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SALEM TIMES-REGISTER

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OurValley.org

Holding strong: American Legion Post committed to expanding its overall mission

Shawn Nowlin
shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org

The local American Legion Post is doing its best to continue its mission of enhancing the well-being of America's Veterans, their families, the military and communities by the devotion to mutual helpfulness. Located at 710 Apperson Drive in Salem, the organization is currently looking to expand its membership and encourages interested individuals to contact 540-389-3773.

Steve Fleming, a former US Marine, has been assigned the Athletic Director for the Legion's youth sports. New blood, he said, is always needed for any organization to grow.

"I have learned so much about the community. Had I not joined the Legion, there is no way I would have understood the value of the City of Salem. I love giving back to the community

and making a difference. Something as simple as a free coat could make all the difference in the world for somebody," Fleming added.

Formed on March 15, 1919, the Legion is made up of state, U.S. territory and overseas departments. Historically speaking, the American Legion played a vital role in the drafting and passing of the G.I. Bill, or the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, which was a law that provided a range of benefits for some of the returning World War II Veterans.

By lobbying on behalf of the interest of Veterans and service members, the Legion has been able to significantly improve pensions and the Veterans Health Administration, among other things over the years. The Legion promotes Americanism

See American Legion, page 7



PHOTO BY SHAWN NOWLIN

Throughout each year, Salem's American Legion Post gives back to the community in a multitude of ways, including free catered dinners for Veterans.

Near-capacity crowd experiences 54th Stampede Championship



Female rider making some final adjustments before beginning her run.

Shawn Nowlin
shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org

On January 4, when Roanoke County resident Robert Jackson asked his nine-year-old son what he wanted to do over the weekend, the first thing the fourth grader said was to attend the Stampede Championship Rodeo at the Salem Civic Center over the weekend. Since 1969, the annual event has been a local tradition, making it the Civic Center's longest-running family show.

When the two arrived on Friday evening to purchase their tickets, the first thing they noticed were the long waiting lines. "I knew the event would have a good

turnout, but it was even more people than I anticipated. We had a great time and took plenty of pictures to appreciate the memory," Jackson said.

Event organizers were confident that Friday and Saturday's 7:30 p.m. show and Sunday's 2:30 p.m. show would attract a sizeable crowd. Each spectacle lasted for approximately two hours and featured 250 cowboys and cowgirls from all over the nation bull riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, barrel racing and much more.

Tickets for the 54th Salem Stampede Championship Rodeo ranged from

See Championship, page 5

Council considers permitting Lime scooters

Meg Hibbert
Contributing writer

Lime electric scooters could provide alternative transportation on Salem's downtown streets beginning in the spring.

At the work session preceding Salem City Council's Jan. 10 meeting, City Attorney Jim Guynn went over wording for a proposed mobility systems ordinance.

Under the proposal, scooters would be available in a triangular area from Main Street to Thompson Memorial Drive and Fourth Street. People would be able to rent scooters as in the City of Roanoke.

Geofencing around the service area would keep the scooters within the service area, with planned corrals for parking the scooters when they are not in use, Guynn explained.

The scooters are to be ridden on streets, not sidewalks, he said, and would be prohibited on the Roanoke River Greenway.

Guynn said the Lime company would be responsible for renting the scooters, and servicing them.

The leasing company would charge people who rent the scooters \$35 a day if they are left where they shouldn't be, and \$5 a day for storage.

Salem City Manager Jay Taliaferro added that the city's Street Department would probably impound scooters left in the wrong place and store them.

Roanoke has had Lime scooters for two years in the downtown area.

In other matters at Monday night's work session, members:

• Discussed possibly

See Lime scooters, page 2



Mr. David Linden

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Brent Hudson

Roanoke County School Board selects Linden as Chairman

Hudson selected as vice-chairman

The Roanoke County School Board has selected David Linden as school board chairman for 2022. Linden, representing the Hollins District, was first elected to the Roanoke County School Board in 2017 and re-elected in 2021. A long-time real estate agent in the valley, he previously served as school board vice-chairman for the latter half of 2020.

Linden, a native of Ohio, is a graduate of Roanoke College with a degree in political science and criminal justice.

The board also selected Brent Hudson as the vice-chairman of the board. Hudson is serving his first term in office, having been elected in Nov. 2021 to serve a portion of an unexpired Catawba Dis-

trict term. A Roanoke Valley native, Hudson currently serves as the chief deputy for the Roanoke County Sheriff's Department, and previously served as a school resource officer (SRO) for the Glenvar schools.

Submitted by Chuck Lionberger, Roanoke County Public Schools Director of Community Relations

"I wouldn't bank anywhere else."



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Bob Rotanz, Co-founder
Mac & Bob's, Salem VA



8

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.

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

•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.

•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.

FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY

Glenvar Rotary Club meets 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. for

lunch in Richfield Living's Town Center Anser Dining Room. Guests welcome.

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 sending an email to 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.

•The Salem Rotary Club meets from 12 to 1 p.m. for lunch in Salem Civic Center. Guests welcome.

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.

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, JAN. 14-15

Tri-State Arenacross 2022 Indoor Championship Series will be coming to the Salem Civic Center on January 14 and 15. Tri-State Arenacross 2022 Indoor Championship Series will feature professional and amateur motocross riders from across the Tri-State competing for cash prizes. Professionals will race for over \$10,000 cash and amateurs will compete for their share of \$10,000 in prizes. The event will bring excitement to the entire family with thrilling, unpredictable races. Amateur classes will be open to boys and girls as young as age 7. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and races will begin at 7:00 p.m. each night. Tickets are on sale now at the Salem Civic Center Box Office Monday thru Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm and online anytime at www.Ticketmaster.com. All seats are general admission: Adults (\$26), kids 12 and under (\$17) and kids 4 and under (free).

Virginia Mountain Mortgage announce Gordon's retirement

Debra "Debbie" K. Gordon recently retired from Bank of Botetourt's Virginia Mountain Mortgage after 19 years with the Bank. Gordon has had an extensive 43-year career in mortgage banking. Debbie has worked from the Bank's Daleville location for the past 19 years, originating and processing countless loan and mortgage applications

for families in our region. She was born in Charlotte, NC, raised in Portsmouth, then transferred to Roanoke for her father's job when she was a teenager. Debbie is a graduate of Lord Botetourt High School and lives in North Roanoke County with her husband, Alan Gordon.

Submitted by Mary Ann Miller



Debra Gordon

SUBMITTED PHOTO

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

Lime Scooters

from page 1



PHOTO FROM LIME WEBSITE

Lime electric scooters such as these could begin providing alternative transportation around downtown Salem starting in the spring.

changing the dates Salem School Board Members are appointed and start their terms, in light of Salem City Council elections being changed from May to November, in keeping with state policies. No decision was made. "Let's wait and see how this plays out," Councilman John Saunders said, referring to the possibility that the November date might revert to May.

During the regular meeting portion, Council:

•Heard from citizens Cynthia Munley, Bill Stetson and John Breen during the citizen comments portion of the meeting. Munley asked Council to revisit uses on city-owned Elizabeth Campus adjacent to the Salem YMCA, where a possible 17-acre park and walking trail on a portion of the 52 acres; Stetson expressed concern

about speeders on Carrolton Avenue; Breen asked what happened to Jan. 11, 2021, discussions about how city property is advertised and sold.

•Accepted a staff report on Revenues and Expenses for the five months ending Nov. 30, 2021; it was noted that meals and sales tax receipts are up \$425,000 from last year.

•Passed an amendment to City Code changing city elections from May to November, in keeping with a Virginia General Assembly Senate Bill that requires the date change;

•Postponed a public hearing until Feb. 14 for a request by Sia Asset Management LLC regarding a proposed cryptocurrency operation;

•Adopted a resolution in support of the Virginia Department of Transportation's design and limited access control changes for the Interstate 81 widening project from Exit 137 to Exit 141;

•Authorized City Manager Taliaferro to finalize and executed a performance agreement between Layman Candy Co LLC, the City of Salem and the city's Economic Development Authority; Councilman Randy Foley pointed out to citizens that the property where Layman wants to move its warehouse and distribution operation is on Apperson Drive where the former Brindles and later ECPI school were located;

•Set a \$189,184 bond for physical improvements and erosion and sediment control for the Simms Farm Subdivision Section 2.

The 35-minute Council meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. in the Salem Civic Center Community Room, where meetings are being held for adequate spacing during the COVID pandemic. All five Councilmembers were present.

Protect the ones you love, get your flu shot today.

@vaccinatevirginia

Protect the ones you love, get vaccinated now.

NOTICE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA | JUDICIAL SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

On or about February 15, 2022, legal proceedings will be commenced under the authority of §58.1-3965 et seq. of the Code of Virginia to sell the following parcels for payment of delinquent real estate taxes.

The owner of any property listed may redeem it at any time before the date of sale by paying all accumulated taxes, penalties, interest, attorney's fees, and costs. Partial payment shall not be sufficient to redeem the property and shall not operate to suspend, invalidate or make moot any action for judicial sale.

To prevent legal proceedings, redeem the property from sale, and stop the accrual of additional lien amounts, the delinquent amount must be paid to OPN Law, counsel for the Treasurer of City of Salem, at 3140 Chaparral Drive, Suite 200-C, Roanoke, Virginia 24018. The amounts listed below are valid through January 31, 2022.

TAX MAP NO.	PROPERTY OWNER	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	TOTAL OWED
102-3-5	BEACON BAPTIST CHURCH TRUSTEES	LTS 1 & 2 SEC 21 LAKE SPRING LAND CO	\$9,257.94
193-3-1	SOWDER, LYNN	LT 1 BLK 3 BOULEVARD ESTATES	\$9,009.52
201-4-6	FIELDS, KYLE J & LOIS YVONNE	LTS 7-8 & W PT LTS 29-30 KELLY HODGES	\$5,691.29
248-4-2	JEFFERSON HILL PARTNERS, LLC	0.675 AC ROANOKE RIVER	\$1,845.53
160-8-11.1	ELKINS, JEFFREY	LTS 19 & 20 SEC 4 SALEM IMPROVEMENT	\$9,905.14
158-4-7	HATT, LUCAS	LTS 24 & 25 SEC 59 SALEM IMPROVEMENT	\$5,725.90
199-3-2	BALDWIN, GREGORY	LTS 11-14 SEC 27 SALEM IMPROVEMENT	\$16,061.20

DMV seeks participants for new highway safety campaign

- Effort aims to inspire safer driving behaviors and save lives on Virginia roadways -

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) seeks Virginians willing to share their stories for a new highway safety campaign aspiring to persuade unsafe drivers to change their behaviors behind the wheel.

The campaign centers around four brief videos on important

highway safety topics: drunk driving prevention, seat belt safety, speeding prevention, and distracted driving awareness. Virginians who have been affected by a crash involving one of these factors and are willing to share their story are asked to fill out this form. All submissions will be

carefully considered for possible participation.

“Stories of heartbreak and loss are never easy to share, but many are willing to tell theirs to try to prevent future tragedies from occurring,” said DMV Commissioner Richard D. Holcomb, the Governor’s Highway Safety

Representative. “We hope that by seeing and hearing how unsafe drivers so drastically affect other people’s lives, other drivers will be compelled to do the right thing - buckling up and following a safe speed, and never driving impaired or distracted. Simple, purposeful actions save lives.”

Videos will be shared on social media and TZDVA.org, the Commonwealth’s highway safety website, as well as promoted through a news media campaign and other tactics.

Submitted by Jessica Cowardin

Virginia announces \$40 million in flood preparedness grants

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation recently announced the opening of the third grant round for the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund. During the next 90 days, communities across Virginia will be able to apply for \$40 million in grants to address the effects of recurrent flooding, sea level rise and extreme weather. Applications are due by 4 p.m. on April 8.

The fund was established by the 2020 General Assembly session. The fund is financed by the sale of carbon emission allowances under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, or RGGI.

Virginia joined RGGI in January 2021.

The fund assists coastal localities with the implementation of Virginia’s Coastal Resilience Master Plan and enables localities across Virginia to increase their capacity to develop flood mitigation and prevention projects.

Information about the

fund, eligibility rules, application procedures and instructions are available in the fund’s grant manual, which is posted at www.dcr.virginia.gov/cfpf.

The Community Flood Preparedness Fund continues to prioritize projects that are of community-scale, in concert with

local, state and federal floodplain management standards, approved local resilience plans, and the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan.

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, in cooperation with the Virginia Resources Authority, administers the fund and grant pro-

gram. DCR oversees the state’s floodplain management and dam safety programs and assists communities with requirements related to the National Flood Insurance Program.

Submitted by Dave Neudeck, Communications and Marketing Director

Governor Northam takes action to expand hospital capacity

Governor Northam recently took steps to increase Virginia’s hospital capacity and support healthcare workers responding to COVID-19, after a record number of hospitalizations were posted last week. He issued a limited 30-day order to expand the number of available hospital beds, increase staffing capacity at hospitals and nursing homes, and allow public health agencies greater flexibility in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The limited duration is based on modeling that suggests the virus will peak in the next few weeks.

“Health care workers and hospitals are exhausted, and they are again facing increasing numbers of patients, affecting their ability to provide care,” Governor Northam said. “These steps will help ease the strain, giving medical professionals more flex-

ibility to care for people. Ultimately, the best thing everyone can do for our hospitals and their staff is to get vaccinated.”

Virginia has among the nation’s lowest COVID-19 case rates and death rates per capita, and the Commonwealth ranks in the top ten most vaccinated states in the country. But the highly-transmissible omicron variant has increased the number of people turning to the hospital with COVID-19. The overwhelming majority of individuals hospitalized have not been vaccinated against COVID-19. In fact, one hospital company reported last week that 97 percent of COVID-19 patients relying on ventilators are not vaccinated.

More than 3,500 patients statewide are currently hospitalized with COVID-19, and

ICU hospitalizations have more than doubled since December 1, 2021. In addition, the winter season is spurring an increasing number of flu and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) cases in Virginia, impacting hospital capacity. To address this patient increase, Emergency Order Eighty-Four directs the State Health Commissioner to waive normal bed licensing requirements, allows hospitals to increase their licensed bed capacity, and mandates increased coordination between hospitals and local Medical Services Agencies.

Healthcare workers across the country are facing severe burnout and exhaustion 22 months into the pandemic. The Governor’s Emergency Order directs a number of actions to boost staff in hospitals and nursing homes.

The Order allows providers with an active out-of-state license to practice in Virginia; authorizes experienced Physician Assistants to practice without a written supervisory agreement; increases provider-to-patient ratios; and provides certain liability protections to health care workers who act in good faith to protect patients.

In addition, Emergency Order Eighty-Four increases flexibility in the transfer of patients to state-operated psychiatric hospitals, which have seen dangerously-high census levels since the pandemic began.

Governor Northam encouraged everyone to take easy steps to help:

- It’s a good idea to stay away from people who have not gotten their shots.
- It’s a good idea to wear a

mask when you’re around other people, especially if you don’t know whether they have been vaccinated.

•If you have not gotten a booster shot, now is the time to do it. Shots are widely available at pharmacies, doctor’s offices, and local health departments all across Virginia.

•If you have children age five and above, now is the time to get them vaccinated. This will make it easier and safer for them to go back to school.

If you have chosen not to get your shots, you need to wear a mask and practice social distancing—to protect yourself and other people.

Submitted by Alena Yarmosky, Office of the Governor

Studies: Older-model vehicles increase risk for senior drivers

Already at an increased risk of being killed in automobile accidents due to their age, senior motorists exacerbate the risk when they drive aging vehicles, research shows.

Two studies conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety discovered drivers over 70 years old were “significantly more likely” to drive vehicles that are at least 16 years old. These vehicles—often found to be smaller sedans or hatchbacks—aren’t equipped with safety features that come standard on modern cars, thus

subjecting elderly motorists to higher fatality risks.

Smaller, older vehicles also have been found to expose drivers to greater forces of impact from larger vehicles, further increasing the odds of an injury or fatality.

“All these vehicle characteristics have big impacts on crash survival rates, and older drivers are more often driving the least-safe vehicles by every parameter,” said Jessica Cicchino, IIHS vice president of research and co-author of the studies. “This only gets worse as (motor-

ists’) age increases, since many older adults stick with a single ‘retirement vehicle’ for the remainder of their driving years.”

Cicchino noted that persuading drivers to take a closer look at their vehicles’ safety features could substantially reduce crash fatalities.

An IIHS survey of drivers over 70 years old revealed they were less likely to require that their cars have safety features such as electronic stability control or side airbags. The studies’ findings indicated vehicles without ESC con-

tributed to a 37 percent increase in the likelihood of crash-related fatalities among drivers over 70.

The study also indicated advanced safety features such as blind spot monitoring, forward collision warning systems and automatic emergency braking were considered unimportant by some senior drivers.

However, Highway Loss Data Institute statistics from 2018 showed blind spot warnings reduced the frequency of collision claims by 1.5 percent, while front and

rear collision warnings reduced collision claim frequency by 2.3 percent and 12 percent respectively.

When combined with other collision avoidance technology, IIHS concluded one-third of all reported crashes could be avoided each year.

“Thanks to the technology that comes standard on many modern vehicles, we’re seeing great potential in reducing the number of accidents on our roadways,” said David Tenenbaum, actuarial manager for Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co.

“While the expense of buying a new car can be a concern for some seniors, advanced safety features are becoming much more common on affordable vehicles,” he added. “These IIHS studies show most drivers - regardless of age - should consider exploring newer vehicles and discovering the additional safety they provide.”

Submitted Joe Young, IIHS Director of Media Relations

POLICE REPORT

The Salem Police Department reported the following people were arrested and charged Dec. 21-Jan 3. 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:

Dec. 22 – Adam J. Malenick, 40, DUI, unreasonable refusal, possess firearm by a felon; Robert W. Cruff, 44, petit larceny, burglary tools; and Lisa A. Mayer, 41, petit larceny, burglary tools.

Dec. 23 – Mark E. Michael, 33, public intoxication

Dec. 26 – Kayla N. Linter, 22, assault and battery; Christopher L. Poff, 33, DUI; and Cody A. Dowd, 32, abduction, domestic assault.

Dec. 28 – Amanda G.

Underwood, 34, possession of controlled substance; Morris W. Moses Jr., 47, DUI; Jonathan L. Kessler, 47, violation of probation; Angeliq R. Simurina, 52, violation of probation; Britany A. MacFarland, 28, domestic assault and battery; and Joshua B. Graham, 25, domestic assault and battery.

Dec. 30 – Joshua M. Menmolo, 27, public intoxication; Dante L. Hayes, 36, petit larceny, false name or address to police; and Dion L. Appling, 44, public intoxication.

Dec. 31 – David W. McMillian, 62, failure to appear; John R. Boyer, 35, public intoxication; John R. Boyer, 35, public intoxication; Stephen G. Jennings, 62, domestic assault and battery; and Lisa M. Lavin, 55, public intoxication.

Jan. 2 – Joshua B. Bowes, 32, false name or address to police; John

L. Krippendorf, 56, many, 41, public intoxication, DUI; and Ian J. Cap-

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OPINION

Give Light ~ When Christmas? ~

[This is a memory from the many decades the author has been privileged to write for daily and weekly newspapers circulating in Western Virginia.]

Are we finally through Christmas?

A moot question now that it is halfway through the (long) month of January. The Roanoke Valley has settled into the bare down-time of mid-winter.

I felt it as I did several errands on a cloudy day earlier this week.

Clearly, the commercial Christmas is over until perhaps October 2022 when artificial trees appear in the big-box stores. Shopping is encouraged earlier and earlier in the fall. Looking for electric candles for my windows around December 10, I was told they were all gone. But then I found exactly what I wanted at my favorite Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Shenandoah Avenue Thrift Store.

In the retail world, certainly Christmas is over on December 26. Stores are cluttered and clerks are busy marking down decorations and displaying bare shelves. It's the ideal time to pick up bargains related to decorating, but there's a dispiriting look to everything. In some stores, inventory of products is taken at this time.

Since childhood, I've hated "the week between" because of the emotional let-down after the heightened spirits related to the musical programs and plays anticipating the Nativity of Christ. It's a time to be sick with the "stomach virus" and at certain ages having bored children underfoot. Rarely in our parts does a big snow offer excitement.

There might be an end-of-year new baby in the home. And among the elderly like this writer, it can be an annual spell of sad memories; even without COVID-19, many folk will die around the holidays.

When my late husband Charlie was living, for several years, we chose to take a day trip to a place within two hours of Salem with which we were unfamiliar. We visited places like Galax, Monterey and Grundy or to the north Staunton or to the south Mount Airy, North Carolina. A good meal out was part of the treat to ourselves. Such memories today are sadly sweet depending on the prevailing mood of my day.

But so much for the secular world's observance of December 25. For those who take their religion seriously, December 25 marks the start of the liturgical "season" of Christmas observed in Roman Catholic, Episco-

Frances Stebbins Correspondent

pal, Lutheran and most United Methodist congregations. It ends on January 6 which has for many centuries been the date to symbolically mark the coming of the Three Wise Men to worship the Infant Jesus.

That date - which has sadly taken on a new and very secular meaning since the awful national event of 2021 - is known in the liturgy as Epiphany which means loosely spreading the light of Christ to a world which does not know Him. There is music, art and legends - remember the classic 19th Century tale "The Story of the Other Wise Man," associated with this period which will end in 2022 on March 2, Ash Wednesday, the start of the penitential period of Lent.

So, Christmas is definitely over for the Christians who take seriously the life of Jesus.

I saw a newspaper feature re-

cently that showed how Osage Oranges could be used for attractive table decorations in the holidays. The story by a local writer Anita Allen told me more about this interesting "fruit" borne on a small spreading tree than I could have imagined. I was familiar though with the neon-yellow globe about the size of an orange, for in my Piedmont Virginia childhood, I passed under an Osage Orange tree as I walked daily about a half-mile to school.

My mother and I, having no car, took a short cut through a neighbor's pasture to reach the rural highway and our mailbox. In the fall, just after black walnuts fell, we could gather what came from the tree. We called them "Mock Oranges." They are not common in our area, the news story stated.

The newspaper story did not mention a botanical fact that Osage Orange trees are often near those that bear mulberries. In the pasture I knew, a wire fence separated the two. Not tall, these trees had low spreading limbs on which a child could sit and bounce.

As for eating, the fruits of neither tree are poisonous, but they are hardly appetizing, being sweet and sticky. The Osage Orange has a pungent smell; the

Roanoke author said she uses the fruits to perfume a closet.

It seems the name comes from Osage Indians, and early American settlers valued it for planting in tight hedgerows to keep out predatory animals. Being hard and strong the wood made excellent crossbows

After mentioning last week in a column the development of ministry to inmates of state, regional and local jails, I received several comments on the topic from readers.

One came from a newcomer to Salem. Annie Johnston, a retired registered nurse, who with her retired physician husband, Dan Johnston, bought an historic house in western Roanoke County. For more than 30 years, the Johnstons maintained a clinic on the Virgin Island American possession of St. Croix.

They came to the Western Virginia mountains to escape the frequent devastating storms of the Caribbean and for the good medical care. My column, said Johnston, brought back memories of the poor criminal justice that exists on the island paradise she longs for in the current winter weather.

Roanoke City & Alleghany Health Districts issue guidance to help minimize the risk of transmission in K-12 Schools

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The Times-Register encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Times-Register reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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School officials and public health officials share a strong commitment to keeping children in school. And we need to do this while ensuring that K-12 school staff, administrators, and the children that they serve are able to work and learn in settings that minimize the risks to their health.

We are currently at record high community transmission rates in the Roanoke City and Alleghany Health Districts (RCAHD). The greater the community level of transmission is, the greater the risk of transmission within school settings if we compromise on the mitigation strategies that

we know work.

Vaccination remains the best way to prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death. All people over the age of five years old are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated, and obtain booster shots once they are eligible to receive them.

Furthermore, RCAHD also strongly encourages all school boards to continue to protect our school staff and our children by employing a multi-layered approach to COVID-19 until our community transmission rates decline significantly from current numbers. This layered approach is currently required for a very good rea-

son: it works.

In addition to vaccination, the multi-layered approach to decrease the risk of transmission of COVID-19 within school settings includes:

•Physical distancing, recognizing that six-foot distancing may not always be practical in all situations.

•Testing of individuals who are sick or who have close contact to someone who has COVID. We recognize that this is a challenge as testing supplies are currently in extremely high demand.

•Contact tracing, isolation and quarantine are additional tools to slow the spread of the corona-

virus.

"While all these layers are important in managing the current Omicron surge, I need to stress the importance of maintaining universal indoor masking in our schools. Masking is currently required and should stay in place until our levels of community transmission significantly decrease. Now is not the time to experiment with our teachers' and our children's health," said Cynthia Morrow, RCAHD health director.

Submitted by Christie Wills, Communications Officer, Roanoke City and Alleghany Health Districts

Consider giving to the "Share the Warmth" project in Craig

Pam Dudding Contributing writer

Craig County is blessed with beautiful winter seasons. Still, there is nothing better than having a coat, hat, and gloves when you step out into the freezing cold to keep the chill off and a cold or flu at bay.

This year, for the first time, the Craig County Health Department is hosting a "Share the Warmth" program.

"Pat Johnston, who was our beloved public health nurse for 29 years, saw on the news where another locality was doing the same project and thought it would be a great way to give back to our community," Kelcey Boyd, Office Manager, said.

They are collecting winter clothing, including coats, scarves, gloves, socks, hats, and "anything that keeps you warm."

New and gently used items are also being accepted.

Everyone can bring a little New Year cheer to the season and clean out their closets or purchase any item that can be used, whether a pair of gloves or a coat.

All is needed for both children and adults.

"We've had quite a few generous donations of adult size coats, but we haven't had any donations in child sizes,"

Boyd said.

The Craig County Health Department has partnered with the Department of Social Services and the Craig County Sheriff's Office for this project.

The drop-off location is at the Craig County Health Department at 161 Main Street in New Castle. The last day of January is the final opportunity donate anything.

DSS & the Sheriff's Office will also be distributing them to families they know are in need.

If you or someone you love could benefit from a donation, feel free to reach out

to any of the agencies: Craig County Health Department (540-864-5136), Department of Social Services (540-864-5117) and the Craig County Sheriff's Office (540-864-5127). All names, information and donations are confidential.

"It's incredibly heartwarming to have so many people willing to take their time and resources to donate towards keeping everyone in our community warm," Boyd said. "Hopefully, it means one less thing for the recipients to worry about this winter and will be able to put their limited resources towards other needs."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS
1. Requests
5. Calendar month
8. Invests in little enterprises
12. Bird sound
14. S. American plant cultivated for tubers
15. Car
16. Bullfighter
18. Hill (Celtic)
19. Strong criticism
20. Detector
21. When you hope to get there
22. Having the skill to do something
23. Legendary MLB broadcaster
26. Vulcanite
30. C. Asian mountain range
31. In a way, healed
32. Midway between east and southeast

CLUES DOWN
1. What a thespian does
2. Footwear
3. Adjust spacing between
4. Witnesses
5. Who shows excessive fondness
6. Distinct form of a plant
7. National capital
8. Hunting expedition
9. Related to medulla oblongata
10. European country
11. Cola
13. Excluded from use or mention
17. Speak
24. Bloodshot
25. Make better
26. Keyboard key
27. Type of degree
28. Paddle
29. Peacock network

CLUES ACROSS
33. Small appendages of insects
34. ___ Greene, "Bonanza" actor
39. A place to bathe
42. Postal worker accessory
44. Classical music
46. A way of wrecking
47. Terminator
49. You eat three a day
50. Pointed end of a pen
51. NATO official (abbr.)
56. Genus of clams
57. Boxing's "G.O.A.T."
58. A colorless, odorless gas used as fuel
59. Covered thinly with gold paint
60. Bachelor of Laws
61. Red fluorescent dye
62. Engineering group
63. Female sibling
64. Adjacent

CLUES DOWN
35. Not young
36. Baseball stat
37. One's grandmother
38. Breakfast food
40. Bathroom features
41. Disease-causing bacterium
42. NY ballplayer
43. Got up
44. Prophet
45. Part of the mouth
47. Unnatural
48. Acronym for brain science study
49. Three are famous
52. Languages spoken in Patagonia
53. Freedom from difficulty
54. Widely used OS
55. Many people pay it



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Craig County Health Department is hosting a Share the Warmth event where everyone can share a little New Year cheer and clean out their closets and donate or purchase any item that can be used, such as a scarf, hat, coat, even a pair of gloves. Donations will be accepted through January 31.

Championship from page 1



PHOTOS BY SHAWN NOWLIN

Clown Mike Wentworth kept the audience engaged throughout the entire show.



Fans of all ages packed into the Salem Civic Center to experience the Stampede Championship Rodeo.

\$20 to \$30, with all two of the three shows selling out. Last year's event was canceled because of COVID.

When asked to explain the concept of the Stampede Championship Rodeo, Director of Public and Media Relations Kevin DeBusk said, "To create a family-oriented event that you can take all ages to while spotlighting the western way of life through a professional sport."

He added, "After being absent for a year, you always wonder how a community will respond and we were so humbled to see the response this year. Not only did we see large crowds on Friday and Sunday, but to see the building sell out on

Saturday and listen to how the audience responded throughout the night was amazing."

Award-winning rodeo clown Mike Wentworth, one of the five finalists for the 2021 Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) Clown of the Year, kept the audience engaged with his quick wit and stage presence. Camille Anderson, eight, told her parents after the show that she enjoyed Clown Mike just as much as the riders.

Anderson's parents, Tyrese and Shawnte, said they used the rodeo as a base to have a conversation with their daughter about work ethic and commitment. "People often see the fin-

ished product but not the work that goes into making it happen. I told Camille that before the bright lights, before the fan adulation, before the non-stop action, all of the riders had to spend countless hours working on their craft," Shawnte said.

Fun was experienced by everyone, which was precisely what event organizers had hoped for.

"Since the inception of the rodeo, we've been blessed to partner with the Salem Civic Center and their outstanding staff. But what truly has made this event so successful over the years is both the building and rodeo company have similar mindsets," DeBusk said.



This rider drew a massive crowd reaction for her efforts.

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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
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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

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WORSHIP DIRECTORY

UNDESERVED GRACE

Read Genesis 42:1 through 44:34

On March 8, 2009, a man walked into the First Baptist Church of Maryville, Illinois, and shot and killed Pastor Fred Winters. His family and church were in shock.

CBS News interviewed Pastor Winters' wife, Cindy, the next week regarding her husband's assailant. What type of a reaction would she have? She said, "I do not have any hatred, or even hard feelings towards him. We have been praying for him. One of the first things that my daughter said to me after this happened was, 'You know, I hope that he comes to learn to love Jesus through all of this.'" What an example of grace!

Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they didn't recognize him (Genesis 42:8).

Joseph was in a position to get revenge on his brothers, but he showed them grace instead. He recognized God's hand at work through the circumstances of his life and so could forgive what his brothers had done to him.

No one expects this type of grace from people who have been greatly harmed by others. Only through knowing a God of grace is it possible to extend such grace.

Challenge for Today: Are you showing others the grace God has shown you?

Quicklook: Genesis 42:6-18

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

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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, Impact 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.

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

Virginia Farm Bureau leaders tapped for state-level agriculture positions

Two leaders with ties to the state's largest agricultural advocacy group have been appointed to top-level agriculture positions by Gov.-elect Glenn Youngkin.

Matthew "Matt" Lohr has been named the next secretary of agriculture and forestry, and Joseph "Joe" Guthrie was named commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

"Both of these agricultural leaders have been involved with advocating for Virginia agriculture and forestry through their involvement with Virginia Farm Bureau," said Virginia Farm Bureau Federation President Wayne F. Pryor. "We look forward to continuing our long-time working relationship with them in these new roles as they strive to advance agricultural interests at the state and national levels."

Lohr has served the past two years as chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, an agency with more than 10,000 employees across 3,000 field offices and an operating budget of over \$4.5 billion.

He was raised on a Virginia Century Farm in the Shenandoah Valley and is a fifth-generation farmer. Lohr is also a past president of Farm Bureau and was Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers' first Excellence in Agriculture Award winner in 2002. He went on to capture the American Farm Bureau Federation Excellence in Agriculture Award in 2003. He also was named the VFBF Warren Beach Award recipient in 2009 for his contributions to the organization's Young Farmers Program.

"We know that Matt's leadership and commitment to agriculture, as well as his hands-on experience, will serve him well in this role," Pryor said.

Lohr developed his passion for public service and agricultural policy while serving as both a state and national FFA officer before graduating from Virginia Tech with a bachelor's degree in agricultural education.

He previously served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 2006-2010 before being appointed VDACS commissioner. His other career experiences include serving as director of the Farm Credit Knowledge Center, teaching middle school agriscience, operating his own leadership development company and serving as president of Valley Pike Farm Inc., his family's farming operation.

Guthrie has served an elected official for 10 years. He was a member of the Pulaski County School Board from 2011 through 2015 and has served on the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors since 2015. He was elected chair of that board in 2020 and 2021.

Guthrie, who was raised on his family's farm in Pulaski County, is a past president of Pulaski County Farm Bureau and winner of the 2001 VFBF Young Farmers Discussion Meet competition.

Guthrie currently serves as a senior instructor at Virginia Tech and has been teaching courses in business management, finance, communications and leadership in the college's Agricultural Technology Program since 2007.

"Joe has dedicated many years to inspiring and educating the next generation of ag-

ricultural leaders, and we feel certain his skills will serve him well in his new position," Pryor noted.

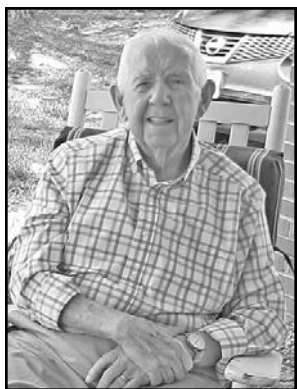
Guthrie received his bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from Virginia Tech and earned a master's degree in agricultural economics and international trade from Massey University in New Zealand, where he studied as a Fulbright Scholar. He has served as president of Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Faculty Association and president of the Virginia Cattlemen's Association. He was appointed by USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack to the National Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board.

Submitted by Pam Wiley, VFBF Vice President of Communications

OBITUARIES

Metheney, Benjamin "BenJack" H.

Benjamin "BenJack" H. Metheney, Jr., 90, a long-time Salem resident, went to be with the Lord, on Thursday, January 6, 2022. He was born on October 1, 1931, in Glen Farris, WV, to the late B.H. "Slim" Metheney, Sr. and Hilda Metheney Zirkle.



West Virginia Mountaineers.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his stepmother, Minnie Brown Metheney; sisters, Helen J. Frazier, Lorene Swyers, Janice F. Metheney, Thelia Miller, Delila Jean Yuich and Betty Lou Goehring; brothers, Hansel Brown and D. H. Brown; and special friend, David

Martin.

Surviving family include his loving wife of 53 years, Kathy Metheney; daughters, Michelle Metheney Brennan and husband, Sean, Laurie Parks Gussow and husband Mike; son, Michael Nelson Metheney; sister, Virginia Anders; grandsons, Riley Metheney, Rhett Metheney, Reece Metheney, Ryder Metheney, Bailey Neu and Nicholas Gussow; great-grandson, Felix Neu, fondly nicknamed "Ozark" by Paw Paw Ben; special great-nephew Michael Yurich and family; and his beloved dog, Zach.

A celebration of Ben's life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his name to the Salem Education Foundation, RE: Ben Metheney/Dixie Youth Baseball and Softball Scholarship, P.O. Box 1461, Salem, VA 24153.

Online condolences may be expressed by visiting www.johnmoakey.com.

Smith, Marjorie Blessing

"Life's race well run, Life's work well done, Life's victory won, now cometh rest." – Dr. Edward Hazen Parker

Marjorie Blessing Smith died peacefully at home on January 5, 2022, with family present.

Margie was born on March 18, 1930, in Bastian, Virginia. She grew up surrounded by loved ones – her Mom, Dad, brothers Bud and Henry, many extended family, and even more friends. She graduated from Bland High School in 1947 and McClain's Business College in 1949.

Margie worked for several years for Blessing Brothers Store and Blessing Brothers, the family poultry and egg business. She worked in retail sales, and in accounting, which was her favorite.

Margie married Dan Smith in 1955 and they began Air Force life. She made loving homes for her husband, three children, and made many friends around the world in Harlingen, TX, Montgomery, AL, Biloxi, MS, Pittsburgh, PA, Evreux, France, Feltwell, England, Bluefield, VA, and McGuire AFB, NJ. Margie was an excellent cook and loved having people around her table. Retirement from the service led Margie and Dan to Salem where Margie lived the rest of her life. She loved spoiling her grandchildren, having her friends drop in, drinking a Coke straight from the bottle every day, watching neighborhood kids playing in the street and forming an epic friendship with her next-door neighbor Liz Magenbauer and her family. For 46 years, they enjoyed



morning coffee, family celebrations, and a whole lot of laughs.

In addition to her parents, Mark and Audrey Blessing, Margie was preceded in death by her son Bob, her brother Bud Blessing, sister-in-law Danese Blessing, sister-in-law Susan Blessing, and Dan, her husband of over 40 years.

She leaves to mourn her son Dan Smith, his son Quinn and daughter Luella; her daughter Cindy Brewer, her husband Jim and their daughter Madelaine; her daughter-in-law Jackie Smith, her son Austin and daughter Emma. Margie is also survived by her brother Henry Blessing, nieces Anna Abbe, Sheri Haas, and Lisa Ford, as well as nephews Herschel Blessing and Nathan Blessing.

The family extends gratitude to Karen, Mark, and Derek Critzer, Tatiana MacMartin, Lenoia Barber, Cindy, Hannah, and McKenzie Moran, Bernice Smith, and Corynne Emmerson, without whose help Margie's final wish of living out her last days at home would not have been possible.

The family will receive friends on Friday, January 14, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Bastian Union Church. The funeral will follow at 12:30 p.m. with interment immediately following at Rose Hill Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Bastian Union Church, 29 Bear's Trail, Bastian, VA 24314.

The Smith family is in the care of A. Vest & Sons Funeral Home, White Gate, vestandsons.com, (540) 921-2985.

American Legion from page 1

which is an attachment or allegiance to the traditions, institutions and ideals of the United States.

During a gathering last December, the Salem Legion hosted a coat giveaway and catered dinner for all Veterans.

"The coat drive came up during our monthly meeting several months ago. As a Post, we want to serve the community. We have never had a coat drive, so we tossed the idea around and most of the members loved it," Fleming said. "It went from a small idea to a bomb! The Salem VA got behind the concept and that made a huge difference."

Long before he ever volunteered for any Roanoke Valley Legion, Charles Smith says he encouraged those around him to give back to the less fortunate. "This is how I see it. Everyone goes through adversity in life, but everyone's adver-



PHOTOS BY SHAWN NOWLIN

Last month, the Legion held a coat giveaway for individuals in need.



Members of the American Legion Post usually meet at least once a month.

sity is not the same. One person thinking, 'I have to budget groceries to make ends meet' is entirely different from someone else saying, 'I hope when I sleep

in my car tonight, I don't get attacked.' Life is about perspective. You don't have to have a lot of money to be nice to a stranger," Smith explained.

A few years ago, the Salem Legion Post had just a few members. Today, that number has grown, but members want to expand even more.

"We have some amazing ideas that we'd love to bring to the area. I've personally been working behind the scenes to make some things happen," Fleming said.

"Without support from the community though, it's almost impossible to things done. I'm hopeful that more people will choose to get involved."

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Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, January 24, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room of the Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of Scott A. Boggs, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 407 East Burwell Street (Tax Map # 120-1-5) from RB Residential Business District to TBD Transitional Business District.
2. Consider the request of Union Plaza, LLC, contract purchaser, and the City of Salem, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 630 Union Street (Tax Map # 160-11-2) from HM Heavy Manufacturing District to HBD Highway Business District.
3. Consider the request of 2936 Salem Inc., dba Sunshine Spa and 217 NY Ave Corp, property owner, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a massage parlor at 2936 West Main Street (Tax Map # 210-1-2).
4. Consider amending Chapter 106, Zoning, Article IV, Development Standards, Section 106-400 pertaining to site plan review.
5. Consider amending Chapter 78, Subdivisions, Article I Generally, Sections 78-103 and 78-105, Article II Administration, 78-201, Article III Definitions, Section 78-300, Article IV Review of Plats, Sections 78-402, 78-403, 78-406, 78-408, 78-416, and 78-421 of the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA pertaining to the review of subdivision site plans and plats.

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

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

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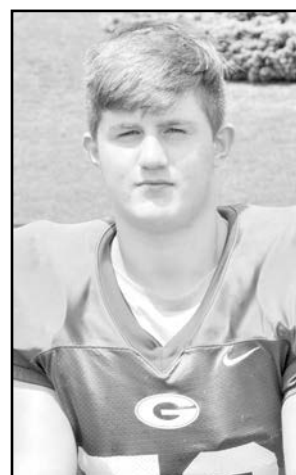
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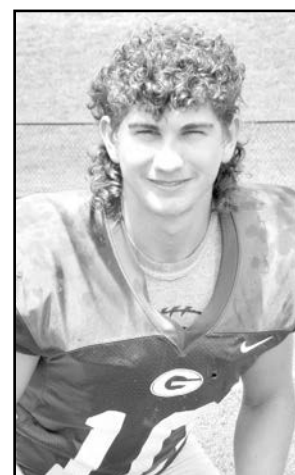
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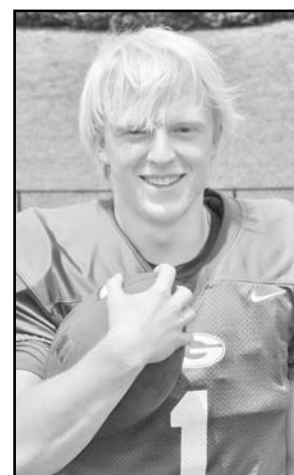
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WILL JOHNSON



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JACKSON SWANSON

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Williams is first team All-Class 2, Six Highlanders on the 2nd team

Glenvar senior Dagan Williams was named first team at receiver and Highlanders took six spots on the second team when the Virginia High School League Class 2 All-State football team was announced Monday.

Williams was the only Highlander and one of just three Three Rivers District players named to the all-state first team. Floyd County's Kaiden Swartzel was first team at tight end and Tyrel Dobson of Radford was a first team selection at linebacker.

Class 2 state champion King William had four selections on offense and another on defense while state runner-up Graham had three on offense and four on defense. Demond Claiborne of King William is the Offensive Player of the Year and coach Scott Moore is state Coach of the Year. Tyler Banks of Nottoway is the Defensive Player of the Year.

Glenvar had six selections on the all-state second team, including Williams who was named as a defensive back. Other second team all-state Highlanders were Aiden Wolk at quarterback, junior Will Johnson on the offensive line, junior Jackson Swanson at receiver, sophomore Nate Johnson at defensive end and senior Mason Anderson at linebacker.

In Region 2C Wolk was named first team at quarterback as well as Offensive Player of the Year. Other first team all-region Highlanders were Dagan Williams on both sides of the ball, Swanson at receiver and punt returner, Will Johnson on the offensive line, Nate Johnson on the defensive line, Anderson at linebacker, Aiden Custer on the D-line and Kyle Hanks at runningback. Second team went to Custer on the offensive line, Nick Williams at linebacker, Nick Woodson at defensive back, Lance Patsel at

center and Tyler Pierce at placekicker.

Glenvar dominated the All-Three Rivers team with Wolk being named Offensive Player of the Year and coach Kevin Clifford selected district Coach of the Year. First team selections on offense were Wolk, Patsel, Will Johnson, Custer, Hanks, Dagan Williams, Swanson and Pierce. On defense first team honors went to Custer, Nate Johnson, Anderson, Dagan Williams, Nick Williams, Woodson, Wolk at punter and Swanson at punt return.

Second team offense, All-Three Rivers, were Lucas Birdleough on the offensive line, Anderson at receiver and Swanson at both kick return and all-purpose. Second team defense selections were Caleb Crowder at defensive end, Elijah Carter at defensive back and Hanks was selected all-purpose on the defense.



Brian Hoffman

He was all for the kids

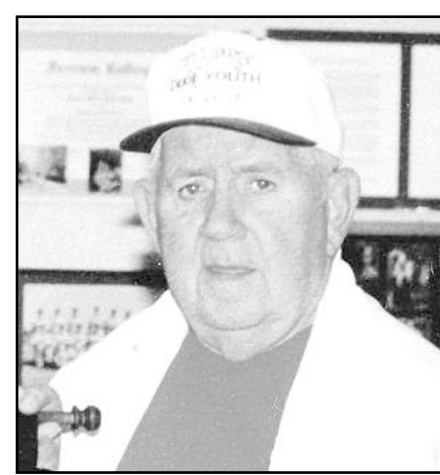
The City of Salem lost another good one last week when Ben Metheny died on Thursday. Ben had turned 90 in October.

Ben was a great friend to the kids in Salem for the past half century or so. He was involved in Dixie Youth Sports as a coach, president and district director for many years. Whenever there was a Dixie League tournament in town, Ben was sure to be buzzing around making sure everything went smoothly. A Dixie scholarship and sportsmanship award are named in his honor.

Metheny received the Wayne LaPierre Community Service Award from the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame in 2007. The following year his son, Nelson, was inducted into the S-R Baseball Hall for his pitching career,

which included professional baseball in the Philadelphia Phillies organization. Ben was so proud of Nelson as he progressed from the Salem Spartans to being drafted by the Phils out of Clinch Valley College.

You could tell Ben really enjoyed the kids. He knew most of them by



BEN METHENEY

name and was right at home joking around with young people. He was truly young at heart, and a good friend. There is an obituary for Ben in this

week's paper, so be sure to check it out and see some other accomplishments from his 90 years. He was originally from West Virginia but we were so lucky he found us.

OWEN HITS SEVEN THREES

Nick Owen, who played basketball for Salem High through his junior year, hit seven three pointers for North Cross School in Saturday's Chance Harman Classic basketball event at Floyd County High School.

Nick finished with a high school career high 29 points to lead the Raiders, who are coached by former Roanoke College Hall of Fame coach Page Moir. Despite Owen's big day the Raiders lost to Auburn, 64-54.

"Saturday, Nick put on one of the strongest performances I have witnessed, hitting seven threes against an opponent that knew his reputation as a three-point threat, making most of those shots very difficult," said Moir. "Nick is also proving his worth on the defensive end and is consistent in all phases of the game. He is a great teammate, and a coach's dream with his attitude as well."

North Cross' next home game is Tuesday, January 18, against Blue Ridge.

DREAM BOWL IS MONDAY

Salem Stadium will be the site of the annual "Dream Bowl" football game on Martin Luther King Day Monday, January 17.

Kickoff is at noon and the Salem Stadium gates will open at 11 am. Tickets are sold at the game on onday and cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids 10 and under.

The Dream Bowl is a College Football All-Star Showcase of the best FCS, D-II and D-III players from across the country. The game and the series of events held over Martin Luther King Weekend are a celebration of the excellence, commitment, and sacrifice made by the players and their families.

SAD BUT TRUE

If we had social media in 1953 when Jonas Salk invented the vaccine for polio we'd probably still have people suffering in wheelchairs and dying from the disease today.

Salem boys take third in All-Timesland swimming meet

The Salem boys were third and the girls took fifth in the annual All Timesland Invitational swim meet at the Roanoke Gator Center last Saturday. Patrick Henry won the team title among both the boys and girls.

Salem had a two-time first place winner in Boone Fleenor, who won both the 100 and 200 Free events. Boone won with a time of 47.51 in the 100 Free and 1:54.03 in the 200. His 100 time was a state qualifying time.

Other Spartans to finish in the top three included Eliza Fleenor with seconds in both the 50 Free and 100 Breast, Kaylee Shifflett with a second in the 500 Free, Hunter King with second in the 50 Free and Joren Poush with a third in the 100 Breast.

Poush also took fourth in the 50 Free and 100 Breast while Zach Easter was fourth in the 100 Back and 100 Fly. Shifflett added a fifth in the 50 Free.

"Every swimmer qualified for finals, this is a first for the Spartans," said coach Marianne Fleenor.

Salem's girls made a big impression in the 50 Freestyle with five scoring in the top 16. Along with Eliza and Kaylee were Lauren Baba 10th, Laci Barnes 11th and Jaedyn Jenkinds 12th.

The boys 100 Free was another big event for Salem with Boone first, King

fourth, Walker Peterson 11th, Thomas Miles 12th and Davis Griffith 15th.

The relays also played a big part in Salem's scoring. The boys 200 Free Relay of Easter, Poush, King and Boone Fleenor came home with a first place finish and all other relays placed in the top nine.

Salem was scheduled to be back in the pool Wednesday with a meet at the Gator Center in Roanoke. Next Tuesday, January 18, they'll host Lord Botetourt and Northside at the Salem YMCA.

GHS swimmers at Botetourt Y tonight

The Glenvar swimmers will be in the water tonight when compete in a meet at the Botetourt YMCA. The Highlanders were in Daleville last week as well for a meet against host Lord Botetourt and Carroll County.

The Glenvar girls beat Carroll, 117-36, but lost to a strong LB team, 89-77. It was the first loss for the Glenvar girls as they dropped to 7-1 on the season.

"The girls lost their first meet of the season to a very tough and talented Class 3 Lord Botetourt team," said Glenvar coach Shannon Hall. "Nothing to be disappointed in though. We swam well as a team and kept pace with them throughout the meet. We'll continue to work hard in practice and make adjustments as necessary

as the Class 2 post season rapidly approaches."

The boys lost to both teams but swam well with Connor Wilkes breaking two school records and swimming two state qualifying times. Connor broke a six year old school record in the 200 freestyle going 1:57.99 and also qualifying for the state meet. Wilkes set another school record in the 100 freestyle clocking a 54.06 and punching his ticket to the state in that event and the boys' exhibition team of Zander Honaker, Landon Cairns, Tucker Henderson and Wilkes won the 200 freestyle relay.

Claire Griffith, Delaney Eller and Natalie McMahon finished first, second and third in the girls' 100 butterfly with Griffith going under state quali-

fying time. The team of Macy Westland, Kaylin Patsel, Eller and Griffith won the girls 200 Free Relay. Griffith also won the 100 Backstroke.

Overall the team set two new school records and seven new personal records. New personal records include Kaylin Patsel in the 200 freestyle, Zander Honaker in the 50 freestyle, Erin Hamilton in the 100 freestyle, Addie Cockram in the 100 freestyle, Tucker Henderson in the 100 breaststroke, Landon Cairns in the 100 breaststroke and Emma Pope in the 100 breaststroke.

The Highlanders also had a meet at the Bedford Y last Friday but results were available at press time. Glenvar was home on Tuesday of this week before heading to Daleville tonight.

"We had a great meet this past weekend at LU," said Glenvar coach Bekka Loder. "A lot of the athletes had personal bests and their hard work continues to show on the track weekly."

In the boys' meet Salem's 4x200 Relay team of DaRon Wilson, Evyn Hughes, Trenton Moyer and Dominic Wright took seventh place and the "B Team" of Brock Miles, Jayveon Jones, Connor Cox and Chance Long was ninth. Wilson also took 20th in the 55 Dash and Wright was 13th out of 95 athletes in the Long Jump while Hughes was 20th.

Both Glenvar and Salem will be back at Liberty University this weekend for the Walter Bass Invitational.

Track teams run at LU

The Salem and Glenvar indoor track teams competed in the Liberty Premier Invitational at Liberty University last Saturday. The all day meet attracted some top talent with over 100 athletes participating in some events.

"Although some teams could not make it to the meet Saturday it was still a very competitive event," said Salem girls' coach Tom Roth. "It is always difficult to know how they will run after a long break but we felt they did a good job."

In the girls' meet Glenvar's Carly Wilkes finished first in the 3,200 and second in the 1,600. Sydney Loder took sixth overall in the 55 Hurdles and fourth in the High Jump.

"We had a great meet this past weekend at LU," said Glenvar coach Bekka Loder. "A lot of the athletes had personal bests and their hard work continues to show on the track weekly."

In the boys' meet Salem's 4x200 Relay team of DaRon Wilson, Evyn Hughes, Trenton Moyer and Dominic Wright took seventh place and the "B Team" of Brock Miles, Jayveon Jones, Connor Cox and Chance Long was ninth. Wilson also took 20th in the 55 Dash and Wright was 13th out of 95 athletes in the Long Jump while Hughes was 20th.

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Left, Salem High trainer Joel Hickerson wraps Avery Hall's nose in week's match against Lord Botetourt to keep him from bleeding. Hall returned to the mat and pulled out a win at 145. Right, Ty Porter puts the finishing touches on his opponent for a win at 120.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

LB sweeps Salem and Glenvar in tri-match, Highlanders pin Spartans

Spartans bounce back to take seventh among strong field at LCA Invitational in Lynchburg Saturday

It was a big time on the mats last week as Salem hosted a tri-match with Glenvar and Lord Botetourt, then participated in the Liberty Christian Academy Invitational in Lynchburg on Saturday.

Last week's tri-meet in Salem was preceded by a middle school match between Andrew Lewis and Glenvar. The Wolverines took a 45-31 win on the high school mats with Lewis winning six bouts and Glenvar five.

"We wrestled well enough to win the match, which is always the goal, but I thought we regressed in

some spots and as a whole didn't look as sharp," said Lewis coach Randall Sell. "The first match back from Christmas break can always be tough and inconsistent from an individual standpoint, which it was for us. Kudos to the Glenvar kids. They wrestled tough and looked ready to go."

After the middle school match Salem coach Lawrence Van Liew honored his eight seniors, then Lord Botetourt took on Glenvar in the first dual of a long evening. Botetourt came out on top, 45-31.

"Tough loss to LB after having won against them

in the Bruin Brawl finals in December," said Glenvar coach Jason Cline. "LB is well coached, and the combination of their line-up shifts plus Glenvar having an injury default was just too much for us to overcome in this rematch."

Chase Miller, Jake Cline, Trey Lawrence and Ethan Flowers had good wins for Glenvar. Miller wrestled up a weight class and had a solid 15-6 win against the Big Orange winner from LB while Cline wrestled the Big Orange runner-up from LB, Colin Sell, and came away with a 3-1 win.

In the second match Salem took on LB and the Cavaliers finished their night with a second win, 43-30. Winners for Salem were Owen Page at 106, David Conklin at 113, Ty Porter at 120, Kyman Kinney at 138, Avery Hall at 145 and James Brooks at 145.

That set up a border war between Salem and Glenvar in the final match of the day, which didn't start until well after 9 pm. Glenvar was able to scrap out a 43-36 win over the Spartans.

"I'm not exactly sure when the last time we beat Salem in a team dual was but I know it has been several years," said Glenvar coach Cline. "Salem always has a full line-up and some solid coaching so they're very competitive as a dual team. After taking a tough loss in the re-match with LB I was proud to see the Highlanders respond with some great wrestling against Salem."

Glenvar winners in the match with Salem included Alan Vu at 106, River Smith at 113, Ryan Kirby at 126, Jake Cline at 132, Trey Lawrence at 145, Ethan Flowers at 152 and Chase Millers at 160. Salem winners were Ty Porter at 120, Andrew Heath-Villalobos at 138, Yuvraj Singh at 170, James Brooks at 182, Jackson Bryie at 220 and Thomas Miles at 285.

Salem was back on the mats Saturday to compete in the LCA Invitational, a 24 team tournament with some talented entries. Grassfield High of Chesapeake won the tournament, followed by Washington High of West Virginia. They were followed by Christiansburg, Staunton River, Jefferson Forest, host LCA and Salem was a strong seventh.

"We finished ahead of Lord Botetourt, William Byrd and Blacksburg, three teams that have previously placed ahead of us," said Salem coach Lawrence Van Liew. "We have made improvements and have adjusted well. We have a couple guys who are getting to their best weight classes."

Salem had nine wrestlers place in the top eight, including fourth place finishes for Kinney, Porter and Matthew McNeil. Avery Hall was fifth at 145 and sixth places went to Brooks and Sam Miles. Haden Smith was seventh at 132 and Bryie and Caden Thomas both finished eighth.

"We have eight underclassman starters, and 40 men on the roster," said Van Liew. "We have competed all season long, and are looking to make huge gains in the month to come. Regions are less than a month away, and we are getting excited."

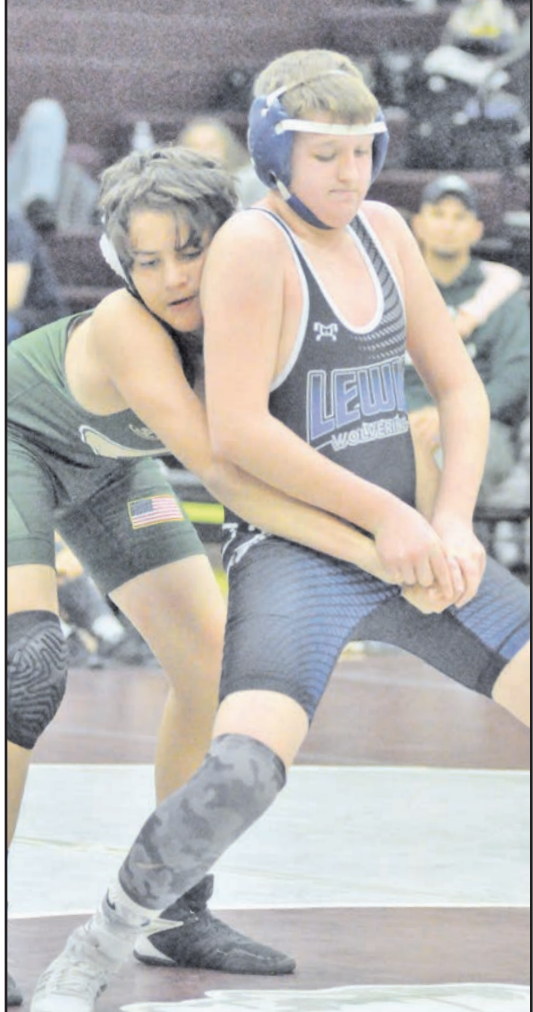
Salem is now off until next Wednesday, January 19, for a match at Patrick Henry. Glenvar was scheduled to wrestle in a big tournament at Roanoke College last Saturday but that was cancelled due to COVID concerns. The Highlanders are at Radford tonight for a quad with Carroll County, Fort Chiswell and the host Bobcats.

Both Salem and Glenvar are entered in the "Big Blue" tournament at Christiansburg High School on January 21 and 22.



Above, Glenvar's Ethan Flowers checks the clock in his win over Lord Botetourt in the 152 pound match at Salem last week. Right, Tony Miranda' Angleles of Glenvar tries to escape the hold of his LB opponent in the 182 pound match. Below left, Glenvar's Braxton Lavoie has a hold on Tucker Preas of Andrew Lewis and, below right, Glenvar's Hunter Hollifield is on top of the Wolverines' Evan Byers in the middle school match preceding the main event at Salem High.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



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Salem High girls down Cave Spring, Vikings to run record to 8-4

The Salem High girls' basketball team is 8-4 after defeating two Roanoke County schools in the past week. The Spartans beat Cave Spring last Friday and Northside on Monday, both at home.

Last Friday in Salem the girls took a 45-43 thriller against Cave Spring. It was close the whole way, tied at 9-9 after the first quarter, Cave Spring up 21-20 at the half, and Salem up 28-27 after three quarters, then closing strong for the win.

"It was a hard fought game, back and forth all night," said Salem coach Scott Jester. "Both teams battled and hit some big shots in the fourth quarter, we were able to get just enough stops down the stretch to pull out the win over a good team."

My'la Green led the Spartans with 15 points and six steals. Kennedy Scales had a dozen points and Madison Smith had nine points and nine rebounds.

On Monday the Spartans opened a big lead then held off a late challenge by Northside to take a 68-51 win. The Vikings cut the lead to a dozen in the fourth quarter after



Ashlyn Adkins of Salem shoots a three in Monday's win over Northside.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

trailing by over 20 at one point. Green led Salem with 17 points while Scales had 13 and Brynn Bowen had a dozen.

"We were able to force some turnovers with our defense," said Jester. "We did a good job of pushing the ball up the floor quickly and attacking to create scoring opportunities."

The Spartans had their

work cut out for them on Wednesday as they were scheduled to play a Lord Botetourt team that comes into the week at 9-1 in Daleville. Salem is back home Friday to host Pulaski County for "Sandlot Night" and next week they have back-to-back road games at Patrick Henry Tuesday and at Christiansburg on Wednesday, January 19.

Glenvar's Olivia Keen(right) boxes out James River's Caitlin Canada in last Friday's game in Buchanan.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Glenvar girls fall to Cave Spring

The Glenvar girls slipped under .500 for the first time this season when they lost to Cave Spring at Glenvar High Monday. The visiting Knights took a 52-48 win as Glenvar fell to 6-7 for the season.

"We were terrible," said Glenvar coach Jeff Johnson. "We've had a lack of focus."

Rhyan Harris led Glenvar with 23 points and Savana Luper had 10.

Last Friday in Buchanan the Highlanders lost to James River in the first game of a doubleheader with the boys, 43-32. It was the first time in recent memory the resurgent Knights, under new coach Ryan Firebaugh, beat Glenvar in girls' basketball.

"These girls work hard day in and day out in practice and in games," said coach Ryan Firebaugh. "They accept every challenge that is placed on them and they accomplish it. I am so proud

of this team."

Glenvar had an early lead but the Knights went on top 24-16 by halftime. Glenvar cut the lead to four after the third quarter, only to have River dominate down the stretch for a big win. River outrebounded Glenvar 51-39 for the game, and that was a big factor in the outcome.

"On offense we're getting one shot, and we're not clearing the boards defensively," said Johnson.

McKenzie Harris led Glenvar with 13 points and Rhyan Harris had 11. Savana Luper and Olivia Keen had four points each as only four Highlanders scored.

Glenvar was hoping to turn things around with a home game against Alleghany on Wednesday night, followed by a trip to Floyd on Friday. Both are doubleheaders with the boys' team.

Roanoke men host W&L Saturday

The Cregger Center at Roanoke College has been silent since the New Year began with both the men and women's basketball teams having games postponed. That should change this week with the men's team scheduled to host Washington & Lee in a big Old Dominion Athletic Conference game Saturday afternoon at 2 pm.

Roanoke comes into the week at 9-2 overall and 1-1 in the ODAC. W&L is 2-2 in ODAC games and 4-6 overall. The Maroons were scheduled to play at Guilford on Wednesday while the Generals were at Shenandoah.

The RC men had a home game with Ferrum postponed last week along with a trip to Virginia Wesleyan. The Ferrum game will be made up in Salem next Monday, January 17, and the Virginia Wesleyan game will be played at Virginia Beach on January 31.

The Roanoke women were hit by a rash of COVID and had three straight games postponed, at Bridgewater last week, at Randolph Saturday and home with W&L on Wednesday of this week. Rescheduled games now include at Bridgewater on January 24, at Randolph on January 31, home to W&L on February 7 and at Randolph-Macon on February 14. As of now the Maroons next scheduled game, with Guilford on January 19, is still on.

SHS boys at Pulaski Friday

The Salem High boys' basketball team has two games on the road this week. The Spartans were scheduled to play a non-district game at Staunton River on Wednesday and Salem will head to Dublin Friday for a River Ridge District showdown with Pulaski County.

Salem comes into the week at 3-6 after dropping a 79-45 decision at Cave Spring last Friday. The Knights jumped on top 26-5 after the first quarter and had a 30 point lead at 48-18 by halftime.

"Cave Spring is really good," said Salem coach Kevin Garst. "We got off to a slow start and dug ourselves into a hole we couldn't get out of. The kids played hard."

Tanner Dallas had 20 points and eight rebounds to lead Salem. Owyn Dawyot, who played for Salem through his junior season, had 17 for Cave Spring.

The Spartans next home game will be next Tuesday, January 18, against Patrick Henry.



Salem's Tyrell Green handles the ball.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

River edges GHS boys

The Glenvar boys led for most of the way but let an eight point lead slip away in the fourth quarter in a loss to James River last Friday. The home-standing Knights rallied for a 50-47 win in Buchanan.

"We held a four to eight point lead for the majority of the game, but they switched over to their 2-2-1 press and we weren't disciplined enough against it in stretches," said Glenvar coach Cliff Bordewisch. "But we still had a chance to tie it with a three at the buzzer."

Glenvar shot just 32 percent from the field, hitting 17 of 53 field goal attempts, and River wasn't much better against a scrappy Highlander team. The Highlanders led at the end of each of the first three quarters.

"Glenvar gave us all we could handle," said River coach Ethan Humphries. "Pretty early we felt the weird vibe that was eerily similar to last year's play-off game (won by Glenvar on a three-quarter court shot by Stephen Barber at the buzzer). We were in a funk all game but, to edge that one out had all to do with our guys' willingness to win and a little luck from the basketball Gods."

Barber led Glenvar with 15 points while Christian Housh had 11 and Tyler Johnson had 10 points. Glenvar fell to 9-3 with the loss and James River is 9-2 along with a win on Saturday over Carroll County.

"They're a tough, disciplined team, but I think we definitely let this one slip away," said Bordewisch. "I thought we played very well defensively, which was important because good teams always find a

way to score. We tried to make sure we had good closeouts on all shoot-ers and just tried to limit their transition baskets as well. We just have to get better at closing out a close game."

The Highlanders were scheduled to host Alleghany in a Three Rivers District game on Wednesday, followed by a big district game at Floyd County on Friday. Then, Glenvar is at Radford next Tuesday, January 18.



Glenvar's Ty Bolling goes to the hoop in last Friday's game at James River.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN