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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Following World War II in 1946, the VA created the Department of Medicine and Surgery, known today as the Veterans Health Administration.

Salem commemorates 75 years of VA Health Care

Shawn Nowlin
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(Published on March 4, 2021) The Salem VA Medical Center recently celebrated three-quarters of a century of service. Since being commissioned by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1934 as part of the then-recently formed Veterans Administration, the Salem VA has been providing health care to America's Veterans ever since.

Following World War II in 1946, the VA established the Department of Medicine and Surgery – which later became the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). A deeper look at the numbers puts things in their proper

context. In 1930, the VA health care system had only 54 hospitals. Today, more than 1,600 facilities exist, including 1,232 outpatient sites of care and 144 Medical Centers.

“For 75 years, Veterans have trusted VHA to meet their unique health care needs. VA's world-class health care professionals and researchers have worked together to make sure that VA health care keeps up with the changing nature of service-related injuries and illnesses,” Salem VA Executive Director Dr. Rebecca Stackhouse said. “For thousands of Veterans in rural Southwest Virginia, the Salem VA

See 75 Years, page 8

Hicks' passion for science earns her Chemistry Teacher of the Year

Meg Hibbert
Contributing writer

(Published on April 15, 2021) Karen Hicks' passion is to show students science can be cool. Her enthusiasm and expertise has earned her the coveted Chemistry Teacher of the Year from the Blue Ridge Chapter of the American Chemical So-

ciety. It's actually the second time she has been chosen, with the first in 2008.

“It's definitely an honor to be nominated. I love teaching science. It's probably one of the coolest things,” said Hicks, who has taught at Glenvar High School for 15 years and in Roa-

See Hicks, page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN HICKS

Outside of chemistry classes, Karen Hicks enjoys spending time with her family, which includes Boxers Sam, shown here, and Abby.

OurValley.org

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

Shawn Nowlin
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(Published on January 21, 2021) A group of students, parents, coaches and other community members gathered prior to the start of a school board meeting on January 12 to rally for reopening school athletics. 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 ac-

cept responsibility for the risks associated with COVID-19 can bring. We are adults that can take responsibility for keeping

See Play Ball, page 5



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.

Sen. Tim Kaine visits Salem, tours the city's vaccination site

Shawn Nowlin
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(Published on February 18, 2021) This week, Senator Tim Kaine is holding virtual and in-person events across the state to discuss health care amid the coronavirus pandemic. On Tuesday, Kaine, who served as Virginia's Governor from 2006 to 2010, toured the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) vaccination site at the Salem Civic Center.

While touring the facility, Kaine met with volunteers and staff to learn about the lifesaving work they are doing as well as

See Tim Kaine, page 4



PHOTO BY SHAWN NOWLIN

Dr. Cynthia Morrow, the Roanoke City and Alleghany Health District Director, and Sen. Tim Kaine discussing vaccination updates.

Outdoor concert gives community opportunity to hear the best that country music has to offer



PHOTO BY SHAWN NOWLIN

Country music star Shelby Darrall performing her popular song “Swim.”

(Published on May 27, 2021) Much to the delight of many Salem residents, summer is right around the corner. New guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicate that if certain precautions are taken, most outdoor activities are deemed safe.

The tradition of outdoor concerts in Salem began decades ago. Since the community is filled with country music lovers, it should come as no surprise that a sizeable crowd gathered at the Salem Memorial Ballpark on May 21 to enjoy a night of country music, courtesy of multi-platinum entertainer Chase Rice and his opening act,

Shelby Darrall.

Event festivities started around 5 p.m. and lasted for nearly four hours. Bean toss games were set up in the parking lot, something that dozens of people participated in. Individuals were asked to adhere to social distancing guidelines, and hundreds brought their own chairs. Allen Cruz and his friends chose to enjoy the concert from the parking lot.

“My F-150 can comfortably seat four people. Myself, my wife and my two brothers knew how we were going to relish the concert long before we arrived in the parking lot. We had such a great time

See Concert, page 7

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Salem High School graduates celebrate their journey with family and friends



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Salem School Board members showing the "Heart" symbol to honor their former colleague Mike Chiglinsky who passed in April.



Elated family members and friends applauding their graduates.



Superintendent Alan Seibert addressing all in attendance.



Coach Don Holter and some of his football players.



Principal Scott Habeeb praising the graduates for their accomplishments.



Best friends Adriana Ortiz, Christine Thurn, Nadia Schuld, Nicholas Manspile, and another graduate from left to right

New medical cannabis dispensary in Salem is first off-site pharmacy in Virginia

Shawn Nowlin
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(Published on August 5, 2021) A former bank building in Salem is now home to a medical marijuana dispensary.

Located at 1634 West Main Street, RISE Salem held its ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 28 and officially opened for busi-

ness five days later. Profits from the first day of sales were donated to a local non-profit organization, according to a company spokesperson.

Earlier this summer, Dharma Pharmaceuticals was acquired by Green Thumb Industries, a national cannabis CPG company that also owns Rise™ Dispensaries.

In addition to a variety of vapes, edibles, concentrates, tinctures and topicals, the dispensary also offers a variety of consumption methods for each patient's specific needs. To purchase any product, customers must be a registered patient with the Virginia Board of Pharmacy.

RISE Salem represents a new chapter for Virginia's medical marijuana industry. No longer will patients have to travel significant distances to get their products, something Dharma Pharmaceuticals' Virginia Market Leader Jack Page is elated about.

"We had a great turnout for our ribbon-cutting last week, which shows us that people are eager for a

medical cannabis dispensary to be in their communities," he said. "We are looking forward to working with the legislature during the 2022 General Assembly session to finalize the adult use program, particularly the social equity program."

Misconceptions about medical marijuana are plentiful and range from causing patients physical harm to FDA approval must be required to pass legislation. Currently, 49 states have acknowledged the medical value of marijuana, all without FDA approval. Compared to many prescription drugs' risks, the side effects of marijuana are relatively modest.

Added Page, "We have

seen a significant amount of acceptance for cannabis, especially with the state legalizing adult-use. People are beginning to understand that medical cannabis has the ability to help many people. More people are looking for alternatives for sleep, anxiety and pain, and relying on cannabis to aid them."

RISE Salem is the first off-site cannabis dispensary in Virginia. As well as a drive-thru, the new location has a delivery hub too. Salem native John Harris says he noticed an increase of Main Street traffic in recent days. "At first I didn't know what was going on, said Harris with a smile before adding, "After I found out, it made all the sense in the

world." Compared to just a few years ago, tremendous progress pertaining to medical marijuana has been made. Today, the industry makes more money than hotels and tourism.

"We are excited to open the first Rise™ location in Virginia and our first store in a southeastern state," said Green Thumb Founder and Chief Executive Officer Ben Kovler.

"As cannabis acceptance sweeps the country, we are honored to expand our retail footprint and to be the first medical cannabis dispensary in the Roanoke region. We look forward to meeting more community members and introducing them to the Rise™ retail experience."

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@vaccinatevirginia

Protect the ones you love, get vaccinated now.

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



RISE Salem at 1634 West Main Street held its ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 28.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Salem School Board names Dr. Curtis Hicks new Division Superintendent

(Published on September 2, 2021) Curtis Hicks has been named the new Superintendent of Salem City Schools, effective September 30. Dr. Hicks has served as an assistant superintendent for the division since 2014, and he has been a central office administrative employee since 2007. His appointment was unanimously approved by the School Board at the conclusion of a specially called meeting that wrapped-up this Tuesday morning.

"I appreciate the confidence the board has shown in me, not just with this appointment, but throughout my time in Salem," says Hicks. "The board has always been supportive of the initiatives I have brought before them, and I am proud to say we already have an outstanding working relationship."

Hicks will replace current superintendent, Dr. Alan Seibert, who is retiring after 30 years of service to the school division. The board requested internal applications and interviewed the candidates who formally applied. School Board Chairman, David Preston, says Hicks' extensive and diverse administrative experiences, and his wealth of institutional knowledge made him the top choice.

"We have an outstanding track record in Salem of hiring quality educators, identifying leaders and then grooming them for moments like this," says Preston. "Curtis is a dynamic leader who relates extremely well to students, teachers

and parents. He has the unique ability to engage these groups, even when they are at odds or struggling, and find the common ground that ultimately benefits the child."

Hicks knows firsthand how children can benefit from a quality education. He and his wife, Marcia, have three children who are products of the Salem School Division. Garrett is a University of Virginia graduate, who will return to UVa this fall to pursue his master's degree. Their middle child, Meredith, is a rising 2nd year student at Virginia, and their youngest child, Will, who will be a senior at Salem High School this year, has accepted an invitation to play lacrosse at the University of Lynchburg after he graduates.

"Our family will be forever grateful for the time and energy that the teachers in Salem invested on our children," says Hicks. "They were given opportunities that continue to inspire them today."

Hicks grew up on a farm in Alleghany County and was a highly recruited student-athlete for the Alleghany Mountaineers. He signed scholarship papers to play football with the Virginia Cavaliers during the George Welsh era and while in Charlottesville he made his mark on the field and in the classroom.

"Athletics and my rural roots taught me the importance of teamwork and recognizing the value that each person possesses," he says. "All of the coaches and

teachers who saw something in me when I was young and those who later created opportunities for me in the early stages of my career are the reasons that I have been given this opportunity."

The work ethic that his parents and coaches instilled in him, helped Hicks earn his bachelor's and master's degrees from Virginia in 1995. He was a member of the ACC Academic Honor Roll from 1992-1995 and he was awarded the national "Hitachi Promise of Tomorrow" teaching scholarship after his senior year.

"After graduation, I was hired to teach and coach at Northside Middle School and after just my second year of teaching, I was encouraged by my principal and the director of human resources to pursue a career in administration," he says. "They recommended me for the Principal Preparation Program at Virginia Tech."

He earned his Education Specialist degree and completed Tech's Educational Leadership program in 2000, but Hicks actually began his career in administration long before the requirements were completed.

"Even though I had not completed the program and did not yet hold an administrative endorsement, I was hired to be an assistant principal at Floyd County High School," he says. "Floyd County is where I learned how important empathy and compassion are when dealing with students,

parents, and staff who are going through difficult situations. I also learned the importance of creating relationships based on genuine care and concern for students and their families."

After two years in Floyd, Hicks returned to Roanoke County as served as an assistant principal at both Hidden Valley and Cave Spring High Schools for the next two years. In 2003, at the age of 30, he was named the principal of Glenvar High School.

"This was an awesome responsibility that I took very seriously," says Hicks. "I wanted to do whatever I could to make sure that each one of the 600 students reached his or her full potential, and that both the students and their families had a positive experience with our school."

While at Glenvar, Hicks implemented several impactful programs including a study program that reduced failing grades and significantly improved student achievement. He also implemented the Highlander Day of Caring initiative that taught students the importance of community service.

"Leaving Glenvar was a difficult decision," he says. "At that time, I wanted to be more involved with my children's education and extracurricular programs, and I knew I could have an impact on even more students by implementing and improving programs in grades K-12."

Hicks joined Salem Schools in

2007 as the director of secondary instruction. In 2014, he was promoted to assistant superintendent for instruction and since Mike Bryant's retirement in 2017, he has served as the division's only assistant superintendent.

"Dr. Seibert entrusted me with many responsibilities, and I am very proud of the strides we have made when it comes to the division's alternative education and recovery programs, the Random Drug Testing Program for student-athletes, our job shadowing and apprenticeship programs and our use of grant funding to support innovation."

Hicks earned his doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Arkansas in May of 2020. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, he has served as the point person for the school division handling interactions with health department officials, school staff members, community leaders and parents.

"As a school division and a community, we are still facing lots of uncertainty related to the pandemic," says Preston. "The appointment of Dr. Hicks should give our teachers and our parents a sense of security and reassurance. He is a natural leader, who knows our schools and our personnel as well as anyone."

Submitted by

Mike Stevens,

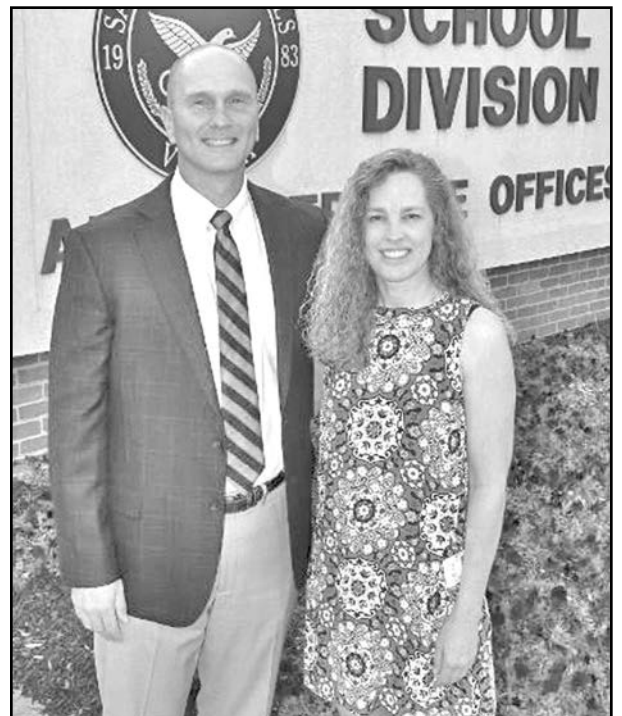
City of Salem

Communications Director



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Curtis Hicks being congratulated by Salem School Board members after the unanimous vote to become Salem's next superintendent of schools.



Curtis and his wife Marcia Hicks.

Hicks

from page 1

Roanoke County for a total of 23.

Hicks was notified of her award in March and will be scheduled to be recognized at the Roanoke County School Board meeting on April 22, she said.

Hicks explained she decided when she was student teaching that she wanted her future students to be able to enjoy the sciences.

"One of the things I tell my students early in the school year is 'I have faith and confidence that you can do this,'" she said. "Chemistry is a tough course – a doable course – but tough. It is often the first time many students have to study, and many are intimidated by the material."

She added that she holds them to high standards. "During class discussions or guided practice, I almost always ask a student why or how they got the answer they got – before I let them know whether the answer is correct or not. I want to understand the thought process they used to get to their answer. If their answer is incorrect, I want to determine where they went wrong in their thinking."

Hicks continued, "Often, a student will be able to see their mistake and to correct their answer when I ask them to explain how they solved the problem. I feel that students learn best when they are teaching each other, so I usually have them work in small groups and to check their answers with another group, before

checking the answer key."

She admitted that because of COVID, this year has been a bit different. "My school does not have students working in groups, but we will return to this format as soon as it is safe to do so."

Hicks said she wants students in her classes "to see the connections between what we are learning and how science impacts them personally. There are so many important issues in the headlines today, and not just the COVID virus. Genetic engineering, stem cell research, nuclear energy, alternative fuels, and the environment are all topics that will impact their lives. Without understanding the science behind these issues, they cannot make informed decisions on these matters."

In 2017, she was selected to attend an NSF-funded Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) held during the summer at Virginia Tech. The RET focused on water quality issues. "I presented my research, 'The Search for Microplastics in an Urban Stream,' at the project forum at the end of the summer. Each time I participate in one of these experiences, I add to my knowledge of how chemistry is related to different fields of study and I share this information with my students," she said.

In addition to teaching classes at Glenvar, Hicks has taught a section of chemistry each semester at Virginia

Western Community College for the last nine years. Currently at Glenvar, she teaches college-bound, advanced, and AP/Dual Chemistry.

"Teaching at the college level allows me to see what topics are a struggle for college students," she said. "I use this information to shape some of my high school lessons."

She was head coach the Scholastic Bowl team at Glenvar for eight years and moved to an assistant position last year. "Our team has always been strong in the math and science components. I do find it hard to contain my excitement when the team gets those chemistry questions correct!"

Hicks explained she tries to share her love of learning and fascination with how science works with her students. "I share some of my life experiences – both science and non-science – to let them know that I have struggled with things

and how I dealt with those struggles. I have used current events – both local (high school) and national – to ask my students how they feel about a topic."

Her honor came with a \$250 cash award and GHS got \$100 for supplies for the science department.

She earned her Bachelors of Science from Roanoke College after an associate degree from VWCC, and then a Masters in Education from Radford University.

The past two years, maple trees on her family farm in Ironto were tapped providing sap for Glenvar students to cook into syrup. She also maintains beehives at her farm, collecting honey for the student-run G-Bees program at the high school.

In her leisure time, she likes to hike, bike and site and enjoy the views, Hicks said. She and her husband, Tim Hicks, have two boxers, Sam and Abby. When

Were it not for the love of God, the stranger would not become the friend.

- Baha'i Faith

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Mac & Bob's named best eatery in state by Virginia Restaurant, Lodging and Travel Association

Shawn Nowlin

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(Published on October 14, 2021) Mac & Bob's has ascended to the top restaurant in the state, according to the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging and Travel Association (VRLTA).

Each year, the VRLTA Ordinary Awards recognizes the best in the hospitality and tourism industries throughout the Commonwealth. On October 4, during an award ceremony in Richmond, Mac & Bob's won the 2021 "Ordinary Award for Best Restaurant." The trophy acquired during the formality is now displayed in the restaurant, something that co-owners Joe Dishaw and Bob Rotanz as well as General Manager Keith Griswold all hold near and dear to their

hearts.

It was Catherine Fox, Virginia's Blue Ridge Vice President of Destination Development, who nominated the restaurant for the award. "I just felt that Mac & Bob's was far and away an excellent candidate for this category. What separates them from other restaurants is their heart. They have found a way to be a fabric of Salem, and the fabric of this region."

Mac & Bob's Restaurant has persevered through a lot in recent years: a fire, COVID-19 and having to file bankruptcy during a class action lawsuit.

"With the pandemic, it was and is constantly changing to the current environment. Pick-up only, half outdoors only, half capacity indoors and at the bar, checking employees every day for COVID symptoms,

masks, employees quarantining due exposure, trying to get hand sanitizer, stuff like that," Rotanz said.

Added Dishaw, "Our fire in August 2020 caused thousands of dollars in damages. The community's response was just amazing. Not only were we flooded with text messages, but people wrote powerful letters that got us through the whole ordeal too."

Perhaps the greatest example of the restaurant's relationship with the community came three years ago when the business was sued by two former servers who alleged they had been unlawfully mandated to share tips with dishwashers.

To state the obvious, the immediate months that followed were extremely difficult.

"I believe in fate and I think

this whole chapter in our business was meant to be. At 63, and working to build our business for 39 years, the thought of losing the restaurant and having our financial future up in the air was very stressful," Rotanz said at the time. "Once we went public, the outpouring of the community, former employees, customers and friends and family was heartwarming and uplifting. Because of this whole mess, we found out just how much Mac and Bob's means to our community."

Dishaw says that every person who made a financial contribution received a personal "thank-you."

Mac & Bob's was established in 1980. Today, thousands of people visit the restaurant each week, a number that was unfathomable to both Dishaw

and Rotanz when they first opened the business.

Kimberly Clark, a longtime supporter of the restaurant, says she was not surprised when she heard that Mac & Bob's won the 2021 Ordinary Award. "When it comes to getting the most bang for your buck, it doesn't get any better than Mac & Bob's," Clark said. "I've never had a bad experience here. Never. All of my family and friends who live out of town have been to this place with me at least once."

Since the 1970s, Rotanz and his wife Wendy have lived in the Salem. Without question, he said, staying in Salem and working alongside Joe was the best decision we ever made. Located at 316 E Main Street, more information can be found at www.macandbobs.com.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Mac & Bob's spacing and lighting contribute to its family-like atmosphere. Recently, friends Gregory and Kristina Pagan, Grand Wildriq, Heather Zint, Kasandra Holmen and Kiva Troise, left to right, enjoyed each other's company over lunch.



Mac & Bob's architect Craig Balzer and Aruba Convention Bureau National Sales Director Robert Hayes have dinner regularly at Mac & Bob's.

Tim Kaine

from page 1

converse with those who received a vaccine shot. Among those present to help answer the Senator's questions was Dr. Cynthia Morrow, the Roanoke City and Alleghany Health District Director.

"We rely on data to identify vaccine distribution strategies and understand COVID-19's impact. We have struggled to meet the demand for information about these decisions and have not been able to personally respond to all of the inquiries and requests we have recently received," said Dr. Morrow a week before the Senator's arrival. "I am sorry for this. We are committed to improving the way we communicate about opportunities to schedule a vaccine appointment, about testing events and about other important aspects of the Roanoke City and Alleghany Health District."

Just this week alone, hundreds of area residents

like Nicole Zimmerman have been vaccinated in the Salem Civic Center. "When you first come in here, you are asked a bunch of questions to make sure that you are healthy," Zimmerman said. "After waiting in line until it's your turn, you get a quick shot, and they ask you to wait for like 20 minutes before leaving."

As a VDH volunteer, Elizabeth Draper's understanding of the vaccination process has grown considerably in recent weeks. "Many of my friends are nurses and they told me that VDH was looking for volunteers. That is how I got involved. From everything that we've seen, our vaccines are really safe. The biggest fear that some people have is the vaccines were not well studied. That simply is not the case."

Last week, during her weekly column to update the community, Dr. Morrow said, "there's good news for those seeking vaccination appointments. The

VDH has created a new statewide Vaccine Pre-Registration System to provide a unified and comprehensive process for Virginians to pre-register for the COVID-19 vaccine. If you previously filled out our RCAHD website form indicating your interest in the vaccine, your data was automatically imported into the new system and you do not need to pre-register again."

After touring the Salem Civic Center vaccination facility, Kaine visited the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority to learn more about what the organization needs as they respond to the coronavirus pandemic. While working in Congress on another exhaustive COVID-19 relief bill, Kaine has expressed a desire to gather as much information from Virginians as possible. "I am so glad I got to meet so many people here in Salem. The feedback given has been invaluable," he said.



PHOTOS BY SHAWN NOWLIN

Sen. Kaine having a conversation with a woman after she was vaccinated.



Sen. Kaine conversing with health experts.



VDH employee administering a COVID-19 vaccine on a senior.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Loud cheer
 - Defensive nuclear weapon (abbr.)
 - Type of cell
 - Oblong pulpits
 - Pitching statistic
 - Uncommon
 - Liabilities
 - Thin, straight bar
 - Oh goodness!
 - Competitions
 - ___ Jima, WW II battlefield
 - Professional assn. (abbr.)
 - Italian mountain range
 - Taking possession of
- CLUES DOWN**
- Used in cooking and medicine
 - Water (French)
 - Parent a child
 - Sun-dried brick
 - One-point south of due east
 - Female fashion accessory
 - A way of making a copy of
 - A way to debilitate
 - Wings
 - Social insect
 - Dull brown fabrics
 - Indian musical pattern
 - N. England university
 - Portable stands for coffins
 - Iranian district
 - Envision
 - Passerine bird genus
 - Container
 - Italian mountain range
 - Tunisian city
 - CLUES DOWN
 - Cool!
 - Passover offering
 - Swedish rock group
 - Collegiate military organization
 - Large nests
 - Beloved baked good
 - 1980s pop legend
 - Finger millet
 - Hillside
 - Surrender
 - Midway between south and southeast
 - Long, narrow strap
 - Discount
 - A type of cast
 - Large, tropical lizard
 - Half of "Milli Vanilli"
 - Single
 - Big truck
 - Midway between east and southeast
 - Et ___; indicates further
 - Insecticide
 - Luke Skywalker's mentor ___-Wan
 - Cast out
 - Breakfast food
 - By reason of
 - One who makes thread
 - Baseball stat
 - Breezed through
 - Frothy mass of bubbles
 - Tony-winning actress Daisy
 - Made of fermented honey and water
 - Member of a Semitic people
 - Monetary unit of the Maldives
 - Run batted in
 - Makes publicly known
 - Disagreement
 - Soluble ribonucleic acid
 - Single-reed instrument

Statewide Republicans win big on Election Night

~ Incumbent Sheriff April Staton given another term by local constituents ~

Shawn Nowlin

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(Published on November 4, 2021)

A mix of statewide and local elections were on the November 2 ballot. Traditionally, off-year elections see lower turnout and less fervor than in presidential years.

Who will serve as the next city Sheriff? Salem residents, by an unofficial vote of nearly 4,700, chose incumbent April Staton over opponents Chris Shelor and Richard Goodman Sr. who received 3,402 votes and 1,085 votes, respectively.

At last month's candidate forum, Staton, speaking about her experience, said, "Eighteen of the last 20 years, I've been at the Salem Sheriff's Office. I've served as a Deputy Sheriff, a Master Deputy, Frontline Supervisor and Second Command at the office as Chief Deputy. Throughout my career, 13 of those years have been supervising people. Seven of those years have been preparation and management of the office budget. We are doing very well at the Sheriff's office, and it is because of this that I ask for your support in this election."

Remaining as the Treasurer, Commonwealth's Attorney and Commis-

sioner of Revenue, sequentially, will be Danielle Crawford, Thomas Bowers and Kristie Chittum. Delegate Joe McNamara will also remain the 8th District's House Delegate Member.

Since 2019, Democrats have held both control of the legislature and the governor's office. During that time, major moves on massive progressive priorities have been made: raising the minimum wage, undoing existing abortion restrictions and enacting a new voter protection law.

November 2 was a great day for Virginia Republican candidates. More than three million people across the state voiced their opinion on who should serve as the next Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General. With 50.68 percent of the unofficial vote reported as of press time Wednesday morning, Glenn Youngkin defeated his Democrat opponent Terry McAuliffe by more than 70,000 votes. On January 15, 2022, he is expected to be inaugurated as the 74th governor of Virginia.

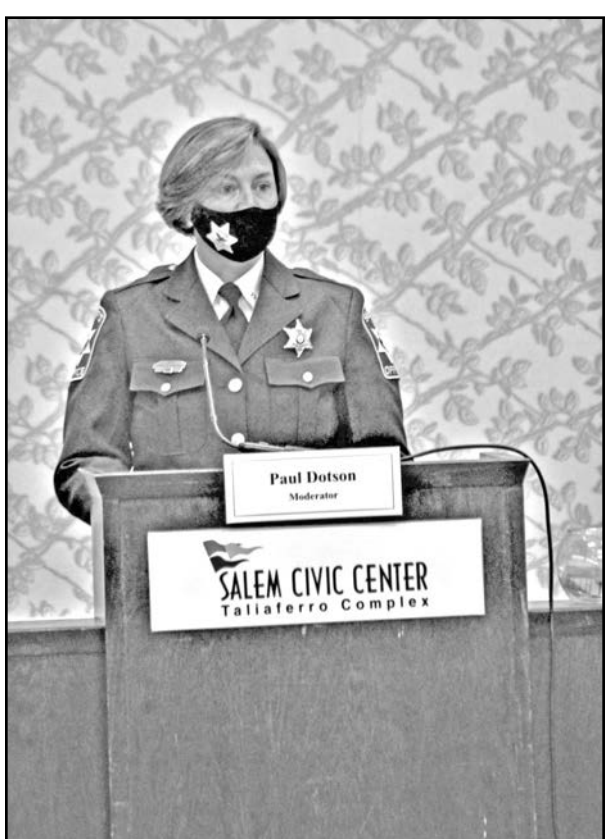
Youngkin, who campaigned in Salem several times this year, once with Texas Senator Ted Cruz and former Virginia Governor George Allen, spent more than two decades at the private equity firm the Carlyle

Group prior to entering politics. In September 2020, he stepped down from the Carlyle Group and announced his candidacy for the 2021 Virginia gubernatorial election four months later.

By defeating Democrat Hala Ayala in the Lt. Governor race, Winsome Sears became the first woman of Jamaican origin to be elected to a statewide office in Virginia. After defeating longtime incumbent Billy Robinson Jr., Sears served as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from 2002 to 2004. She entered the race for U.S. Senate three years ago as a Republican write-in alternative to Corey Stewart.

Thirty-four thousand more people voted Jason Miyares over Mark Herring to become the next Attorney General. Miyares, whose family fled from Cuba in 1965, also visited Salem several times this year to make his case to voters. "I promise you this, if Republicans win in November, you will see a drastic change once we are in office," he said in November.

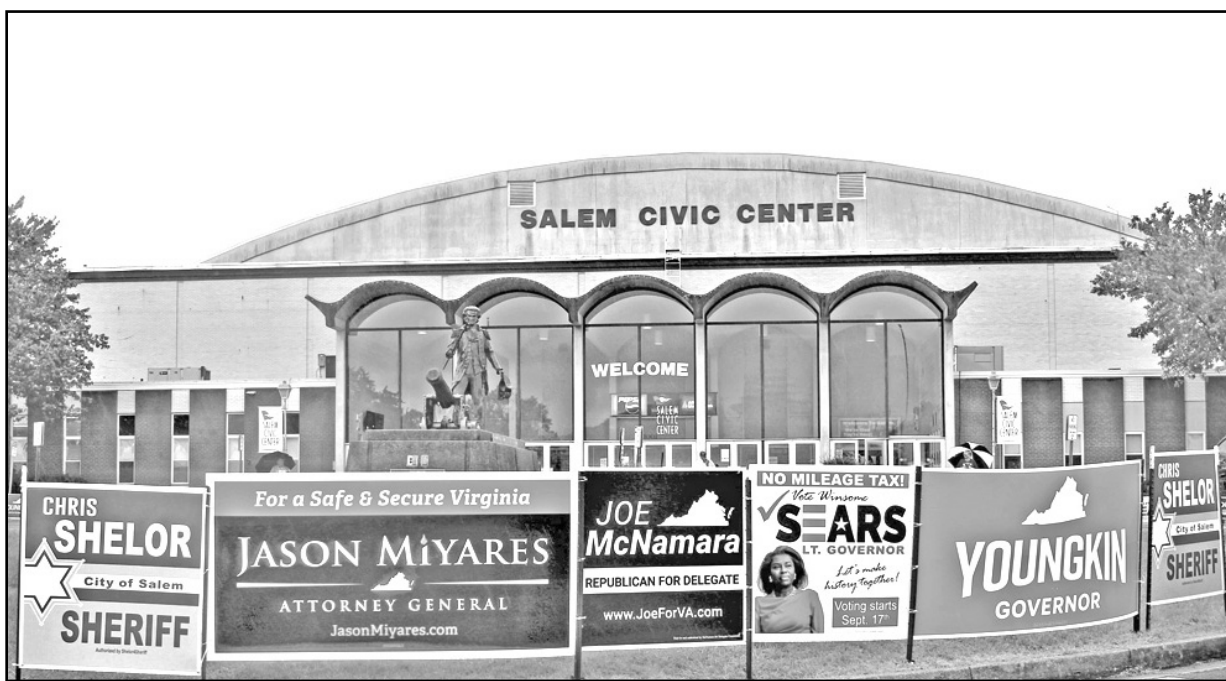
According to Gallup, President Biden's approval currently stands at 42 percent. The consensus is that factor heavily attributed to Tuesday's results.



Incumbent April Staton will resume her role as City of Salem Sheriff.



More than 9,000 Salem residents voted at the Salem Civic Center on Election Day.



PHOTOS BY SHAWN NOWLIN

A significant majority of Republicans won their state and local races on Election Day 2021.



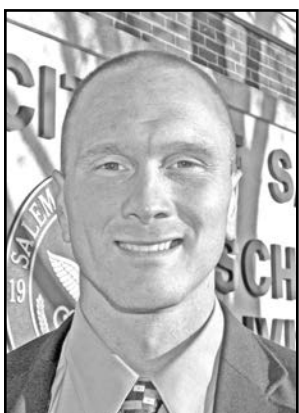
Signs of all the candidates on the ballot were spread out over town.



An election officer answering a voter's question.

Play Ball

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."

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 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."

OBITUARY

Ferrell, Hilda Mowles

Hilda Mowles Ferrell, 95, of Salem, Va., passed away on Wednesday, December 22, 2021. A celebration of Hilda's life will take place on Saturday, May 14, 2022 in the John M. Oakey & Son Chapel. Visitation will begin at 1 p.m., and a memorial service will follow at 3 p.m. Online condolences may be expressed at www.johnmoakey.com.



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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., 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.; Praise Kidz 6:00 p.m.; Family Night Activities 6:30 p.m. website: www.ridgewood-baptist.com.

FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH - Kevin Wilson, Pastor, 387-3200. Salem Campus: 1226 Red Lane Extension, Salem, Worship Times: 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 Taylor Plott; Youth Minister Nathan Beard; 10:00am Sunday Bible Study; 11:00am

Salem

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READY OR NOT

Read Revelation 22:1-21

At the turn of the century, the world was in a panic. On the eve of a new millennium, no one was sure what midnight would bring. Experts claimed a programming glitch could cause computers to struggle with the date change. The acronym Y2K became a household phrase connected to the possible collapse of computer-dependent industrialized nations.

Some scoffed, but others prepared. They stockpiled canned goods and bottled water. They outlined a strategy for living without electricity. They took the doomsday warnings seriously and wanted to be ready.

John's Revelation contains a similar foretelling of a future event that will change life on earth.

"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done" (Revelation 22:12).

Whether or not you prepared for Y2K, the forewarned tragedy did not amount to anything. As believers, however, we all must be ready for Christ's return. The events prophesied in Scripture will come to pass. So, as 2012 comes to a close, ask yourself this question: Am I ready?

Prayer Suggestion: Lord, help me be ready for Your soon return.

Quicklook: Revelation 22:7-17

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

Sunday Worship Service; Wednesday Life Groups: 5:30 -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, Interim Pastor, Rev. Dr. John Dunstan, 380-4636. Website: www.flccsalem.org. Sunday worship inside sanctuary and on zoom, 10:30 AM, mask wearing and social distance.

ECKANKAR
ECKANKAR, THE PATH OF SPIRITUAL FREEDOM, is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. However, due to COVID-19, the Light & Sound Services and other ECK programs are currently available online through Zoom. Visit www.eck-va.org for program listings, www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group, or call 540-353-5365 and leave a message. We will return your call. Also visit www.eckankar.org for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar lead you to spiritual freedom.

EPISCOPAL
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 42 East Main Street, Salem, 389-9307. The Rev. Dr. David Compton. Sundays at 7:30am and 10am. Holy Communion in church and live-streamed on YouTube @StPaulSalemVa.

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

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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
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- 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). Sunday School at 8:30 a.m. (All classes) each Sunday online via zoom and church conference call line. Wednesday Adult Bible Study at 7:00 p.m. via zoom and church conference call line. Children's Bible Study at 7:00 p.m. via zoom. Teen Talk Bible Study at 7:30 p.m. via zoom. Saturday Men's Bible Study at 7:00 a.m. via zoom. Saturday Intercessory Prayer Service at 8:00 a.m. via church conference call line. Sunday Women's Bible Study Class at 8:30 p.m. via zoom. In-person Worship on Sunday at 11:00 a.m. or worship with us on line via Facebook or on the church conference call line. In person worship requires CDC guidelines for mask wearing and social distancing. Ushers are available to assist with seating.

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@clichurch.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. In-Person Sunday School and worship has resumed at 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM on Sundays or worship with us online live at www.salempres.org, or Facebook, or YouTube. During in-person attendance for Sunday School and worship we strongly encourage wearing a mask while inside the church due to COVID concerns.

ROMAN CATHOLIC
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP -314 Turner Road, Salem. 387-0491, Rev. Danny Cogut, 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 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 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. Each Sunday Traditional Worship 9:30 a.m.

Former Salem School Board Chair honored at 2021 Mid-Atlantic Hope Gala

Shawn Nowlin

shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org

(Published on December 16, 2021)

It's been 23 months since the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed the first US case of COVID-19. Although tremendous strides have been made in research, people still have questions about the virus: What is community spread? What is multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C)? Is at-home specimen collection or testing available?

On Dec. 11, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) hosted the 2021 Mid-Atlantic Hope Gala titled "Celebrating Healthcare Heroes." Each of the recipients continues to provide their expertise during the pandemic.

Gala honorees Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Griffin Rodgers awarded the Rapaport Lifetime Service Award to Sally Southard, the former Salem

School Board Chair.

A retired pediatric nurse practitioner who worked for Carilion for decades, Southard spent the last 23 years in the Pediatric Pulmonology and Allergy Clinic in Roanoke. For five years, she was an instructor at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine in addition to the UVA School of Nursing.

Throughout her career as a pediatric nurse practitioner, Southard precepted many students from the University of Virginia, Radford University, University of Southern Alabama and Old Dominion University.

Introduced last Saturday by Barbara and Laura Rapaport, Southard said, "It's really hard to believe that you two chose me as the recipient of your Lifetime Service Award. After all, there are so many other people in the Mid-Atlantic Chapter who devote countless hours to JDRF. I am truly honored and humbled. When I was diagnosed in 1966 at the age of ten, and my mom

was diagnosed at the age of 35, she and I had to boil our glass syringes every night before our one shot of insulin the next morning. Now, thanks to JDRF and many researchers across the world, I have an insulin delivery device that warns me when my blood sugars are climbing too high.

Southard, a 1977 Roanoke College graduate, added, "In the clinical trial that I'm currently participating in at the University of Virginia, I get weekly recommendations to change the settings in my insulin pump to better fine-tune the insulin at various times in the day and night."

Currently, Southard serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Greater Blue Ridge Chapter of JDRF as well as the President of the Board of Directors of Child Health Investment Partnership (CHIP) of the Roanoke Valley. After 16 years, 14 as Chairman, Southard retired from the Salem City School Board.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sally Southard, a 1977 Roanoke College graduate, was honored on December 11 during the 2021 Mid-Atlantic Hope Gala.

Concert

from page 1



PHOTOS BY SHAWN NOWLIN

Longtime friends Whitney Overstreet, Dena Soltis and Emily Myers, from left to right.



From left to right, Dustin Ayotte, Brittany Lawson, Kevin Perfater, Kari Perfater and Heather Stover.

and took plenty of pictures to remember the occasion," Hunt said.

Rice and Darrall were both met with standing ovations when they hit the stage.

As soon as she walked through the gates, Amy Childress knew that she was in for a treat. Childress says she expected a good turnout for the concert. What she didn't expect, however, was the number of people who knew practically every word of the songs performed. "I've been a huge fan of Chase for over a decade and the first time I was introduced to Shelby, I fell in

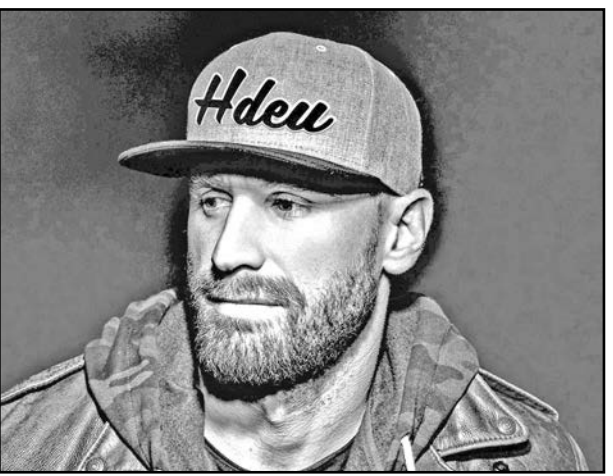
love with her sound. Neither one disappointed. The tickets were worth every penny," she said.

Since his debut album "Friday Nights & Sunday Mornings" was released in 2010, Rice has gone on to release three more albums: Dirt Road Communion, Ignite the Night and Lambs & Lions. All four projects have enjoyed chart success. Jake Owen, Larry Fleet and Josh Kerr are just some of the artists that Darrall has worked with within her short career.

Anyone who knows Leslie Emory knows that country music is by far her favorite music genre.

The Roanoke County native never misses an opportunity to show her love for country music. When Rice performed his current hit single, "Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen," Emory found herself acting as if she was a child receiving a gift on Christmas. When she looked around, she noticed many others doing the same.

More information about Rice and Darrall can be found at chaserice.com and shelbydarrall.com. Last Saturday's country concert was made possible by the Salem Civic Center, the Salem Red Sox and 94.9 Star Country.



Chase Rice, who has sold over a million albums to date, was the concert headliner.

Salem Fair remains open after shooting brings felony charges for male juvenile

Shawn Nowlin

shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org

(Published on July 1, 2021)

Fair shootings are rare. In all her years of going to the Salem Fair, Roanoke County resident Brandy Simmons said never in her wildest dreams did she think she would ever experience one. Because of the mindless actions of one male juvenile, June 30, 2021, is a day Simmons says she will never forget.

At approximately 8:57 p.m. last Wednesday, the Salem Police Department responded to the sound of gunshots at the opening day of the Salem Fair. Officers quickly observed a suspect with a gun and chased the individual down before taking him into custody. Said suspect, a male juvenile under the age of 16, has since been charged with two counts of using a firearm in the commission of a felony, two counts of malicious wounding and carry a concealed weapon.

Neither victim that the juvenile shot knew each other. Both sufferers were transported to Carilion Roanoke Memorial

Hospital by Salem Fire and EMS personnel. The young adult who suffered non-life-threatening injuries was treated and released. The other victim, a juvenile, was transported with serious injuries, but listed in stable condition the next day.

"For weeks, I had the Salem Fair opening day circled on my calendar. I think that my two children were even more excited than me. None of us could contain our enthusiasm when we arrived at the gate," Simmons said. "I heard the gunshots while we were eating some ice cream. I immediately grabbed their hands, and we ran to safety. It's still hard to comprehend why something like this would happen."

A day after the shooting, new security measures and rules were implemented:

- Gates will now close at 10 p.m. Rides and the fairgrounds will close at

11 p.m.

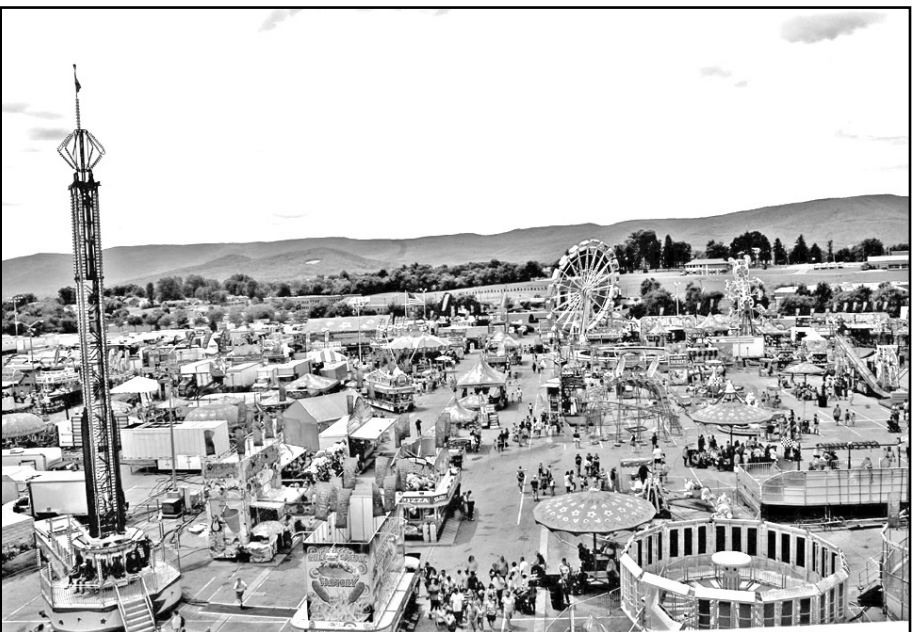
- In addition to electronic wandering at gate entry, everyone will also be subject to bag checks and a walk-through detector

- While on the fairgrounds, individuals younger than 18 must be accompanied by an adult or guardian with a valid I.D.

- Police staff will be increased throughout the fairgrounds

While there have been some physical altercations throughout the Salem Fair's history, never has a shooting occurred.

"Our hearts go out to those who were affected by the unfortunate incident at the Salem Fair," said Salem's Director of Civic Facilities Wendy Delano. "In the 33 years this event has been held, we have never had to deal with something like this. We have worked diligently with our city management, public safety officials and Deggeller



SUBMITTED PHOTO

To ensure the safety of all fairgoers, new precautions have been put into place.

Attractions since the incident to enhance safety for all of our guests."

Fairgoers have over 30 rides to choose from. To reduce lines, visitors are encouraged to purchase their tickets prior to arriving. When James Jeffrey shows up at the

Salem Fair this weekend, he plans on doing so with his wife and their three daughters.

"The fair shooting forced me to have some pretty uncomfortable conversations with my children because they are so young. After much

discussion, we all agreed as a family to return to the fair this Saturday. We are most looking forward to seeing the performers and experiencing the food," he said.

The last day of the Salem Fair will be Sunday, July 11.

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75 Years from page 1



Signed into law on June 22, 1944, the GI Bill continues to provide a range of benefits to Veterans.



President Ronald Reagan elevated the VA to a cabinet-level executive department in October 1988.

Health Care System provides care for everything from cancer care, to mental health, rehabilitation and women's health." Towards the end of 2020, Veterans and health care workers at the Salem VA Medical Center began receiving the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Recently, the Department of Veterans Affairs

(VA) Veterans Health Administration vaccinated its one-millionth Veteran. "VA guidance encourages local flexibility to maximize COVID-19 vaccine access and efficiency and limit potential vaccine waste," said Acting VA Under Secretary for Health Richard Stone, M.D. "In this limited supply phase, our

COVID-19 vaccination strategy is balancing site-specific resources, facility needs, vaccine availability and status of the pandemic locally, as well as strict storage, handling and transportation parameters of available vaccines." The Salem VAMC continues to reach out to Veterans who are eligible for the vaccination. Veterans

who would like additional information can visit the VA vaccine's webpage for the latest updates. "We are encouraged by the number of Veterans we have been able to vaccinate so far and look forward to meeting VA's goal of offering vaccines to all eligible Veterans and employees who want to be vaccinated," Stackhouse said.

The Salem VA Health Care System provides health care to more than 35,000 of America's Heroes from World War II to today. In 2012, the agency was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This month, the Salem VA is encouraging others to embrace and participate in Women's History Month.



In 1930, the VA had just 54 hospitals. Today, approximately 1,600 healthcare facilities exist.



There are roughly 135 national cemeteries today, with new ones in development.

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Left, Salem's Kyman Kinney has Lord Botetourt's Colin Sell on his shoulders in the Big Orange Classic 138 pound semifinal at William Byrd High School last week. Right, Jackson Bryie of Salem(right in photo) squares off with Carson Meadows of Liberty Christian in the 220 pound semis. PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Salem wrestlers will host Glenvar, Lord Botetourt on SHS mats

Spartans are fifth in Big Orange Classic, Highlanders take second at Grundy tournament

The Salem High wrestlers will host a home tri-match in the SHS gym on Wednesday of next week as Glenvar and Lord Botetourt visit for what promises to be an exciting evening on the mats. Salem has 40 plus wrestlers and their best team in years while Lord Botetourt has won both the Titan Toughman and Big Orange tournaments already this year. Glenvar was the champion of the Bruin Brawl in Blacksburg and last week the Highlanders took second in the tough Agie Skeens tournament in Grundy. The January 5 tri-match is scheduled to begin at 5:30 pm at SHS. The Spartans finished fifth in the annual Big Orange Classic wrestling tour-

namant at William Byrd High School last week. Lord Botetourt won the tournament and Liberty Christian was second in the annual Vinton event. Salem had one wrestler in the finals, Matthew McNeil at 152. He lost a tough one to Robbie Knott of Franklin County, 9-7, in the championship match. "We were in the top three for most of the tournament, and ended up in fifth place," said Salem coach Lawrence Van Liew. "We made some mental mistakes and it cost us on day two." Some Salem's best records coming into the new year include Kyman Kinney at 21-4, McNeil at 18-3, James Brooks at 17-6, Linkin Callahan at 15-6, Ty Porter

at 17-7, Avery Hall at 18-8 and Hayden Smith at 15-7. Glenvar is coming off a second place finish at Grundy, with only the host team topping the Highlanders. "Grundy has been at the top of the 1A ranks for years now and their tournament always pulls in some solid competition out of the Western part of Virginia as well as West Virginia and Kentucky," said Glenvar coach Jason Cline. "We wrestled well in the two day event, putting seven kids into the semi-finals after day one. That's the most kids we've ever put into the semi-finals of this tournament." The Highlanders carried that momentum into the second day of the tourna-

ment and put six wrestlers into the finals with four of them walking away with first place, Mason Hylton at 120, Jake Cline at 132, Ethan Flowers at 152 and Chase Miller at 160. Seconds went to Trey Lawrence, who took his first loss of the season at 145, and Wesley Heltzel at 182. River Smith was third at 113. "This is a great test of where we are on individual and team growth for the season," said coach Cline. "I'm pleased with our progress and want to see that momentum carried into January." In middle school wrestling, Andrew Lewis will play host to Glenvar as well on Wednesday, beginning at 5:30 pm in the Lewis big gym.



New Year comes in with COVID, knocking two games from the Final Football Contest

Our final football contest has barely begun and everyone is 2-0 already. The first games in the contest were on Wednesday involving Virginia teams playing in baseball stadiums. Virginia Tech was scheduled to play Maryland in the Pinstripe Bowl at Yankee Stadium and Virginia and SMU were chosen to play in the Fenway Bowl at Boston's Fenway Park. Well, the Fenway Bowl was called out on strikes due to COVID so everyone will get that right. Glenvar grad Josh Clifford is one who was especially

disappointed by the cancellation. The UVA wide receiver was scheduled to get some playing time in what was going to be his last game in a Wahoo uniform, and now that last game will be a loss to Virginia Tech. At press time, the Hokies were still on. The next games on the contest are Friday, and one of them was the Sun Bowl with Miami against Washington State. The Hurricanes blew out of that one due to COVID and were replaced by Central Michigan, so everyone gets that one right as well. Here's hoping the rest of the games are played. We have some catching up to do, as the Philadelphia-Washington game was pushed back to Tuesday last week so I wasn't able to announce a winner. The winner of that contest is Mike Cassell, who missed just two games on a tough week. He gets the \$50 gift certificate from Mac & Bob's as well as the Blizzard from Dairy Queen. We have two oil changes to give away. In the previous week there was a three way tie for the "One for the Road" contest and Don Fant came out on top by being the closest to the actual score of the Philadelphia Eagles game against Brookville last Tuesday. So, he gets the first oil change from Valvoline of Salem. The actual score of the game was 27-17 Eagles, and among all contestants the closest to that score was Dickie

Jennings, who picked Philadelphia to beat the Bees, or rather Redskins, or should I say "Washington Football Team," 27-18. So, Dickie also gets a free oil change from Valvoline. The final contest won't be decided until after the Super Bowl, so we'll announce the winner whenever that will be. Hopefully it won't be a bunch of guys up from the practice squad wearing masks, but you never know these days. Happy New Year to all. -Brian Hoffman

Glenvar girls named to Class 2 All-State cheerleading team

The Class 2 All-State cheer team was announced last week and Glenvar had six girls honored. First team honors went to Laney Garner, Isabella Boardwine and Hannah Hill on the 20 girl squad. Second team selections from Glenvar included Erin Wade, Delaney Doms and Caroline Franz. Glenvar was the only school in the Three Rivers District to have representatives. Eryn Fitzgerald was named Cheerleader of the Year and Tammy Carter is Coach of the Year. Both are from Stuarts Draft.

Spartans have nine spots on Class 4 All-State football team

The Class 4 All-State football team has been announced and the Salem Spartans were well-represented after another outstanding season. Salem filled nine positions on the All-Class 4 team, including six on the first team. Salem senior Chauncey Logan, Jr. was named first team on both offense and defense. Logan was named as a receiver on offense and senior Cameron Leftwich was also named first team at running back. First team selections on defense included Logan at defensive back, Cameron Martindale at defensive line, Noah Collins at linebacker and Chase Greer at punt return. Second team all-state selections included Caleb Wright at center, Sam Jones on the offensive line and senior Jake Massey at

tight end. On the Region 4D team Leftwich was selected as the Offensive Player of the Year and Salem coach Don Holter was named region Coach of the Year for guiding Salem to a 12-2 record and the Region 4D championship. Joining Leftwich on the first team all-region offense were Wright, Jones, Logan and Massey. Salem dominated the first team all-region defense with seven selections, including Martindale and Stacy Williams on the interior line, Collins and Carson Williams at linebacker, Nathaniel McClure at defensive end, Logan at defensive back and Greer at punt return. Jeffrey Phillips was named to the second team at kick return, as was Logan at punter.

Leftwich was also Offensive Player of the Year on the All-River Ridge District team while Collins was RRD Defensive Player of the Year. Christiansburg's Alex Wilkens, a former Glenvar assistant, was named RRD Coach of the Year. Joining Leftwich on the All-RRD first team offense were Wright, Logan, quarterback DaRon Wilson and kicker Wesley Cross. First team defense, along with Collins, included Martindale, Stacy Williams, Carson Williams, McClure and Logan. Second teamers were Jones and Landon Miles on the offensive line and Greer at punt return. The Class 2 All-State team, including Glenvar athletes, will be released on January 10.



Salem's Chauncey Logan, Jr, left, was named first team All-State in Class 4 on both offense and defense. Cameron Leftwich, above, was first team all-state and Offensive Player of the Year for both Region 4D and the River Ridge District. Salem coach Don Holter, above right, was named the Region 4D Coach of the Year and Noah Collins, below right, is the River Ridge District Defensive Player of the Year.

SPORTS

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Piece of History

Former Salem High basketball coach Charlie Morgan (straddling mid-court line with hat) was in town last week when the Spartans defeated Hidden Valley in basketball. Morgan was joined by a cast of former Salem High players from years gone by who attended the game and received a piece of the old Salem High gym floor that was recently removed during the school renovation.

Lots of basketball over Christmas break

The Salem and Glenvar boys and girls and Roanoke College men and women all have basketball games scheduled for this week to wrap things up for 2021.

The Salem and Glenvar girls are participating in the Knights Winter Classic at Cave Spring High School. Glenvar opened the tournament Monday with a 50-48

win over Magna Vista. Rhyann Harris had a stick-back of a missed free throw with 20 seconds left for the winning basket and Magna Vista failed to get off a good shot at the buzzer.

Harris had 31 points to lead the Highlanders, who only had four girls score. McKenzie Harris had a dozen points, Savana Luper had five and Sophie McCulley had a bucket. The Highlanders then lost to Floyd County on Tuesday, 38-31, as Rhyann Harris had 11 and McKenzie Harris had nine. That dropped Glenvar to 5-4 heading into Wednesday's game against the loser of a Tuesday game between Staunton River and Christiansburg.

Salem opened with Staunton River and ran into a buzz saw. The Golden Eagles scored the first 15 points of the game and took a 69-26 win over the Spartans. My'la Green led Salem with 13 points and Kennedy Scales had seven.

Salem bounced back with a 46-35 win over Cave Spring on Tuesday afternoon as Scales had 16 points, Green had 13 and Madison Smith pulled down 14 rebounds. That win gave the Spartans a 6-2 record with one more game on Wednesday. The championship game was scheduled for Wednesday along with third, fifth and seventh place games, but results were too late for publication.

Next week the Salem girls are at Blacksburg on Tuesday while Glenvar's girls host Carroll County on the same night at 5:30 pm.

The Salem High boys are back in action Thursday of this week to host Staunton River in a non-district game. Salem is 2-4 after losing at Northside in their final game before Christmas, 86-35. Tanner Dallas had a dozen for the Spartans, who open the New Year at home with Blacksburg on Tuesday, January 4.

Glenvar's boys have a big game with Cave Spring tonight, December 30, at Cave Spring. The Knights are the only team to beat Glenvar thus far after nine games. The Highlanders open 2022 at home against Carroll County next Tuesday in the second game of a doubleheader with the girls.

Roanoke College is another venue for basketball fans to see some games this week. On Wednesday the RC men were scheduled to host Covenant at 2 pm and the women had Elizabethtown at 5 pm. On Thursday the women will host Christopher Newport at 5 pm, and the Buena Vista men will play Covenant at 2 pm in the

Cregger Center. On Friday the Roanoke men have Buena Vista at noon.

The women also have Hood College on Sunday at 2 pm while the men have an ODAC game with Ferrum next Wednesday, January 5, to open the 2022 portion of their season.



Above, Glenvar's Rhyann Harris drives to the basket in Monday's win over Magna Vista at Cave Spring High. Below, McKenzie Harris lines up a three pointer.



Salem's Chase Greer shoots a three in front of Northside coach Billy Pope in last week's game at Northside.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Above, Elizabeth Smith of Salem drives by a Staunton River defender in the Cave Spring Christmas tournament Monday, and right Brooklyn Smith is fouled as she shoots a corner three.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

