and a half times more likely to be charged with a crime for it. And they're almost four times as likely to be convicted.

That happens because that's how the system was set up generations ago. In fact, one of the early leaders of the federal Drug Enforcement Agency was clear that marijuana laws should be written explicitly to target people of color. And so they were, and they've been targeting people for years.

It's time to join 16 other states and make marijuana legal, and end the current system rooted in inequity. We've done the research, and we can do this the right way, leading with social equity, public health, and public safety. Reforming our marijuana laws is one way to ensure that Virginia is a more just state that works better for everyone.

Marijuana has become a cash crop that rivals tobacco—even here in Virginia. But as an illegal crop, it makes no money for Virginia. By legalizing and taxing it, we can use the revenue to help communities most disproportionately impacted by the inequities in our laws.

For example, just half of the potential annual revenue could pay for two years of quality Pre-K to every one of Virginia's most vulnerable three- and four-year-olds—children who deserve the best start in life.

Rooting out inequities includes expunging the records of people who were convicted of this and certain other crimes in the past. It's time to act, during this session, to have the robust debate about how to best conduct the process of expunging people's records. This will make our system more just and equal, and it needs action this session.

Forgiveness is important. But when we all agree that a crime deserves the strongest punishment we can give, it's still vital to make sure our criminal justice system operates fairly and pun-

ishes people equitably.

We know the death penalty doesn't do that. But make no mistake—if you commit the most heinous crimes, you should spend the rest of your days in prison. But here are the facts about the death penalty. Virginia has executed more people than any other state—more than 1,300 people. And here's another truth: a person is more than three times as likely to be sentenced to death when the victim is white, than when the victim is Black.

Now, some of that is because Virginia is an old state. 400 years of history. But it's also true that we're near the top of the list in the modern era too, since federal law allowed executions to resume in the 1970s, after a long moratorium.

Let's get that done this year, together. We honor Barbara Johns for her work to integrate public schools in Virginia.

But at the same time, Virginia also continues to celebrate a man who worked against integration—Democrat Harry Byrd, the architect of Massive Resistance, which closed public schools to children like Barbara Johns. It's time to stop this celebration too, and remove this monument from Capitol Square.

One week from now, this nation will inaugurate our next President, Joe Biden.

And just one week ago, a mob of domestic terrorists stormed our nation's capital. They were egged on by conspiracy theories and lies from a president who could not accept losing. Their goal was simple: overturn a legal and fair election. Those were scenes I don't believe any of us ever expected to see in our lifetime. But none of that "just happened." None of it was an accident, and nothing was spontaneous. Those who want a government that serves only themselves don't care about democracy. And they will always come with violence to try to end it.

Tonight, I say to every elected official in Virginia, you can be part of our democratic institutions, or you can use falsehoods to try to destroy them, but you can't do both. Words have consequences. Inflammatory rhetoric is dangerous. This is not a game.

When elected leaders purposely reject facts and truth, and fan the flames of conspiracy, all in pursuit of power, they are taking dangerous steps. We have now seen where those steps can lead. God forbid we see anything worse.

We have a duty to tell the truth. Voters deserve the truth, even when it's hard to hear - not lies that

will comfort them. Because as we saw last week, lies do not quell outrage. They encourage it. And that creates real damage. Americans are better than this, and I pray that we all can summon the better angels of our nature in this new year.

I also pray that we take action. People are hurting, and they sent us here to do a job. They are counting on us. We can do a great deal of good this session. I'm excited to get to work with all of you, so we can keep making progress in, and for this Commonwealth.

A wise man once wrote, "adversity does not build character, it reveals it." The adversity of the past ten months has revealed a strong, resilient Virginia.

Virginians have lost a great deal—jobs, livelihoods, and unfortunately, loved ones. But we are still here. We are poised and ready to rebound. We have laid a strong foundation for ourselves: sustaining government services that you rely on, using federal pandemic funds to help our neighbors get through this, making targeted investments in our long-term success.

We are moving past the burden of our history, taking action to shape a Virginia that reflects who we are and what we value. We step into this new year with a lot of hope—that the vaccines will end this pandemic, that we can get back to normal life, and that we can return to a time when government was just part of the background noise of daily life, not the top headlines.

But I hope we don't just move back to those times when this crisis is over. I hope we move forward with a new understanding of what's important. Things like hugging people, sending our children off to school every day, work lunches, concerts, and all the experiences that we miss. We need to remember that we care about each other.

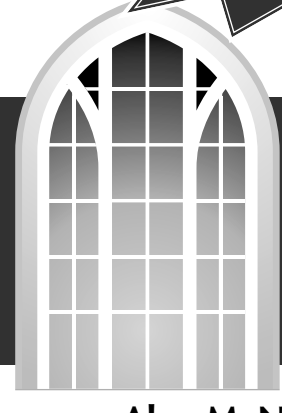
We have learned a lot in this past year, but the main thing is that we are all connected. What I do affects you, and what you do affects me. We are one Virginia, and we need to keep taking care of each other.

I am proud of the state of our Commonwealth, and the foundation we have built to get through this pandemic and recover in a way that is equitable and fair. And I am proud of you, Virginia. You have made this the greatest state in the greatest nation in the world. And together, we are shaping a Virginia that once again leads the nation. So now, let's get to work!

Thank you all, and may God bless our country and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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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.temple-baptch.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 Awa-na 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., Awanas 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 Tay-

Salem

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Time to Rest

Read Exodus 30:1 through 32:35

"This project has to be done right, and it has to be done soon. Work all weekend if you have to." Some work assignments make us wonder if we need to make a few clones to help us get the work done. Life's responsibilities may seem larger than we can handle, yet we need to learn the importance of rest.

"It will be a sign between me and the Israelites forever, for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed" (Exodus 31:17).

God created the Sabbath for two key purposes. First, people need to set aside a day to worship God and fellowship with His people. Second, we need a day of rest and refreshing. Scientific research bears this out.

Nearly everyone must contend with deadlines and expectations from others. God, however, wants us to set aside time to rest and to seek Him. Obeying His instructions for rest and worship actually helps us gain the energy and renewal we need to be more effective and productive in the responsibilities we carry.

Prayer Suggestion: God, please direct me in ways to better rest in You.

Quicklook: Exodus 31:14-17

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

lor Plott; 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.flccsalem.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) 8:00a.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, Mpact 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.

UDC members give back to the community

On December 17, several UDC (United Daughters of the Confederacy) members gathered at the Salem Museum to hand out approximately 150

Christmas goody bags for Veterans held at the VA Medical Center during the holidays. Contributions from several UDC Chap-

ters in Virginia made the gesture possible.

Submitted by
Sharon Rose



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

From left to right, some of the UDC members who helped, Ricki McKinney, Seyward McKinney, Sharon Rose, Debbie Pemberton and Lurana Vest.



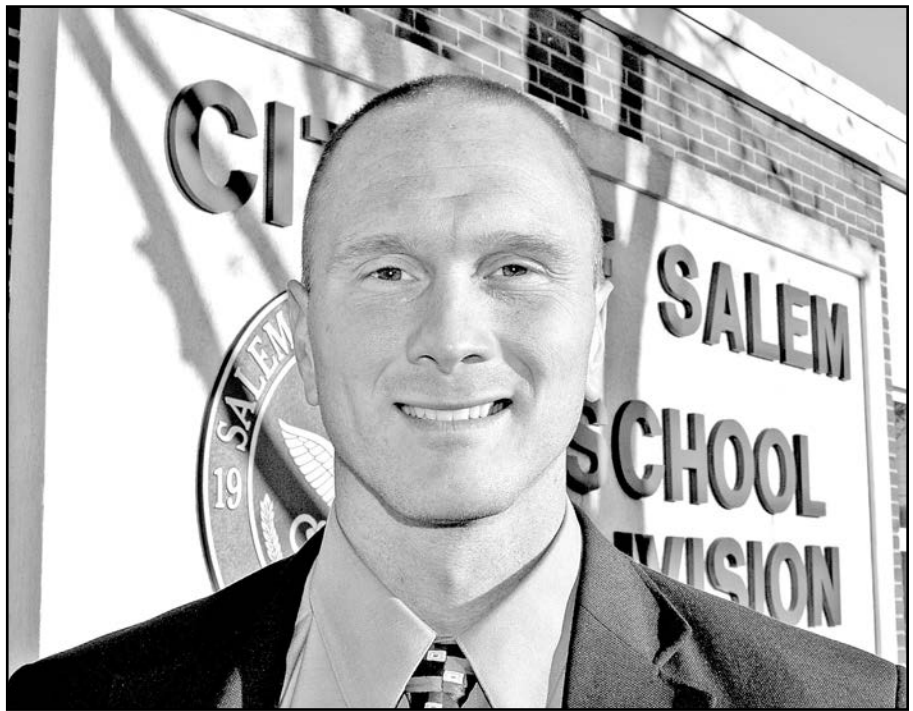
Southern Cross Chapter 746 members, Sharon Rose, left, and Lurana Vest, right.



Fincastle Chapter members Debbie Pemberton, left, and her mother, Delores Jamerson.

Sports

from page 1



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Said Assistant Superintendent Curtis Hicks, "We realize that the danger to our healthy teenagers is minimal, but we are obligated to protect the public health and safeguard against any unnecessary infection that could result in serious consequences for an athlete's family or someone else in the community."

teams to compete in a few games before regionals."

Owyn Dawyot is a Salem High student-athlete. When asked why it's so important for him and his teammates to complete the season, he responded, "Because that is what our team works

toward throughout the year. It's kind of like putting all your time and effort and hard work into preparing a big meal and then just staring at it. There is no reward. Competition means so much to us. We are all at our best, mentally and physically, when we are allowed to compete."

Moose

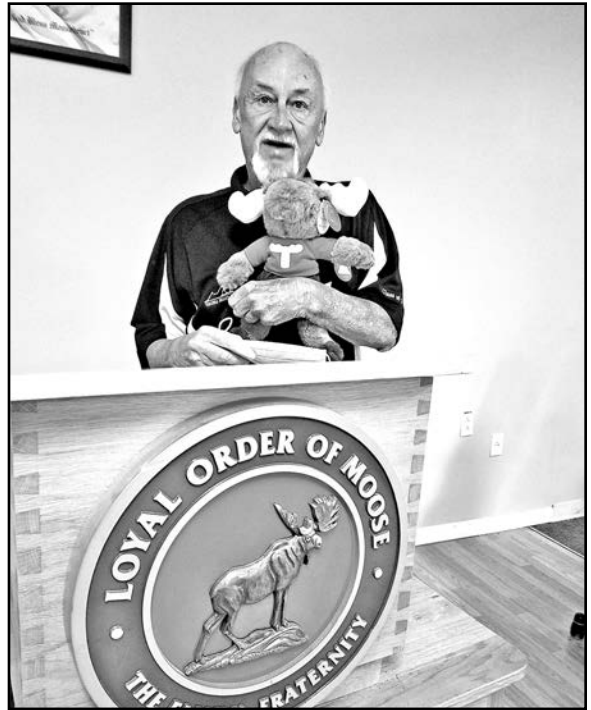
from page 1

members Teri Atkins and Garry Lautenschlager on Jan. 15 at the Lodge on East Main Street.

"It's the largest coat drive we've ever had," said Moose member Ann Whitenack. "A lot of the coats, sweaters, hats, gloves and scarves look brand new," she added.

Whitenack explained Moose Lodge members donated most of the warm clothing, "and I mentioned it to everybody I ran into in the community."

Junior Governor Butch Bryant said Moose Lodges do a lot of community service projects. For example, Salem Moose presented 96 Tommy Moose stuffed toys to the Salem Police Department, 96 to the Salem Volunteer Rescue Squad, "and probably another 96 to Salem Fire & EMS," he said, to be given to children during emergencies.



Salem Moose Lodge 2573 Junior Governor Butch Bryant shows one of the Tommy Moose stuffed toys Moose are providing to Salem Police, the Salem Volunteer Rescue Squad and Salem Fire and EMS to give to children during emergencies.

OBITUARY

Lockard, June Pauline Lineberry

June Pauline Lineberry Lockard, 97, of Salem, went home to her Lord, Thursday evening, January 7.

She was born on June 20, 1923, in Roanoke County, the daughter of the late Louis Allen Lineberry and Bessie Bauman Lineberry.

June was preceded in death by her husband of 48 years, Judson Eldridge Lockard; three brothers, Lee Ray Lineberry, Louis Monroe Lineberry, and Herman Lineberry; two sisters-in-law, Margaret Lineberry and Ruth Lineberry; and son-in-law, Donald Wells Halterman.

She was a lifelong member of Salem Baptist Church where she served tirelessly in Women on Mission, and thoroughly enjoyed her beloved Sunday School class. She ended her career as a secretary for the Forestry Department to become a homemaker who adored her husband and family.

Left to cherish her memory are daughters, Anita Halterman, Melody Leah (Gary), and Dreama Neikirk



(Steve) all of Salem; grandchildren, Justin Halterman (Kim) of Daleville, Brittany Gomez (Nemo) of Winston-Salem, NC., Dustin Halterman (Elizabeth) of Salem, Cara Brogan (Nick) of Hardy, and Taylor Neikirk of Salem; great-grandchildren, Elijah, Remington, and Gwen. She also leaves behind many friends,

church family and dear roommate Mary Stuart who will sadly miss her.

June's family wishes to thank the physicians and nurses at Lewis-Gale Medical Center who cared for Mom as well as the caring and compassionate staff at The Oaks at Richfield Living.

A celebration of June's life and loving spirit will be held at a later date.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, January 12, in the Chapel of John M. Oakey & Son, Salem. Pastors Heath Rickmond and Everett Kier officiated. Burial followed at Sherwood Memorial Park. An online guest book is available for family and friends by visiting www.johnmoakey.com.

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

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Griffith

from page 1



One of the signs a protestor brought to the gathering.

PHOTOS BY SHAWN NOWLIN



Protestors expressing their frustration.

cerns me how close our nation came to fascism. Trump is a lesson in all the things that a leader should not be. He is also a reminder that truth and people who uncover and dissemi-

nate facts are essential." Protest organizer Dave Tate of the group Progressive Anti-Racist Action also has strong feelings about the Capitol Hill riots that Trump incited.

"This violence, and those documented to have been a part of it, will lead to the dismantling of untold numbers of extremist cells across the country," Tate said. "It will lead

to some long prison terms for some very dangerous people and it will cost many of the unhinged to lose their gun rights."

Tate has a message for his Republican

friends who he feels have been duped: only you can clean up your house.

"The wolves used patriotism and religion as a tool against your values. They then used

the cover of your flock to attack the shepherd in his home. This is the fact and until it can be recognized and accepted, wheels are just spinning in an alternate reality," he said.

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Legals - Botetourt County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. Code Ann. §§ 8.01-316,
-317
Case No. 20-649
Botetourt County Circuit
Court
Mary Elizabeth McKenney
v.
Richard Lee McKenney

Legals - Botetourt County

The object of this suit is to:
Obtain a divorce based on
separation of 1 year.
It is ORDERED that Richard
Lee McKenney appear at
the above-named court and
protect his/her interests on
or before 02/01/2021.
12-28-20

Sherry Perry
Deputy Clerk

SPECIAL COMMISSIONER'S SALE OF 58 Lakeland Circle, Troutville, VA 24175 Tax Map #108(A)(1)BK2-19

The Special Commissioner
will offer the above-
described property for sale
to the highest bidder at
public auction on the date
and time referenced below.

Lot 19, Block 2, according
to the Map of Blocks 2
through 7, of Rainbow
Forest, property of Botetourt
Development Corporation,
Botetourt County, Virginia,
made by C.B. Malcolm and
Son, S.C.E.'s dated August
15, 1960, of record in the
Clerk's Office of the Circuit
Court of Botetourt County,
Virginia in Plat Book 4, page
102.

Date of Sale: February 9,
2021 at 9:00 a.m.
Location: outside the
Botetourt County Circuit
Court, PO Box 219,
Courthouse, Main Street,
Fincastle, VA 24090.

Terms: CASH; a deposit in
the form of certified funds in
the amount of \$10,000 or
10% of the sale price,
whichever is lower. Final
settlement is subject to
Court approval of terms.
Time is of the essence.

OPTIONS:

1. All costs of conveyance,
examination of title,
recording charges, etc. will
be at cost of purchaser with
the exception of the
grantor's tax. Neither the
Special Commissioner nor
any other party guarantees
or covenants to deliver or in
any way to obtain
possession of the premises
for any third party
purchaser.

2. The Special
Commissioner reserves the
right to reject all bids,
extend the time to receive
bids or withdraw the
property from sale at any
time. In addition, should the
Special Commissioner be
unable, for any reason, in its
sole discretion, to convey
title, the successful bidder's
sole remedy in law or equity
shall be the return of his
deposit. Upon refund of the
deposit, the sale shall be
void and of no effect.

Additional terms may be
announced at the time of
the sale. The Special
Commissioner will convey
the above-described
property to the purchaser(s)
by Special Warranty deed at
settlement and makes no
additional representations
or warranties of any kind
regarding the title to said
property.

John K. Prillaman, Esq.

Special Commissioner

For Information Contact:
John K. Prillaman, Esq.
OPN LAW
3140 Chaparral Drive
Roanoke, Virginia 24018
(540) 725-8194

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY

IN RE: ESTATE OF GEORGINA B. HUTCHENS, DECEASED

NOTICE

Having been requested to
do so by Jane Judah,
Administratrix of the estate
of Georgina B. Hutchens,
Deceased, and in
accordance with Section
64.2-550 of the 1950 Code
of Virginia, as amended, all
creditors of Georgina B.
Hutchens, and all persons
in any way interested in her
estate are hereby notified
that I have fixed the 17th
day of February, 2021 at 10
o'clock a.m., at my office at
13 South Roanoke Street,

Legals - Botetourt County

Fincastle, Virginia as the
time and place for
determining an account of
the debts and demands
against said Georgina B.
Hutchens or her estate, the
priorities among them, and
the names of the persons to
whom they are due.
All creditors of Georgina B.
Hutchens, deceased, and
persons interested in her
estate should appear at the
time and place named, or
any other time or place to
which the proceedings may
be adjourned, and protect
their interest.
Given under my hand this
the 11th day of January,
2021.

Malcolm McL. Doubles
Commissioner of Accounts

Legals - City of Salem

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of
Virginia VA. Code
Ann. §§ 8.01-316, -317
Case No. CL20-2497
Roanoke County Circuit
Court
April Lynn Webster-Mullins
v.
Timothy Roger Mullins
The object of this suit is to:
Obtain a divorce based on a
one year separation.
It is ORDERED that
Timothy Roger Mullins
appear at the above-named
court and protect his/her
interests on or before
2-26-2021 @ 4:30pm.

1-4-2021
Jennifer Vest
Deputy Clerk

Legals - Craig County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA CODE § 8.01-316
**Case No. JJ002182-04-00,
JJ002182-05-00,
JJ002182-06-00**
CRAIG COMBINED
COURT- JUVENILE
Juvenile and Domestic
Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia,
in re PAITSEL, RAYNE,
AKA BABY GIRL GARMAN
The object of this suit is to:

The object of this suit is to
terminate the residual
parental rights of the father
of Rayne Paittsel, aka Baby
Girl Garman thought to be
either Daniel Garman,
Christopher Allen Paittsel or
Unknown Father pursuant
to Virginia Code Sections
16.1-283 B and C, and
which child is under the age
of twelve (12) months and
was born to Kristen Nicole
Garman. Residual parental
rights are defined in Section
16.1-228 of the Code of
Virginia (1950, as amended)
as the rights and
responsibilities remaining
with a parent after the
parent loses custody of a
child, including but not
limited to the right to
visitation, consent to
adoption, the right to
determine religious
affiliation, and the
responsibility for support.
The termination of your
residual parental rights will
permanently end all of your
rights and responsibilities to
the child named in the
petition. The ties between
you and your child are
severed forever and you
become a legal stranger to
the child.

It is ORDERED that Daniel
Garman, Christopher
Paittsel & Unknown Father
appear at the above-named
Court and protect his or her
interests on or before
02/17/2021 09:30 AM.

12/29/2020
Patty Taylor
Deputy Clerk

Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE OF JUDICIAL SALE

Pursuant to an Order of
Sale entered in United
States vs. Aimee E Reese,
and Randall J. Reese, Civil
Action No. 7:19-cv-00645,
United States District Court
for the Western District of
Virginia Roanoke Division,
the United States will offer
for sale at public auction, to
the highest bidder,
according to law and
pursuant to the terms and
conditions set in herein, the
property described below:

Legals - Montgomery County

Date: February 25, 2021
Time: 10:00AM

Sale Location: Front of the
Montgomery County
Courthouse 1 E Main Street
Christiansburg, Virginia
24073. All prospective
bidders will be required to
wear a face mask and
maintain a social distance.

Title Offered: The property
shall be offered for sale at
public auction, free and
clear of all liens and
interests of the parties to
this action.

Description of Property:
Being all of Lot 45,
containing approximately
1.978 Acres, The Ridges
Subdivision Phase 6,
located in Montgomery
County, Virginia. Parcel ID
number 140178. Pin
number 045-9-45.

Property May Be Inspected
at: Drive by only

For information about the
sale: Call Sara Wright at
865-274-7349

Minimum Bid: \$7,800

The Terms of Payment:
See Below

Form of Payment: All
payments must be by
Certified or Cashier's Check
made payable to the United
States District Court for the
Western District of Virginia

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE:

No bid (except for bids
made by the United States)
shall be accepted by the
IRS, unless the same is
accompanied by a certified
check or cashier's check, in
the minimum amount of
\$1,560 made payable to the
United States District Court
for the Western District of
Virginia. Before being
permitted to bid at the sale,
all bidders shall display to
the IRS proof that they are
able comply with this
requirement. No bids will
be received from any person
who has not presented
proof that, if he or she is the
successful bidder, he or she
can make the deposit
required by the Order.

The successful bidder shall
tender the balance of the
purchase price, in certified
funds payable to the United
States District Court, at the
office of the IRS on or
before March 25, 2021.

In the event the successful
bidder defaults on any of
the terms contained in the
Order, the deposit shall be
forfeited and retained by the
IRS as part of the proceeds
of sale, and the real
property shall again be
offered for sale, without
further permission of the
Court, under the terms and
conditions of the Order, or,
in the alternative the real
property shall be sold to the
second highest bidder.

The United States may bid
as a creditor against its
judgments without tender of
cash.

The sale of the real property
shall be subject to
confirmation by the Court.
Upon confirmation of the
sale and receipt of the
entire purchase price, the
Court shall issue and the
IRS shall deliver to the
purchaser, a deed
conveying the real property
to the purchaser. Upon
confirmation of the sale, all
interests in, liens against, or
claims to, the real property
that are or may be asserted
by any of the parties to this
action are discharged and
extinguished.

The United States reserves
the right to reject any and all
bids and to withdraw the
property from sale.

*****IMPORTANT INFORMATION*****

This is not an advertisement
of a sale of administratively
seized property. This is an
information notice only
regarding a sale being
conducted by the Internal
Revenue Service as a result
of the foreclosure of an
Internal Revenue Service
Federal Tax Lien by the
Department of Justice.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ018725-06-00
Montgomery County
Juvenile and Domestic
Relations District Court
In re Dejah Moser
Montgomery County DSS
/v.
Telisha Leigh Moser
Gebhart

ourvalley.org

The object of this suit is to:
Terminate the residual
parental rights of Telisha
Moser Gebhart legal parent
of Dejah Moser a minor, in
that said parent has, without
good cause, failed to correct
the conditions which
resulted in the child entering
foster care and it is not
reasonably likely that they
will be able to do so in a
reasonable amount of time,
failed to maintain continuing
contact with the child and
substantially plan for the
child's future. Residual
parental rights include, but
are not limited to the right to
visitation, consent to

adoption, the right to
determine religious
affiliation, and the
responsibility for support.
The termination of residual
parental rights will
permanently end all of your
rights and responsibilities to
the child named in the
petition.
It is ORDERED that Telisha
Leigh Moser Gebhart
appear at the above-named
Court and protect her
interests on or before
February 16, 2021.

1-12-21
Amie Blankenship
Clerk

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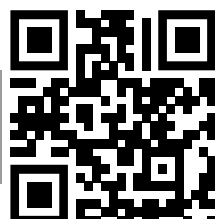
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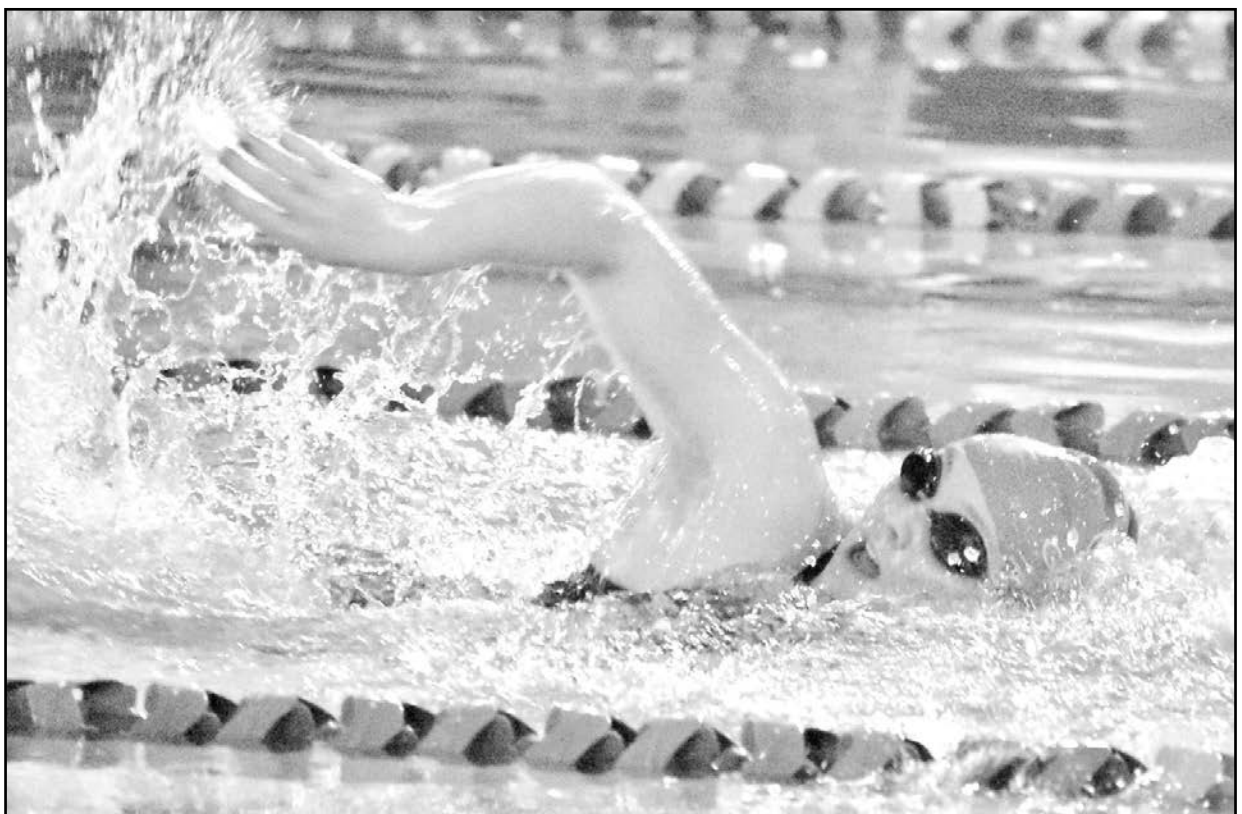
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Left, Glenvar's Tucker Henderson models the mask Glenvar swimmers wore when they weren't competing in Monday's meet at the Gator Center. Right, McKenna Shearer swims for the Highlanders.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN & TONYA WOOLWINE

Glenvar girls defeat William Byrd in first swim meet of the season

After several weeks of social distance practice the Glenvar High School swim team finally hit the pool in competition at the Roanoke Gator Center Monday. The boys had several good swims but dropped both contests to Cave Spring and William Byrd while the girls split with a victory over Byrd and a loss to a very talented Cave Spring team.

Top three finishers on the night included the 200 yard Medley Relay boys' team of Cooper Campbell, Tucker Henderson, Derrick Hall and Colvin Delano, who finished second. The girls A team of Reese Dunkenberger, Isabelle Pope, Adrianna Hall and Carly Wilkes also finished second.

In the girls 200 yard freestyle Hall finished second and Delaney Eller third. In the 200 yard Individual Medley Wilkes finished third and in the girls 50 yard freestyle Pope finished second.

In the girls 100 yard butterfly Hall was second and Eller was third while Wilkes set a new personal record and finished second in the girls 500 yard freestyle. In the 200 yard freestyle relay the team of Pope, McKenna Shearer, Kaylin Paitzel and Eller finished second.

In the boys 100 yard backstroke Campbell finished third and Reese Dunkenberger was second for the girls. Pope was second in the girls 100 yard breaststroke. In the 400 yard freestyle relay the girls A team of Hall, Wilkes, Eller and Dunkenberger blew away the field with a 34 second victory over second place Cave Spring and the B team of Brooklyn Woolwine, Shearer, Pait-

zel, and Macy Westland finished third.

The Highlanders set 11 new personal records on the night.

The Swimming Highlanders are back in action next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights against Roanoke County teams.



Spartan swim team back in the water

Salem's Kaylee Shifflett dives in at the Salem YMCA Tuesday night in the first event of the winter season for Salem High. Results were too late for publication but will be included in next week's edition.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Glenvar's Melayia Donaldson drives past a Byrd defender in Vinton last Friday.

PHOTO BY JIM DEVINNEY

Girls fall to Byrd, hammer Titans

The Glenvar girls split their first two basketball games of the season, playing only Roanoke County schools due to the pandemic. The girls lost to William Byrd in Vinton last Friday but bounced back to beat Hidden Valley Monday night.

At Byrd the Terriers dropped a 49-42 decision. Glenvar trailed by just two, 22-20, at the half before Byrd outscored Glenvar 17-8 in the third period. The Highlanders rallied in the fourth quarter but couldn't quite catch up.

"I think we were a little timid," said

Glenvar coach Jeff Johnson. "Byrd was aggressive and we were not."

Olivia Harris led Glenvar with 16 points and Rhyann Harris had a dozen.

On Monday night the Highlanders bounced back to beat Hidden Valley at home, 73-15. Harris led all scorers with 23, outscoring the Titans herself. Harris had 15 points, Savana Luper had a bakers' dozen and Morgan Batey had 10 points.

Glenvar had a home game with Northside scheduled for Wednesday and the Highlanders are at Cave Spring Friday.

Andrew Lewis Middle School requirements for spring volleyball tryouts, football practice

Andrew Lewis Middle School will have volleyball tryouts and football practice starting on Monday, February 8th. Students who plan to participate in either volleyball or football must do the following by Friday February 5th.

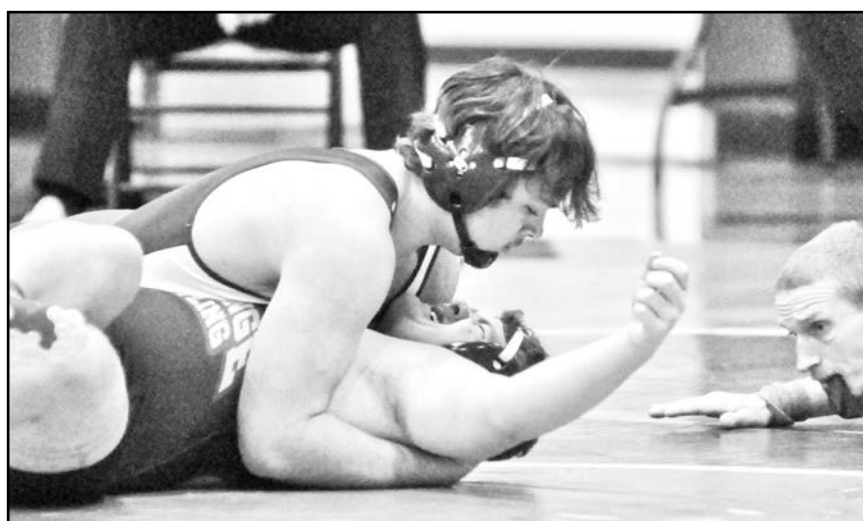
(1.) provide a current (dated after May 1, 2020) Virginia High School League (VHSL) physical form on file in the main office. The physical form can be found on the school website, the VHSL website, or in the main office at ALMS.

(2.) provide a signed Salem COVID 19 Waiver Form on file in the main office. The waiver form can be found on the school website, or in the main office at ALMS.

(3.) sign up for volleyball and football by visiting the athletics tab on the Andrew Lewis webpage.

Football equipment will be handed out at the Salem High School Fieldhouse for eighth graders on Wednesday February 3rd and seventh graders on Thursday February 4th. The time for both equipment handout dates is 5 to 7 PM. To get equipment before the start of practice students must have completed the three steps outlined above.

If you have further questions, please contact: Matt Coe - Athletic Director mcoe@salem.k12.va.us; Perry Manning - Volleyball Coach pmanning@salem.k12.va.us; or Brian Hooker - Head Football Coach bhooker@salem.k12.va.u.



Glenvar wrestlers are home tonight

The Glenvar wrestlers will have a home match tonight against Hidden Valley at the GHS gym. Glenvar opened the season with a 45-27 loss to William Byrd on Tuesday in Vinton. Above, Glenvar's Zach Moore finishes off a pin for the Highlanders.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Headed to Lynchburg

Glenvar's Olivia Harris made it official at the high school gym last week as she signed up to attend the University of Lynchburg and play basketball for the Hornets. Seated, left to right, are mom Tonya, Olivia and dad George Harris. Standing behind are sister McKenzie and brother Grayson.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

GHS BOYS

continued from pg. 12

decision. The Titans outscored Glenvar 17-3 in the second quarter to open a big lead. Glenvar cut the margin to two in the fourth period but couldn't get over the hump. Barber had 16 and Hendricks had 14.

"We missed seven free throws and lost by four," said Mann. "That didn't help us much."

Glenvar was scheduled to play at Northside Wednesday, but results were too late for publication. On Friday, defending Class 3 state champion Cave Spring comes to GHS.



Glenvar's Aiden Alexander shoots over a Byrd defender in last week's win.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

SPORTS

Thursday, January 21, 2021

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Maroons drop opener to Greensboro

Tripp Greene of Roanoke College is surrounded by Greensboro defenders as he goes to the hoop in Tuesday's season opening basketball game in Salem. The game was played at the Cregger Center without fans as the Maroons dropped a 67-61 decision to the visitors. The Maroons are back home Saturday for a 2 pm game against Hampden-Sydney to open the Old Dominion Athletic Conference portion of the schedule. Again, fans will not be permitted to attend but can watch the game on the Maroon Sports Network, with Ron Myers doing play-by-play and Bob Southard providing color commentary.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Brian
Hoffman



SHS Sports are back

Who is that masked man? It might be the Lone Ranger, but then again it might be a member of the Salem High boys' basketball team.

Ready or not, the Spartans are about to return in winter sports. Basketball games, wrestling matches, a swim meet and a track meet are all scheduled for the next week. Salem is one of the last school systems to return to interscholastic competition, but the return is welcome for kids, parents and even fans who can't get in to watch the games.

No fans will be allowed for indoor events and the Salem basketball teams, both boys and girls, will have to wear masks to compete. Their opponent will also have to wear masks, and that's a challenge for Salem High athletic director Chris King, who is in charge of putting together schedules. He's already had one school balk at wearing masks during competition, and he can't schedule games against the five Roanoke County schools, who are only playing each other.

The Salem boys will begin under new coach Micah Boyd with a home game against Pulaski County on Monday. The girls, who also have a new coach in Berlyn Seitz, will be at Pulaski County on Monday. Both teams will play Patrick Henry on January 29, with the girls making their home debut and the boys at PH.

The SHS wrestlers will open Tuesday at home against Pulaski County. That match is either going to be at the high school or at Andrew Lewis, where some of the mats are stored. If you're a fan you won't be allowed in anyway, so I guess it really doesn't matter.

Wrestling has some strange rules. I've attended a couple matches so far at the two Botetourt County schools. Prior to each match the wrestlers aren't allowed to shake hands, but after that they roll around all over each other for as many as five minutes. Then, when it's over, the referee isn't allowed to raise the winner's hand as is the long time tradition. Go figure.

The Salem High swim team was scheduled to swim on Tuesday of this week and the indoor track team will run Saturday, only outdoors. The Spartans will run at Patrick Henry on Saturday at 1 pm and William Fleming and Pulaski County are also scheduled to attend.

Of course, everything is day-to-day with the virus. James River had sports wiped out this week because the girls played Radford in basketball and after the game one of the Bobcats tested positive, throwing the River folks into quarantine.

High School football is scheduled to begin practice on February 4, with the first game scheduled for February 22nd. Yes, I know that's a Monday, but Salem will host Blacksburg on that day. . .if we're lucky.

Ron Myers and Mike Arthur will be broadcasting all

Salem football games on WRTZ 1410 AM radio and on the internet at wrtzroanoke.com. I expect their broadcasts will reach an all-time high in popularity with little or no fans allowed in the stadium.

LOSING A COUPLE GIANTS

We lost two more local legends this week with the passing of Bill Allen and Joe LaRocco, who were both in their 60s and went way too soon.

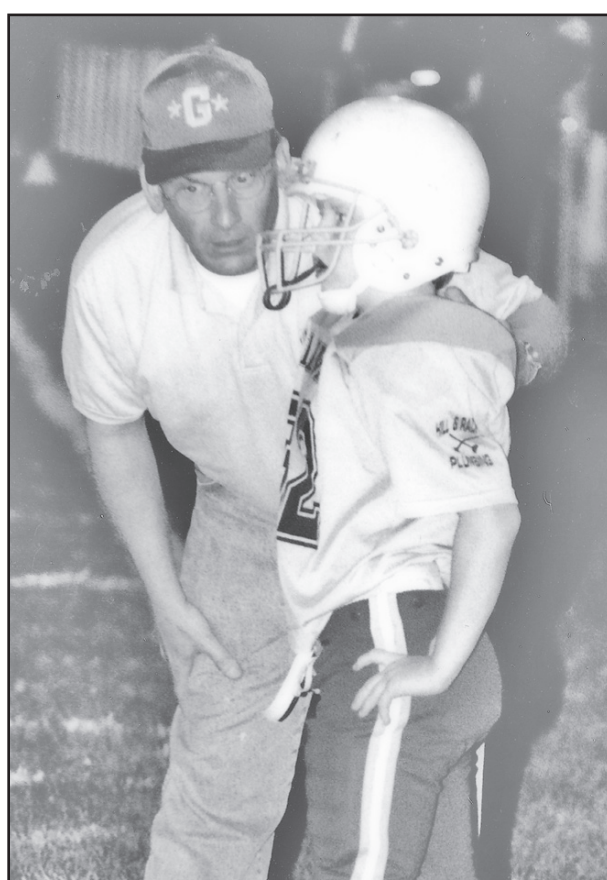
Allen is a well-known figure to anyone who played or watched football in Glenvar in the past 30 years or so. He was the long-time coach of the Glenvar Bulldogs and an important part of the Highlander program for years. He always had a good team and he stressed fundamentals, making it easier for the kids to transcend to school football.

Bill's son, Hunter, played for Glenvar but he was like a dad to many who passed through the Glenvar program. He loved the game and the kids.

LaRocco made his mark in track. He was a cross country and track standout at Andrew Lewis High School, graduating in 1972. He went on to run at Roanoke College, setting records there, including some that still stand. He's a member of the Roanoke College Athletic Hall of Fame.

After college Joe continued to contribute his talents to the world of track and field. He coached teams at Cave Spring High School for over 20 years, where he also served as a social studies teacher. He compiled a 196-36 record coaching cross country and was awarded six Coach of the Year honors.

Until his death Joe was one of the top high school



Bill Allen(left) coached sandlot football in the Glenvar program for close to 20 years. Joe LaRocco(right) was a life long runner, coach and official and a regular in the Salem Distance Run.

Glenvar boys split first two

The Glenvar boys' basketball team is only playing teams from Roanoke County this season, and Glenvar is the smallest school in the county. However, that didn't keep the Highlanders from winning their opening game of the season over William Byrd Friday night on the brand new GHS gym floor.

"If you want to be with the big dogs, you have to play them," said Glenvar coach Todd Mann.

The Highlanders opened their season with a 76-63 win over the visiting Terriers. Stephen Barber led Glenvar with 30 points, shooting 13 of 17 from the line and adding a two-handed dunk late in the game to put an exclamation mark on the win.

"Steph did an outstanding job going to the basket," said Mann.

Tyler Johnson had 19 points and Garrett Hendricks, who played at Byrd last year before transferring to Glenvar, had 17. The Highlanders trailed by two at the half but outplayed the Terriers after intermission.

"I was overall pleased with our opener," said Mann. "Tough going into the first game like we did, but we managed to pull it out."



Garrett Hendricks scores for Glenvar in last Friday's opener against William Byrd.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

and college track officials on the east coast, and he also served as Co-Director of the Commonwealth Games cross country races. Due to the pandemic he wasn't able to be the Head Starter at the ODAC Outdoor Meet nor the VHSL Outdoor State Meet this past spring, but he did start the races at the ODAC Indoor Meet for the 25th time and the State Meet for the 20th year. The Outdoor ODAC meet would have been his 33rd consecutive and the high school championships would have been his 25th consecutive.

Joe was an active runner for all his life and has rarely missed a chance to compete in the Salem Distance Run. I remember a few years ago seeing his wife, Terry, on the sidelines of the race and she told me she was a little nervous because, "this was his first big race after his heart attack."

In the Blue Ridge Parkway Challenge, Joe ran 217 miles in 40 days. The Salem races in October, sponsored by Lewis Gale, cancelled their in-person races this year, which start together. They changed their format to a virtual race due the pandemic and this allowed Joe to run in the Half Marathon on one day, then run in the 8K two days later. He was first among those in the 65-69 age category in the 8k.

Joe was still running last week and died way too early. It's a great loss to everyone who knew him, and the track and cross country community as a whole.

"Joe was an icon in Salem and is legendary at Cave Spring High School," said retired Andrew Lewis, Salem High and Roanoke College coach Richard Browder, who was good friends with LaRocco. "He was a great historian and performed as Andrew Lewis for the Salem Historical Society and Museum. A tragic loss too early."



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN