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# SALEM TIMES-REGISTER

Thursday, December 21, 2023 • (USPS 631-140) • \$1.00

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## Salem law enforcement officials emphasize playing, offering skill games is a criminal activity

**Aila Boyd**  
aboyle@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Salem Commonwealth's Attorney Tom Bowers and Chief of Police Mike Crawley released a statement this week regarding the enforcement of Skills Games inside the city limits. The statement noted that enforcement of the illegal gambling code sections related to "skill games" will begin on Jan. 1 in Salem.

In 2020, the Virginia General Assembly enacted laws declaring so called "skill games" to be illegal gambling devices. The laws, which were amended by the General Assembly in 2022, made possessing, operating or playing "skill games" a criminal

offense and provided both civil and criminal penalties for persons operating such devices.

During this time, a lawsuit was filed in Emporia Circuit Court challenging the Skill Games ban and the court entered an injunction prohibiting enforcement of the ban until a trial could be held. Because of this injunction, many jurisdictions allowed these illegal gambling devices to continue to operate.

On Oct. 13, 2023, the Virginia Supreme Court vacated the lower court's decision and lifted the injunction preventing enforcement of the relevant code sections.

Considering the Supreme Court's ruling and based upon the provisions of the Virginia Code that prohibit playing or offering play of "skill games,"



**Bowers** COURTESY PHOTO

the Salem Police Department in cooperation with the Salem Commonwealth's Attorney will resume  
See **Gambling**, page 3



**Preston is pictured during his final Salem City School Board meeting.**



**Preston is pictured with his wife, son and daughter-in-law.**

## Preston attends final Salem City School Board meeting as member

**Aila Boyd**  
aboyle@mainstreetnewspapers.com

David Preston attended his last Salem City School Board meeting earlier this month, on Dec. 12. He declined to seek reappointment. His current term started in January 2021 and ends December 2023.

He first thought about joining the board when Wayne Adkins, who was on it at the time, was considering leaving it. Adkins asked Preston if he had considered serving on the board, which he hadn't up until that time. "I went to a few meetings and one of the members ended up moving, so when it came

available, I put my name in," he remembers. "Surprisingly, I got on."

He joined the board in May 2008.

Getting acclimated to the board, Preston said, took some time. During his first couple of meetings, he learned the three main responsibilities of the board, including budgets, policies and hiring. "It's lots of other details and acronyms that take a long time to figure out," he said. Luckily, the board at the time had quite a few seasoned members who helped him out.

He joined at a time of difficulty for the division, given the fact

that the Great Recession was in full swing. "It was miserable," he remembers. "It was a time when money was tight. People left and weren't replaced. We had to figure out how to save money." Ensuring that the students didn't suffer guided the board's decisions at the time.

Budgeting, spreadsheets and long-term were all things Preston enjoyed being involved in.

During his time on the board, Preston served as both vice chair and chair.

Preston balanced his time on the board with his business enterprise,

See **Preston**, page 3

## Hollis wins \$25,000 in third Jeopardy appearance

**Meg Hibbert**  
Contributing writer

Roanoke College chemistry professor Gary Hollis won \$25,000 in his final appearance on "Jeopardy" Monday night.

It was the second time Dr. Hollis has matched wits with other trivia buffs. He was on Jeopardy two years ago in the first-ever Professors Tournament where he was one of 15 college professors. He was invited back in November this year to participate in the Champions Wild Card Tournament.

Hollis won in the match on Dec. 12, held his own on Dec. 15 and continued to this week.

On Friday, he missed the Final Jeopardy question about Teddy Roosevelt's favorite animal. The answer was Bull Moose, the name Roosevelt gave to his political party when running for president.

Roanoke College hosted a watch party each time for Hollis, who would not tell anyone – not even his son who lives with him – how he fared.

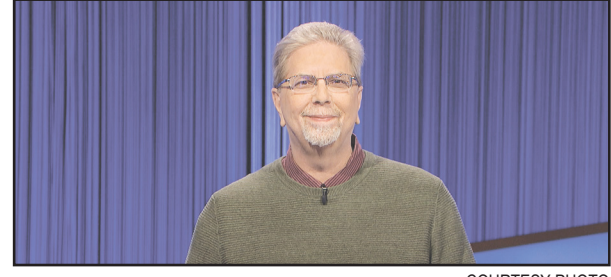
Questions that Hollis fielded ranged from musical instruments – the long Alpine horn featured in Ricola cough drop ads – to movies, flowers, scrambled letters to the term for removing salt from ocean water (desalinization).

Monday night the chess enthusiast shone in chess-related questions, and United States firsts. What got Hollis and the second-place contestant was the Final Jeopardy question, to name a national monument in New York City. It turned out to be the New York Stock Exchange in Christopher Park.

The winning contestant earned \$100,000, and the second-place winner, \$50,000.

Hollis was at a watch party after the match Monday night that aired on WDBJ-7 TV and could not be reached for comment on what he plans to do with his winnings.

Hollis is an inveterate trivia player, known around the Roanoke Valley in trivia competition circles and other



**Hollis** COURTESY PHOTO

games such as chess and Pokemon Go.

He said it was mid-September when he was asked if he wanted to come back.

"I said 'Of course I want to come back.'" He flew to Culver City, Calif., Nov. 5 for two days of competition with 107 other Jeopardy champions. "In the Championship Wild Card Tournament, there were four groups of 27 people. Then there are the quarter finals with three games in the semi-finals," Hollis explained.

"Four make it to the Tournament of Champions" he added. He was one of them.

When he was on Jeopardy in 2021 for the program's first-ever Jeopardy! Professors Tournament, he prevailed in his initial matchup against professors from Vanderbilt and Pennsylvania State universities in order to advance to the tournament's semifinals.

He has taught chemistry at Roanoke College for 28 years, teaching organic chemistry 1 and 2, corresponding labs and a senior capstone course basic education known as Inquiry.

Roanoke resident Hollis is originally from Bessemer City, N.C., and earned his undergraduate, graduate and Ph.D degrees from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

For the watch parties, his students, members of his College Lutheran Church, his Pokemon Go and golf buddies and others with whom he matches wits in Trivia were invited.

## Farlow named VP of marketing, communications at Roanoke College

Rita Farlow has been named Roanoke College's new vice president for marketing and communications, according to a statement from the college on Monday. Farlow will join the college's senior leadership team on March 1 and report to President Frank Shushok Jr.

Farlow, who is currently the associate vice president for marketing and strategic communications at St. Petersburg College, was selected for the position after a comprehensive national search, the college said. As leader of the marketing and communications team at Roanoke, and the senior brand ambassador for the college, Farlow will oversee a strategic marketing and communications plan and support a variety of essential functions to help advance Roanoke's goals, including those related to fundraising, enrollment management and growing the college's reputation.

"During the selection process, Rita's authentic and relational leadership acumen stood out," Shushok said. "She combines a people-first orientation with a command of cutting-edge technology, especially the application of digital platforms to strengthen enrollment and enhance our connection with stakeholders. I am so pleased to welcome Rita and her talent to our senior leadership team."

Farlow holds a B.A. in English from Virginia Tech and an M.A. in mass communications from the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg. Following a 14-year career as a journalist with the Tampa Bay Times, she entered the education field as a communications coordinator for Pinellas County Schools in Largo, Florida. In 2014, Farlow went to work for St. Petersburg College, a public school that serves more than 35,000 students across 11 campuses in West Central Florida. At St. Petersburg, she has served in multiple roles with increasing responsibility within marketing and strategic communications.

As a first-generation college student, Farlow said, she is driven to help students gain wider access to higher education. She looks forward to returning to Southwest Virginia and using her expertise to support the Roanoke College community and help elevate Roanoke's distinctiveness.

"It's clear to me that the faculty, staff and leadership at Roanoke College are committed to a collective vision of preparing students for fulfilling careers and meaningful lives," Farlow said. "I am deeply honored to join a collaborative team that is passionate about the institution. I look forward to working with college stakeholders to harness the power of Roanoke's story to further the College's mission, elevate its reputation and advance engagement."

-The Salem Times-Register



**Farlow** COURTESY PHOTO



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# Briefly: Salem News In Brief

**Festival of Lessons & Carols:** A Festival of Lessons & Carols with the St. Paul's Choir and harpist, Rachel O'Brien will be on Thursday, Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 42 E. Main Street, Salem - www.stpaulssalem.dioswva.org.

**Veterans Town Hall:** The Salem VAMC will host a Veterans Town Hall meeting Thursday, Dec. 21 at 11 a.m. in the Bldg. 5 Auditorium. Hospital leadership and representatives from the Veteran's Benefits Administration will be on hand to answer questions on a one-on-one basis. If you have a question you'd like addressed at the meeting, or if you won't be able to attend but would like to submit a question for response, please email your question to: vhasampublicaffairs@va.gov. Be sure to include your first/last name and an email address to receive a response to your question. Please do not include any personal, health information.

**Salem Stampede Championship Rodeo:** Southwest Virginia's favorite family-friendly event is back for the 56th year. The Salem Stampede Championship Rodeo bucks back into Salem Jan. 5-7 of 2024 with the same non-stop excitement fans have come to love for decades. Tickets are start at \$20 and go up to \$30. They can be purchased at the Salem Civic Center Box Office or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

**"Winterfest Beach Bash":** Salem's annual "Winterfest Beach Bash" is coming back in February of 2024 with the legendary "Band of Oz". The 2024 version of this entertaining indoor beach party will take place on Friday, Feb. 2, at 7 p.m. inside the Salem Civic Center arena. This is the 17th straight year that the Hall of Fame band has been selected to showcase its talents for this popular wintertime party. Tickets for the group's

appearance went on sale at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, at the Salem Parks & Recreation Department, 620 Florida Street. Admission is \$10 in advance and \$12 the day of the show or you can purchase a table of eight for just \$80. Cash, check or credit card will be accepted between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays from Dec. 12 – Feb. 2. This event is often a complete sell-out, so those who are interested are encouraged to get their tickets early. For additional ticket information, please contact the Salem Parks and Recreation Department at 540-375-3057.

**Riley Green & Tracy Lawrence:** Riley Green, the Academy of Country Music's new male artist of the year in 2020, is set to make his first appearance at the Salem Civic Center. Green will be joined by Tracy Lawrence and opening act Ella Langley when he hits the arena's historic stage on March 7, 2024. Tickets can be purchased at the Salem Civic Center Box Office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and online anytime at www.ticketmaster.com

**REO Speedwagon and Rick Springfield:** Classic rock and roll hitmakers REO Speedwagon and Rick Springfield are once again joining forces on the road in 2024 and bringing their tour to the Salem Civic Center on Tuesday, March 26. Tickets range in price from \$35 to \$169. Tickets can be purchased at the Salem Civic Center Box Office or online at ticketmaster.com.

**Rend Collective:** Rend Collective, the popular Contemporary Christian worship band from Northern Ireland, is coming to the Salem Civic Center on Sunday, April 7, 2024, for a night of uplifting and upbeat praise music. The band is an eclectic collection of multi-instrumentalist performers who have produced two No. 1 albums

on the Christian charts and produced a song of the year in "Counting Every Blessing." Tickets, which can be purchased at the Salem Civic Center Box Office or online at ticketmaster.com, start at \$28 and go up to \$48.

**Dustin Lynch:** "Kill the Cowboy" tour: Country musician Dustin Lynch will perform at the Salem Civic Center on Friday, April 12, 2024, as part of his "Killed the Cowboy" tour with special guest Skeez. Tickets start at \$35.50. Lynch first appeared in Salem in 2015 when he starred on the final day of the Blue Ridge Music Festival at Salem Stadium. He was just starting to crank out hit songs back then, but he now has eight No. 1 songs, four top-5 albums, 10 gold and platinum certified singles, and he has tallied over 5.4 billion cumulative global streams. His sixth studio album is "Killed The Cowboy."

**Public meetings:** The Salem City Council will meet on Monday, Jan. 8 at 6:30 p.m.

The Salem City Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 10 at 7 p.m.

The Salem City Council will meet on Monday, Jan. 22 at 6:30 p.m.

The Salem City Council will meet on Monday, Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m.

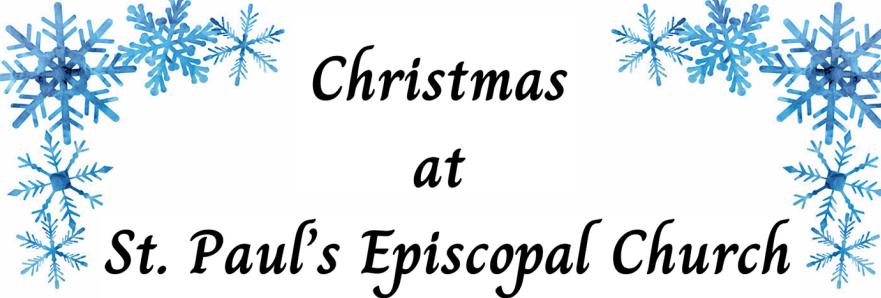
The Salem City Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 7 p.m.

The Salem City Council will meet on Monday, Feb. 26 at 6:30 p.m.

The Salem City Council will meet on Monday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m.

The Salem City Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, March 13 at 7 p.m.

The Salem City Council will meet on Monday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m.



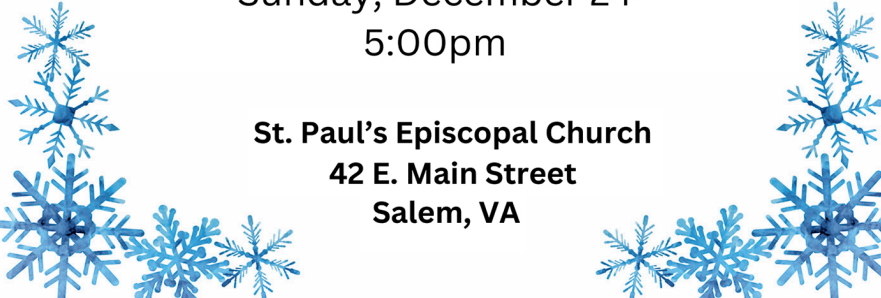
## Christmas at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

**A Festival in Lessons & Carols**  
Thursday, December 21  
7:00pm

**Christmas Pageant**  
Sunday, December 24  
10:00am


**Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist**  
Sunday, December 24  
5:00pm

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
42 E. Main Street  
Salem, VA



## POLICE REPORT

*City of Salem Police Department*




*Weekly Arrest Report*

*Week of December 5, 2023 – December 11, 2023*

Arrested On	Name	Age	Charges
12/05/2023	Michael E. Kiser	43	Petit Larceny
12/05/2023	Allan F. Pontillo	36	Public Intoxication
12/05/2023	Laura M. Brunk	42	Violation of Protective Order
12/06/2023	Donald A. Buzik Jr.	60	Embezzlement
12/06/2023	Nicholas B. Brittain	23	Simple Assault on Police Officer
12/06/2023	Amanda D. Gray	42	Credit Card Theft, Fraud-Illegal Use of Credit Card, Obtain Money/Goods By False Pretense
12/07/2023	Daneshia A. Thompson	32	Domestic Assault & Battery
12/07/2023	Charles E. Courts III	36	Public Intoxication
12/07/2023	Amanda D. Gray	42	Fraud-Illegal Use of Credit Card, Obtain Money/Goods By False Pretense
12/08/2023	Michelle P. Wright	53	Violation of Probation
12/08/2023	Kevin C. Johnson	39	Public Intoxication
12/09/2023	Clarence R. Musgrove	32	DUI
12/09/2023	Michael S. Murphy	47	Public Intoxication
12/09/2023	Patricia Morris	42	DUI
12/09/2023	Bhanuvrat Shandilya	35	Public Intoxication
12/10/2023	Casey N. Doyle	26	Criminal Trespass
12/11/2023	Terr L. Turner	54	Criminal Trespass

*City of Salem Police Department*



*Weekly Crime Report (Felony Cases)*

*Week of December 5, 2023 – December 11, 2023*

DATE REPORTED	LOCATION	OFFENSE REPORTED
05-DEC-2023	500 BLK E Main St	Damage Property
06-DEC-2023	300 BLK Electric Rd	Simple Assault on Police Officer
09-DEC-2023	1500 BLK Indiana St	Vehicle Theft



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## SALEM MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT



COURTESY PHOTO

Happy Holidays from the Salem Museum!

This weekend, families around the world will gather and exchange presents. Many children will receive dolls, and one doll in particular is not just popular this year, but has been for the last several decades: Barbie!

Barbie dolls were introduced in 1959. At the time, baby dolls were more common, but toy inventor Ruth Handler noticed that her daughter, Barbara, preferred to play with paper dolls and give them adult roles. Seeing a gap in the market, she developed the Barbie doll after a popular German doll called a "Lilli Doll." Barbie was an instant success, exceeding Mattel's production capacity for the first three years. She remains popular through today, after countless outfits, the Dreamhouse, and many movies.

You can see these 1964 Barbie dolls on display at the Salem Museum.

Visit the Salem Museum for Hands-On History week from Dec. 19-22 to see "Toys for Christmas," pull on a glove, and play with historic toys!

The Salem Museum has Free Admission and is located at 801 East Main Street. We are closed for the holidays Dec. 23-26 and Dec. 30-Jan. 2, but otherwise open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday

## Blessings at Christmas Time

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# RECIPE OF THE WEEK

## Christmas morning

An orange in the toe of my stocking from Santa is a family tradition. As a child, I thought this was just to take up room in my stocking and I was not happy about that. Oranges are an element of Christmas that I just take for granted. I remember oranges in boxes with green tissue paper in the 1970's Kroger produce department and advertised as a great gift. Oranges haven't always been the grocery store staple we know today, and when they were available, they weren't cheap, so as my mom said, "Getting an orange in your stocking was a real treat." There are other theories about why oranges at Christmas are popular. One speculation behind the tradition of oranges in the stocking stems from the generosity of Saint Nicholas (also known as Santa Claus, Father Christmas, Kris Kringle and Old Saint Nick), who was the son of a wealthy merchant and later in life a bishop. It's said that he lived near a father and his three daughters who had fallen on hard times, so Nicholas secretly threw three bags of gold down their chimney, which were said to have landed in each of the girl's stockings that were hanging on the mantelpiece to dry. Oranges represent round gold coins. Oranges were rare in cold climates and if you had them you were rich. Decorating with cloved orange pomanders displayed that wealth. My favorite theory is that December is the season of giving, and the orange segments represent the ability to share what you have with others. I love that thought. A Terry chocolate orange, citrus scented candle, and a beautiful fresh orange to share sounds like a good gift.

Christmas morning was all about presents and stockings as a child. Eating breakfast was not on my agenda at all. My mom put this bread together on Christmas eve and then when we were ready on



**Shelly Koon**  
Contributing  
Writer

Christmas morning, she would bake it. This gooey, sticky bread is best right from the oven with a cup of coffee or glass of milk.

### Christmas sharing bread

- 1 package frozen white dinner rolls (18-20 rolls)
- 1 package cook and serve butterscotch pudding (not instant)
- 1 cup chopped nuts (I use pecans, but walnuts are good too)
- 1 stick of butter
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- ¾ teaspoon cinnamon

\*For an orange version replace the cinnamon with the zest of one orange and 1 teaspoon orange extract

Butter or nonstick spray an angel food pan, line with chopped nuts and then with a package of frozen rolls. Sprinkle butterscotch pudding on the rolls. Melt the stick of butter, mix in brown sugar and cinnamon. Pour over the rolls. Cover the pan with foil and put it a warm area overnight (8-10 hours). Uncover and bake for 30 mins at 350°F. Remove immediately from pan by turning upside down on a serving plate. Serve hot.

I have also made these in an 8x8 and 9x13 pan, which work equally well. If you let the rolls sit out for longer than 12 hours, they can start to get so huge that they deflate. 8-10 hours seems to work best.



COURTESY PHOTO

# V DOT ROADWATCH

**HOLIDAY TRAVEL:** VDOT will be suspending many highway work zones and lifting most lane closures on interstates and other major roads in Virginia from noon on Friday, Dec. 22 until noon on Tuesday, Dec. 26 and from noon on Friday, Dec. 29 until noon on Tuesday, Jan. 2.

## Interstate 81

I-81 & ROUTE 11 BORING - Mountain Valley Pipeline is currently performing boring operations of 329 feet across Route 11 near Apgar Drive. Expected completion in late 2023/early 2024. There are no impacts to traffic.

**INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXIT 137 TO EXIT 141** - The \$179 million design-build project to widen both directions of I-81 between mile markers 136.6 and 141.8 from two to three lanes is underway. Work is being performed along a five-mile section of both northbound and southbound Interstate 81 in Roanoke County and the city of Salem. Barrier wall is in place along the shoulders. Two lanes of I-81 traffic in each direction are expected to remain open during the project with periodic lane closures scheduled during nighttime hours or outside of peak travel times as needed. Drivers can expect the following lane closures and upcoming traffic impacts in this area on northbound and southbound I-81:

**ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC IMPACTS:**

**WORK ZONE SPEED:** Drivers should adhere to posted 60 mph speed limits in the work zone and allow space when following a vehicle. Narrow spacing in lanes due to barrier walls, lack of shoulders and lane shifts in various locations, are present.

**TRAFFIC SHIFTS ON WILDWOOD ROAD:** Expect a work zone with traffic shifts and narrow width on Wildwood road after exiting I-81 southbound on exit 137 heading towards Salem. Southbound and northbound I-81 exit and entrance

ramp narrows are possible at Route 311.

**TRAFFIC SHIFT ON EXIT 140:** Drivers may experience a periodic quick merge into traffic onto Thompson Memorial from the southbound exit ramp of exit 140. Work zone located at bottom of the ramp for work on the I-81 bridge at the underpass.

**RAMP CLOSURES:** Ramp closures are possible during nighttime hours, 12 a.m., to 5 a.m. Drivers should watch for message boards dates and times the ramp will be closed.

**LANE CLOSURES:** Alternating left and right lane and shoulder closures during nighttime hours between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, are possible. Lane widths will be reduced to 11 feet. Nightly lane closures may be in place along the right lane with possible nightly ramp narrows as needed for guardrail and shoulder strengthening.

The project also includes replacing six bridges, widening two bridges, installing approximately 2.6 miles of sound barrier walls along northbound I-81, improving the southbound exit 137 off-ramp intersection at Wildwood Road and adding interchange lighting at exits 137, 140 and 141. Expected completion in early 2026.

**I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY** - Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the Montgomery/Pulaski County line. Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 98 to 109. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the duration of the project. Project

completion is estimated for Summer 2024.

**LANE CLOSURES:** Beginning December 10, nighttime alternating lane closures are possible on I-81 northbound between mile markers 104-106 from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

**ROUTE 605:** Alternating lane closures and flagging operations may be present on Route 605, located under the New River Bridge, for paving operations and work overhead on the bridge.

**SLOW ROLLS:** A slow roll operation may be in place daily, Monday through Friday, between mile marker 101 and 105 northbound and between mile marker 109 and 105 southbound, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Slow rolls may be utilized periodically on both the northbound and southbound lanes from mile marker 98-109 for structural steel deliveries and setting beams.

**I-81 PAVING OPERATIONS** - Weather permitting, crews will be performing paving operations along Interstate 81. Right and left lane closures may be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

**I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS** - Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 170 to 89, right and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

## Interstate 581

**I-581/220 EXPRESSWAY PAVING OPERATIONS** - Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible

delays.

**I-581/220 LANE & RAMP CLOSURES FOR PAVING AND MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS IN ROANOKE COUNTY**- Weather permitting, crews will be milling and paving along Interstate 81. Right and left lane closures will be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours. Drivers should expect possible delays.

## Roanoke County

**I-81 & ROUTE 11 BORING** - Mountain Valley Pipeline is currently performing boring operations of 329 feet across Route 11 near Apgar Drive. Expected completion in late 2023/early 2024. There are no impacts to traffic.

**NIGHTTIME LANE AND RAMP CLOSURE ON NORTHBOUND INTERSTATE 81 IN WORK ZONE NEAR SALEM** - As part of the Interstate 81 widening project in Roanoke County near Salem, a nighttime lane and ramp closure on northbound I-81 are scheduled for Friday, Dec. 8 and Saturday, Dec. 9, so barrier wall can be moved and a new traffic pattern put in place. If the traffic pattern change cannot be made because of weather, the lane and ramp closure will be rescheduled for the following week on Friday, Dec. 15 and Saturday, Dec. 16.

Weather permitting, starting at 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8, northbound I-81 will be reduced to one lane between mile markers 136 and 138 until 7 a.m. on Saturday morning. In addition, the exit 137 ramp from Wildwood Road onto northbound I-81 will be closed from 10 p.m. on Friday until 5 a.m. on Saturday morning. If work cannot be completed in single night, another lane and ramp closure will be scheduled during similar nighttime hours on Saturday night until the morning of Sunday.

Once the barrier wall has been moved, northbound I-81 traffic will

See VDOT, page 6

# Preston

from page 1

Country Cookin. As chairman of the business, he said he had the flexibility needed to meet his obligations to the school division. Having feet in both a private business and a public enterprise, like the division, gave him a unique perspective. "I ultimately ended up being more of a planner with the schools. With business, the financials tell you where you're being successful or not, then you just get on with it," he said. "The planning was good."

The board had to navigate yet another major disruption during the COVID-19 pandemic. Masks, remote learning and sports were issues the members had to contend with. "It was a fine line. Ultimately,

we tried to make the best decisions for the kids," he said. The board's decisions, he added, were guided by professionals, like the superintended and health authorities. "We had to do what made sense."

Preston said he's proud of the work the board has done over the course of his tenure. He pointed to getting through the Great Recession and pandemic, the construction of South Salem Elementary School, the remodeling of Salem High School and the hiring of a new superintendent as being the major efforts the board has undertaken during his tenure.

"We have a group on the board over the past 15 years that are humble. They don't want to be in the spotlight.

They want to be supportive. I'm proud of the things we've done, not things Dave Preston has done," he said.

Preston foresees spending more time at the lake, doing some business consulting on the side and occasionally helping out with the schools during his newfound free time. "I think I'd like to stay involved some, if they're interested," he said.

# Gambling

from page 1

enforcement of the illegal gambling code sections related to "skill games" beginning on Jan. 1.

The Virginia Code defines a "skill game" as "an electronic, computerized, or mechanical contrivance, terminal, machine, or other device that requires the insertion of a coin, currency, ticket, token, or similar object to operate, activate, or play a game, the outcome of which is determined by any element of skill of the player and that may deliver or entitle the person playing or operating the device to receive cash or cash equivalents, gift cards, vouchers, billets, tickets, tokens, or electronic credits to be exchanged for cash; or cash equivalents whether the payoff

is made automatically from the device or manually. 'Skill game' includes (i) a device that contains a meter or measurement device that records the number of free games or portions of games that are rewarded and (ii) a device designed or adapted to enable a person using the device to increase the chances of winning free games or portions of games by paying more than the amount that is ordinarily required to play the game. 'Skill game' does not include any amusement device."

Civil penalties for anyone operating a "skill game" device include a \$25,000 penalty per gambling device, an immediate injunction prohibiting operation of the gambling devices, seizure of the gambling devices and costs associated with investigating and

bringing a lawsuit, including attorney fees.

Criminal penalties for illegally possessing gambling devices and operating them for the advancement of unlawful gambling activity include a Class 1 misdemeanor, which may result in confinement in jail for up to 12 months and a fine up to 2,500.

Criminal charges for being an operator of an illegal gambling enterprise include a Class 6 felony, which may result in a term of imprisonment for up to five years, confinement in jail for up to 12 months and a fine up to 2,500.

Criminal charges for illegal gambling include a Class 3 misdemeanor, which may result in a fine up to \$500.

**Celebrate Christmas  
With Us At  
College Lutheran Church**

**Sunday, December 24, 2023**  
Worship by Candlelight at 5:00 PM  
and 10:00 PM in Sanctuary  
Holy Communion at All Services

**Christmas Day, December 25, 2023**  
Come and enjoy our  
10:00 AM Worship Service  
on the day of our Lord's birth!

210 South College Avenue, Salem  
www.collegelutheran.org

# OPINION

As Members prepare to head home for the holidays, House Republicans passed legislation to combat foreign influence in America's institutions of higher education. We also passed legislation to prohibit the Biden Administration's plan that would force American taxpayers to shoulder the burden of others' student loan debt. Finally, we recognized Sixth District student athletes and came together as a Nation to reflect on the 82nd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. As Congress finishes a busy week, rest assured I will keep fighting for folks in our part of Virginia.

## Keeping Foreign Adversaries Out of Our Colleges

We know that regimes, such as the Chinese Communist Party, are working to increase their influence on campuses by providing American academic institutions with funding opportunities – all which come with strings attached – furthering their mission to undermine U.S. interests and indoctrinate America's students. Meanwhile, a new report found that at least 200 universities had withheld information on as much as \$13 billion in foreign funds they received from adversarial countries.

This is unacceptable and only bolsters foreign influence in our education system. That is why last week, the House passed the DETERRENT Act (H.R. 5933) to force America's colleges and universities to be transparent on the flow of foreign gifts, donations, and investments made to them. House Republicans



**Ben Cline**  
Congressman

are committed to ensuring that America's students and their education are protected from harmful and dangerous foreign interference.

## Protecting Taxpayers from Repaying Loans They Didn't Take Out

Earlier this year, the Biden Administration introduced a new income driven repayment plan for student loans. This plan is just a backdoor attempt to bail out those who willingly took out student loans and have not paid them off, forcing American taxpayers to repay heavy college debt that is not their own – costing them up to \$559 billion.

That is wrong and unconstitutional, but while the courts continue to consider it, House Republicans took immediate steps last week to block this wrongheaded effort by passing H.J. Res. 88. At a time when millions of American families are stretching their dollar, with higher prices across the board, we are working to stop this reckless use of their taxpayer dollars.

## Biden's Broken Border

All across the country, Americans are concerned about the broken border that President Biden has created and the worsening surge in illegal immigration at our borders that has ensued in result of it. According to a new report from U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), there were 12,000 illegal migrant crossings at the southern border in just one day last week, marking the highest single-day total ever recorded.

House Republicans know that the only solution to this crisis is to pass significant border security reforms, such as those in the House-passed Secure the Border Act (H.R. 2), that will secure America's borders, improve the asylum system, and reduce the incentives for illegal immigration. While the Senate still refuses to take action, we are fighting to restore safety and security of our homeland.

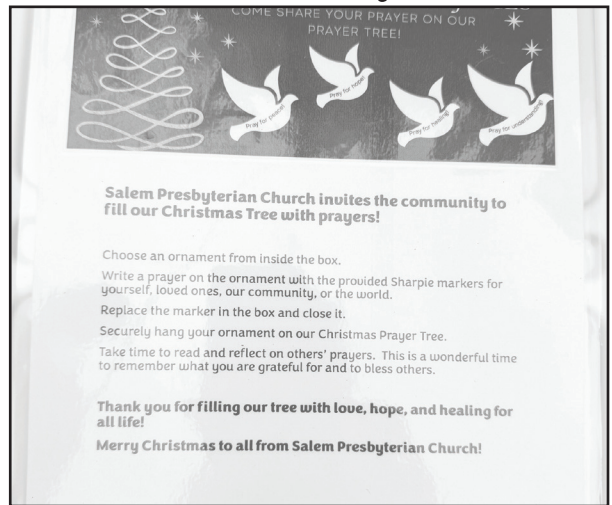
## 82nd Anniversary of Pearl Harbor

In commemoration of Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, we honor the 2,335 lives lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor. The courage and heroism displayed on that day have left an eternal mark on the world that will never be forgotten.

December 7th, 1941 forever lives in infamy.

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.

# Salem Presbyterian Church invites community to Prayer Tree



COURTESY PHOTOS

During December, as many prepare for Christmas, Salem Presbyterian Church (on the corner of Market and Main Streets) has put a Prayer Tree on its front lawn. All are invited to use a wooden ornament and Sharpie marker from the box and add their prayers to the tree or stop to pray for others. "Our gates are open as we pray as a community for hope, peace, joy, and love," Rev. Janet Denton Chisom, associate pastor, said.

**SALEM TIMES-REGISTER**  
A newspaper of, by and for the people of the City of Salem and Roanoke County.

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**Give us your view:**  
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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## Teacher of the Year recognized

COURTESY PHOTO

Salem Teacher of the Year winners were recognized during the December meeting of the Salem School Board earlier this month. Pictured are Superintendent Curtis Hicks, front left, and Salem School Board members Teresa Sizemore-Hernandez, Nancy Bradley, David Preston and Stacey Danstrom. Teacher of the Year winners, back left, are Corbitt Harison, Kristen Huffman, Marcee McMillan, Matthew Frick, Branden Wells, Liza Moles and Lindsay Murray.

# CROSSWORD

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**CLUES ACROSS**

- Baseball stat
- Blaze
- Sea eagles
- Tails in Italian
- Monocot genus
- Mother or father
- The Jungian inner self
- Covered with gold
- Residual oil
- Signs up for school
- Furniture for daily meals
- Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
- Lower limb
- Guy (slang)
- Get free of
- Snakelike fish
- Adult female bird
- Formal window coverings
- Break into small pieces
- "1836 siege" of U.S.
- Made violet-red
- Food chopper
- Removes writing
- Ethiopian monetary unit
- Wine bottle containers
- English prelate Wm. Ralph
- Small storage
- structure
- A jelly-like substance
- CLUES DOWN**
- A brief comment
- Sultanate of NW Borneo
- Importune
- Forelimb
- Models of ethical behavior
- Harangues
- This (Spanish)
- Springfield Area Mobile Intensive Care
- Sang at Christmas door to door
- Partly or nearly blind
- Posterior pituitary gland hormone
- American Nurses Association (abbr.)
- The 7th Greek letter
- Strives to equal
- Toff
- Coleoptera insects
- The color of blood
- Slipped by
- Of she
- A short musical passage
- CNN's founder Turner
- Radioactivity unit
- Excultation defense
- Walking back and forth
- Come forth from
- Oxalis
- A soft twilled fabric of silk
- The two large chest muscles

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# 2024 schedule for 'First Mondays' has been announced

The 2024 "First Mondays" lineup at the Salem Senior Center on Union Street has been announced. The family-friendly events are held by Gary John, who manages the "Mason Creek" bluegrass group, and Vicky Sword from the center. The bluegrass/acoustic shows are free, but a tip bucket will be passed around for donations to the musicians. Cake raffles and door prizes will be offered.

**Monday, Jan 8:**  
7 p.m. - Mason Creek  
8 p.m. - Blue Connection  
**Monday, Feb 5:**  
7p.m. - The Brothers Young  
8 p.m. - Bubba Chandler & Mary Butterworth  
**Monday, March 4:**  
7 p.m. - Mark & Karen Templeton  
8 p.m. - Seph Custer  
**Monday, April 1:**

7-9 p.m. - Maynard & Lee Palmer  
**Monday, May 6:**  
7 p.m. - Mike Conner  
8 p.m. - Rarely Available  
**Monday, June 3:**  
7-9 p.m. - Eastern Divide  
**Monday, July 8:**  
7 p.m. - Virginia-Carolina Band  
8 p.m. - TBA  
**Monday, Aug. 5:**  
7-9 p.m. - Maynard and Lee Palmer

**Monday, Sept. 9:**  
7-9 p.m. - The Guard  
**Monday, Oct. 7:**  
7-9 p.m. - Franklin Station  
**Monday, Nov. 4:**  
7-9 p.m. - Luv Buzzards  
**Monday, Dec. 2:**  
7-9 p.m. - The Bluegrass Brothers

-The Salem Times-Register

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

# PRESBYTERIANS IN ROANOKE COUNTY DATE BACK TO FIRST SETTLEMENTS MADE IN VALLEY

*Nine Active Congregations In This Section—First Minister Of Salem Church Preaches Here In 1831.*



FROM THE TIMES-REGISTER ARCHIVES

*From the 1938 centennial edition of The Times-Register*

In the community embracing what is now the territory of Roanoke County, for a history of Presbyterianism one just needs to go back to the earlier period of the settlement of this portion of the state. As early as 1740 or a little earlier there were a few scattered families of Presbyterians, and wherever those Scotch-Irish went they carried their religion with them. They truly came to possess the land in the strength of Jehovah, and at once established meeting places where they could worship God. Sometimes they met in the little cabin homes, sheds and barns, and sometimes seated on split logs out in a clearing in the woods.

In tracing the growth of the church think first of the isolated family groups of families of like faith, the holding of Divine services on the occasional visit of some consecrated minister, the effecting of a church organization, the joining with other denominations, alike weak in numbers but strong in faith and courage, to build union meeting houses and Free churches, and when their numbers and the condition of roads made it possible, the colonization of several groups and the building for their exclusive use of log churches and later small but neat frame and brick buildings which immediately preceded the more commodious churches of today.

### Old Meeting Places

A few of the names of the old meeting places follow: Catawba, Sinking Spring, Brown's meeting house, Tinker Creek, a house on Col. J. S. Brown's farm, Craig's Creek, Piney Grove, Ebenezer, Blue Ridge and New Antrim. One of the early Presbyterian Churches of this community was Cave Spring Church. It was a substantial brick church built in the old way with a gallery around three sides of the auditorium and it stood for many years until torn down in 1922 or 1923. Dr. W. C. Campbell said he preached in Cave Spring Church a number of times. The old pioneer ministers who preached to these congregations and others, carried with them certificates to prove their license to perform marriages.

The most interesting one of those old churches for this sketch is "Ebenezer" which was on Peter's Creek about two miles east of Salem. Organized about 1801 or 1802, it was built of poorly made brick and after being used for twenty years and more, was abandoned and in 1931 when a marker was erected on the spot, all that remained of it was the outline of the foundation and a few scattered bricks lying around. From about 18000 Rev. Robert Logan, a faithful frontier minister preached in this section at "Ebenezer" once a month and at other points in the community, living and preaching also at Fincastle, which town was named for the country estate in England of Lord Botetourt. At the organization of "Ebenezer" William Walton and Thomas Brown were made ruling elders. Col. Elijah McClanahan was ordained an elder in 1807. The membership was twelve. The Presbyterians also held services in a log meeting house in Salem built by the Methodists in 1813. In 1822 Nathaniel Calhoun succeeded Mr. Logan and continued as pastor until 1826. He was succeeded by Mr. Burwell who preached at Ebenezer twice a month and twice at the Methodist log church in Salem. He also preached at Tinker Creek in a "Free Church". For several years Rev. J. M. Fulton, of Fincastle, preached occasionally and in 1831 a reorganization was affected composed chiefly of members from Ebenezer and Catawba in which Joseph Woods was an elder. This organization took the name of Salem Presbyterian Church with a membership of twenty-six. The ruling elders were John B. Walton, Col. Elijah McClanahan, Joseph Woods and Madison Pitzer.

### Col. Lewis Joins Church

"At a meeting of the session June 26, 1831, Col. Andrew Lewis applied for admission into the church, was examined and received." Col. Lewis was almost seventy-three years old at that time. During the first church year, fourteen members were added to the roll on examination, and one on certificate.

A beautiful friendship existed between the Methodists and the Presbyterians, and in 1832 they organized a joint Sunday School. Some of the officers of that Sunday School were Methodists and some were Presbyterians, and the members paid an annual fee of \$.25.

The Salem Church grew and prospered. It has been served by twelve ministers and had on its membership roll some of the finest names of the community. During 1837, the minister of the Salem Church, Rev. Jephtha Harrison preached at several other places in the community besides Salem. Mr. Harrison was succeeded by Rev. Urias Powers, D.D., in 1838, the year Roanoke County was formed and a son of a charter member of Salem Presbyterian Church, Mrs. Sarah Cook, was the first clerk of the county. Dr. Powers served the church until 1851 when Salem sent out a colony composed of twenty-five members of the Salem organization. This colony was located in what was then "Old Lick" or Gainsborough, later Big Lick, now Roanoke City, and it is now the First Presbyterian Church. Salem Presbyterian Church today has a membership of 325 and the minister is Dr. LeRoy Gresham who came to Salem in 1909 to succeed Rev. H. C. V. Campbell.

### Sends 12 Into Ministry

Twelve men from Salem Church have gone into the ministry, one of whom, Rev. David Gibson Armstrong, was a missionary to Brazil. At the present time one of her young men, John William Barnard, is studying at Union Theological Seminary for the ministry. The Salem men include Rev. J. R. C. Brown, Rev. George L. Brown, Rev. Horace Whaling, Rev. J. R. C. Whaling, Rev. John I. Armstrong, Rev. A. W. Pitzer, Rev. A. T. Graybill, Rev. James Armstrong, Rev. Thornton Whaling, Rev. Lewis Johnston, Rev. David Gibson Armstrong, and Rev. E. Glenn Switzer.

The First Church of Roanoke was organized May 28, 1851, with twenty-eight charter members. Rev. Urias Powers held the relation of stated supply for nine years. The first elders were Col. Elijah McClanahan and Thomas Tosh. Between the years 1870-1875 the church had steadily declined but in 1875 under the preaching of an evangelist of Montgomery Presbytery, Rev. C. M. Howard, the church took on new life and has been a power for good in the life of the community since that time. The Rev. William Creighton Campbell, D.D., of sainted memory, took charge of the church July 3, 1881, and was made pastor-emeritus by his people in 1924. He passed away February 28, 1936, after having been a leader in the religious life of the city for more than fifty years. Today the First Church owns one of the handsomest buildings in the state and has a membership of about eleven hundred and fifty. Rev. Dr. R. A. Lapsley, Jr., is the present minister.

### Bethany Church

Bethany Presbyterian Church was a colony from the First Church which originated in a Sunday School, organized in 1884 in N. E. Roanoke. The young men of the church built a chapel which was dedicated January 7, 1884, by Rev. Daniel Blain and was later destroyed by a storm. Plans were started at once for organizing and building a new church. With the financial help of the First Church, and forty-nine members from that church, Bethany Church was organized May 20, 1892, and the building was dedicated in the same month. The elders were Charles Pulsburg, R. R. Watson and A. P. Neal. The first minister was Rev. W. H. Groves. At one time Bethany was a thriving church with a Sunday School membership of four hundred. It was built in a section where the population was largely transient; and the city rapidly grew away from the church, so Bethany was finally disbanded, and her membership absorbed by the other churches of the city.

For ten years previous to the organization of Vinton Presbyterian Church, Dr. W. C. Campbell preached once a month to Presbyterians in a Methodist Church. In 1891 steps were taken for the organization of a church. February 1892, Rev. W. H. Groves was called to be pastor. Some of Vinton's elders were T. R. Muse, A. N. Venable, N. P. Painter and Giles Gunn, father of R. B. Gunn, of Salem, who himself was later made an elder in Vinton Church. One of the finest of Southern Presbyterian missionaries went out from Montgomery Presbytery and the Vinton Church to labor among the Mexicans until her death in 1936. This was Miss Minnie Morrison Gunn, daughter of Giles and Virginia Morrison Gunn, who later married Mr. R. D. Campbell, who also was a missionary to the Mexicans. The minister in 1938 of Vinton Church is Rev. S. B. M. Ghiselin, formerly of West End Church, Roanoke.

### Second Church

The second Presbyterian Church of Roanoke was organized in 1891 in the home of Dr. Christian on Tenth Avenue, S. E., with twenty-seven members, twenty-four of whom had been members of the First Church. Dr. Samuel C. Christian was elected an elder and C. C. Taliaferro and E. T. Burnett were

elected deacons. Though only a small child at the time, sitting on the floor Jean Vaughan Blain (Mrs. S. S.) vividly remembers that organization meeting. Rev. Robert C. Anderson, D.D., now of Montreat North Carolina, was the first minister and Rev. Dr. H. S. Edmunds has been the minister since 1923. The membership today is about eight hundred and the church is splendidly equipped with a handsome stone church building and a modern Sunday School building. It was erected when Rev. Arthur Rowbotham, D. D., was the minister.

"Woodside" is a small church doing a big work in Norwich, a suburb of Roanoke. A branch of the First Church, it has been guided and served by the First Church and her minister. In 1898 Presbytery grouped "Woodside" with Vinton and Bethany and they had their own ministers. This arrangement continued until 1902 when Woodside was detached from the group and again was placed under the care of the First Church. At that time, it had twenty-three members and ninety-six members in the Sunday School. Just recently Mr. Zehmer has taken charge at Woodside. The first elders were Joseph H. Earman, Johnathan E. Evans and J. W. Freese.

### West End Church

West End Presbyterian Church was organized in the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Price, 821-13th Street, S. W., on September 30, 1909. The session was at first composed of C. B. Price and W. E. Price, being added to a little later by Mr. Ammen and Prof. W. W. Graybill. The first deacons were T. W. Davis, E. S. Reynolds, and C. S. Beeler. The Sunday School superintendent was Mr. D. K. Ammen and the trustees were Dr. A. Stone, L. N. Buford, C. B. Price, Col. James Browning and Dr. S. T. Tabor. The first church building was erected on Thirteenth Street. Later a brick building was erected on the corner of Twelfth Street and Campbell Avenue, S. W. Two ministers have gone out from its membership. In 1924 or 1925 a large number of West End's members were dismissed to join Raleigh Court Church, which was being organized across the river. The membership now is about two hundred and forty-five and the minister is Rev. J. Clyde Mohler.

In June 1915, Melrose Church was organized in the N. W. section of Roanoke with more than fifty charter members. Dr. W. C. Campbell preached for them until they called their first regular preacher, Rev. E. W. Smith in 1916. The church has been doing a good work under the leadership of Rev. R. A. Zehmer who served since June 1931. Recently a new minister, Rev. John Shepherd was called.

### Belmont Organized

In the fall of 1914, Rev. C. P. Clark, who was for many years Superintendent of Home Missions of Montgomery Presbytery, held a meeting in a tent on a vacant lot on Jamison Avenue, S. E. In 1915 a Sunday School was organized and Dr. Rowbotham preached every Sunday afternoon. The Belmont Church was organized May 11, 1915. Elders were J. L. Bishop, R. G. Rosen, H. F. Stoke and M. W. Sublett. Dr. Rowbotham preached until 1917. The membership was forty-nine. The church now has an active resident membership of 350 with 450 on church roll, and is prospering under the efficient and fervent leadership of the present minister, Rev. G. L. Whiteley.

"The Church of the Open Door" in Raleigh Court was organized October 5, 1924. The first temporary building was erected August 1924 and removed in August 1925. The new building was dedicated June 13, 1925. There were 153 charter members. The present membership is 560. Rev. Z. V. Roberson, the first and only pastor of the church was called January 11, 1925, and installed on May 10.

It must ever remain a source of deep regret that so little is known of the early history and progress of the church in this portion of the state. There are few authentic sources of information available besides the uncertain recollections of those who have had the information handed down to them. Records prior to 1800 and even to 1830 were poorly kept and in many cases completely destroyed by disastrous fires. In 1938 there are nine active congregations of Presbyterians in this community.

The following are the names of several of the old frontier ministers as taken from records: Rev. John Craig, as early as 1740 at least; Rev. Caleb Wallace, 1779; Robert Logan 1798-1800; Rev. Nathaniel Calhoun, 1802; Rev. Robert Burwell, 1826; Rev. John M. Fulton, 1829; Rev. Roswell Tenney, 1831, first minister of Salem church; Rev. Jephtha Harrison, 1835, second minister of Salem church; Rev. Urias Powers, 1837, third minister of Salem church.

A few of the visiting ministers who preached occasionally around 1800 were Rev. James Turner and Rev. John Mitchell, of Bedford County, and Rev. George Braxton, of Rockbridge County.

There is a reference of a petition for supplies to Catawba and Peaks of Otter in the old Hanover Presbytery minutes of 1760 stored in Richmond at the Union Theological Seminary, and also a reference for supplies from Salem in 1773 and 1776.

-Prepared by Lisa King

# VDOT

from page 3

be shifted into a new pattern. Two lanes of traffic will continue to be open in the work zone, but motorists will be traveling on a different portion of roadway on the left side of the road.

**INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXIT 137 TO EXIT 141** – The \$179 million design-build project to widen both directions of I-81 between mile markers 136.6 and 141.8 from two to three lanes is underway. Work is being performed along a five-mile section of both northbound and southbound Interstate 81 in Roanoke County and the city of Salem. Barrier wall is in place along the shoulders. Two lanes of I-81 traffic in

each direction are expected to remain open during the project with periodic lane closures scheduled during nighttime hours or outside of peak travel times as needed. Drivers can expect the following lane closures and upcoming traffic impacts in this area on northbound and southbound I-81:

**ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC IMPACTS: WORK ZONE SPEED:** Drivers should adhere to posted 60 mph speed limits in the work zone and allow space when following a vehicle. Narrow spacing in lanes due to barrier walls, lack of shoulders and lane shifts in various locations, are present.

**TRAFFIC SHIFTS ON WILDWOOD ROAD:** Expect a work zone with traffic shifts and narrow width on Wildwood road after exiting I-81 southbound on exit 137 heading towards Salem. Southbound and northbound I-81 exit and entrance ramp narrows are possible at Route 311.

**TRAFFIC SHIFT ON EXIT 140:** Drivers may experience a periodic quick merge into traffic onto Thompson Memorial from the southbound exit ramp of exit 140. Work zone located at bottom of the ramp for work on the I-81 bridge at the underpass.

**RAMP CLOSURES:** Ramp closures are possible during nighttime hours, 12 a.m., to 5 a.m. Drivers should watch for message boards dates and times the ramp will be closed.

**LANE CLOSURES:** Alternating left and right lane and shoulder closures during nighttime hours between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, are possible. Lane widths will be reduced to 11 feet. Nightly lane closures may be in place along the right lane with possible nightly ramp narrows as needed for guardrail and shoulder strengthening.

The project also includes replacing six bridges, widening two bridges, installing

approximately 2.6 miles of sound barrier walls along northbound I-81, improving the southbound exit 137 off-ramp intersection at Wildwood Road and adding interchange lighting at exits 137, 140 and 141. Expected completion in early 2026.

**I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY** – Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the Montgomery/Pulaski County line. Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 98 to 109. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated for Summer 2024.

**LANE CLOSURES:** Beginning December 10, nighttime alternating lane closures are possible on I-81 northbound between mile markers 104-106 from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

**ROUTE 605:** Alternating lane closures and flagging operations may be present on Route 605, located under the New River Bridge, for paving operations and work overhead on the bridge.

**SLOW ROLLS:** A slow roll operation may be in place daily, Monday through Friday, between mile marker 101 and 105 northbound and between mile marker 109 and 105 southbound, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Slow rolls may be utilized periodically on both the northbound and southbound lanes from mile marker 98-109

for structural steel deliveries and setting beams.

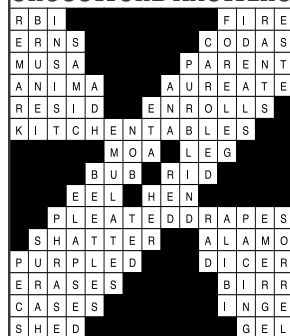
**I-81 PAVING OPERATIONS** – Weather permitting, crews will be performing paving operations along Interstate 81. Right and left lane closures may be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

**I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS** – Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 170 to 89, right and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

**Botetourt County**  
**NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL ACTIVATED AT ROUTE 220 AND FIELDSTONE LANE FOR FIELDSTONE DEVELOPMENT** - A new signal was activated at the intersection of Route 220 and Fieldstone Lane on Thursday, Dec. 14. The signal is located about 1.3 miles north of Daleville. Flashing warning beacons have been activated on southbound Route 220 before the signal. These lights will only flash to alert approaching drivers when they will need to stop at the red light. Drivers are reminded to use caution due to this new traffic pattern. The new signal was installed by the Fieldstone developer to support traffic using the new apartment complex and future businesses. VDOT will maintain the signal.

**PAVING OPERATIONS** – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place and flaggers may control traffic at times during daylight or nighttime hours. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS



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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., Connect Groups 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Children & Student Ministry 5:00-6:30 p.m.; Thursday 7:00 pm Young Single Adults, Wednesday Morning Prayer Service 10:30, Lifegroups meeting throughout the week. [www.lbcva.com](http://www.lbcva.com).

**SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**, 2721 12 O'Clock Knob Rd., Salem, Pastor: Clay Dalton; 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](http://www.templebaptch.com).

### BAPTIST (SOUTHERN)

**BETHEL BAPTIST** - 1601 S. Colorado St., Salem, Pastor Hilton Jeffreys, 389-2376, Sunday: Connect Groups meet at 9:30am; Worship Service starts at 10:30am. You can stream live with us at 10:30am on Facebook, YouTube, our App & Website ([www.bethelbaptistva.com](http://www.bethelbaptistva.com)). Tuesday mornings we have Adult Bible Study at 9:00am.; Wednesday evenings at 6:15pm we have TeamKid for kids 3 years old through 5th grade, Amplify Youth (6-12th grade), Band of Brothers Men's Bible Study and then our College & Young Adult Bible Study at 8:00pm.[www.bethelbaptistva.com](http://www.bethelbaptistva.com)

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

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

**FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH** - Salem Campus: 1226 RedLane Extension, Salem, 387-3200, Worship Times: 9:15AM & 11:00AM. North Campus: 7640 Alpine Road, Roanoke, Worship Times: 9:15AM & 11:00AM. Southwest Campus: 3585 Buck Mountain Road, Roanoke, Worship Times: 9:15AM & 11:00AM. [www.fcclife.org](http://www.fcclife.org).

### CATHOLIC

**OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CATHOLIC CHURCH** - 314 Turner Rd, Salem VA. 540-387-0491. Mass Times: Saturday 5 pm and Sunday 10:30 am (nursery available). Visit our website: [olpnsalem.org](http://olpnsalem.org) for our full schedule.

### CHURCHES OF CHRIST/ CHRISTIANCHURCHES

**DALE RIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST** - 7165 Cloverdale Rd., NW Roanoke, 24019; office: 992-4385. Sunday Bible Study, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study, 6 p.m. Ladies class

# Salem WORSHIP DIRECTORY

- Thursdays 10:00 a.m. Visit our new web page: [daleridgechurchofchrist.net](http://daleridgechurchofchrist.net), it's updated each week from local, national and international sources with news of interest to Christians. Take a video tour of our facilities. Read articles taken from the word of God that apply to our lives today. View a new sermon each week. Dale Ridge is reaching out to the Roanoke/Botetourt area with the good news of Jesus Christ. Come join our plea to return to the Bible. We believe in the inspired Word of God which is as relevant today as it was when it was written. We believe in the Holy Spirit is a gift, given to every Christian when we respond to the Gospel as taught in the context of Acts 2 and emphasized in verse 38. We believe Jesus is the only means of our salvation. (Acts 4:12) Is this your time to make a choice? (John 16:13) Have you been looking for a church family that's led by the Holy Spirit into all truth? (John 13:35) You will know we are His disciples by our love for one another. Follow the advice of Philip when he told Nathanael about Jesus in (John 1:46) "Come and See."

**SALEM CHURCH OF CHRIST** - 401 West Main Street. 540-389-2400. Minister Taylor Plott; 10:00am Sunday Bible Study; 11:00am 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 9:30 am; Worship and Kids Church 10:30 am, Wednesday Bible Study and Classes at 7:00 pm. [www.salemco.god](http://www.salemco.god)

### DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**, 712 Front Ave. Salem, Pastor Dan Netting (540) 389-6831. [www.firstchristiansalemva.com](http://www.firstchristiansalemva.com). Adult and Children Sunday School - 9:30 am, Worship - 10:30 am. Nursery Provided for both. Everyone welcome

**FORT LEWIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH** - 2931 West Main Street, Salem - Pastor Matthew Cox - 380-4636 - website: [www.flccsalem.org](http://www.flccsalem.org). Sunday: 9:30am Adult Study Group, 10:30am Worship, Youth & Children's Church. All are welcome!

### ECKANKAR

**ECKANKAR, THE PATH OF SPIRITUAL FREEDOM**, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. The Roanoke Eckankar Center is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. A spiritual event is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Since contracting COVID-19 may still be possible, please take the health steps that are best for you. It is appreciated that by attending you are taking responsibility for your own health. Visit [www.eck-va.org](http://www.eck-va.org), [www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences](http://www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences) \* Group\* or call 540-353-5365 for other Eckankar programs and for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar can lead you to spiritual freedom.

### EPISCOPAL

**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH** - 42 East Main Street, Salem, 389-9307. 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](http://www.collegelutheran.org) for information on services.

### FOURSQUARE

**theBRIDGE SALEM CHURCH** - 4335 West Main Street, Salem. 540-404-1414 | [bridge.salem@icloud.com](mailto:bridge.salem@icloud.com) • [www.salemva.church](http://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](mailto:joey@salemva.church) | 540-831-9864

### INDEPENDENT

**RESTORATION CHURCH** - a Community on Mission Following Jesus into the World - 10:10am Sundays at the Salem YMCA - 1126 Kime Lane, Salem - 540-384-1601 - [www.restorationsalem.org](http://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) via zoom and conference call line. Wednesday Adult Bible Study at 7:00 p.m. in person for adults, children and teens. Adult class is also streamed on Facebook. Men's Bible Study Saturday at 7:00 a.m.(Zoom). Saturday Intercessory Prayer Service at 8:00 a.m. (conference call line). Sunday Women's Bible Study Class at 8:30 p.m. (Zoom). In-person Worship on Sunday at 11:00 a.m. or worship with us on line via Facebook. Church office can be contacted for additional information.

### 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, Mpac Girls & Royal Rangers) 7 PM. Nursery Provided. Email: [office@clchurch.org](mailto:office@clchurch.org). Find us on facebook.

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

**SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** - 41 East Main Street, Salem, VA . 389-3881. Come worship with us, Pastor, Rev. Chris Vogado, and our Associate Pastor, Rev. Janet Chisom each Sunday at 11:00 AM (10:00 AM from Memorial Day - Labor Day). In- Person Sunday School is 9:30 AM (9:00 AM Memorial Day - Labor Day). You may still worship with us online live at [www.salempres.org](http://www.salempres.org), or Facebook, or YouTube. During in-person worship, masking for health reasons is optional.

### 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](http://www.fumcsalemva.org).

### LOCUST GROVE UNITED METHODIST

**CHURCH** - 3415 Locust Grove Lane, Salem, 540-315-0881, Pastor Mike Sanborn. Each Sunday Traditional Worship 9:30 a.m.

To list your church, contact Wendi Craig at 276-340-2445 or email [advertise@ourvalley.org](mailto:advertise@ourvalley.org)

# Fun ways to enjoy the start of the winter season

Winter begins on December 21, 2023, and ends on March 19, 2024. Many people lament the arrival of winter, perhaps thinking the colder temperatures and shorter hours of sunlight will compromise their chances to have fun. Even though particularly chilly thermostat readings or stormy conditions can hamper some plans, when people dig deeper they may find that even the coldest days present opportunities for enjoyment. When winter begins, the following activities can make for an entertaining way to celebrate the arrival of the season.

- **Build a snow creation.** Use the first significant snowfall of the season to organize a snowman, snowwoman, or snow-animal-making event or contest. Waterproof gloves are a necessary piece of equipment, as are buckets for moving snow, shovels, carving and shaping

tools (which can be plastic cutlery), and accessories to dress up the final product.

- **Go sledding on the best hills.** Sledding is a popular wintertime activity that doesn't require too much equipment. Sleds can be purchased at sporting goods stores or toy stores. Sledders of all ages should consider wearing helmets to protect against injury if they will be traversing especially steep hills.

- **Host a winter block party.** Many cities and towns across North America participate in WinterFest events, which run the gamut from food and craft festivals to sporting events. Individuals can take cues from these type of activities and plan neighborhood festivals right on their streets. Neighbors can wheel out their fire pits or utilize outdoor propane heaters to keep spots cozy. Hot cocoa and cider stations and warm treats can keep everyone from feeling too

cold. Electric slow cookers can keep everything from soups to chilis to stews warm and participants can enjoy a buffet of hearty foods.

- **Visit an ice rink.** Whether a rink is indoors or outside, ice skating is a quintessential wintertime activity. Skaters of all skill levels can take to the ice and enjoy some exercise and laughs. Check local rink schedules to take advantage of open skate times when hockey games or practices are not dominating the ice.

- **Mark the winter solstice.** The winter solstice, also known as the start of astronomical winter, is the shortest day of sunlight on the calendar. It occurs when either of the Earth's poles reaches maximum tilt away from the sun. In the Northern Hemisphere, this occurs on December 21, 2023. Because there will be only roughly seven hours of daylight,



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take steps to make the fact that the sun will set at its earliest a little easier to swallow. Kids can run around outdoors with glow sticks, while adults can deck their homes in twinkle lights if they are not decorated for Christmas. Lanterns, campfires

and candles can be lit, and everyone can gather outdoors to chat and socialize.

- Winter begins on December 21, 2023, and there are plenty of ways to celebrate this fun, if sometimes frigid, season.

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## Festive facts about oft-misunderstood fruitcake

Certain sights and sounds are ingrained in the holiday season, from twinkling lights to carols piping over retailers' sound systems. Amid the shelves of holiday wares and delicacies, fruitcake makes its annual appearance.

Fruitcake, sometimes referred to as plum cake or Christmas cake, can be prepared in various ways. However, a dense bundt-type cake dotted with dried, candied fruit and often soaked in rum or brandy has become the standard. Loathed or loved, seldom anything in between, fruitcake is typically mocked as the ultimate regift. But just like Charlie Brown's scant Christmas tree, which was initially mocked, it's time to see fruitcake in a new light. Consider these fruitcake fun facts.

- The texture of fruitcake can vary from cake-like to more of a sweet bread like brioche. Italians dig into panettone, Germans delight with stollen and Jamaicans serve black cake.

- The first fruitcakes weren't eaten. According to historians, fruitcakes were initially made by ancient Egyptians, who tucked the desserts into the tombs with their dead so a sweet treat could be enjoyed in the afterlife.

- Fruitcake gained popularity as military rations, as everyone from Roman soldiers to Crusaders found fruitcake provided a diverse array of nutrients and an energy boost in battle. Fruitcake also stores well, which can be beneficial for military personnel in battle.

- Fruitcake seemingly is indestructible. While it likely cannot last forever, Tastemade says if a fruitcake is kept in an airtight container and stored in a dark, cool place, it could be reheated years after being baked. Starch crystals and dried fruit in the cake will release stored water when warmed, rehydrating the cake.

- Historical accounts indicate Romans were among the first people to eat fruit-



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cake, which they might have enjoyed as early as 100 A.D. A version called "satura" was made by mixing stale bread with pine nuts, pomegranate seeds, raisins, and then soaking it in a barley mash and an alcoholic beverage brewed from honey.

- Fruitcake became a popular dish to serve at British royals' weddings. Queen Victoria, Princess Diana and Prince William served fruitcake at their receptions.

- The Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. has a fruitcake on display. It traveled into space on Apollo 11 in 1969, but was never eaten.

- Seth Greenberg, who worked in his family's New York City bakery, attests that fruitcake is delicious when made with the right ingredients. The neon-colored, dry and overly sweet fruit that many bakers use is the problem with poor cakes. But proper ingredients like brandy, glace cherries, apricots, figs, and dates can make for a delicious fruitcake.

- The average fruitcake weighs between two and three pounds. However, the heaviest fruitcake on record, according to "The Guinness Book of World Records," came in at 9,596 pounds. Despite the hefty weight of this cake, it's only around 92 to 160 calories per serving. Regardless of its unfavorable reputation, fruitcake remains an unwavering holiday tradition.

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## Four unique holiday party themes

The holiday season is a festive time of year filled with plenty of opportunities to socialize with friends and family. Parties abound this time of year, and many people may find themselves hosting everything from intimate gatherings to large family dinners. As people will be attending many different events in the weeks to come, savvy hosts and hostesses may want to set their occasions apart in different ways. One option is to pick an entertaining party theme that guests can get excited about. A fun theme can provide a break from the standard traditions. Consider these four unique party themes when planning holiday parties.

1. **Ornament exchange**  
Decorating the home is commonplace this time of year. Who couldn't use a new trinket for the mantle or an ornament to adorn the tree? Ask all guests to bring a gift-wrapped ornament to the party. Then place numbers in a bowl and have each guest draw a number; this is the order in which they will then select an ornament. After the first person makes their selection, subsequent guests can choose a new ornament from the pile or 'steal' one from those already picked. The guest who picked first then has one last chance to keep or steal at the end.

2. **Tropical holiday**  
The weather outside may be frightful, but a tropical island party can be utterly delightful. Give the event an island flair with fruity drinks, grilled kabobs, coconut desserts, and steel-drum music.

3. **Grinchy party**  
A party devoted to the Dr. Seuss character The Grinch can be a fun way to pass time together. While the holidays are supposed to be holly and jolly, a Grinch-themed party can put the emphasis on being a little bit more naughty than nice. And who doesn't enjoy an ample serving of roast beast? Have guests come decked out in Grinch costumes or Grinch emblazoned t-shirts or other clothing.

4. **Christmas karaoke**  
Set up the karaoke machine or utilize one of the services available online, and make sure that guests are prepared to belt out their favorite holiday tunes whether traditional carols or pop hits. A group of ladies can join together for The Waitresses' "Christmas Wrapping" or guests can try their hands at hitting the high notes of Mariah Carey's ubiquitous "All I Want for Christmas Is You." Chances are serving some liquid courage will help guests loosen up and be more inclined to grab the microphone.

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# 50th STAGG BOWL

continued from page 14

caught a TD pass. Mike Baloga kicked a 31-yard field goal and made all five of his PAT kicks.

Jaden Martinez led Cortland with 10 tackles, including a sack and a pass breakup. Luke Winslow made nine tackles, Ryan Isom ended with eight stops and Jack Winey recorded seven tackles, which included a sack that forced a fumble that he recovered.

North Central (14-1), the nation's top-ranked team, had its 29-game winning streak snapped. The Cardinals won Stagg Bowl titles in 2019 and 2022 and finished second in 2021.

Luke Lehnen ran 11 times for 115 yards and two scores and completed 8-of-17 passes for 179 yards and two scores. Joe Sacco ran for 157 yards and a score on 14 carries, Charles Coleman rushed 10 times for 94 yards and caught a TD pass, and DeAngelo Hardy grabbed five passes for 146 yards and a score. Sean Ryniec kicked a 24-yard field goal and made all four of his PAT kicks.

North Central entered the game ranked first nationally in Division III in scoring (60.1 points/game) and total offense (566.4 yards/game), while Cortland was eighth in scoring (46.8) and sixth in total offense (509.6). The first half, however, closed with North Central leading by only a surprising 7-3 margin, and all of that scoring occurred in the final minute of the half. North Central completed a 15-play, 92-yard TD drive with Coleman's 7-yard TD reception with 57 seconds left. Cortland answered with a 7-play, 55-yard drive, assisted by a 15-yard late hit penalty on the Cardinals, and Baloga made a 31-yard field goal with two seconds left.

The second half, however, lived up to the offensive shootout that many expected. Cortland scored touchdowns on five of its first six possessions of the half and North Central, after forced into its only punt of the game on its first possession, scored four touchdowns and a field goal on its final five drives. The teams finished with 1,086 combined yards of total offense - 583 for North Central (404 rushing, 179 passing) and 503 for Cortland (154 rushing, 349 passing).

Cortland scored on the opening drive of the third when Boyes hit Burgess for a 9-yard TD pass in the back left side of the end zone. The play was originally ruled incomplete, but after a video review, used only in the semifinals and finals in Division III, it was determined that Burgess got a foot

inbounds after making the catch.

After the teams traded punts, North Central started on the Cortland 47-yard line and eventually regained the lead on a Sacco 4-yard TD run. Two plays into Cortland's next drive, Boyes hit Laap on a 65-yard bomb and the Red Dragons took a 17-14 lead.

North Central, as it did on a few occasions in the second half, struck quickly with big plays. Sacco ran 49 yards to the Cortland 20, followed by a pair of Sean Allen 5-yard runs. With North Central facing 1st-and-goal at the 10, Cortland's defense stiffened and eventually forced the Cardinals to settle for Ryniec's 24-yard field goal to knot the score at 17-17.

The fourth quarter featured a back-and-forth slugfest that turned the game into an instant classic. Cortland mounted a drive late in the third quarter, and the first play of the fourth was a 9-yard TD pass from Boyes to Iadevaio, and the Red Dragons led 24-17 with 14:56 left. On North Central's second play of the ensuing drive, Hardy caught a 59-yard pass to the Cortland 4-yard line, and Lehnen ran in on the next play to tie the game at 24-24 with 13:39 remaining.

Cortland covered 63 yards on 10 plays on the next series. Iadevaio closed the drive with a 10-yard TD catch and the Red Dragons went up 31-24 with 8:16 on the clock. Facing 2nd-and-15 from its own 36 after a sack,

North Central quickly tied the game when Lehnen broke free for a 64-yard TD run and the game was tied 31-31 with 7:16 left.

Cortland knocked 5:34 off the clock on its next drive and regained the lead. The biggest play in the series was a 12-yard run by Boyes on 4th-and-5 from the North Central 42-yard line. After Ashton Capone ran for six and three yards, Boyes hit Burgess on a short pass on 3rd-and-1. Burgess was able to turn the corner and run down the left sideline for a 21-yard score and Cortland was up 38-31 with 1:41 left.

North Central began its next drive with a 12-yard pass from Lehnen to Jack Rummell, and on the next play Lehnen hit Hardy for a 60-yard TD completion to cut Cortland's lead to 38-37 with 1:20 left. North Central elected to go for two and the lead. Following a Cortland timeout, Lehnen tried to run left for the 2-point try but was tackled by Naz Jean-Lubin and Martinez to preserve the Cortland lead.

North Central's attempted outside kickoff was recovered by Andrew Tarpey at the North Central 44-yard line. Capone ran for 13 yards and intentionally slid to the ground after the first down, allowing Cortland to take a knee three times to run out the clock and set off a national championship celebration.

Information from the Cortland sports website contributed to this story.



## FINAL FOOTBALL CONTEST OF THE SEASON

Merry Christmas to all as we have our final football contest of the season this week. First, however, we'll announce last week's winner.

Bobby Kiker tied several others with three misses but was just one off the high point total, which was 59 by South Dakota, so he wins the \$50 gift certificate from Mac & Bob's and the \$20 gift certificate from Macado's.

Also, I was informed that some of the papers that go out in the mail weren't delivered until Saturday after the Stagg Bowl and several of the bowl games on last week's contest. I checked with our circulation department and, indeed, our papers went out on time. However, due to a busy season at the post office the Salem Times-Register wasn't delivered on time to some of you. That's disappointing, as I had a big preview story on the Stagg Bowl and some of our readers didn't get it until after the game was over.

This week, for our final contest, none of the games on the contest start before December 27 when the Hokies play Tulane and Louisville plays Southern Cal. So, for this week, if you bring your contest to our office or have it post marked by next Tuesday, December 26, it will count.

I originally had the James Madison-Air Force game on this week's contest but that's being played this Saturday. I hate to leave JMU out, as they've been down that road before, but I thought I better add a later game just in case things get busy again with all the Christmas cards you folks are sending me. Sorry about last week, but it's really not our fault.

This week's contest is a special one, as you have a chance to pick the College Football Playoff champion as well as the Super Bowl champion. You already know the four teams included in the CFP tournament but you'll have to be real sharp to guess who will play in the Super Bowl as it's still over a month away. No one said this would be easy.

I also picked nine other bowl games for you to predict. There was a time not long ago when I struggled to find enough bowl games to put in the final contest, but now there are so many bowls I have to leave a bunch out. I made sure I included the Hokies and Liberty as well as most of the big games around New Year's Day. And, I always try to get West Virginia and Notre Dame in there because I know both have a lot of fans around here.

For our final contest we're throwing in a couple extra prizes. In addition to the \$50 gift certificate from Mac & Bob' and the \$20 gift certificate from Macado's the winner will also receive a year's subscription to the Salem Times-Register and a free day of golf from the Salem Municipal Course.

For our "19th Hole" in this week's contest give me your prediction on the Super Bowl, including teams and score, and the winner will get a free day of golf.

For last week's "19th Hole" I asked you to pick the score of the Stagg Bowl. The actual score was 38-37 Cortland in a thriller, and the closest to that score was Jim Farmer who picked the Red Dragons to win 42-35. So, he gets a free day of golf.

The winner of our final contest will be announced after the Super Bowl. Everyone have a great Christmas.

-Brian Hoffman



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Above, Salem City Council receives a congratulatory proclamation from NCAA President Charlie Baker (right). Left to right are Randy Foley, Hunter Holliday, Bill Jones, Jim Wallace and Mayor Renee Turk. Left, Cortland quarterback Zac Boyes was the game's MVP.



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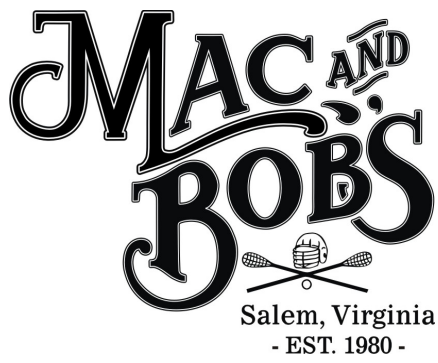
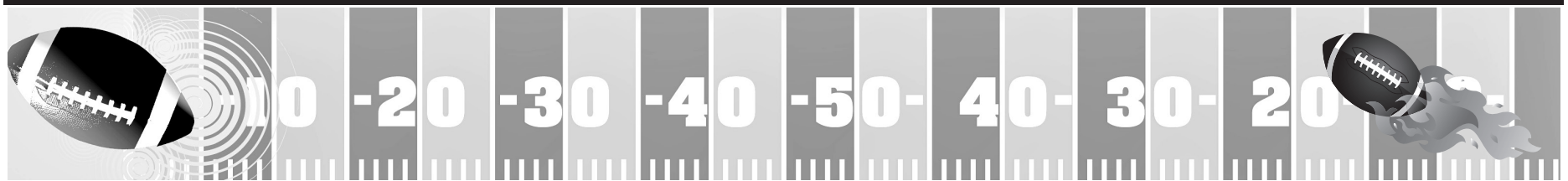
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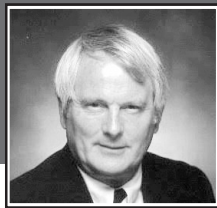
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### CONTEST RULES:

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

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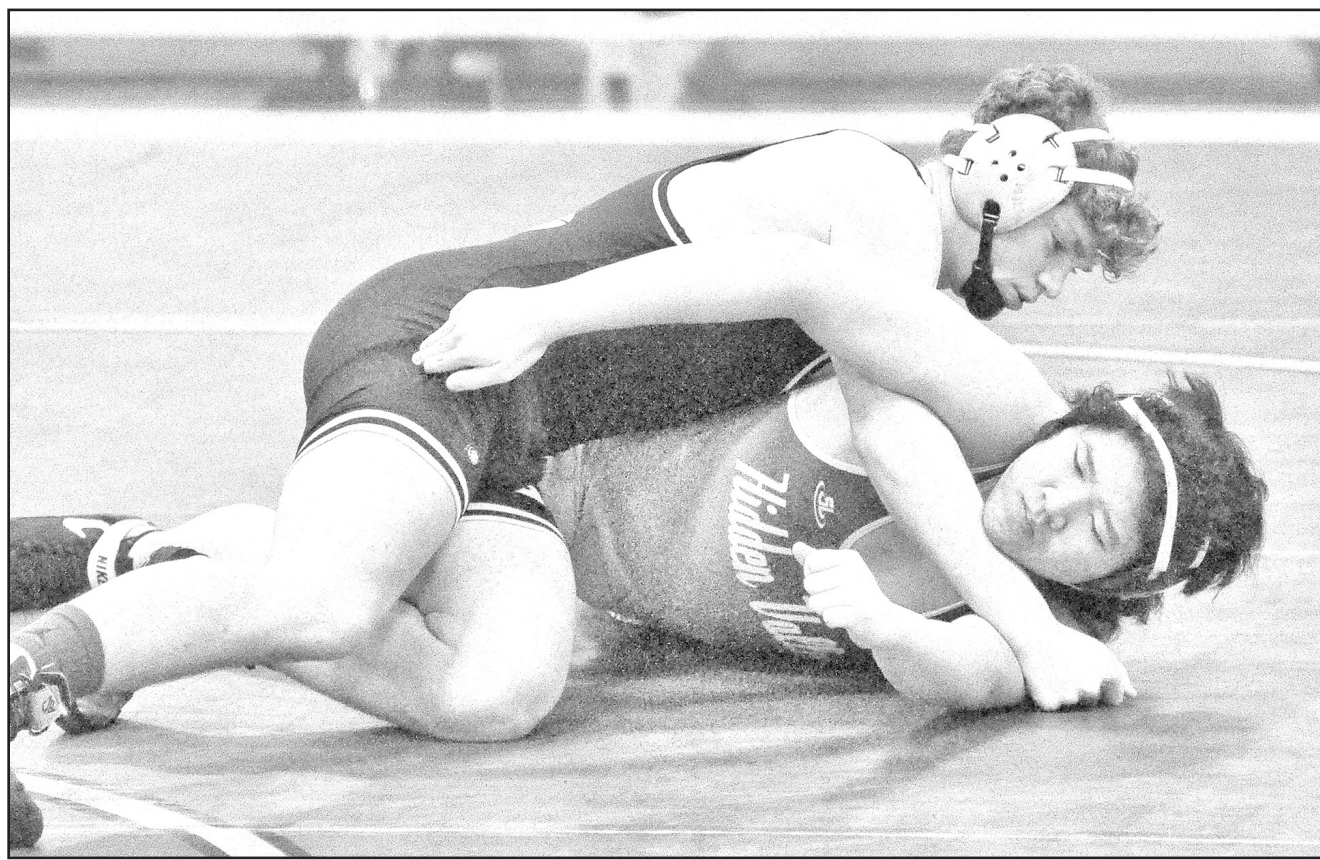
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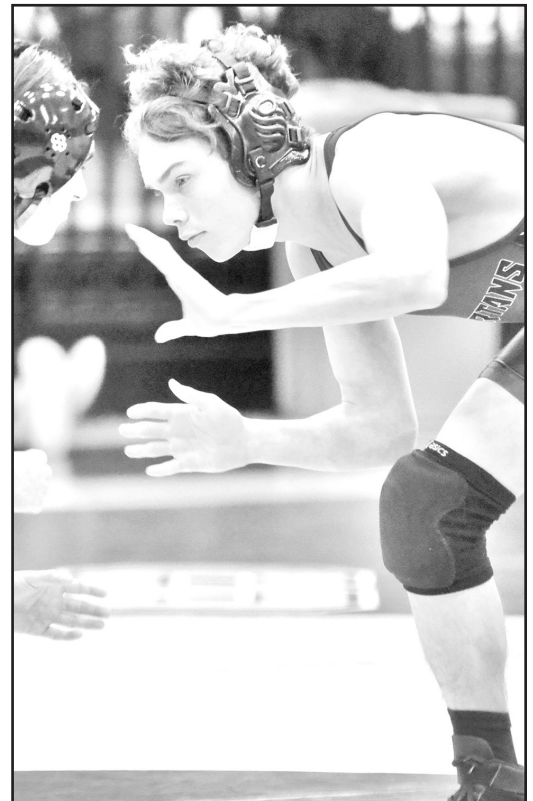
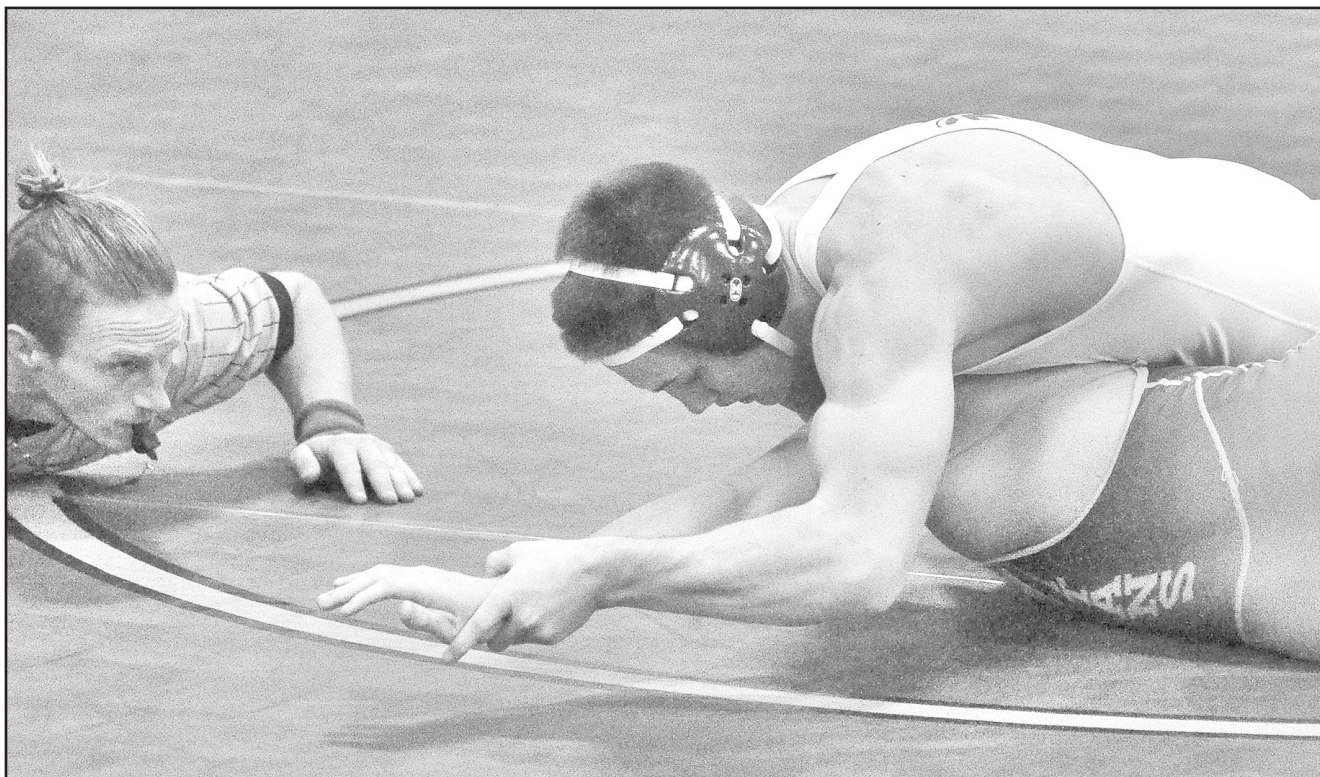
I think \_\_\_\_\_ will be the most points scored

The 19th Hole (see story)



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN & SUZANNE WITCHER

Above, Glenvar's Chase Miller has his Hidden Valley opponent in trouble as he prepares for a pin in last week's match at Glenvar High. Below, Ethan Flowers of the Highlanders positions his foe for the winning fall. Below right, Charlie McDonald of Salem looks for an opening in a recent match.



## Glenvar boys win East Coast Elite meet at RC

The Salem High and Glenvar indoor track teams competed in the East Coast Elite Meet last Saturday at Roanoke College and both teams had some outstanding performances among a large group of competing schools.

The Glenvar boys won the meet with 59 points, led by a big day from Colby Thompson. Colby won the high jump with a personal record(PR) jump of 6'2", won the 500 with a PR time of 1:07.89, took second in the long jump, third in the 300m with a PR time of 36.25 and third in the triple jump. Thompson was able to state qualify for all of his events and was also part of the boys 4x400 relay, which took third and qualified for state. Thompson broke the school record in the 300M, held by Killian McCroskey since 2017.

Charlie Horrell also had an outstanding day, taking sixth in the 1600 with a PR time of 4:49.45 and

qualifying for States. Charlie was also on the boys 4X400 team.

Zack Curfiss took second in the boys 500, Joey Loder took seventh in the boys 300 and they both were on the boys 4x400 team. Combined the boys had 12 PR's and six state qualifying times or jumps.

The Glenvar girls had a great day as well, with four PR's and Elle Graffeo qualifying for states in the girls 55H with at time of 10.45.

"We had many athletes not listed that stepped up, gained experience and showed great potential these past two meets," said coach Bekka Loder. "Overall we have a young team, but they are working hard every day and it's showing. Coach Bourne and I are very excited to see where these athletes can take it come the end of the season."

The Salem girls finished fourth out of 26 teams. Addyson Funk won the 1,600 and placed fifth in

the 1000. Genelle Balthazar was seventh in the 300, eighth in the 55 dash and ran on the second place relay team with Isabella Bruno-Gaston, Erin Armistead and Zi'Leyah Haynes. Armistead was fifth in the 300.

The girls 4x800 relay was seventh with Chloe Underwood, Blair Bowers, Lyndsy Rothkopf and Harper Rocovich.

The Salem boys finished 10th among 24 teams, topped by a second place finish by Josiah Persinger in the 55 dash. Other place winners included Mitchel Taylor with a fourth in the 300, Nazeser Miller with a fifth in the 300, Trenton Moyer with a sixth in the 55 and Carson Tucker with a seventh in the 1,600.

"Overall it was a great way to go into our winter break," said Salem High coach Tom Roth. "There were 25 season best performances for the girls and 28 season best performances for the boys."



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

## Maroons host high school indoor meet

Left, Glenvar's Colby Thompson competes in the long jump in last Saturday's East Coast Elite track meet at Roanoke College. Above left, Aiden Beverly runs in a relay race for the Highlanders. Above middle, Addy Funk is on her way to a winning effort in the girls' 1,600 meter race, and above right Dontay Davis of Salem competes in the shot put.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Action from the Bob Johnson Classic basketball event at Lord Botetourt High School Saturday. Left, Grant Clemens shoots a jumper for the Spartans in their game with host LB. Center, Cam Boles goes to the hole to score and, right, Bryce Carver of the Spartans lays one in on a fast break.

# Salem rally falls short at LB, girls unbeaten after 5 games

The Salem High basketball teams will be taking a week off for Christmas before returning to action next week.

Both teams played on Tuesday, but results were too late for early holiday deadlines. The Salem boys were at Blacksburg and the girls were home to the Bruins, then both are off until the girls play at Magna Vista on December 27 and the boys play in the four-team Wilson Memorial Tournament beginning December 28.

The girls come into the week undefeated at 4-0. Salem won at Cave Spring on Friday night, 49-37.

The Salem boys took a 2-3 record to Blacksburg Tuesday. Salem lost at home to Cave Spring on Friday night, 53-44, then dropped a 66-61 decision to Lord Botetourt Saturday night in the Bob Johnson Classic in Daleville.

A poor shooting first quarter cost the Spartans Saturday. They trailed 15-2 after the first quarter and went behind 21-2 early in the second period before rallying to cut the lead to 35-18 at the half. Salem then fell behind by as many as 24 in the second half before rallying again, getting as close as three points in the final minute before the Cavaliers hit some big foul shots to close out the game.

## Glenvar hoop teams look to turn things around in 2024

The Glenvar basketball teams will be looking for better results in the new year as they break for the holidays.

The boys team dropped to 1-5 with two losses last week. The Highlanders played their first Three Rivers District game at Floyd County and dropped a 64-60 decision, then played at William Byrd on Friday night and had a very similar result, falling 64-58.

The boys were scheduled to play at home against Christiansburg on Tuesday of this week, but results were too late for publication due to early

Christmas deadlines. They're now off until January 3rd when they return from break with a home game against Carroll County.

The Glenvar girls are still looking for a win after six games. The Highlanders continued to struggle to score last week, dropping two more games by lopsided scores. Glenvar lost at home to Blacksburg, 54-1, then lost another home game to William Byrd on Friday, 42-5.

The girls are now off until January 3rd when they play at Patrick County, to open the 2024 schedule.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Salem's Charli Wynn shoots a 3-pointer in the Spartans' recent game at Glenvar.



PHOTOS BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY

Left, Glenvar's Aidan Hylton drives around a Byrd defender as Brody Dawyot sets a pick. Above, Matthew Smith of Glenvar shoots a corner shot against the Terriers.

# SPORTS

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SUNY Cortland players celebrate with the NCAA Championship trophy after winning the Stagg Bowl at Salem Stadium last Friday night.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

## SUNY Cortland wins 50th Stagg Bowl in "Instant Classic"

The 50th Stagg Bowl returned to Salem last Friday and may have been the best one ever. The game went down to the final minute when the State University of New York(SUNY) Cortland defense stuffed a two-point conversion attempt to beat defending national champion North Central College of Illinois, 38-37.

The loss was the first of the season for North Central and it was a game of two distinctly different halves. The game was scoreless until North Central scored a touchdown with just 57 seconds remaining in the first half, then Cortland hit a field goal just before intermission. In the second half teams combined for 65 points in a back-and-forth shootout that

saw the game tied at 17-17, 24-24 and 31-31 before the Cardinals decided to go for two on their final touchdown. The Red Dragons then made the big stop for what proved to be the game winning play.

With the win SUNY Cortland captured its first-ever Division III football national title. The game was played on a chilly night in front of 3,381 fans at Salem Stadium.

Cortland closes the season with a 14-1 record, extending its school single-season victory record. The Red Dragons finished the year with a school-record 12-game win streak. Cortland's previous best national finishes were quarterfinal showings in 1988

and 2008. Cortland is the first school from the state of New York to win a Division III football title since Ithaca in 1991.

Stagg Bowl Most Outstanding Player Zac Boyes completed 26-of-34 passes for 349 yards and five touchdowns and ran 16 times for 123 yards. He's only the second Cortland player in school history to pass for 300 yards and run for 100 yards in the same game.

Cole Burgess caught 11 passes for 134 yards and two touchdowns, Joe Iadevaio finished with eight receptions for 95 yards and two scores, and JJ Laap

continued on page 10



Above left, Joe Sacco of North Central runs for a big gain as bare chested Cardinal fans cheer him on from the front row of a cold Salem Stadium. Above right, Cortland's Joe Iadevaio reaches for the goal line to score a second half touchdown for the Red Dragons. Below left, the Cortland defense stops a two point try by North Central in the final minutes of the game, preserving a one point lead, and below right Cortland's Cole Burgess breaks a tackle and scores what would be the winning touchdown.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

## Salem's Kathryn Ha named VSGA Junior Girls' Golfer of the Year

Salem High golfer Kathryn Ha has been named the Virginia State Golf Association(VSGA) Junior Girls' Golfer of the year after an incredible year on the links.

A junior at Salem High, Kathryn had seven wins during the high school season and finished in the top three in every tournament she played in, competing against both boys and girls. She was named first team All-River Ridge District, All-Region 4D, All-Class 4 in the state and River Ridge District Player of the Year. She was tied for second in the Virginia High School League Class 4 championship.

Outside of school Kathryn had the great honor of

playing for Team USA in the Junior Solheim Cup in Spain. She was also a member of the US East Team in the Wyndham Cup in California and had a win at the AJGA Justin Thomas Championship along with three top 10 AJGA finishes.

Ha won the Peggy Kirk Bell Tour Championship for the third year in a row in 2023. She was second team Rolex Junior All-American as well as Roanoke Valley Golf Hall of Fame Junior Girls' & Women's Player of the Year.

Kathryn has announced her intention to play at the University of Virginia upon graduation from Salem High.



KATHRYN HA

PHOTO BY JON FLEMING