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SALEM TIMES-REGISTER

Thursday, July 13, 2023 • (USPS 631-140) • \$1.00

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Salem Fair delights with everything from Ferris wheels to funnel cakes



The towering Ferris wheel gives guests a view of the area.



Fair goers could enjoy a variety of foods from over 30 vendors.

PHOTOS BY MEGAN O'KULY

Megan O'Kuly
Contributing writer

The Salem Fair, an annual event held from June 28 through July 9, once again brought Salem to life with excitement. For 35 years, this cherished event has been a unifying force, drawing in both residents and tourists. Whether seeking an escape from the monotony of

everyday life or simply looking for entertainment and community engagement, the fair anticipated between 250,000 and 350,000 visitors this year. With its free admission, an extensive selection of thrilling rides, complimentary shows and commercial vendors, the Salem Fair had something to offer everyone. Whether there as a thrill-seeker, food lover or art enthusiast, the fair fostered a sense of community for all.

This year's fairgrounds were a captivating wonderland, bustling with vibrant attractions, engaging activities and sensational performances. Visitors of all ages had their hearts racing on exhilarating rides like the Zipper, and they could test their skills at classic fair games like balloon darts. The towering Ferris wheel, offering

See Salem Fair, page 3

Salem's city manager to retire in November

Taliaferro has been in position since 2019



COURTESY PHOTO

Taliaferro

Salem City Manager Jay Taliaferro announced last Friday that he's retiring from his current position on Nov. 1. Taliaferro has been Salem's city manager

since December 19, 2019, and has served the city's citizens in several capacities for over 32 years.

"To be able to serve others while giving back to the community that helped raise me has been an extremely special and unique experience," Taliaferro said. "I appreciate the opportunity to lead the city more than anyone will ever know."

Taliaferro began his employment with the City of Salem in 1991 as a staff engineer and in 1998, he was named city engineer by Randy Smith, who was city manager at the time. In 2000, Taliaferro moved into administration as assistant city manager and he served in that role under both Forest Jones and Kevin Boggess.

"I learned a great deal from all three of them," he said. "The main thing each

See Taliaferro, page 3



PHOTO BY AILA BOYD

Members of the Salem City Council are pictured during the Monday, July 10 meeting.

City Council appropriates range of funds

Aila Boyd

aboyd@mainstreetnewspapers.com

The Salem City Council met for a regularly scheduled meeting Monday, July 10. During the meeting, one item of old business and a range of new business was dealt with.

Under old business, the council unanimously approved an ordinance on second reading for a request from J S Salem LLC and the Trustees Faith Assembly of God for rezoning of a property in the 500 block of White Street from RSF Residential Single-

Family District to CBD Community Business District. The council previously approved the request on first reading.

Under new business, the council unanimously approved the appropriation of funds for several agenda items, including:

- Appropriation of additional state and local funding for the Apperson Drive Bridge Project.
- Accept and appropriate Green Grant funds.
- Appropriate General Fund Reserves for repairs to Bridge #1800

(Apperson near Cook Drive) and to replace ambulance (Medic 803).

• Appropriate proceeds from the sale of equipment.

The council also authorized the transfer of funds from contingency to Salem City Public Schools.

Additionally, the setting of a bond for physical improvements and erosion and sediment control and landscaping for West Main Street Storage was approved.

All five members of the council were present at the meeting.



SCREENSHOT

Gov. Glenn Youngkin held a conversation Friday in Salem with Sen. David Suetterlein and his wife, Ashley.



COURTESY PHOTO

Youngkin holding a kangaroo at the Salem Fair.

Gov. Youngkin holds 'Parents Matter Conversation' in Salem

Aila Boyd

aboyd@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Gov. Glenn Youngkin held a "Parents Matter Conversation" in Salem last Friday. He was joined by Sen. David Suetterlein (R-19) and his wife, Ashley.

The Republican said events like this one are part of an effort to get out of Richmond and listen to Virginians. Doing so, he explained, helps him and fellow lawmakers do their jobs better.

See Youngkin, page 3

Salem Fair officials say they're pleased with 35th edition of event


The 2023 Salem Fair wrapped up 12 days of non-stop fun on Sunday night. The 35th edition of the region's annual rite of summer featured visitors ranging from Virginia's Governor to Canada's wildfire smoke.

"We are extremely pleased with the outcome of this year's fair in many ways," Wendy Delano, Salem's director of civic facilities said. "The advance sale of tickets was up by more than 50 percent compared to last year, rain was never a factor this year, and even those four days of wildfire smoke couldn't deter our loyal fairgoers."

This year marked the first time in the 35-year history of the Salem Fair that a sitting governor took time to tour the midway. Gov. Glenn Youngkin visited with vendors, patrons and concessionaries on the final Friday night of the fair.

"We appreciate the Governor taking the time to validate our tourism efforts in Virginia's Blue Ridge by generously spending some quality time with us," Carey Harveycutter, Salem Fair manager, said. "We also appreciate the generosity of our fairgoers, who truly outdid themselves this year."


See Fair Officials, page 5




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Briefly: Salem News In Brief

“Our March Continued Toward Salem”: Salem’s most active engagement during the Civil War occurred on June 21, 1864 as retreating Federal forces under Major General David Hunter met Confederate cavalry under Brigadier General John McCausland at the Battle of Hanging Rock. On Thursday, July 13 at 7 p.m. at the Salem Museum, noted Civil War historian Alex Burke will discuss these important events in Salem’s history—the campaign leading up to the battle, the notable participants, and the eventual outcome of the conflict. This talk will be in-person, but will also be recorded for later viewing.

Bluegrass Sunday: On Sunday, July 16, Salem Presbyterian Church will hold a toe-tappin’, music-filled worship service featuring live—and lively—Bluegrass and Old Time music! The Bluegrass Sunday service begins at 10 am and the public is welcome. Salem Presbyterian Church is located in downtown Salem at the corner of Main and Market Streets. Some of the songs like “I’ll Fly Away” and “This Train is Bound for Glory” are Bluegrass gospel favorites, and others, such as a Sarah Jarosz cover of a Tom Waits’ song called “Come On Up To the House” might be new. Music will be provided by local musicians who have been playing Old Time and Bluegrass music in Roanoke for over 30 years. According to Chris Vogado, one of the pastors at Salem Presbyterian Church, “The service will be similar to any other Sunday service, but with more music and a few more scripture readings. As Psalm 150 says, ‘Praise God with banjo and flute...praise God with fiddles and mandolins!’ We’ll have more than a few of those folk instruments on July 16, and hope that the community

can join in as we sing God’s praises!”

Jazz in July: “Jazz in July” is set to make its much-anticipated return to the Longwood Park Amphitheater Saturday, July 15 at 3:30 p.m. The free day of live music features an eclectic lineup that once again has been procured by local jazz aficionado Lenny Marcus. This year’s lineup includes Roscoe McFadden & Friends at 3:45 p.m., Jay Ware Quintet featuring Gracelyn Hedrick at 5:20 p.m., Michael Hawkins & The Brotherhood at 6:45 p.m. and Hoppie Vaughn & The Ministers of Soul at 8:10 p.m.

Salem Gun & Knife Sale: The event will be from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, July 15 and 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Sunday, July 16 at the Salem Civic Center. Tickets are \$10 for adults and free for those 12 and under with a paying adult.

2023 Movies at Longwood: “Lightyear” will be shown on July 21 at Longwood Park. The movie will begin at dusk, around 8:30 p.m., and admission is free for all ages.

Virginia Department of Education—Learn About the Apprenticeship Program: The Salem-Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce will hold a workshop luncheon presented by Kim Radford, on the Career and Technical Education apprenticeship program and its impact on local students and employers. During this seminar, attendees will discover a world of exciting hiring opportunities made possible through the apprenticeship program. With Kim Radford’s expertise and insights, participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of how the program operates, its benefits, and how to navigate its intricacies. It will take place from 11 a.m.-

1 p.m. at the Salem Civic Center on Aug. 1. Lunch will be provided to all attendees who registered for the workshop.

Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit with special guest S.G. Goodman: The event will be at the Salem Civic Center at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 9. Tickets are \$47.50, \$62.50, \$87.50 and \$132.50.

2023 Movies at Longwood: “Sonic 2” will be shown at Longwood Park on Aug. 11. The movie will begin at dusk, around 8:30 p.m., and admission is free for all ages.

Pickin’ In The Park: The annual concert will be Saturday, Aug. 19. Junior Sisk will return for this year’s concert.

36th Annual Mopars In The Valley Car & Truck Show: The free event will be at the Salem Civic Center from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 2.

PAW Patrol Live! “The Great Pirate Adventure”: The event will be at the Salem Civic Center Tuesday, Oct. 31 at 6 p.m. and Wednesday, Nov. 1 at 6 p.m. Tickets start at \$42.

Theory of a Deadman and Skillet: The bands will perform at the Salem Civic Center on Wednesday, Nov. 22 at 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$40.50.

Public meetings: The Salem City Council will meet on Monday, July 24 at 6:30 p.m.

The Salem City Council will meet on Monday, Aug. 14 at 6:30 p.m.

The Salem Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, Aug. 16 at 7 p.m.

The Salem City Council will meet on Monday, Aug. 28 at 6:30 p.m.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

MURDER HOLE LONG FAVORITE FOR SEARCHERS

Wonder of Nature Located On Catawba-Explored By Many Persons In Past

From the 1938 centennial edition of The Times-Register

Up in the foothills of the Catawba valley there is one of the largest single caverns to be found in Virginia, but few residents of this county have ever penetrated this deep hole which has been known for ages as Murder Hole. It is but fifteen miles from Salem.

How this cavern got the name of Murder Hole has never been determined beyond dispute, but the supposition is that it was given this name by the early cattlemen. According to stories handed down from generation-to-generation settlers there in the first part of the nineteenth century were frequently missing cattle with no explanation apparent for their disappearance. Finally Murder Hole was found and an exploration of its pits revealed the bones of the missing cattle.

MURDER HOLE LONG FAVORITE FOR SEARCHERS

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FROM THE TIMES-REGISTER ARCHIVE

people have ever been to the bottom of the hole which is 250 feet below the surface.

Dr. Pedigo and party descended 130 feet to the bottom of the first chamber. To get down into the second chamber it was necessary to go down a “rat hole” passageway single file. For some reason or another this second chamber is known as the “fishmarket”. To get down into the third or bottom chamber it was necessary to go down the “Devil’s Slide” which is a straight drop of about 90 feet. This was done by using a rope. Here was found a large chamber which was 193 feet long, fifty feet wide and fifty

feet high.

When the men got down this far under the earth they felt what appeared to be fresh air and they sought to find another outlet leading from the cavern but none was located.

It is said that since that adventure cave ins have made the descent from the first chamber practically impossible. For that reason the lower chambers have not been entered in recent years. At the bottom of this cavern Dr. Pedigo and his friends found a stalactite which was nine feet in diameter and thirty-six feet in height. A strange place is “Murder Hole”.

-Prepared by Lisa King

POLICE REPORT

City of Salem Police Department

Weekly Arrest Report

Week of June 27, 2023 – July 03, 2023

Arrested On	Name	Age	Charges
06/27/2023	Terrance T. Kearney	21	Reckless Handling of Firearm, Discharge from in or Near Street
06/27/2023	Alex K. Hash Sr.	36	Obstructing Justice
06/27/2023	Cecil D. Vick	42	Unauthorized Use of Vehicle
06/28/2023	Christopher A. Johnson	52	Public Intoxication
06/28/2023	Lloyd M. Rice	62	Abandonment of Animal
06/28/2023	Jaclyn K. Borges Lee	39	Counterfeiting, Fraud
06/29/2023	Benjamin L. Ragland	64	Harassing Communication
06/29/2023	Melissa C. Harris	45	Inhaling Noxious Substances
06/30/2023	Richard D. Corell	67	Public Intoxication
06/30/2023	Roy M. Jennings	72	Obstructing Justice
06/30/2023	Tashawna L. Brown	29	Contributing to Delinquency of Minor
06/30/2023	LaErica L. Greene	30	Contributing to Delinquency of Minor
06/30/2023	Latameeka Deane	36	Contributing to Delinquency of Minor
06/30/2023	Amanda D. Mason	42	Counterfeiting, Possess Forged Documents
07/01/2023	Paula F. Vansickle	58	Violation of Protective Order
07/01/2023	Wayne T. Murphy	60	Shoplifting
07/02/2023	Kenneth J. Kilian	25	Shoplifting
07/02/2023	Matthew S. Compton	35	Criminal Trespass
07/03/2023	Mary E. Finch	46	Contempt of Court
07/03/2023	Russell E. Gordon	55	Public Intoxication

City of Salem Police Department

Weekly Crime Report (Felony Cases)

Week of June 27, 2023 – July 03, 2023

DATE REPORTED	LOCATION	OFFENSE REPORTED
27-JUN-2023	300 BLK Wildwood Rd	Unauthorized Use of Vehicle
28-JUN-2023	0 BLK Dalewood Ave	Vehicle Theft
28-JUN-2023	2000 BLK E Main St	Grand Larceny
29-JUN-2023	400 BLK W 4th St	Burglary
03-JUL-2023	1200 BLK W Main St	Grand Larceny

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www.salemtimes-register.com

Salem Fair

from page 1

brehtaking views of the surrounding countryside, added a touch of grandeur to the fair experience. There were even special rides for smaller children so that they could feel included in the thrill. After coming down the giant slide, one small fairgoer, Kristina Bryson, said, "It's super fun."

For those with a passion for culinary delights, the fair catered to their tastes with over 30 tantalizing food vendors. Each vendor offered a mouthwatering array of options, satisfying every palate. With traditional fanfare, like candy apples, to decadent delights like lobster rolls, the food selection did not disappoint. The fairgrounds were filled with enticing aromas, from fried Oreos and refreshing lemonade to fluffy cotton candy and irresistible corn dogs. The sweet, crispy goodness of funnel cakes delighted the senses and ice cream offered a nice treat on a hot day. Even a slushie station was available with fun flavors.



A slushie station was available for visitors to beat the heat.



The swings took guests high into the air.



The Tilt-o-Whirl gave visitors to the park a chance to spin up the fun.

Taliaferro

from page 1

one made clear is the importance of keeping Salem moving in a positive and productive direction that will make all of our citizens and visitors proud."

Taliaferro is a product of the city's school division and he graduated from Salem High School in 1984. He later earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Clemson University and his master's in public administration from Virginia Tech. He has served outside the city with a variety of regional organizations over the years ranging from Virginia's Blue Ridge to the Western Virginia Regional Jail.

"The regional cooperation is one of the things that has really changed for the better in the past three decades," he said. "From tourism to economic development we have proven that there is strength in numbers and great value in working together."

Despite having virtually his entire tenure as city manager defined by the COVID-19 pandemic, the city said Taliaferro was able to navigate it through that uncertainty and achieve several economic wins. The renovation and

Youngkin

from page 1

"We're going to have a conversation today and I think it's an incredibly important conversation about being a parent," Youngkin said. The conversation extended to the responsibilities of being a parent and what he described as the rights they have to raise their children in ways that are consistent with their values.

"Being a parent is hard, but it's an incredible blessing," Youngkin said. "One of the things I think is most important is we have an opportunity to in fact raise our children consistent with our values."

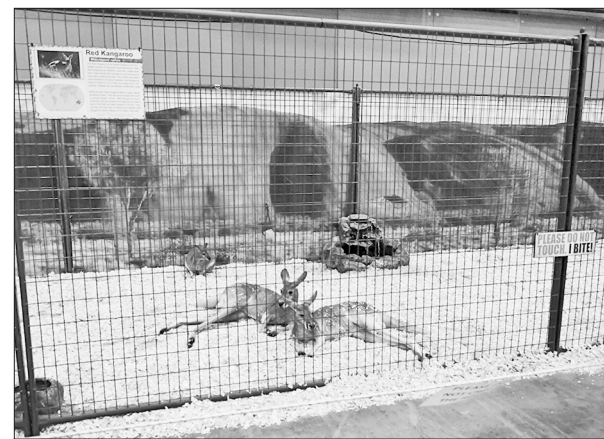
He went on to explain that the "domination" social media is having on the lives of children was top of

The Salem Fair didn't limit itself to thrilling rides and delectable treats. In the comfort of the air-conditioned Salem Civic Center, fairgoers could explore local vendors, engage with the Aussie Kingdom Animal Adventure, or witness the talents of Hilby: The German Juggling Boy. The commercial vendors created a shopper's paradise, while the Blue Ribbon Competitions showcased exquisite, handcrafted works of art. Intricate quilting, community service projects, and locally created art adorned the Salem Civic Center, offering guests a glimpse into the vast talent and skill found within Salem and its surrounding areas.

For those attending on July 4th, a special fireworks display illuminated the night sky with vibrant colors, adding an extra layer of excitement and celebration to the fair. Some visitors even adorned themselves in costumes or patriotic colors, embracing Independence Day's spirit and enjoying a fun day at the fair.



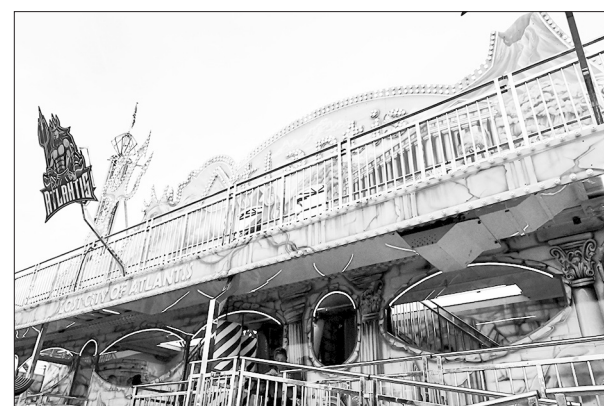
Local teens, (from left to right) Tori Stassin, Makaya Holtzlander and Aydian Falls wore costumes on July 4th.



The Aussie Kingdom Animal Adventure offered visitors an up-close look at animals like the kangaroo, shown here.



Booths were available for guests to take photos, get henna tattoos, or purchase some fair fare.



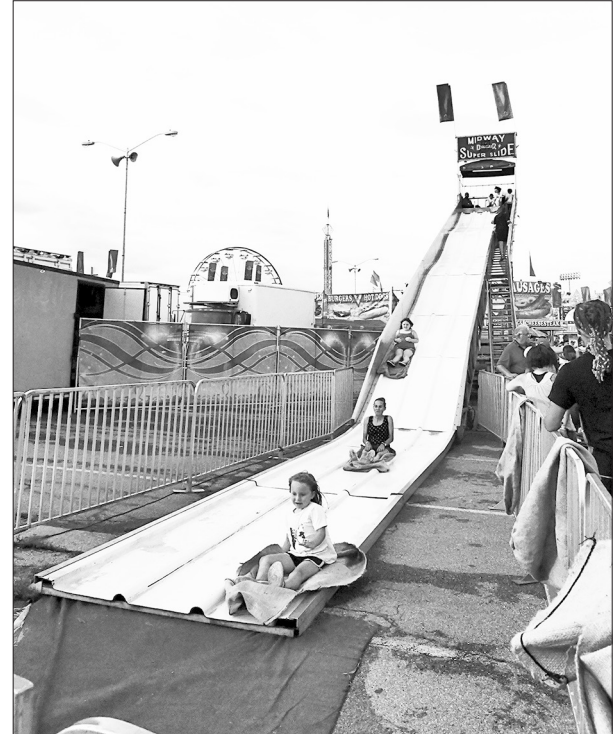
Rides like Atlantis gave the guests some fair fun.

Furthermore, the Salem Fair owes much of its success to the enthusiastic participation of the community. Countless volunteers, local businesses, and organizations join forces to ensure the smooth operation of the fair. Despite facing challenging weather conditions, including Virginia's humid heat, the organizers and volunteers of this event exemplify the deep-rooted community spirit that flows through the veins of Salem.

The 2023 Salem Fair, with its rich history and commitment to fostering a sense of togetherness, once again left its mark on Salem. Through its array of attractions, thrilling rides, delectable food offerings, and engaging activities, the fair provided a platform for the community to come together, celebrate and create lasting memories. As the fair concluded for this year, both locals and visitors eagerly await its return, already looking forward to what next year will bring.



Thrill-seeking guests could enjoy rides such as the Zipper.



Kassidy Bryson (left), Renee Spangler (middle) and Kristina Bryson (right) take a ride on the giant slide.



PHOTOS BY MEGAN O'KULY
The Blue Ribbon competitions gave guests a glimpse into the local talent.

additions made to Salem High School's main building and its athletic field house, the major upgrades at the Moyer Sports Complex and the downtown corridor improvements equated to nearly \$65 million in projects during this time.

During his tenure, the city's bond rating improved to AA+ with the S&P Global Rating which among other things enhanced Salem's ability to borrow money at a low interest rate. That in turn, saved the city's taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"When we were able to borrow money for the high school project at 1.45 percent that is the moment when we hit it out of the park," Taliaferro said. "I am exceptionally proud that we have been able to build up our reserves and put the city in a strong financial situation both today and moving forward."

In addition, Taliaferro has worked closely with several private developers to repurpose and reimagine historic properties in the city. The former General Electric manufacturing plant and the Valleydale Meat packing

facility are both in the process of rising from the ashes.

"The pandemic, much like the great recession, presented challenges for all of us, but it also created opportunities," Taliaferro said. "We were able to work with our school division, some outstanding local contractors and a number of individuals with incredible vision to get a great deal accomplished in less-than-ideal times."

"I have had the pleasure of working on a variety of projects and initiatives with Jay since I was elected to Council in 2006, but I have known Jay much longer and he has always had Salem's best interest at heart," said Randy Foley, former mayor, and the longest tenured member of the current Salem City Council. "He and his family have made a lasting impact on the City of Salem, and I wish Jay nothing but the best as he enters this next phase of life."

Taliaferro and his wife, Elizabeth, reside in Salem, as do their two adult children and his mother. His father, the late Jim Taliaferro, was Salem's mayor from 1974-1996.

-The Salem Times-Register

mind for lawmakers during this year's legislative session. Study after study, he noted, has shown that children are in a mental health crisis as the result of social media. As a result of that understanding, lawmakers worked to address the issue legislatively.

"It was a bill that did one basic thing—it took the protections that currently exist in Virginia for 13-year-olds and under from social media companies being able to gather kids' data and sell it and market back to them without their parents knowing and extended it to 18," Youngkin explained of a bill Suetterlein introduced.

The bill didn't make it out of committee. Youngkin

said he was stunned the bill didn't ultimately gain traction.

"The ultimate goal is protecting our young Virginians," Suetterlein said of the work he and Youngkin are doing in Richmond.

The conversation went on to include information about Sen. Suetterlein and Ashley Suetterlein's family. Youngkin asked them questions about parenting decisions.

Later on, the audience was invited to contribute.

Youngkin also made a stop at the Salem Fair later in the day.

OPINION



Ben Cline
Congressman

It was a great week out of the D.C. swamp, but another sad reminder that President Biden's economic plan is not working for hardworking families in Virginia's Sixth District and across the Nation, and they are demanding real change in Washington. Additionally, Big Government once again shown that is working against taxpayers, not for them. On a brighter note, the Supreme Court secured a big win for American taxpayers in ruling to block Biden's unconstitutional student loan giveaway. We

also celebrated the one-year anniversary of the Dobbs decision, and recognized the 75th anniversary of the Roanoke Rescue Mission. As we begin celebrating our Nation's Independence throughout beautiful western Virginia, rest assured I will continue striving to uphold the values of our Founding Fathers who fought for the liberty we hold so dear.

"Bidenomics" is Failing the American People

Last week, President Joe Biden once again said that the Biden economy, or "Bidenomics", is incredibly popular, but he could not be further from the truth. In just two and half years under the Biden Administration's disastrous economic policies and radical Green New Deal agenda, savings are down, real wages are down, and economic confidence is down.

Unlike "Bidenomics", the Republican Study Committee's (RSC) economic plan, which was put forward last month, would balance the budget, reduce reckless government spending, cut taxes, and restore

our energy independence. As RSC's Budget and Spending Task Force Chairman, I'm fighting to restore fiscal responsibility in Washington so families can keep more of their hard-earned dollars and have the ability to reach the American Dream, and our plan will do just that.

SCOTUS Delivers a Major Victory Against Biden's Student Loan Giveaway

Last August, the Biden Administration announced its student loan "forgiveness" plan, which would ultimately cost American taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars, forcing the 100 million Americans who never went to college to pay off debt disproportionately held by the wealthy. This is not only excessive executive overreach, but it would also throw personal responsibility out the window when choosing to take out a student loan.

See Sixth District page 5

Summertime at the Salem Public Library

The Resilient Library Newsletter begins a six-part series on AGING IN PLACE in the July 1 issue of the library newsletter put together by Senior Library Assistant staff member Theresa Baga. When a senior chooses to live at home rather than move into an assisted living or skilled nursing facility, it's known as "aging in place." According to a survey published by AARP, 76% of adults aged 50 and older want to remain in their current homes as they age. The theme for the first issue explores when aging in place is feasible and when it isn't. The free, twice-a-month newsletter is always jam-packed with the information and resources for those planning for retirement, caregivers, and those interested in learning about healthy aging. To subscribe: Contact Salem Public Library at 540-375-3089

Library Corner

Empowering individuals to
build a stronger community
Benita VanCleave

or library@salemva.gov or read online on our website: www.salempubliclibrary.info

Upcoming events for children

Tuesday, July 18: Summer Book Swap; Drop in from 11a.m.-12:30 p.m. Grades K-5. Bring your old books in to swap for new favorites!

Friday, July 28: Wizard Party! – at Noon: Grades 3-8. It's Harry Potter's birthday! Join us for crafts and games. Register at salemva.libcal.com.

Adult events

Tuesday, July 25: Afternoon Book Club: Reader's choice-Newbery Award Winner; 1p.m.

Monday, July 31: Noon-6 p.m.; Red Cross Blood Drive at Salem Library: Make an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org

Reader: Salem Police Department rapidly responds to public safety issues on Riverside Drive

I was much impressed at how Police Chief Mike Crawley, Vice Mayor Jim Wallace and Officer Chris Hayth all worked together rapidly as a team to mitigate the safety issues on Riverside Drive. Speed limit signs rapidly went into place and the chief referred the need for rumble strips on Riverside Drive to the appropriate department. Hopefully, they will soon be in place.

There is still a pressing need. We need to shoot more radar.

I understand the PD shoots some radar on this road. But the reckless drivers have been warned, and they are not getting the message. It is a park area, an out-door recreation area, and a neighborhood combined, it is not a speedway. It is this confluence of things that complicate the dangers involved with ducks and geese crossing the road and children sometimes darting into the street. And just a couple weeks ago I saw a child jump out of the back of her parents car and dart into the street on the far side of a blind curve.

I must congratulate the men that moved forward so rapidly to protect the wildlife and the children that play on that road. But sadly, while I write this letter a friend that lives on that street tells me a speeder hit a duck near his house and just left it in the

road and sped on. I have also seen a deer dart wildly across the road during the day. But there is no excuse for hitting a duck. Ducks don't dart wildly across the road. They slowly waddle across the street and you have to be driving recklessly to hit one on Riverside Drive. More traffic enforcement will weed some of these reckless and careless drivers out and protect everyone.

My friend in the 800 block of Riverside Road just sent me a picture of a dead goose that got killed today by a reckless driver and it is splattered and bloody all over the road. And the duck was killed last Friday. And this is only in the 800 block of Riverside Road. No one reports to me what happens in the rest of the road.

-Garrett Sayre

SALEM TIMES-REGISTER
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the City of Salem and Roanoke County.

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Birthday month/wisdom

Frances Stebbins Columnist

{Frances Stebbins of Salem has been writing about Western Virginia events, especially those relating to faith communities, since 1953. Her column now appears monthly.}

I was born on July 27 long enough ago to have a few fleeting memories of life in Piedmont Virginia during the Great Depression. Oddly, a cousin had been born on the same day two years earlier, my father's birthday was January 27 and his brother's March 27.

July has continued to mark my 10 decades with significant events.

My late newsman husband, Charles H. Stebbins and I became engaged on July 8, and two years later we would marry on July 14. The fact that the latter date is remembered in France as Bastille

Day, a significant national holiday, had no special meaning to us.

What was far more significant was the birth of our first child, a daughter, on July 4 five years after our Charlottesville, Virginia, wedding. We named her—not for the month—but we gave her an honored name in the Stebbins family.

Our daughter's great-aunt, also named Julia, had likewise been born on July 4 and had lived into her "Nineties. I call such occurrences "Divine Coincidences."

Our Julia would have a brother, Frank Stringfellow Stebbins –named for his maternal great-grandfather. He would have a July 6 birthday two years and two days after his sister's.

Looking at my friends and relatives and generally using first names only for privacy, I learn of retired math teacher Elsie on July 2. She's closely followed on July 7 by the retired Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, A. Heath Light. He and I share the same birth month. The Bishop, like me, is a native Virginian who was born exactly three weeks before me. I try

See Stebbins page 5

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS

- Sr. enlisted Army member
- Payroll firm
- Monetary unit of Macao
- Cooking vessel
- Cow sound
- Hairpiece
- Spoon-shaped surgical instrument
- Mother
- Remove from record
- Foolish
- Mailman
- Unit of data size
- Stirred
- Deceptive movement
- We all have one
- Direct from pasture beef animal
- A person's own self
- Helps little firms
- Deep, red-brown sea beam

CLUES DOWN

- Small stem bearing leaves
- Female Bacchanalians
- Mediterranean city
- Measures electric current
- Arrived extinct
- Edible butterflyfish
- Causing wonder or astonishment
- Behaviors showing high moral standards
- Ancient Irish alphabets
- Footballer Newton
- Utilize
- Sum of absolute errors
- Opposite of the beginning
- Shoe company
- Algerian port city
- Girls organization (abbr.)
- Type of cell (abbr.)
- Swiss river
- When you hope to get there

CLUES DOWN

- Fall behind
- Expresses distaste, disapproval
- Volume containing several novels
- Less sharp
- Food for the poor
- Having made a valid will
- Royal estates
- Relating to wings
- Japanese three-stringed lute
- Taking something through force
- Angry
- Before the present
- Showy ornaments
- Norway
- Comedienne Gastereyer
- Consume
- Founder of Babism

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Fair Officials from page 1

Strong promotional efforts from area media outlets helped spread the word that the Salem Fair is also about giving back to the community. More than 2,500 pairs of socks were donated at the gate for the Roanoke Rescue Mission and Mrs. Dorsey's Clothes Closet, and a record 4,723 pounds of food was collected for the Salem-Roanoke County Food Pantry. That is a 1000-pound increase over 2022's collection efforts.

In addition, NW Ace Hardware Stores will honor a yet to be named nonprofit with a donation based off the advance sales of the Megapass unlimited ride tickets which were stronger than ever, especially with the online purchasing option.

The Blue-Ribbon exhibit section was back in the Salem Civic Center's arena for the second straight year. Exhibitors entered 1,236 items in a variety of competitive categories, ranging from woodworking

to quilting.

Overall, fair officials said they are extremely pleased with attendance and the projected ride and concessions revenue generated over the 12 nights of the fair. The fair closed an hour earlier at 10 p.m. this year and Salem Police leaders say they did not experience any major incidents on the fairgrounds.

The 2024 Salem Fair is set for July 3-14.

-The Salem Times-Register

RECIPE OF THE WEEK



Shelly Koon
Contributing Writer

Have you ever been watching a movie or TV show and suddenly wanted to eat a certain food? When a character from a movie or TV show boasts about the food they are eating, I get curious about what it actually tastes like. Shows involving the best-looking food can make you start Googling recipes. While watching K-dramas and anime I crave ramen. Any viewing of "The Godfather" makes me want a big Italian meal. Watching the series "Friends" makes me want a Thanksgiving Leftover sandwich. The dinner party scene in "Chocolat" is amazing and Johnny Depp is a plus. The steak and eggs scene in "Twister" is a must for the list. Remy in "Ratatouille" makes eating

cheese with a strawberry look so good. I am sure you can name a movie or TV scene that makes you hungry. Many of us developed the habit of eating in front of the TV at a young age. The pandemic lockdown did not help that habit. Comfort food and comfort shows go hand in hand. Whether it's a new movie to you or an old favorite, try a movie food to enhance your viewing pleasure.

Easy Ratatouille

- 1 cup crushed tomatoes
- 1 Tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- ¼ teaspoon apple cider vinegar
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 Tablespoon fresh basil, about 3-4 large leaves sliced
- 1 teaspoon herbs de Provence spice mix
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon chili powder
- 1 medium sweet or red onion sliced
- 1-2 large zucchini, (about 1 ½ cups sliced)
- 1 large Japanese eggplant, (about 3 cups sliced)
- 3 large fresh tomatoes (Roma is best; about 3 cups sliced)

sliced)

Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly grease a 6"x9" baking dish and set aside. (you can use an 8'x8' square pan, baking time is the same)

In a medium mixing bowl, combine the crushed tomatoes, oil, and vinegar. Stir in the garlic, basil, herbs de Provence, salt, pepper, and chili powder. Pour the tomato mixture into the prepared baking dish and smooth it into an even layer on the bottom of the pan. Stack the veggie slices in alternating patterns (e.g. onion, zucchini, eggplant, tomato; repeat) and place them on their side in the pan, leaning against the edge of the pan. Repeat until you've formed a couple of rows of vegetables, filled the pan, and used up all of veggie slices. Bake for about an hour, until the tomato sauce at the bottom is bubbling and the vegetables are tender.

If you don't have herb de Provence you can use a mix of oregano, rosemary, and thyme. The vegetables should all be about the same size and thickness so they cook evenly. You can add yellow squash, or bell pepper slices also.

Bridge repairs in work zone near Salem

Bridge repairs in the work zone on northbound Interstate 81 in Roanoke County near Salem are expected to create significant delays for drivers. The work is weather dependent. Motorists should pay attention to message boards, expect delays and consider alternate routes.

Tentatively scheduled to start on Sunday, July 16 at 6 p.m., a right lane closure will be in place on northbound I-81 at mile marker 137 for major repairs to the bridge over Route 635 (Goodwin Avenue) and the bridge over Route 619 (Academy Street).

The lane will remain closed around the clock and

is expected to reopen prior to the afternoon commute on Tuesday, July 18. Drivers between Christiansburg and Roanoke will be significantly impacted during this closure, particularly during peak travel times. Heavy traffic is expected on Route 11/460 and on Main Street in Salem.

The damaged bridges are located within the work zone for the I-81 widening project between exits 137 and 141. Both bridges have been struck by tractor-trailers. The repairs involve removing damaged concrete, replacing reinforcing steel and pouring new concrete. Flaggers may periodically control traffic on

Goodwin Avenue and Academy Street beneath the bridges during the repairs.

Alternate routes

Drivers between Christiansburg and Roanoke can consider using Route 11/460 as an alternate route during the lane closure.

Travelers on northbound I-81 at Wytheville who are headed to destinations north of Roanoke can consider rerouting to use Interstate 77 north to Interstate 64 east.

To get updates on the lane closure, visit www.511Virginia.org.

-The Salem Times-Register

Sixth District from page 4

President Biden abused his executive power to put hardworking Americans on the hook to pay for other's heavy college debt. That's unconstitutional, which is why the Supreme Court delivered a big win for taxpayers last week by invalidating this student loan giveaway scam.

Demanding Accountability for Federal Spending

It's no secret that bad actors stole hundreds of billions of dollars in unemployment insurance payments during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to a recent report, the federal government potentially lost nearly \$200 billion to COVID relief fraud at the expense of American taxpayers.

That's unacceptable, and is why House Republicans passed legislation earlier this year that would recover fraudulent payments and improve program integrity to prevent future

fraud. We will continue working to ensure accountability in all levels of federal spending, and bring those who defrauded the American people to justice.

Honoring the One-Year Anniversary of the Dobbs Decision

On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court made Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision, which overturned Roe vs. Wade and ruled that the Constitution does not grant the right to abortion and returned to states the ability to decide their own laws regarding life. Since then, roughly 26 states have scored major pro-life wins that have defended unborn babies and their mothers from the lifelong harm of abortion.

In honor of the one-year anniversary of this historic victory last week, we celebrate that we get to say we live in a post-Roe America, but there is still

much more work to be done to ensure mothers and children are protected from the Left's radical abortion extremism. Rest assured, House Republicans will not stop fighting to defend the life of each and every unborn child, uphold the sanctity of life, and provide the care and support mothers deserve.

Celebrating 75 Years of the Roanoke Rescue Mission

For 75 years, the Roanoke Rescue Mission has cared for the homeless in our community. In 1948, Gus and Lois Johnson arrived from Chicago to open the Rescue Mission, providing shelter and meals to men in downtown Roanoke. Over a decade later, the Rescue Mission extensively expanded its operations to help more people in need. Today, the organization provides shelter for men, women, and children, and offers services to help people struggling with addiction; medical, behavioral

and eye care; and a program to improve job skills. I was glad to visit the Roanoke Rescue Mission at their 75th anniversary's open house event, and wish the organization another 75 years of success.

Recognizing PTSD Awareness Day

Those who served often experience scenes and situations that civilians could not even begin to imagine. These experiences can often lead to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other emotional and mental struggles. PTSD Awareness Day, which we recognized last week, is a reminder to address Veterans and all those who are affected by PTSD and help them to fully enjoy the blessings our Nation offers.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Congressman. If my office can ever be of assistance, please contact my Washington office at (202) 225-5431.

Stebbins from page 4

to greet him annually and can report he remains in good health and hope.

The birthdays multiply in the last two weeks of July. Nancy H. Wheeler, who served for many years as an Episcopal lay minister to elderly and shut-in members at several parishes and brought a monthly service to nearby nursing homes celebrates on July 21.

Retired physician Jacob, who enjoys singing, observes on July 24. The following day, July 25, is special for church musician Rose Ann; it was also the birthday of my cousin and godmother, Alice Lee.

In my mother's family I had my Aunt Ella whom in childhood I would visit each summer at her Tazewell home; she was born on July 31.

On my father's side, my amiable and child-loving uncle Martie celebrated on July 24.

For those who follow the symbolism of Astrology, folk born in July will fall under the sign of Cancer, the Crab, or Leo, the Lion. My children, Julia and Frank, fall under the Cancer sign which has no connection to the disease. My sign, and for those whose birthdays

come on and after July 23 is that of Leo the Lion. We are said to be strong-minded and capable of ambition that points to leadership. I'll buy that...

Whatever your birth month, by the time you've attained my age you are supposed to be Wise.

In some societies, an elderly person is accorded special respect. Much has been said and written about preference in the workplace hiring being given to young adults.

Speaking further of Wisdom, I was given in childhood, as a family keepsake, a small, individual copy of the

Bible book of The Proverbs. It is part of what is known as "Wisdom Literature" and is placed late in Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament.)

The Bible Proverbs are sayings that are meant to direct a person to the right way of living. Many are still quoted as a kind of folklore which may or may not work as intended such as one which doubtless has caused sadness in a lot of parents: "Train up a child the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

A couple of examples from my little book: "He that oppreseth the poor, reproacheth his Maker, he that honoreth Him hath mercy on the poor.

"A violent man enticeth his neighbor and leadeth him to a way that is not good."

{Aren't you glad, for the revised versions of Scripture that have become familiar since this little guide was issued in 1896?}

I was given the little book when about nine by a friend of my mother. It bears an inscription in my paternal grandfather's hand. My grandfather, then the Rev. Frank Stringfellow, had given it to his friend, Captain John Taliaferro, when both were serving in the brief Spanish-American War of 1898.

Both my grandfather, and presumably his friend, were Confederate veterans of the Civil War.

Wisdom endures over centuries of birthdays.

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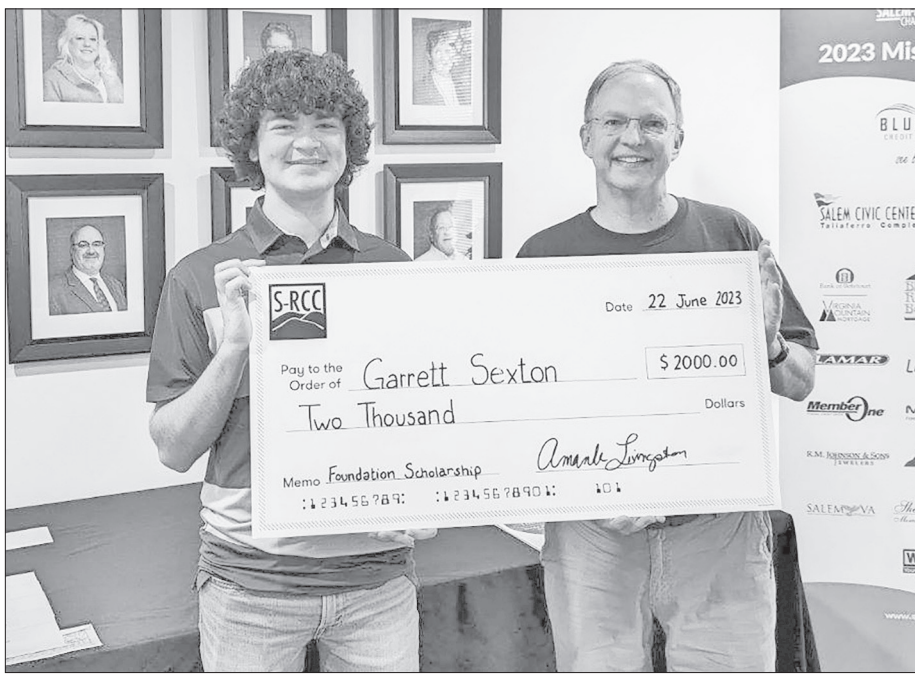
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JULY 15TH 6:05PM
MARGARITAVILLE NIGHT - GATES OPEN AT 5:00PM

JULY 16TH 3:05PM
GAME 6 - GATES OPEN AT 2:00PM



Salem-Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce Foundation awards scholarships to two local students



Sexton

The Salem-Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce Foundation recently announced that it has awarded two scholarships of \$2,000 each to Garrett Sexton and Noah Herald, two students from Salem and Roanoke County.

The Roanoke County Public Schools winner, Garrett Sexton, graduated this year from William Byrd High School. Sexton plans to attend Virginia Tech in the fall and major in engineering.

The Salem City Public Schools winner, Noah Herald, graduated Salem High School.



Herald

The scholarships are funded by the Salem-Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce Foundation, a nonprofit organization that supports economic development and quality of life in the region. The foundation awards scholarships annually to students who have shown academic achievement, community involvement and financial need.

"We are proud to recognize Garrett and Noah for their accomplishments and potential," said Amanda Livingston, executive director of the Salem-Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce. "They are both

deserving students who have contributed to their schools and communities. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors."

The foundation presented the scholarships at a ceremony on June 22 at 4 p.m. at the Salem-Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce in Longwood Park located at 611 East Main Street in Salem.

For more information about the foundation and its scholarship program, please visit www.s-rccchamber.org.

-The Salem Times-Register

COURTESY PHOTOS

Nursing Program from page 6

Marilyn Herbert-Ashton is dean of nursing in addition to her role as vice president of institutional advancement for Virginia Western. "The nursing faculty took a deep dive in reviewing testing policy, transfer policy, curriculum revisions and the one area that they really tweaked, with concept-based curriculum, was really leaning into pharmacology," she said. "Pharmacology requires an understanding of how the drug works, its effects and how the body utilizes the drug. Nurses must be able to evaluate a patient's condition before administering medications and the patient's response after receiving the medication."

This attention to minute detail reaped results in the April to September 2022 testing period. In almost all content areas, especially Pharmacological and Parenteral Therapies, Virginia Western students taking the NCLEX from April to September 2022 placed in a higher national percentile rank than students taking the test from the same period in 2021.

Previously, students received NCLEX prep materials, but the decision to use them was up to each person. "I created the coaching role after 2021, because so few people completed the NCLEX prep," Hayward said. Creating a student-faculty partnership that would endure after a student graduated became a multi-layered, intense effort.

"We want to walk hand in hand with students - we can't do their work, they can't do ours, but there's a synergy between those two roles for both sides to be successful," said Hayward.

All nursing faculty were engaged in five different areas of the curriculum that had shown student weaknesses, and four also took on coaching roles: Joe Nguyen, Darla Summers, Kathy Smith and Hilda Taylor.

"We started implementing a lot of standardized testing as we went along to identify areas that they were weak in," Taylor said. "But it really didn't come to fruition until last summer, when Lauren found funds to support the faculty working over the summer to coach specific students."

Coaching starts in the students' fourth semester. Faculty members gave a lot of credit to Summers, who created an NCLEX test prep binder for students that included dates for preparatory testing they needed to complete. "We use



COURTESY PHOTO

The 2022 cohort of Virginia Western's Nursing Program is honored during the Pinning Ceremony on May 13, 2022, at the Berglund Center. The 2022 graduates were the first to undertake a coaching program to prepare for the NCLEX-RN exam, a requirement to become a Registered Nurse.

Kaplan resources, so over their two-year enrollment in the program, they take between 10,000 and 15,000 NCLEX-style questions," said Hayward.

Smith tracks data for how the cohort is succeeding in the progressive Kaplan testing program. "Before, I'd call someone up and say, 'Have you done this?' and they'd say, 'No, I'm too busy with work, no,' but now, they've got target dates - they've got goals. It's a very intense plan, and there's something to do every week," Smith said.

Familiarity with the testing style has an impact. "What I try to tell the students is that anxiety comes from feeling unprepared, a lot of times, when it comes to high-stakes testing. And when you feel more prepared, naturally you have less anxiety," Nguyen said.

Kara Gerenser, an RN and member of the 2022 Nursing Program cohort, agreed that this approach made a difference. "Graduation came with a lot of conflicting feelings. It was an

enormous relief to be done with school but then we had to face the daunting task of prepping for the NCLEX."

The preparation integrated in the program paid off. "I thought I would feel more nervous, but I believe our faculty really prepared us long before graduation. Mrs. Smith pushed our Kaplan resources from the first day of nursing school, and I think that helped me prepare the most. Each practice test I took or prep video I watched made me more and more confident that I had everything I needed to be successful," Gerenser said.

Summers said she tells her students, "I know this feels like torture, but it will be worth it in the end." We do have their best interests at heart - it's not just busy work."

Each student is assigned a faculty coach and is part of a group that keeps in touch before and after graduation with the Remind app. "The app we used was helpful because it was an easy way to stay connected and we got a notification every time someone in our group passed," Gerenser said. "I think that gave us the confidence boost we needed as we got closer and closer to our individual test dates."

As students progress through the NCLEX prep plan, coaches determine when they have a "green light" to schedule their exam.

"To me it says a lot that you have faculty that are willing to work with students that's not a mandatory course, side by side over the summer," Summers said, noting that it's an investment made by both parties. "Students are thankful for that, because we genuinely care about them."

Now, a year later, Gerenser is an RN in the operating room at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. "I honestly wouldn't be where I am today without every single one of the faculty members of the nursing program or the people in my cohort," she said. "Starting nursing school in the middle of a pandemic was extremely difficult and stressful and a little bit crazy. But we weathered the storm together and came out stronger because of it. It's amazing to see these people living their dreams as nurses, and I am endlessly thankful that I got to go on this journey with them."

-The Salem Times-Register

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Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, Case No. JJ019985-03-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Baby Girl Doe v. Unknown Father

The object of this suit is to: Terminate the residual parental rights of Unknown Father, legal parent of Baby Girl Doe, a minor, in that said parent has, without good cause, failed to correct the conditions which resulted in the child entering foster care and it is not reasonable likely that they will be able to do so in a reasonable amount of time, failed to maintain continuing

Legals - Montgomery County

contact with the child and substantially plan for the child's future. Residual parental rights include, but are not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition. It is ORDERED that the t Unknown Father appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before AUGUST 21, 2023. JUNE 29, 2023 Amie Blankenship, CLERK

Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE OF HEARING ON SEIZURE PETITION

Case No. GC23007715-00 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

that the Montgomery County Animal Control found a Black Angus Cow with a yellow ear tag on the right ear with #41 on the tag, in the I-81 right-of-way at mile marker 127.4 in the Pedlar Road area in the Ellston Community, Montgomery County, Virginia and a

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Seizure Petition has been filed by the County of Montgomery, Virginia pursuant to Section 3.2-6569 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended. The Seizure Petition shall be heard by the General District Court of the County of Montgomery, Virginia sitting in Christiansburg, Virginia on the 18th day of July, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard.

Legals - Montgomery County

ABC NOTICE

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The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Retail Restaurant or Caterer Application-Restaurant, Wine, Beer, Mixed Beverages, Consumed ON AND OFF Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

ANUP GAUTAM, OWNER

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from

Legals - Montgomery County

the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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RAYBA CHAMPS

The 8-and-Under Glenvar All-Stars, coached by Matt McGuire and assistants, won the Roanoke Area Youth Baseball Association (RAYBA) tournament the last week of June at Green Hill Park in Roanoke County. Glenvar had two teams in the tournament, Vinton had two and Franklin County had one. McGuire's team opened with a 10-8 win over Vinton Orange, followed by a 16-2 win over Franklin County. Glenvar then beat Vinton Maroon, 14-7, and won their final game with Franklin, 16-4, to win the championship. Pictured above, bottom row left to right, are Tate McGuire, Colby DeHart, Thomas Paarlberg, Cannon DeHart (bat boy/mascot), Kayden Guthrie and Luke Marks. Middle row (L-R) Langston Jewell, Jaydan Hamilton, Gabriel Sturdivant, Jackson Perkins and Tristan Weikle. Back Row (L-R) Coaches: Matt McGuire, Brandon Sturdivant, Chris Jewell and Hunter DeHart.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



Gators are at Read Mtn. next week

The Stonegate Swim Club remained unbeaten in RVAA Monday Night meets with a win over Spring Run Monday. The Gators will wrap up the Monday meets next week when they travel to Botetourt County to take on a strong Read Mountain team. Above, Angela Honaker swims for Stonegate and, below, Emma Muterspaugh dives in.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



BRIAN HOFFMAN COLUMN
continued from page 12

having a color TV was a big deal. I can still remember people saying, "you have to see Bonanza in color!!"

Well, I had to see the all-star game in color. My aunt lived about a half hour walk away, or 10 minutes by bicycle, and back then parents weren't worried about their kids getting kidnapped or shot. The all-star game was always in the daytime in the '60s and I would forego an afternoon at the local pool to watch the game in color at Aunt Alice's house.

I can still remember it all these years later, how the teams were introduced and lined up on first and third base and you could see all the different uniforms in living color. It doesn't sound like a big deal now but for a 10 year old kid it was exciting. . .even better than Bonanza!!

The all-star game was a little more exciting back then, because the two leagues never played each other except in the World Series. There was a lot of pride in which league was better, and about the time I was growing up the National League dominated, mostly due to the fact that National League teams were quicker to embrace African American and Latins players. On one side you had Whitey Ford pitching to Willie Mays, Hank Aaron or Roberto Clemente and on the other side you had Bob Gibson or Juan Marichal pitching to Mickey Mantle. Both leagues had some great players but the National had, by far, the better minority players. I didn't think about that at the time but looking back it was quite obvious.

I had almost forgotten how far we'd come watching

sports on TV until COVID hit and the sports channels were searching for things to put on the air. To fill air time the MLB channel ran a broadcast of the 1960 World Series game seven between the Pittsburgh Pirates and the New York Yankees, just as it was at the time. It was the first World Series I remember watching, and I specifically recall rushing home from school and seeing Bill Mazeroski hit the walk-off home run that won the series. All the World Series games were also in the daytime back then, and school interfered with the weekday games.

It was fun to watch Game 7 of that series again and see how things have changed. There was no replay at the time, and I found myself instinctively waiting for a home run or a good catch to be replayed, but to no avail. The game was in black & white and not all that sharp, and graphics were elementary. When a batter came up his name was briefly on the screen, in a font that looked like it was done on a typewriter. No stats, no pitch speed, no little box with the outs, pitch count and infield diagram showing who was on base. It was just a black & white ballgame shown from two camera angles with two guys talking, but it was all I knew at the time and I loved it.

As I mentioned, the game was shown just as it was in 1960 and the commercials were much different as well. Most of them appealed to men, as you might expect, with beer, cigarettes and shaving cream being the prime sponsors. And there was nothing fancy, just 60 seconds of why their product was better than the other guy. Now, you can watch two or three minutes of commercials and when they're done you might not even know what they were advertising.

That's the kind of stuff I think of every year when

the all-star game comes on, good times watching Uncle Bob and Aunt Alice's TV and loving baseball in living color. Back then I didn't think it could get any better than that.

AND ANOTHER THING

This isn't sports but it's something that gets under my craw, and it's summertime without a lot of sports going on so here's a rant for you.

What's the deal with all the spaces for "Pickup" or whatever they call it, at the Salem Wal-Mart? I used to park on the side of the building toward Walgreens but now they have 24 spaces for the people who call ahead or order on line, then sit in their car while someone brings their stuff out. Most of the time you'll see one or two cars parked there and 22 or so empty spaces that could be used by customers who actually go in the store.

Here's my beef. The people using this service don't leave their cars, so why do they need the prime parking spaces? With 24 spaces taken up in the prime spot of the parking lot the folks who go into the store have to walk that much farther to shop. The only ones benefiting from having the "Pickup" spots are the Wal-Mart employees who are bringing the stuff to the cars, and they're getting paid. Does that make sense to you?

It seems to me the people who sit in their cars to shop can sit anywhere in the parking lot, they don't need the prime spaces. Leave them for the customers who are walking into the store.

And don't get me started on the 24 checkout registers with only two manned by actual human beings.

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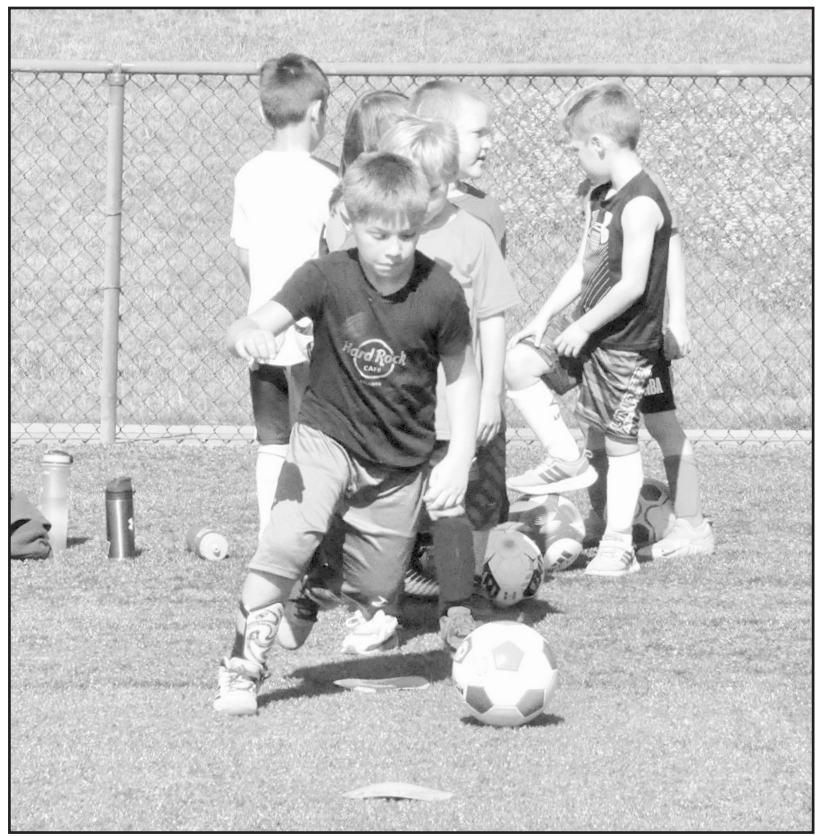
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RECREATION SOCCER CAMP IS LARGEST EVER

The recent Salem Department of Parks and Recreation soccer camp was the largest ever with an average of 86 boys and 56 girls per day. Salem coach David Atkins and girls' coach Kayla Wood conducted the camp along with assistants, players and friends. Above, the campers cover over 20 yards of Spartan Field for a group picture. Below, girls practice shooting on goal and, right, boys learn the art of dribbling.

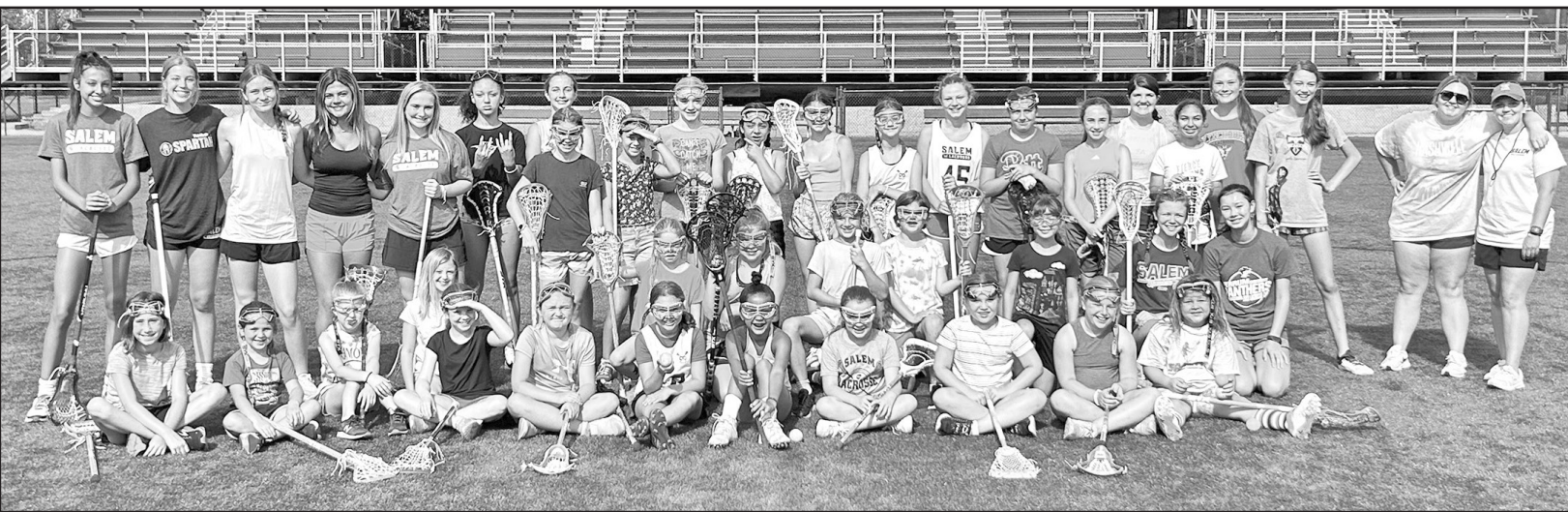
PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



CHEER CAMP

These girls participated in the recent Cheer Camp at West Salem Elementary School, conducted by the Salem Department of Parks & Recreation along with SHS coach Trina Bateman and her staff and cheerleaders.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Girls' lax camp

Retiring Salem High girls' lacrosse coach Maggi Pace was on the turf for one last time last week when she conducted the annual recreation department camp for girls' at Spartan Field.

PHOTO BY AJ BLANKENSHIP

Roanoke women named to All-State lacrosse team, Blair is 1st team Academic A-A

A trio of Roanoke women's lacrosse players have been honored for their play on the field this past spring by being named All-State by Virginia Sports Information Directors (VaSID). Lilly Blair, Natalie Mason, and Addison Schmidt were all Second Team All-State honorees after a season in which the Maroons advanced to the Second Round of the NCAA Tournament.

Blair finished sixth in the ODAC in points with 75 with 47 goals and 28 assists. She also tallied 67 draw-control wins and 25 ground balls.

Schmidt was named ODAC Defensive Player of the Week just one week later on April 24 and finished second in the ODAC in caused turnovers with 38.

Mason was the ODAC Defensive Player of the Week on April 17 while



LILLY BLAIR

finishing third in the league with 36 caused turnovers.

In addition, for the second straight season Blair has been named a First Team Academic All-American by College Sport Communicators (CSC, formerly CoSIDA) as a member of the At-Large Team.

Blair maintained a 4.0 GPA while triple majoring in mathematics, economics, and actuarial science. She was also named both the ODAC/Va Farm Bureau Scholar-Athlete of the Year and First Team All-ODAC.

Kammerman is VaSID All-State in lacrosse

The awards keep rolling in for the Roanoke men's lacrosse team with a pair of Maroons earning Virginia Sports Information Directors (VaSID) All-State Men's Lacrosse honors. Luke Kammerman was honored with a spot on the First Team All-State squad with teammate Weston Hammond earning not only a position on the Second Team All-State but also being named the VaSID Rookie of the Year.

Kammerman, an All-American

from both USILA and IMLCA, played in all 19 games for the Maroons this season scoring 46 goals and 45 assists. Six of his goals were on man-up opportunities. He also collected 33 ground balls and forced seven caused turnovers. His goals and assists both rank third in the ODAC this season while his 91 points are second-best in the conference. He also took 143 shots, good for second in the league as well.

Hammond was a force on the

defensive side of the field this season. Playing in all 19 games, he forced 32 caused turnovers, the second most in the ODAC this season. He also scooped up 60 ground balls, good for 15th in the ODAC. He was also able to sneak in one goal and a pair of assists.

Kammerman was the ODAC Player of the Year and Hammond was the ODAC Rookie of the Year this spring, in addition to First Team honors on the All-ODAC team.

Fowler, 4x100 relay on all-state team

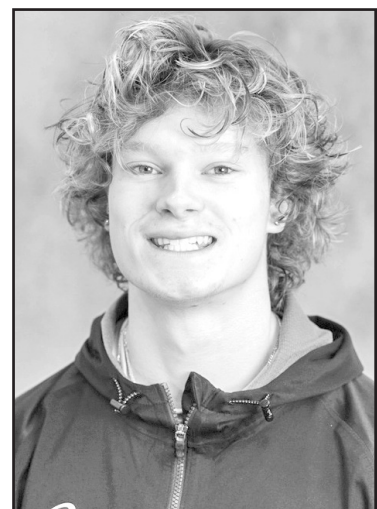
The VaSID all-state track and field teams were announced last week and Roanoke College had several athletes honored.

After reaching the NCAA Indoor Championship and again at the NCAA Outdoor Championship, RC track and field team member Brady Fowler and the Maroons' 4x100m Relay team have been named to the VaSID Men's College Division Track & Field All-State Team. Fowler, who qualified for the NCAA Outdoor Championship this season in both the 100m and 200m, was a First Team All-State selection in the Sprints categories and he teamed up with Samuel Crawford, Joseph Eldridge, and

Aidan Spradlin to earn Second Team All-State in the 4x100.

Including both indoor and outdoor seasons, Fowler broke several school records and rebroke his own, including the new 100m outdoor record in 10.50 seconds. The relay team won the ODAC title with a time of 41.22.

For the women, Mikayla Hefferson was named to the VaSID All-State First Team after her performance at the 2023 ODAC Championship. Hefferson won the 400m with a time of 57.47 to help the Maroons to a third place finish at the ODAC Outdoor Championship. This helped her be named First Team All-ODAC.



BRADY FOWLER

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Wells is new Salem High softball coach

The Salem High softball team has a new leader as former assistant Jeremy Wells has moved up a spot on the Spartan coaching ladder. The Salem School Board formally approved the appointment of Wells to replace John Counts, who retired after leading the Spartans for seven seasons.

"I'm honored and excited to be given the opportunity to work with the student-athletes at Salem High School," said Wells. "Salem has a rich athletic tradition and I'm excited to continue and build upon that for the future."

Wells is no stranger to the Salem program. He has served as an assistant softball coach at Andrew Lewis Middle School and for the Salem jayvee and varsity programs. In addition, he coached the Star Elite travel softball team in the Roanoke Valley for three years and the Hanover Hornets, a well-known travel team out of Richmond, for the past three years.

"I'm fortunate to have been around the players

in our program, not only due to helping with the Andrew Lewis Middle School team and the jayvee and varsity teams, but also on our travel teams previously. It's been exciting to watch them grow through the years."

He's coached almost all the girls on the rising Salem team.

"It's a tremendous help to be familiar with the program, to be familiar with the young ladies who have already been playing, and to know what we need to work on in the offseason," said Wells. "I was fortunate the last few years that John Counts allowed me to be a part of it."

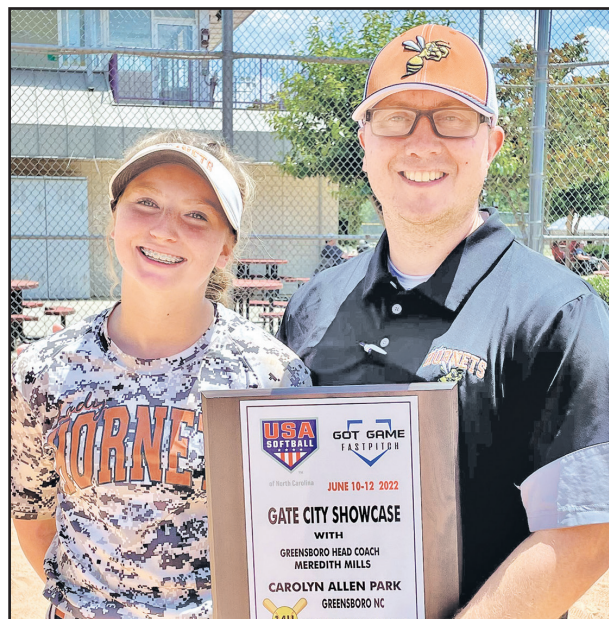
Wells is a Martinsville native who knows all about performing at a high level. He grew up learning the art of coaching players and molding young people from his father, Troy Wells. The elder Wells won eight state championships with the Martinsville Bulldogs basketball program, five as an assistant and three as the head coach. He also coached the Hidden Valley boys' team after leaving Martinsville.

After playing for his dad and graduating from Martinsville High School, Wells graduated from Lynchburg College with a degree in sports management. He has worked in a variety of sports marketing positions, including stints with the Richmond Braves and Virginia Tech Athletics. For seven years, he was an assistant athletic director for marketing and promotions with the Hokies, and his brother Travis is currently the Assistant Athletic Director for Strategic Communications at Tech, a position he accepted last summer after serving as the Sports Director for WDBJ-7 TV. Jeremy is currently a marketing consultant with Carilion Clinic.

Wells is hoping the girls will be playing at a totally rebuilt James I. Moyer Complex next spring. The girls played at the Salem Civic Center this year with the Moyer Complex under construction, and plans are for the rebuilt facility to be completed sometime in February of 2024.

"The opportunity to be a high school coach at Salem is a privilege because the City of Salem is committed to providing the resources needed to give athletes a chance to be successful," Wells said. "The Moyer Sports Complex renovation is a great reminder that our softball program is fortunate to have such a high-level facility for its home games."

"I cannot wait to get our players back on the field and working together to get better each day.



Jeremy Wells will inherit a good catcher in daughter Caitlin, who played for him on the Hanover Hornets travel team.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Our goal will be to prepare young ladies for strong competition on the softball field, while creating life habits to last them a lifetime."

The Spartans are coming off a 5-15 2023 season but the record doesn't tell the whole story. They had a young team to begin with, then lost one of their best pitchers' for the season when sophomore Cora Robinson went down with an injury. Shortly into the season another standout sophomore, Jeremy's daughter Caitlin, suffered a shoulder injury and was lost for the season, leaving the Salemites without an experienced catcher.

Salem had just two seniors on the team last year, and one of them quit during the season. Salem started the season with eight sophomores on the varsity roster and Counts was forced to bring up several jayvee players during the year.

"Our team has potential and talent, and there is talent at the younger ages, too," said Wells. "I'm excited to work with all of them. It's just a matter of getting on the field and working hard to improve this offseason. We can't show up on day one of practice and expect to compete if we don't put the work in first. I know our players will work hard at it once we're able to get started."

Wells and his wife, Kellie, who is a Salem High graduate, reside in Salem with their two children who are both students in the Salem School Division.



Jeremy Wells is the new head softball coach at Salem High School.

CITY OF SALEM PHOTO

FAIR LEAVES, SOX RETURN

Red Sox will host Delmarva in three game series this week

The Salem Red Sox will be at home this Friday for the first time in 19 days when they open a three game series with the Delmarva Shorebirds. The 'birds are a farm team of the Baltimore Orioles.

The Sox were on the road 12 games while the Salem Fair was in town. Combine that with two off days and the four day break for the Major League Baseball all-star game and it's been since June 25th that the Sox have played a home game.

Salem comes home with a 7-7 record to start the second half of the Carolina League split season. Last week the Sox went 3-2 in Lynchburg with Sunday's game being rained out. That will be made up as part of a doubleheader when the Hillcats come here on July 26.

The Sox opened

last week's series in Lynchburg with a 4-2 win on the 4th of July. Albert Feliz was three-for-four with a double, a run scored and one batted in. Railin Perez pitched five shutout innings to pick up the win.

Salem lost the next game, 4-3, but won on Thursday, 10-7. Feliz was four-for-five in this one with a triple and a home run out of the ninth position in the order. He scored three runs and drove in three as he raised his season batting average to .262. Nathanael Cruz picked up his first win on the mound with three innings of relief.

Salem lost Friday night's game, 2-1, but bounced back to win the series with an 11-1 win on Saturday. Luis Peralas continued a hot streak on the mound with five innings of one-hit ball to pick up his fourth win and lower his ERA to



Left, Allan Castro runs down a fly ball in deep centerfield. Right, Albert Feliz was a hot hitter for the Sox in Lynchburg last week.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN & JOHN WACHER

3.21. Marques Johnson and Caleb Bolden pitched two innings each to close out the win.

Offensively, the Sox jumped all over the Hillcats with four runs in the first inning, three in the second and one more in the third for an 8-0 lead. Recently called up catcher Brooks Brannon was two-for-five with a

two-run homer and the Sox had 11 hits and drew nine walks for the game.

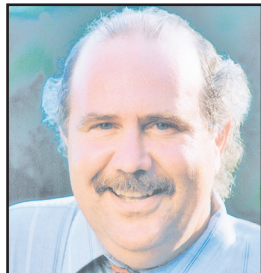
That win evened Salem's second half record and put them at 37-40 for the season. The Sox come into Friday's game a game and a half behind first place Down East in the second half of the CL's Northern Division standings.

This week's homestand is a short one, as Salem goes back on the road next week for six games at Down East, beginning Tuesday. When the Sox return July 25 to host Lynchburg they will have played just three home games over a span of 29 days. At that point they'll finish up the season with 13

of their last 16 games at home.

Friday night will be "Faith and Family Night" at 7:05 pm at Salem Memorial Ballpark and Saturday's 6:05 start is "Margaritaville Night" with a t-shirt giveaway. The short series wraps up with a 3:05 pm start on Sunday afternoon at Salem Memorial.

Brian Hoffman



COLORFUL GAME OF BASEBALL

It's all-star week for Major League Baseball and that always brings back some fond memories.

I started out as a child in southeast Pennsylvania, and it wasn't long before I became a baseball fan. I was seven years old, in fact, when my dad took me to my first game at old Connie Mack Stadium in Philadelphia on a bus sponsored by our church. From that point, I was hooked.

Growing up in an area served by Philadelphia television stations I was able to watch the Phillies

on TV, but it's not like it is now. Today I have the baseball package on DirecTV and, for about 30 dollars a month, I can watch any game on the MLB schedule. And, I can watch the games on a big screen, high definition TV that makes you feel like you're at the game. In fact, sometimes it's even better as there's no line for the bathroom, the refrigerator is filled with much cheaper food, I don't have to crawl over people to get to an aisle from my recliner and, if I record the first 45 minutes before watching the game, I can fast-forward between innings. You can't simulate the roar of the crowd, but then again I'm not paying \$25 for parking at my house.

It wasn't like that in the '60s when I was growing up. Our TV was black & white and about a third of the size I have now, and that was a good sized box at the time. As for the Phillies, they were our local team but all the games weren't televised. The Phils wanted you to come to the ballpark and buy tickets, which ranged anywhere from \$5.50 for box seats to fifty cent bleacher seats in the left field pavilion, so they didn't put the home games on TV. Every once in a while there was a Sunday afternoon home game televised,

but never during the week.

And, all the road games weren't on TV either. For some reason they seemed to carry all the games from Cincinnati and Chicago, but only selected games from other cities and never a late night game from Los Angeles or San Francisco. When the "UHF" boxes came about that increased the number of games I could watch, and doubled the number of stations available from three (ABC, NBC, CBS) to six. The UHF stations were big on reruns and sports, and stuff like wrestling and roller derby. I loved it.

At the time, I was quite happy to have what we had. The Phillies games were in black & white but I was just glad to be able to watch them. Never in a million years did I imagine there'd be a day when I could watch any game on the schedule in color on a high def TV with a screen as wide as a coffee table, or even wider.

And then there was the all-star game. My uncle Bob and Aunt Alice were the first people I knew who had a color TV, and the all-star game was in color. If you're my age or older you can remember when

continued on page 10