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SALEM TIMES-REGISTER

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OurValley.org

Businesses, clubs face legal issues from skill games

Meg Hibbert
Contributing writer

Salem establishments with skill games are facing possible civil and criminal charges after a law went into effect outlawing games such as slot machines. The law went into effect in Salem this week on Jan. 1.

The legality of skill games had been questioned in the state since 2020 when the Virginia General Assembly enacted laws declaring skill games illegal gambling devices. An injunction was entered after a lawsuit was filed in Emporia Circuit Court.

A pause had been in effect until a three-judge opinion by Virginia's Supreme Court ended it.

In Salem, a number of convenience stores, small restaurants and bars and fraternal organizations such as

Salem Moose Lodge 2573 have the machines.

Commonwealth's Attorney Tom Bowers said this week he had a list of 17 establishments known to have skill games.

"We've given notice," he said. "Now the law is eligible to be enforced. Obviously that depends on manpower. This is not a surprise to anybody. It is a question of regulation. This is deemed to be gambling. We will enforce the law. The police department will determine, based on manpower and probably complaints as well."

"I had a complaint last week from a family member whose father was spending \$300 a day and that money is just gone," he added.

"There is no exemption, whether it is a charitable organization or what," he said.

Operators could face a \$25,000 civil penalty for each machine. And then there is the possibility of criminal charges for illegally possessing gambling devices, which carries a fine of up to \$2,500, up to a year in jail or both.

People who play skill games could also be charged with a class 3 misdemeanor, with a fine up to \$500.

Bowers and Police Chief Mike Crawley issued a press release Dec. 18 regarding enforcement of skill games.

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 the games to continue.



COURTESY PHOTO

Salem Commonwealth's Attorney Tom Bowers

According to the press release, the Salem Police Department in cooperation with the will resume enforcing illegal gambling code sections related to "Skill Games" beginning Jan. 1.



COURTESY PHOTO

SAEM's Artice Ledbetter and Garry Lautenschlager presented checks to Andrew Lewis Principal Matt Coe and Salem High Principal Kelly Linkenhoker.

Salem School Board recognizes Salem Area Ecumenical Ministries

The Salem City School Board formally recognized the Salem Area Ecumenical Ministries at December's meeting for its contributions to provide Andrew Lewis Middle School and Salem High School assistance to reduce school lunch debt.

In early October 2023, Salem Area Ecumenical Ministries and four other nonprofit organizations from the Eastern

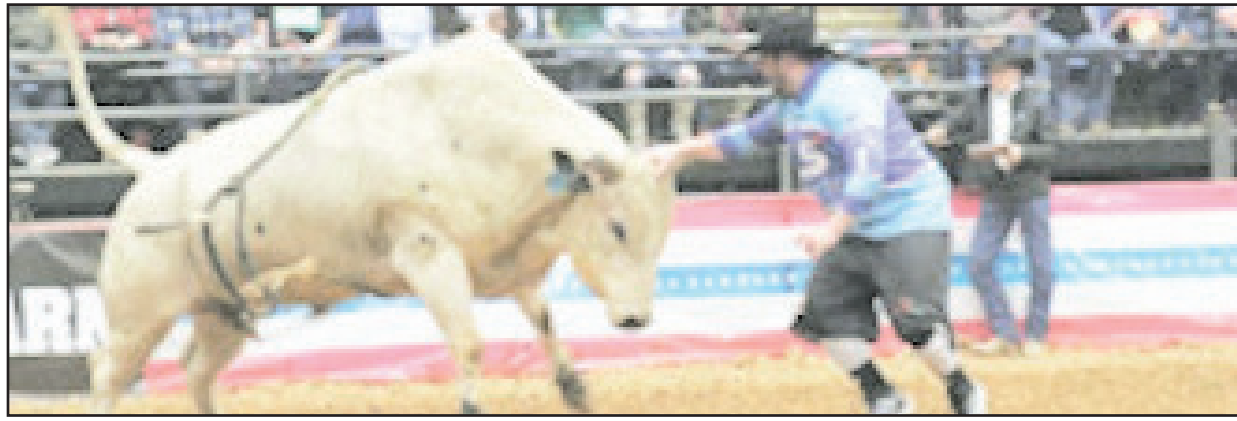
Region participated in the Thrivent "Take the Plunge!" live online, interactive event to earn votes to win funding for their organization. SAEM highlighted its local ministries including ACT packs for Children's Program, the Summer Feed and Read Program, the school food pantry programs, the school garden programs and Mrs. Dorsey's Clothes Closet and received \$5,000 from Thrivent

based on the votes.

At its November meeting, SAEM's Board of Directors approved the use of these funds for this purpose and pledged its support to continue the partnership with Salem City Schools to assist with reducing the school lunch debt at Andrew Lewis Middle School and Salem High School.

-The Salem Times-Register

Salem Stampede Championship Rodeo returning to Salem Civic Center



COURTESY PHOTO

The Salem Stampede Championship Rodeo will take place Jan. 5-7.

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.

Professional cowboys and cowgirls, many from Virginia, will be competing in rodeo's most popular events, sanctioned by the International Professional Rodeo Association. The IPRA competition features bull riding, bronc busting, and barrel racing, and it is not unusual to have contestants from across the United States and Canada, including current or former world champions, utilizing this event as a final tune-up for the International Finals Rodeo.

The crowd-pleasing mutton busting is back for

cowpokes ages 5, 6 and 7, who weigh 50 pounds or less. Organizers said fans love seeing how far the youngsters can successfully ride a sheep in the arena.

"Southwestern Virginia has always been good to us and last year was no exception," said Rodeo Spokesman Kevin DeBusk. "We had three sell-out performances, and we expect the same in 2024. We are so excited to be continuing the tradition of starting the rodeo season off at the Salem Civic Center."

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.

-The Salem Times-Register

Museum to host presentation on geologic history related to the Blue Ridge Mountains

The Blue Ridge Mountains are among the oldest mountains on planet Earth, with a fascinating story to tell. In the Salem Museum's first Speaker Series talk of 2024, Dr. Jonathan Tso will describe the geologic processes that shaped the landscape we see and enjoy today. His talk will be given on Thursday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

Dr. Tso is the Geology Department chair and an Associate Professor at Radford University. His research interests include Appalachian geology, especially the geology of the Blue Ridge. He holds an M.S. and Ph.D. from Virginia Tech.

The Salem Museum's Thursday evening Speaker Series programs will be held on Zoom in January, February and March to avoid any inclement winter weather. Zoom links will be posted on the Salem Museum's website, SalemMuseum.org, on the morning of the event. Programs will return to in-person in Spring.

Additional upcoming Speaker Series events include "An American Noah" and "Patrick Henry of Red Hill."

"An American Noah" will be on Thursday, Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. B. Scott Crawford will share his insights into Gilbert Stuart's iconic portrait of George Washington, which is known as the Lansdowne Portrait. Stuart incorporated imagery of Noah and the Flood into the portrait, imagery which provides insights into how Stuart presented Washington, as well as Washington's vision for the nation. Crawford holds a Master's in Colonial American History and currently serves as President and CEO of Virginia 811.

"Patrick Henry of Red Hill" will be on Thursday, March 14 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Red Hill in Brookneal, Virginia is the Patrick Henry National Memorial. Patrick Henry's last home and burial site, Red Hill preserves the legacy of Patrick Henry, regarded as the Voice of the American Revolution. Patrick Henry Jolly, Patrick Henry's fifth great-grandson, will share Patrick Henry's story and his contributions to America's Independence.

-The Salem Times-Register



COURTESY PHOTO

Tso

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Briefly: Salem News In Brief

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.

Annual Meeting & Economic Outlook Update: The Salem-Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual update on Friday, Jan. 19 from 8 a.m.-10 a.m. at the Salem Civic Center. This meeting includes an Economic Outlook Update from representatives of Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge, City of Salem and Roanoke County Economic Development, and the Roanoke Regional Partnership. There will be a moderated panel and attendees are encouraged to come with questions.

"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.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

VIRGINIA RAILWAY HELPS TO BRING PROSPERITY TO THIS SECTION SINCE COMPLETION

Railroad Symbolizes Materialization Of Dream Of H. H. Rogers Who Financed Line Which Links The Great Lakes With The Sea

From the 1938 centennial edition of The Times-Register

To say that any one railroad was the work of one man would be untrue but the part that Col. H. H. Rogers played in the development of the Virginia Railway from Deep Water, West Virginia, to Sewalls Point on Hampton Roads, will go down in the annals of American financial history as one of the outstanding accomplishments of the early 1900's.

As it stands now, since the Virginian links with the New York Central System at Deep Water, W. Va., this road provides a through route from the Great Lakes Region to the Atlantic Ocean. The road was put into operation July 1, 1909.

The Virginian was built out of the resources of one man, as has been pointed out on numerous occasions, who had the foresight to forsake the usual piece-meal arrangements and plan for the most economical movement of traffic on the road.

Col. Rogers In 23 Companies

During the years that Col. Rogers was building up the Virginian he was head or director of 23 enterprises of the country, in three major railroads, and yet financed the construction of the Virginian road at the cost of \$50,000,000 through the money panic of 1907 without having to resort to a bond issue. However, this great capitalist died without having seen the realization of his dream.

It was in May 1923, that the company announced that it had signed a contract with the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing company for the electrification of its line from Mullens, W. Va., to Roanoke, a distance of 134 miles, which up to that time was the largest electrification contract ever awarded.

Operation of the electrification system as started between Mullens and Clark's Gap September 21, 1925, and extended to Princeton in October 1925. The complete electrification from Mullens to Roanoke was placed in operation on September 18, 1925. Included in the electrification are a 90,000 horsepower plant in New River at Narrows, a number of transformer stations and inspection and shop facilities at Mullens and Roanoke.

The Virginian reunites two sections of a great domain which was originally a single state, Virginia, but which geographical and political conditions kept sundered for centuries. The road penetrates the heart of the coal fields in the southern part of West Virginia, pierces the Alleghany mountains (part of the great Appalachian range, extending from northern Pennsylvania to central Alabama), and traverses southern Virginia to the Atlantic Ocean.

Its terminal, Sewalls Point, is a favorably situated peninsula jutting out into Hampton Roads.

The Tie-Up

The tie-up of the Virginian with the New York Central, effected on March 15, 1931, circumscribed the territorial pattern which the farseeing builder of the road originally intended to encompass. With their lateral connections, these two great railway systems unify the relationships of producers and shippers to the great consuming and distributing of the Midwest and the southeastern states by a service that is unexcelled.

When the Deepwater bridge was opened for traffic on March 15, 1931, it gave to Virginia and West Virginia another transportation line, standing for the further development of these two states with a traffic service equal to none.

There was established a fast time freight service, giving a rapid service between Columbus, Roanoke and Norfolk, and with the connections of the Virginian with the Southern railway at Altavista, the Seaboard Air Line at Alberta, the Atlantic Coastline at Jarratt, and the Norfolk and Southern at Norfolk, it provided a fast freight service from all the central, northwestern and western territory to the entire South.

The Virginian operates and maintains its telegraph and telephone lines and has, therefore been able to make advantageous arrangements with the commercial telegraph company as to division of receipts from messages, not only in its own territory, but to and from all points in the United States.

Self-Contained Road

This is one of the advantages that have accrued to this railway from the fact that it was built as a complete and self-contained road, owning all of its operating equipment, whereas other railroads are generally

dependent upon the commercial telegraph companies for their wire services and its maintenance.

The traffic of the Virginian naturally divides itself into two broad classes: the through coal freight, and the diversified business from points in Virginia and West Virginia enroute.

The road also carries agricultural produce, lumber, raw material and manufactured products of the varied agricultural and mineral wealth of the two states, Virginia and West Virginia; a general freight business both long-haul and local, solidly based on the resources and opportunities of the country through which the road runs.

The Virginian Railway was the first railroad in the United States to be taken over by the federal government after the declaration of war against Germany and Austria. Shortly afterwards, however, all other rail lines in the country were taken into federal service.

Near the close of the government administration C. H. Hix was appointed Federal Manager of the Virginian and when the railroads were turned back to their owners, he became its active vice president and not long afterwards was elected president of the road. It was under his management that great work of linking up the Virginian with the New York Central System by the construction of the Deepwater Bridge, thus giving a short mileage from Columbus and all leading cities in the central states, as well as from all Lake Port-Cities to Norfolk, Richmond, Petersburg and other points south. Through his far-sighted policies the Virginian was taken from the coal-carrier classification and made part of a competing trunk line system which more than carries out the dream of Col. Rogers to construct a rail line "from the Lakes to the Sea."

W. H. Carper has been an agent of the Virginian at Salem since January first, having succeeded W. H. Hix, retired. Mr. W. P. Ayers, who succeeded the late E. H. Birchfield as General Agent at Roanoke, in 1933, has supervision of this territory.

Actually, the work of building the Virginian was started in West Virginia in the name of the Deepwater Railway company. The Loup Creek estate, owning 25,000 acres of coal land, in 1896 had built a four-mile extension from Deepwater up Loup Creek to Robson, where a large timber operation was set up, and in 1898 a charter had been granted to "The Deepwater Railway Company," which had for its object further lateral extensions to local mining properties and the eventual construction of a line to connect with the Norfolk and Western at Matoaka.

Prior to 1902 the Loup Creek estate passed into the hand of the Loup Creek Colliery company, in which H. H. Rogers is said to have held a half interest, and which, in turn, was controlled through stock ownership by the Gauley Mountain Coal company, of which William N. Page was president.

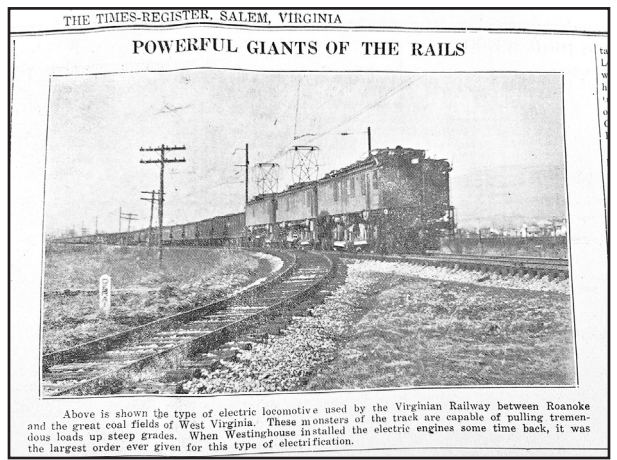
When Mr. Rogers took a directing hand in the affairs of the Deepwater railway, his first act was to have its charter amended to provide for its extension to the West Virginia-Virginia boundary line. The company's charter was so revised in September 1902. It was about a year and five months later that the Tidewater railway was chartered in Virginia to build to the boundary line of the two Virginias to connect with the Deepwater railway.

Construction work was carried on continuously on this line from March, 1903, to March, 1907, when 59 miles were in operation and the remaining 52 miles extending to the Virginia boundary line were under construction.

Right-Of-Way Finished In 1906

On the Tidewater line the work of establishing the right-of-way was begun in February 1904, reaching a completion in the same month in 1906. The first grading contract, covering 95 miles starting from Sewalls Point, was let May 15, 1905, and by February 3, 1906, the entire length of the line was under contract. The first track was put down in October 1905, near Algren, and one of the first tracks laid was between Brookneal and Roanoke.

Deepwater railway timetables dating back to the years of construction show that complete sections of the road were placed in operation from a few months to several years before the Virginian was completed as a whole. Train service was inaugurated between Deepwater and Mullens in November 1906, and



FROM THE TIMES-REGISTER ARCHIVES

extended from Mullens to Matoaka on June 30, 1907; thence to Princeton on November 22, 1908.

Tidewater timetables show the inauguration of train service between Roanoke and Big Stony on September 28, 1908, and extended to Rich's Creek on December 7, 1908; thence to Princeton on February 2, 1909.

The railroad's timetable No. 1 shows that passenger service was instituted between Deepwater and Roanoke at 12 o'clock a.m. on May 23, 1909, by the installation of trains Nos. 13 and 14, and through passenger train service for the entire line, from Deepwater to Norfolk, was inaugurated July 1, 1909.

When the Virginian started construction out of the West Virginia coal fields there was not a single mine development on what is now its main line. Nearly a hundred mines have been directly developed by the railroad since that time, and the company has shared in the development of about half as many on connecting branch lines.

The road's shop and terminal facilities are constituent features of this intensely mechanized and massive railway plant. Its Sewalls Point piers, also electronically operated, are among the most modernly equipped on the Atlantic Coast. Its general shops are the last word in equipment.

The initial expenditure made in the solid and scientific construction entailed by the substantial character of the roadbed and the investment of its equipment make the Virginian's per-mile capitalization (approximately \$250,000) exceptionally high, but the justification of this outlay is reflected in the fact that the upkeep of the road is proportionately minimized and that the road hauls from 628 to 794 tons per train mile more than any other road at a relatively lower cost of operation.

Through its able financing and planning the Virginian has aided measurably through the years in distributing the many rich products of this section throughout the state, and has served as one of the important outlets for products at the busy port of Norfolk.

C. Bucholtz, succeeded the late C. H. Hix as president of the Virginian Railway. He has offices at Terminal Building, Norfolk. Other officers are as follows:

Adrian H. Larkin, chairman, board of directors, New York, N.Y.; C. Bucholtz, president, Norfolk; W. R. Coe, vice president; W. H. T. Loyall, vice president; William White, general manager; W. D. Baker, asst. general manager; L. A. Markham, assistant to president; Ivins A. Brown, secretary-treasurer; H. Clement, assistant treasurer; A. M. Traugott, chief engineer; A. H. Chapman, asst. chief engineer; H. W. Walker, engineer coal development; E. W. Knight, consulting counsel; Williams, Loyall and Taylor, general solicitors; D. C. King, purchasing agent; M. B. Goldblatt, comptroller; C. E. Sears, Auditor; E. E. Arnold, tax and insurance agent; M. A. Hartigan, Jr., general claim agent; C. E. Reynolds, car accountant; J. W. Sasser, superintendent motive power; A. R. Kyle, superintendent; J. W. White, superintendent; Berkeley Mills, general agent.

Traffic: S. M. Adsit, manager; H. C. Mitchell, Richard M. Egan, E. D. Hanes, A. F. Schafhirt, J. S. Branch, J. F. Smith and L. W. Woody.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Happy New Year! A New Year's resolution is a promise you make to yourself to start doing something good or stop doing something bad on the first day of the year. According to various sources, success rates vary from 9% to 46% for 6 months. That's a large range. Let's face it most of us don't keep strictly to our resolutions if we do make them. If the idea of making a New Year's resolution fills you with dread, don't make one. No one has to know. A popular resolution for most people is to eat healthier.

To meet that goal, be an informed shopper and use food labels to your advantage by comparing products to choose the foods and beverages that will help you build a healthier diet. Understanding the Nutrition Facts label on food items can help you make better choices. The label breaks down the number of calories, carbs, fat, fiber, protein, and vitamins per serving of the food, making it easier to compare the nutrition of similar products. Be sure to look at different brands of the same foods—nutrition information can differ a lot. For example, one brand of tomato sauce may have more calories and sugar than another brand for the same serving size. Notice how many calories are contained in one serving. The serving size is not a suggestion of how much to eat, just how much to count. If you eat two servings, you double the calories and nutrients. % Daily Value (%DV) shows how much a nutrient in a serving of the food contributes to a total daily diet. Use the %DV to determine if a serving of the food is high or low in an individual nutrient. You can also use the %DV to compare food products (make sure the serving size is the same). For example, if you eat one serving of a food and it provides 10% DV of dietary fiber, then for that day, you have eaten 10% of your dietary fiber daily goal.

Although we take its existence for granted today, the Nutrition Facts label was not always required to be on food packages prior to 1990. The U.S. Nutrition Facts label first appeared in May 1994 and was revised in 2016. A newer, more updated version was required on products as of January 1, 2020. Whole foods – such as fruit, vegetables, fresh meat, and seafood – do not need a nutrition label since they do not contain any additional ingredients. According to the



Shelly Koon
Contributing
Writer

University of Texas at Austin, food labeling began as a safety precaution for consumers due to foodborne illness outbreaks in the 1850's. It is suspected that President Zachary Taylor died after consuming contaminated fruit and iced milk at a fourth of July picnic. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) was created in 1862 by President Abraham Lincoln which led to the creation of strict guidelines for food handling and processing. 128 years later a recognizable nutritional facts panel was mandated on all food products.

In most recipe books there are nutrition facts attached to the recipes, including serving size, calories per serving and nutrition content. If you want the nutrition content of your family recipes there are many recipe nutrition calculators online. Just put in the ingredients and amounts and it is figured for you.

This week's recipe is one of my favorite healthier recipes. You can use almost any vegetable you like; broccoli, asparagus, and peppers work well too. I have also included the nutrition facts for the recipe as written.

Sheet pan tilapia and veggies

Ingredients:

- 2 medium Yukon Gold potatoes, cut into wedges
- 3 large fresh Brussels sprouts, thinly sliced
- 3 large radishes, thinly sliced
- 1 cup fresh sugar snap peas, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 1 small carrot, thinly sliced
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 2 tilapia fillets (6 ounces each)



PHOTO BY SHELLY KOON

- 2 teaspoons minced fresh tarragon or 1/2 teaspoon dried tarragon
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon butter, softened
- Optional: Lemon wedges and tartar sauce

Directions:

Preheat oven to 450°. Line a 15x10x1-in. baking pan with foil; grease foil.

In a large bowl, combine the first 5 ingredients. Add melted butter, garlic salt and pepper; toss to coat. Place vegetables in a single layer in prepared pan; bake until potatoes are tender, about 20 minutes.

Remove from oven; preheat broiler. Arrange vegetables on 1 side of sheet pan. Add fish to other side. Sprinkle fillets with tarragon and salt; dot with softened butter. Broil 4-5 in. from heat until fish flakes easily with a fork, about 5 minutes. If desired, serve with lemon wedges and tartar sauce.

Nutrition Facts- 2 servings

1 serving: 555 calories, 20g fat (12g saturated fat), 129mg cholesterol, 892mg sodium, 56g carbohydrate (8g sugars, 8g fiber), 41g protein.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are Burnett, Wing and Taylor.

Roanoke College honors employees with STAR Awards

Three Roanoke College employees were honored with Service To All Roanoke (STAR) Awards during the 2023 faculty and staff holiday celebration on Dec. 18. The awards are given annually to staff members who deliver exceptional performance in their jobs and make a positive difference in the college community and beyond.

Award selections are based on nominations from the community in three categories: hourly, non-exempt and exempt. Winners receive a trophy and \$1,000.

Brian Burnett, a masonry worker in the Buildings and Grounds Department, received the award in the hourly category. "Burnett provides excellent service year-round, but he was nominated specifically for the work he did on the restoration of the Administration Building's first floor. The work included removing carpeting, flooring and joists to repair the foundation of the structure. Throughout the massive project, which included making special renovations on the fly, Burnett's catch phrase was "Don't worry, it'll be alright." Burnett demonstrated care, patience and commitment to restoring the historic structure, always with a smile and a willingness to go the extra mile," the college said.

Diane Wing, coordinator of the campus center and student activities, was recognized in the non-exempt

category for her dedication to the job for more than 20 years. "As the main administrator of the EMS scheduling system, Wing is an essential resource for faculty, staff and students across campus. Her ability to juggle many tasks with endless details keeps the Colket Center running smoothly. And with one of the largest student employee staffs on campus, Wing exhibits patience, care and a positive attitude. To many students, she represents a home away from home," the college said.

Dave Taylor, assistant vice president for academic operations, was honored in the exempt category. "Taylor eats, sleeps and breathes Roanoke College and consistently demonstrates leadership and commitment to improving the school. He has been indispensable in critical areas such as course offerings, departmental workflow, faculty compensation, academic policies, and software and data systems. He is also adept at navigating difficult and confidential situations, as evidenced by his work with academic integrity, Title IX and student complaints. He always seeks multiple perspectives but knows when to stand by difficult decisions. His institutional knowledge is a boon to the Roanoke College community," the college said.

-The Salem Times-Register

POLICE REPORT

City of Salem Police Department



Weekly Arrest Report

Week of December 19, 2023 – December 25, 2023

Arrested On	Name	Age	Charges
12/19/2023	Jamie W. Mabry	52	Criminal Trespass
12/19/2023	Mohammad I. Azami	30	Public Intoxication
12/19/2023	Jorsendi Fleurinord	19	Failure to Appear
12/19/2023	April L. Murray	41	Failure to Appear
12/19/2023	Sidney W. Williams	44	DUI
12/19/2023	Sharon R. Johnson	53	DUI
12/20/2023	Sean C. Easley Jr.	28	DUI, Public Intoxication
12/20/2023	Juan C. Gregorio	26	DUI
12/20/2023	Christen D. Chenoweth	42	Violation of Probation
12/21/2023	Travis L. Ferren	36	DUI
12/22/2023	Kevin R. Townes	26	Carrying Concealed Weapon
12/23/2023	Zachary S. Steffek	22	DUI
12/23/2023	Eva A. Benitez	51	Conceal Merchandise
12/23/2023	Russell J. Wright	65	Public Intoxication
12/23/2023	Timothy W. Franco	63	DUI
12/23/2023	Allan F. Portillo	36	DUI, Obstructing Justice
12/23/2023	Diana Benitez	27	Shoplifting
12/25/2023	Rachael P. Sampson	27	Domestic Assault & Battery
12/25/2023	Mihir R. Mistry	25	DUI

City of Salem Police Department



Weekly Crime Report (Felony Cases)

Week of December 19, 2023 – December 25, 2023

DATE REPORTED	LOCATION	OFFENSE REPORTED
20-DEC-2023	1800 BLK W Main St	Embezzlement
21-DEC-2023	1800 BLK W Main St	Embezzlement
22-DEC-2023	2500 BLK Romar Dr	Grand Larceny

Send community news and photos to aboyd@mainstreetnewspapers.com

ADVANCED PREPLANNING

A Thoughtful Gift

As uncomfortable as it is, we all must confront the thought of our own death. The last thing we would want to do is to put more burden on our family and loved ones.

Preplanning and arranging your own service is a caring and responsible way to relieve stress from your overwhelmed and grieving loved ones. Now your loved ones may rest assured knowing that they have honored your wishes.

By Preplanning you eliminate emotional overspending. You may lock in funeral costs at today's prices.

We open our doors to you at your convenience. Our licensed Funeral Directors are available to help you with your Preplanning needs.

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It is our mission to build a bridge of trust, compassion, respect and a lasting relationship with our families during the most difficult of times.

OPINION

The Christmas season is a special time for many folks across the Sixth District and throughout the Nation, and it serves as an important reminder of all the blessings God has given us, most importantly, the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. This holiday season, may we all take a moment to express our gratitude to those who keep us safe and healthy, as well as our brave men and women in uniform, and think of those less fortunate among us.

Preventing Universities From Using Taxpayer-Funded Grants for Woke Programs

Universities are raking in tens of billions of tax dollars for scientific research. While some are using their grant money appropriately, others are using it as a slush fund for woke, radical Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives.

It's far past time universities get back to basics and stop pushing the Left's political agenda on the taxpayers' dime. That is why last week, I introduced the Federal Grant Accountability Act, which will ensure institutions of higher education are properly using these taxpayer dollars solely for conducting research projects, rather than funding DEI activities. This legislation would require reports



Ben Cline
Congressman

on how indirect cost reimbursements are being allocated to schools to provide more transparency to the federal grant-making process.

Fighting Against Waste and Abuse of Unspent COVID Funds

As the Chairman of the Republican Study Committee's (RSC) Budget and Spending Taskforce, I sent a letter with RSC Chairman Kevin Hern (R-OK) to the Treasury Department demanding that they roll back a new rule that would allow state and local governments to hoard tens of billions in unspent COVID funds from the 2021 American Rescue Plan (ARP).

Under current law, state and local governments have until December 31, 2024 to "obligate" these

COVID funds. Yet, instead of enforcing this statutory deadline, the Treasury Department's new rule would allow state and local governments to use this money past the deadline. This will only further fuel inflationary and wasteful spending, and I'm fighting to stop it.

Recognizing the Hot Springs Rescue Squad's 60th Anniversary

I was pleased to recognize the Hot Springs Rescue Squad on the House floor recently for 60 years of serving the people of Bath County. Since 1963, the Squad has been providing emergency medical services and conducting vehicle, search, and water rescues, along with treatment and transport for medical and trauma patients. We are incredibly grateful for all the volunteers for going above and beyond to help those in need, especially during the holiday season, and wish the Hot Springs Rescue Squad many more years of success.

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.

Happy New Year! See what your local public library has to offer!

Ways to use your local library in the New Year!

- Don't have a library card? Get one! While checking out library books and movies for free in person is a great way to use your library card, there are many added benefits to using your library card online.
- Use your library card on-line. Check out e-books or e-audiobooks using the Libby App, read the Roanoke Times and the New York Times, and consult Consumer Reports, Chilton's Car Repair, and many other online databases (follow the "research" link on library website: www.salemlibrary.info Read many popular magazines (Magzter Library App) Ask librarians for information about how to access these extra resources.
- Bring your child or grandchild to library programs for their age group and to check out library books to create in them a love of books and learning. Watch out for new programming that will be added in the new year. The library has added to their youth services staff to increase programming. Discover what interests each child and get books that engage them in learning. Ask the librarians

Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community
Benita VanCleave

for suggestions in person or through the "email youth services" link on the youth services area of the library webpage: www.salemlibrary.info

- Bring your child or grandchild to the library to spend time reading together or make it a habit to read together at home.
- Take classes and attend workshops and programs when offered. The library will have more new programs geared towards Seniors this year.
- Seniors and caregivers: subscribe to the Salem Library's newsletter: "The Resilient Library Newsletter." E-mail library@salemva.gov or call 540-375-3089. Look at the Resilient Library collection at the Salem Library to find relevant

information on health, aging, caregiving, and other aspects of importance to seniors.

Upcoming events for kids:

Thursdays in January: 10:15 a.m.; Book Babies: Special Storytime designed for infants and crawlers. Register at salemva.libcal.com

11 a.m.; Story Explorers: Children aged 0-5. Register at salemva.libcal.com

January Wednesdays starting Jan. 10, 3:15 p.m.; Barks & Books: Read with a therapy dog. Grades 1-5. Register at salemva.libcal.com

Saturday, Jan. 13, 2 p.m. Taylor Swift Eras Party: Celebrate the many eras of Taylor Swift with us! Make friendship bracelets, a "Junior Jewels" t-shirt, listen to Taylor Swift's music, and hang out with other Swifties! Space is limited, so sign-up soon! Open to ages 6+. Elementary-aged attendees must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Upcoming events for adults:

Thursday, Jan. 11 and 25: 2-4 p.m. Puzzles and Games Afternoons, Ages 18+ No registration required. Join us for an afternoon of fun playing board games, card games and puzzles in the meeting room. Snacks will be provided.

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SALEM MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT



American Flyer Train at the Salem Museum

COURTESY PHOTO

There is still time to see the Salem Museum's highly anticipated Christmas model train set! The train display has been extended through February 3, 2024. Come visit this month to see one of the Museum's most popular displays.

This will be the last year for the Burke family trains. Don't miss this classic—and imaginative—

American Flyer layout!

This year, the display has expanded to three tracks, including a new, tiny N-scale train.

These vintage trains take visitors back in time to the charming village of "Plasticville," set in the 1950s and '60s. In addition to the trains and buildings of all sorts, there's an interesting cast of little

characters playing in the snow. This year, sharp-eyed visitors will discover an array of new surprises. A scavenger hunt will help visitors find all of the tiny delights.

The Salem Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and located at 801 E. Main St.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3				4	5	6	
7						8			9
10			11				12		
13						14	15		16
17			18			19			20
21					22	23			24
					25				26
			27	28			29		
			30				31		
			32			33			34
39	40				41			42	
43				44				45	
46			47					48	
49								50	
	51							52	

CLUES ACROSS

1. Basics

4. Swiss river

7. Constrictor snake

8. Building occupied by monks

10. Discount

12. Deal a blow to

13. Relating to the ear

14. Thyrotropin

16. Loud, unpleasant noise

17. Large intestines

19. Move with a curving trajectory

20. Witnesses

21. You need both to live

25. Dash

26. Network

27. Dig

29. C. European river

30. Supplement with difficulty

31. Corporate executive

32. Carroll O'Connor's onscreen wife

39. No variation

41. Airborne (abbr.)

42. "Heidi" author

43. Affirmative

44. Pie ___ mode

45. W. Asian country

46. Grotesque or bizarre

48. Delicacy (archaic)

49. Textile

50. Denial

51. Electronic data processing

52. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

1. Engulf

2. Waterside hotel

3. Printed cotton fabric

4. Defensive nuclear weapon

5. One who follows the rules

6. Lace up once more

8. Fire byproduct

9. Hankerings

11. Outer

14. One-time aerospace firm

15. Seafood

18. Commercial

19. Epoxy hardener (abbr.)

20. Samoan monetary unit

22. Type of gland

23. Arrest

24. Check

27. Past participle of be

28. Alias

29. A major division of geological time

31. Kids programming channel (abbr.)

32. Joked

33. Helps little firms

34. Roman numeral 50

35. Impressive in size or scope

36. Domineering leader

37. A person who delivers a speech

38. One after 89

39. Young hawk

40. The scene of any event or action

44. A team's best pitcher

47. Integrated data processing

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School divisions finalize ALL in VA plans

RICHMOND— Last month, Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced that all 131 Virginia school divisions have finalized their ALL in VA plans to address significant learning loss through high intensity tutoring, literacy education, and measures to promote school attendance. In September, Youngkin challenged all school divisions to urgently create ALL in VA comprehensive plans that were tailored to their specific divisions and took aggressive action to ensure their students get the academic support they need to recover learning loss, boost their attendance and academic performance.

“I’m pleased all of Virginia’s school divisions have heeded my call to urgently and aggressively take action to help our students recover from the covid pandemic learning loss,” said Youngkin. “I’m pleased that today every school division has embraced that challenge and are committed to getting our students back on track academically.”

Gov. Youngkin and the General Assembly dedicated \$418 million in the state budget in flexible funding for Virginia schools to aid in learning loss recovery and implement the Virginia Literacy Act. School divisions have thought creatively of ways to

implement best practices and offer high-intensity tutoring to their students- before and after school, modifying in-school schedules, and offering Saturday sessions are all options that divisions have planned to help their students.

“When Virginians set their mind to ensuring every student receives the supports they need, kids thrive,” said Secretary Aimee Guidera. “This milestone is a meaningful testament to the leadership and commitment of our school divisions and community volunteers to students and families.”

“Our school divisions have been thoughtful in their planning and have really examined the unique challenges facing their students and their communities,” said Superintendent of Public Instruction Lisa Coons. “They have developed meaningful plans to help their students catch up and step ahead to prepare them with the solid academic foundation they need to recover and be successful.”

Virginia students continue to face major challenges post-pandemic. Virginia’s 2022-2023 Standards of Learning (SOL) scores show that our students continue to suffer from historic learning loss and struggle meeting proficiency benchmarks across

reading and math, showing decline from the prior year’s results, and student achievement remains well below pre-pandemic levels.

- Reading scores remain below pre-pandemic performance. Students showed no growth between the 2021-22 and the 2022-23 school years. In 2022-2023, more than half of all 3rd - 8th grade students either failed, or are at risk of failing, their reading SOL test.
- Math scores remain below pre-pandemic performance. While students made some gains between 2021-22 and 2022-23, math pass rates are still 15 percentage points behind their pre-pandemic peers. As of 2022-23, nearly two thirds of all 3rd - 8th grade students either failed, or are at risk of failing, their Math SOL test.

During the 2022-23 school year, nearly one in five 3rd - 8th grade students were chronically absent, defined as missing 18 or more days of school a year. This is nearly double the number of students compared to the 2018-19 school year.

-The Salem Times-Register

Virginia Department of Education
School Division Spending Plan and Division Superintendent Certification (for the
Division's Allocation of the Per Pupil Funding Supporting the ALL In Virginia Initiative (Item 138.10 C., Chapter 1, 2023 Sp. Session I)

Please note: School divisions must complete, and the division superintendent must certify, this use of funds spending plan for the division's per pupil funding allocation supporting the priority uses for ALL In VA. Upon submission to and approval by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, VDOE will begin paying the school division's funding allocation on a recurring, semi-monthly basis through June 30, 2024. School divisions do not need to request reimbursement. Approved spending plans will be posted on the ALL In VA webpage on the VDOE website. After each school year during which these funds are used, school divisions will report on the actual expenditure and obligation of funds based on the four use of funds categories below.

Enter Your School Division Number Here or Use Drop-down Box:

School Division Name Will Populate:

School Division FY24 Funding Allocation Will Populate:

Remaining Funding Allocation to Budget Below: FY24 Funding Allocation Fully Budgeted Below

Enter Information below by Spending Plan Category:

Category 1: Tutoring/Learning Acceleration w/ Focus on Grades 3-8 (Goal 70% of funding)

*For each line in this category, provide a concrete explanation in the text box (column E) describing how each line item funds will be used and then enter a line-item budget by fiscal year. If this column is left blank, the spending plan will not be approved.

(Enter an overall description here of how funds will be used in this category, including how the funds will address performance gains or losses related to reading and mathematics as directed in the appropriation act.)

Budgeted Line-item Expenditures	Enter FY24 Budgeted Amount	Enter FY25 Budgeted Amount	Enter FY26 Budgeted Amount	Enter Required Explanation:
1000 - Personnel Services	368,710.00	195,000.00		Schools in grades 3-8 will hire licensed teachers to implement the ALL-In initiative during the day tutoring plan. These teachers will work alongside classroom teachers to provide additional instructional support to students. In addition, SCS will employ an EL teacher to assist students and staff in grades K-5. External tutors, including retired staff, third-party providers, community partners, higher education institutions, and local tutors, will be paid \$36 per hour for tutoring support in grades 6-8. All tutors will receive training to ensure they implement approved content using best practices in instruction, with assistance from VDOE and Salem City Schools. The number of tutors hired will depend on availability and student need. SCS staff responsible for creating tutoring groups and progress monitoring will receive a stipend.
2000 - Employee Benefits	136,333.00	80,523.00		As stated above these costs include statutory, fixed charges, benefits, etc for employees as well as tutors.
3000 - Purchased/Contracted Services				
4000 - Internal Services				
5000 - Other Charges				
6000 - Materials and Supplies	27586			Misc supplies for tutoring groups including but not limited to comprehension strategy materials, Chromebooks, headphones for online programs, and tutor supplies for individual and small group work.
Total =	532,629.00	275,523.00	0	

Category 2: Preparation for and Implementation of the Virginia Literacy Act (Goal 20% of funding)

*For each line in this category, provide a concrete explanation in the text box (column E) describing how each line item funds will be used and then enter a line-item budget by fiscal year. If this column is left blank, the spending plan will not be approved.

(Enter an overall description here of how funds will be used in this category, including how the funds will address performance gains or losses related to reading and mathematics as directed in the appropriation act.)

Budgeted Line-item Expenditures	Enter FY24 Budgeted Amount	Enter FY25 Budgeted Amount	Enter FY26 Budgeted Amount	Enter Required Explanation:
1000 - Personnel Services				See examples above
2000 - Employee Benefits				
3000 - Purchased/Contracted Services				
4000 - Internal Services				
5000 - Other Charges				
6000 - Materials and Supplies	272,414	10062		Virginia Literacy Act required Core program for grades K-3 to increase reading achievement through evidence-based curriculum.
Total =	272414	10062	0	

Category 3: Student Attendance Recovery/Addressing Chronic Absenteeism (Goal 10% of funding)

*For each line in this category, provide a concrete explanation in the text box (column E) describing how each line item funds will be used and then enter a line-item budget by fiscal year. If this column is left blank, the spending plan will not be approved.

(Enter an overall description here of how funds will be used in this category, including how the funds will address performance gains or losses related to reading and mathematics as directed in the appropriation act.)

Budgeted Line-item Expenditures	Enter FY24 Budgeted Amount	Enter FY25 Budgeted Amount	Enter FY26 Budgeted Amount	Enter Required Explanation:
1000 - Personnel Services	30000	60000		SCS will hire one additional staff member to assist division attendance initiatives to place added focus on parental communication, student engagement/relationship building.
2000 - Employee Benefits	15887	25499		As stated above these costs include statutory, fixed charges, benefits, etc for employees
3000 - Purchased/Contracted Services				
4000 - Internal Services				
5000 - Other Charges				
6000 - Materials and Supplies				
Total =	45887	85499	0	

Category 4: Additional Operating and Infrastructure Support Expenditures

*For each line in this category, provide a concrete explanation in the text box (column E) describing how each line item funds will be used and then enter a line-item budget by fiscal year. If this column is left blank, the spending plan will not be approved.

(Enter an overall description here of how funds will be used in this category, including how the funds will address performance gains or losses related to reading and mathematics as directed in the appropriation act.)

Budgeted Line-item Expenditures	Enter FY24 Budgeted Amount	Enter FY25 Budgeted Amount	Enter FY26 Budgeted Amount	Enter Required Explanation:
1000 - Personnel Services				
2000 - Employee Benefits				
3000 - Purchased/Contracted Services				
4000 - Internal Services				
5000 - Other Charges				
6000 - Materials and Supplies				
Total =	0	0	0	

Certification: "As division superintendent, I hereby certify that I have reviewed and approved this Use of Funds Spending Plan for the School Division."

Division Superintendent Name:

Division Superintendent Digital Signature:

Date:

Superintendent of Public Instruction Approval:

Date:

Digitally signed by Lisa Coons

*Note: submit the completed and signed file to VDOE using the subject heading "ALL In Spending Plan and Certification" at doebudgetoffice@doe.virginia.gov.

V DOT ROADWATCH

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.

SCHEDULED SLOW ROLLS: On Wednesday, January 3 and Thursday, January 4, slow roll operations will be performed on I-81 northbound between mile marker 101 and 105. There will be 5 to 6 slow rolls performed between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. each of these days. Each slow roll may be in place for up to 15 minutes.

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

SIDEWALK PROJECT ON SOUTHBOUND WILLIAMSON ROAD IN HOLLINS AREA - Work is underway on a project to construct new sidewalk along the section of southbound Route 11 (Williamson Road) between Plantation Road and Peters Creek Road. Drivers in the Hollins

area can expect periodic right lane closures on southbound Williamson Road between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. As work progresses, occasional nighttime lane closures also will be scheduled. The sidewalk project is expected to be completed in summer 2024.

STARKEY ROAD AND BUCK MOUNTAIN ROAD ROUNDABOUT – A road project to construct a single-lane roundabout at the intersection of Route 904 (Starkey Road) and Route 679 (Buck Mountain Road) is in progress. The new roundabout is now open to traffic and drivers should be aware of the new roundabout configuration. There will be occasional flagging operations in place between the 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the intersection of Starkey Road and Buck Mountain Road, drivers should still expect lane closures with flaggers controlling traffic for final paving, additional concrete pouring and pavement marking until the project is finished. Final completion is expected in late spring 2024.

LANE CLOSURES WITH FLAGGING OPERATIONS: Lane closure times of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. have resumed due to school now being in session.

ROUNDABOUT: The roundabout configuration has been set up. This means drivers should continue around the circle without turning left and that drivers in the circle have the right of way.

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY CLOSURES IN ROANOKE AREA - Blue Ridge Parkway will be repairing slope failures and road closures with detours may be in place. Visit their website at www.nps.gov/blri/planyourvisit/roadclosures.htm for more information.

MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE - Mountain Valley Pipeline is expected to begin full construction again by mid-July. Temporary intermittent flagging operations will be in place in the county throughout the remainder of the project (with a tentative completion date of February 2024) to load/unload equipment at crossings and construction entrances. Scheduled completion is February 2024.

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.

Botetourt County

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.

Craig County

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.

MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE

– The Mountain Valley Pipeline construction project is underway. Temporary intermittent flagging operations will be in place in the county throughout the project to load/unload equipment at crossings and construction entrances. Scheduled completion is February 2024.

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OBITUARY

Jones, Evelyn Garst

Evelyn Garst Jones, 91, of Salem, Va., went to her heavenly home on Friday, December 22, 2023.

She was born to the late Elise Wood Garst and Willis Christian Garst on, Saturday, June 25, 1932.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Eugene Jones; sisters, Betty Jean Harris, and Shirley Garst Maupin; brothers, Richard Calvin Garst, Willis "Bill" Christian Garst, Jr.

Evelyn was a kind-



hearted individual who possessed immense love and compassion for everyone she knew. She had a great sense of humor that she kept alive up until her last breath. However, her most important role in life was being a mother. Her love for her daughter was unwavering and surpassed everything else. Her devotion to her daughter's success was proven many times over as she worked tirelessly as a single parent, making sure Debbie

had everything she needed, including a college education. Additionally, Evelyn was a long-time member of Salem Baptist Church, where numerous friendships were made. She has spent the last 25 years living at Richfield Living at Ridgecrest where she enjoyed meeting new friends and enjoyed time spent.

Those left to cherish her memory include her daughter, Deborah Lyn Graham; sister-in-law, Cecilia D. Garst; nephews, Rick, Russ, Scott, and Buck; and niece Beth.

Services will be announced at a later time.

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

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

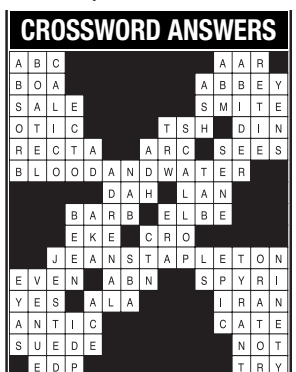
Monday, Sept. 9:
7-9 p.m. - The Guard

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



Correction

The Dec. 21 article on Roanoke College Chemistry Professor Gary Hollis's appearance had an incorrect answer. The landmark located in a New York City park was The Stonewall Inn.

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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.

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.

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). 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

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.

FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH - Salem Campus: 1226 RedLane Extension, Salem, 387-3200, Worship Times: 9:15AM & 11:00AM. North Campus: 7640 AlpineRoad, Roanoke, Worship Times: 9:15AM & 11:00AM. Southwest Campus: 3585 Buck Mountain Road, Roanoke, Worship Times: 9:15AM & 11:00AM. 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 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, 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.salemcog.church

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 712 Front Ave. Salem, Pastor Dan Netting (540) 389-6831. www.firstchristiansalemva.com. Adult and Children Sunday School - 9:30 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. 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, 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 for information on services.

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theBRIDGE SALEM CHURCH - 4335 West Main Street, Salem. 540-404-1414 | bridge.salem@icloud.com • www.salemva.church Saturday service, 6pm (Nursery & Kids Church available). Mail: PO Box 1954, Salem. Twitter/ Instagram: @thebridgesalem Joey Lyons, Senior Pastor | joey@salemva.church | 540-831-9864

INDEPENDENT
RESTORATION CHURCH - a Community on Mission Following Jesus into the World - 10:10am Sundays at the Salem YMCA - 1126 Kime Lane, Salem - 540-384-1601 - www.restorationsalem.org. Watch Live at: YouTube: Restoration Church-Salem, VA. Facebook: RestorationChurchSalem

NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, U.S.A., INC.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - 226 South Broad Street, Salem. Rev. Melton Johnson, 389-9648. SundaySchool 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, Mpat Girls & Royal Rangers) 7 PM. Nursery Provided.Email: office@clchurch.org. Find us on facebook.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 41 East Main Street, Salem, VA . 389-3881. 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, 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.

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

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Mike Carpenter is named Director of Athletic Communications at Roanoke College

Roanoke College Director of Athletics Curtis Campbell has named Mike Carpenter as the new Director of Athletic Communications, effective January 8. Carpenter comes to Salem after having served as an Assistant Athletic Communications Director at Virginia Military Institute (VMI) since the fall of 2018.

During his stint with the Keydets the 25-year athletic communications veteran served as the primary contact for baseball, wrestling, men's soccer, and the men's and women's swimming and diving teams. Carpenter was in charge of all aspects of his primary sports while assisting with preparation for men's basketball and football in addition to game day responsibilities. In August 2022, he added a secondary responsibility with men's basketball.

"We are very fortunate to get someone of Mike's experience to lead our Athletic Communications office," said Campbell. "Mike is a seasoned professional that brings a wealth of knowledge to Roanoke College and I look forward to working with him."

Carpenter is no stranger to the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC), having served as the Sports Information Director (SID) at Lynchburg (College) University from 2000 – 2016. While with the Hornets, Mike was responsible for media relations and promotion of 21-varsity NCAA DIII athletic programs.

Carpenter hosted numerous ODAC and NCAA Tournament events, handled the external and internal communications for the athletic department, and collaborated with local and national media outlets. His office was responsible for supervising a 12 to 14-person student work staff as well as hiring and mentoring several graduate assistants, many who went on to full time positions within the Athletic Communications field. Carpenter earned the 2007 ODAC SID of the Year award and served as the ODAC SID chairperson for two years.

"I'd like to thank athletic director Curtis Campbell and the Roanoke College administration for this opportunity," said Carpenter. "I look forward to returning to the ODAC and working with a great bunch of coaches and student-athletes."

A 1996 graduate of Slippery Rock University with a bachelor of science degree in sport management with a minor in journalism, Carpenter began his career as the sports information director and assistant public relations director at Thiel College from 1996-1998. He then served as the assistant sports information director and assistant public relations director at Mansfield University until his arrival at Lynchburg in 2000. Additionally, Carpenter served as a student assistant in the sports information office at Slippery Rock and completed internships at Mary Washington College and the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.



MIKE CARPENTER

RC PHOTO

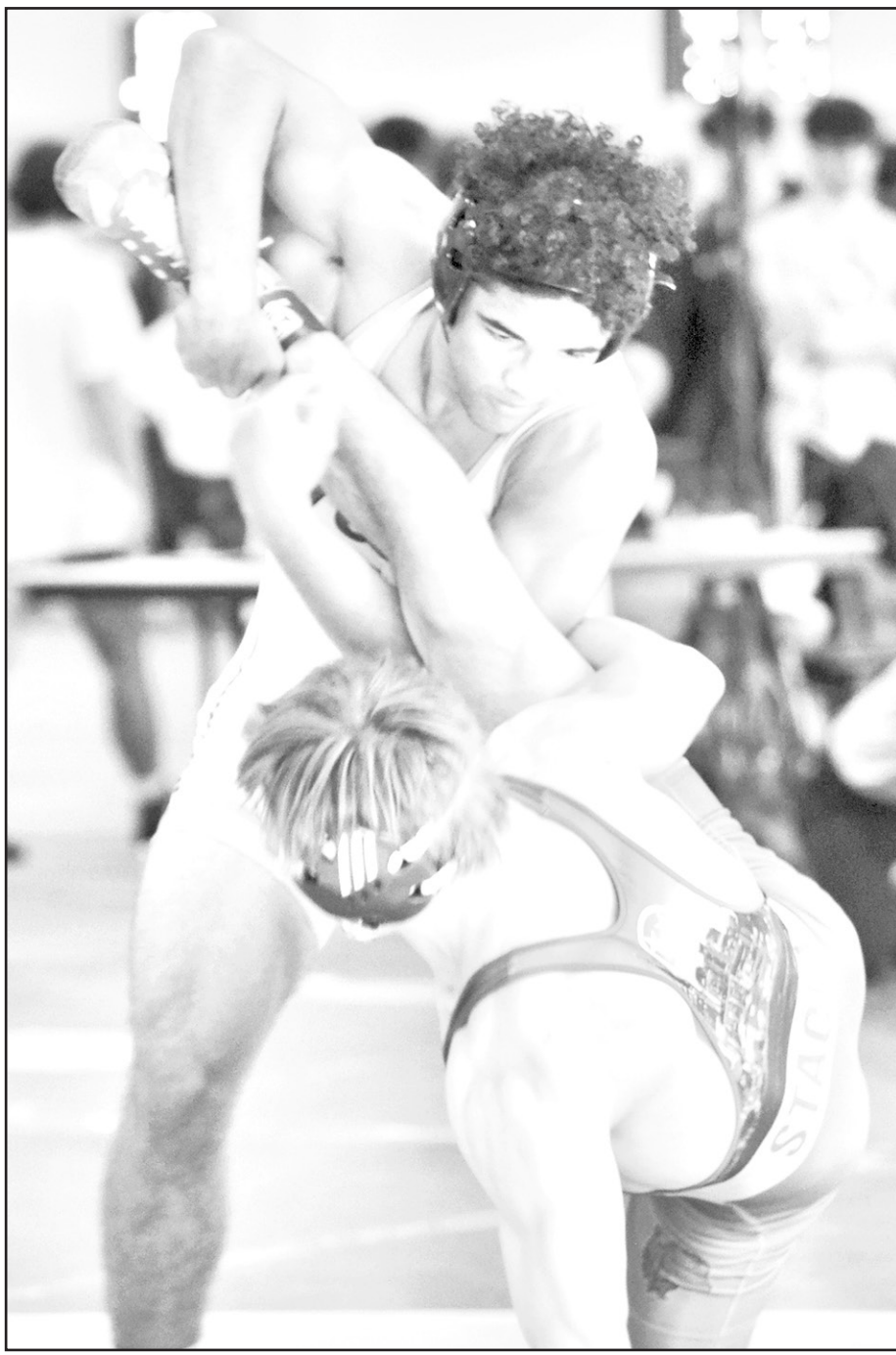


PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Roanoke College freshman Xavier Preston is the ODAC Heavyweight Wrestler of the Week after going 5-0 in the Citrus Invitational in Florida.

Maroons hire Kaminski to coach new cheer team

Katelyn Kaminski has been named the new head competition cheerleading coach at Roanoke College. The program will be the first at RC and is being initiated with the return of football at the college.

Kaminski comes to Roanoke after most recently being a part-time head cheer coach at ODAC opponent Ferrum College, overseeing all aspects of the Panthers' cheer program. During her time at Ferrum she also served as an Admissions Counselor and the Athletic Liaison. Kaminski has also been a special education teacher at both Drewry Mason and Ferrum Elementaries.

"I am overly excited about the opportunity at Roanoke College to build this competition cheer program," said Kaminski. "I want to thank (RC Athletic Director) Curtis Campbell for the opportunity to create something really special here. I look forward to coaching and recruiting new student athletes for Roanoke College's competition cheer program."

Kaminski has previous experience helping rebuild a program after spending the 2021-22 season as the head cheer coach at Div. I Radford University after the program shut down following the COVID pandemic. Katelyn has also served as the head cheer coach at Tiffin (Ohio), Webber International (Fla.) and SUNY Oswego (N.Y.). She began her coaching career as an assistant cheer coach at Gannon University in Erie, Pa. in 2017.



RC PHOTO

KATELYN KAMINSKI

Kaminski graduated from Elmira College in New York with a bachelor's degree in political science and public affairs. As a member of the Soaring Eagles cheer program, she helped the competition cheer team achieve a national ranking in each of her four seasons while also being a three-time All-American and the 2017 Female Athlete of the Year.

Roanoke will wrestle W&L at Mill Mountain Theatre Jan. 20

Two Maroons earn ODAC honors after Citrus Invit.

Tickets are now available for "The Match at Mill Mountain Theatre" when Roanoke College wrestles Washington & Lee in a first-ever Old Dominion Athletic Conference showdown at the downtown Roanoke venue. The event is scheduled for Saturday, January 20.

Mill Mountain Theatre is in Center in the Square in downtown Roanoke. The RC-W&L match is a highlight of the ODAC season. The event is sponsored by the Henritze Dental Group and mat-side tickets at Mill Mountain Theatre are available for \$25 at nokewrestling.com. Doors open at 2:30 pm and there will be a cash bar.

The Maroons placed second in a 14-team field December 29 and 30 at the Citrus Invitational in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Mark Samuel won the individual title at 141 pounds, winning four matches, two by fall and one by tech fall. RC's Xavier Preston also captured the title at 174 pounds, winning five times. Both were honored by the ODAC this week.

Samuel was named ODAC Lightweight Wrestler of the Week. The sophomore earned a bye in the first round, as the third seed in the class, before recording three falls, including a win by fall (3:325) in the final. During the event Mark would place ahead of the #6 (Open Mat rankings) and defeat the #10 wrestler in the country.

Preston, a freshman from William Byrd High School, was named the ODAC Heavyweight Wrestler of the Week. Xavier went a perfect 5-0, including a fall and pair of Major Decisions. He started the bracket with a pin in 3:39 before claiming four consecutive decisions. He claimed the title with an 11-3 Major Decision in the final while finishing ahead of the #8 ranked 174-pounder in the nation.

The Maroons will wrestle in the Jim Crytzer Memorial Tournament in Lexington this Saturday.

HS, MS wrestlers back on the mats

The local wrestlers will be back in action this week after avoid holiday treats to keep their weight down for the past week or so.

Salem High School will wrestle in the LCA Invitational at Liberty Christian Academy in Lynchburg Friday and Saturday. There are 27 schools signed up to wrestle in the tournament.

Glenvar will be wrestling in a dual tournament at Roanoke College Saturday. The tournament starts at 9

am and early this week the Highlanders still weren't told which school they would open with. The tourney will be held at the Cregger Center in Salem.

Both local middle school teams had matches on Wednesday of this week, with Andrew Lewis at Cave Spring and Glenvar hosting William Byrd Middle School. Next Wednesday, January 10, Andrew Lewis will host the middle Highlanders at 5 pm in the Andrew Lewis gym.

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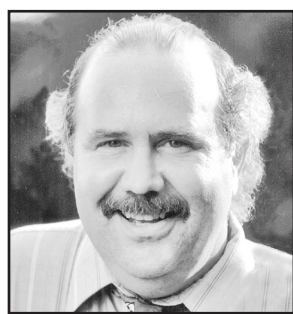
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Brian Hoffman

Talkin' College Football

Happy New Year to everyone as we head into 2024.

We got off to a great start with two very exciting CFP National Championship college football games on Monday night. Both games went down to the very last play before the outcome was decided as Michigan and Washington advanced to the national championship game next Monday night.

In my humble opinion, college football needed this. To be honest, I'd somewhat lost interest in college football outside of our state teams. With the transfer portal and the NIL (name, image, likeness) and schools leaving to join super conferences, it's just not the same for me. There were 43 bowl games since the second week of December and if the school wasn't in the top four many of the better players didn't even suit up.

This transfer portal is a double edged sword. On one hand, it's great for a player who is stuck behind a couple others on the depth chart and just wants to play. He's free to search for a place where he can get some playing time, and I'm good with that.

On the other hand, it's really tough for the lesser profile schools, who do their homework and take chances on border line players the big boys don't want. Then, if the player does well, he's likely to leave for a more high profile program. You see it all the time, and it makes it really tough for a team to build a program when every time they get a good player, he leaves.

I'm old enough to remember when the NBA started taking underclassmen after one year in school. Some folks soured on the college game because you never knew who was going to be on your favorite college basketball team from year to year. Football is becoming the same way. I guess it helps sell programs if nothing else.

Recently I read a story in the local daily about how a couple of Virginia Tech players announced they'd be returning to the Hokies next year. It wasn't that long ago that wasn't a big story. If you were on the team, everyone expected you'd be returning as long as your grades were decent and your body was sound. It wasn't news to announce you decided to stay on the team that recruited you and you committed to play for, and supposedly one of the reasons was that you liked the school.

We have a couple great examples right here in Virginia. How many VMI and James Madison players have left those programs after the school took a chance on them and they had a good year, only to leave for perceived "greener pastures?" Thanks for the scholarship, pal, see you later.

Now let's take the NIL. I'm all for players being rewarded for what they do on the field. The coaches make big money and the school brings in big bucks, so why not the kids who make it all possible? There's plenty of pie for everyone.

However, it's to the point where college programs are basically "buying" high school kids for the team. It's no longer an amateur sport, as the teams with the richest donors will be on top every year. I'm not against paying the players, but it's getting to where these colleges need a "salary cap" like the NFL.

And how about a case like Iowa women's basketball star Caitlin Clark? She decided not to declare for the WNBA because, from what I understand, she can make more money playing in college. I guess that's okay, but it seems strange that someone makes millions of dollars playing women's college basketball when a lot of schools don't even charge admission for the games.

Finally, the conferences. Say good-bye to the Pac-10, who has a team in the championship game next week but has other schools looking to join a conference almost 3,000 miles away. What kind of sense does that make?

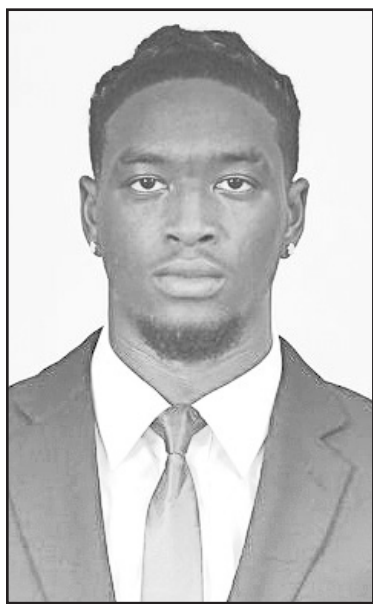
The thing is, as schools bolt for the "big money" conferences everyone else has to try and keep up. Wasn't it fun when the Big 10 had 10 teams, all the Southeast Conference teams played in the south east and the big timers weren't picking the carcasses of other conferences, leaving them little meat on the bone. I guess that's okay, but I'm losing interest.

That's the way it is in 2024. Glad to say I really enjoyed the football semifinals Monday night and I'm glad to see them expand the tournament for next season. There might come a day when there's just one big "Super Conference" and they play the conference tournament for the "national" championship at the end of the regular season.

Personally, I'm looking forward to Roanoke College having a Division III team.

GOOD SEASON FOR DEUCE

Salem High grad Chauncey "Deuce" Logan had a terrific sophomore year for James Madison University. Playing in all 13 games at defensive

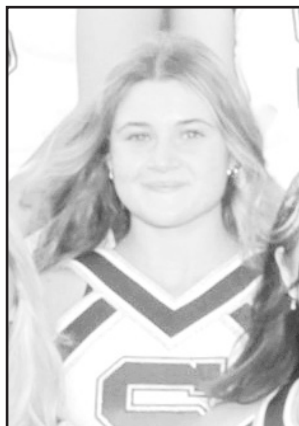


JMU PHOTO

CHAUNCEY "DEUCE" LOGAN

back Deuce had 28 solo tackles and 17 assists. He also had an interception and six pass breakups for a Dukes team that went 11-2 in a transition year to the CFP level.

Logan had three assists in the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl, a 31-21 loss to Air Force without coach Curt Cignetti, who had left for Indiana University along with some of his better players.



SPARTANS NAMED TO ALL-CLASS 4 CHEER TEAM

The Class 4 All-State competition cheerleading team was recently announced and Salem High School was well-represented. Above, left to right, first team selections from Salem High included seniors Myah Sowder, Ashlee Cundiff and Belle Herndon and junior Teagan Butt. State Class 4 Cheerleader of the Year is Aria Williams of Loudoun County and her coach, Samantha Mancini, was named Coach of the Year. Jen (McDaniel) Koll(right), a Salem High graduate, was recently named Class 3 Coach of the Year. Jenn led Cave Spring to the school's fifth state championship and second title in the past three years.

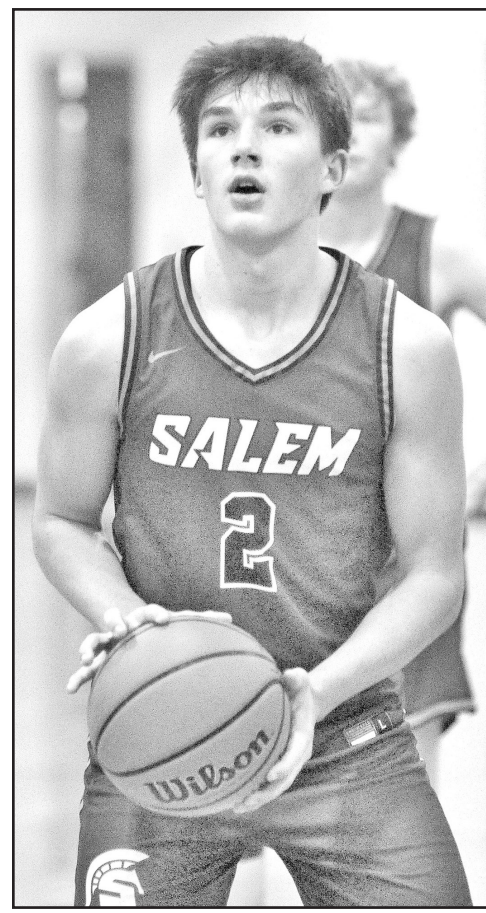


PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Salem High's Cam Boles had 42 points and 24 rebounds in two games at Wilson Memorial last week.

Spartans open year with loss at HV after winning twice to end 2023

The Salem High boys basketball team will be home Friday to play host to Christiansburg in a River Ridge District game. Salem opened the 2024 schedule with a 58-51 loss at Hidden Valley on Tuesday and the Spartans were scheduled to play Northside at home on Wednesday.

Salem was 4-5 overall after Tuesday's loss and the Spartans are still winless in River Ridge District games after three tries. Salem needs to make the top four in the district to participate in the post-season district tournament.

Tuesday's game was tied at the half but the Titans grabbed the lead early in the third quarter and held off the Spartans for the duration. Lucas Yerton led Salem with 13 points, Mari Foxx and Marvin Fields had 11 each and Cam Boles had eight points.

Last week the Spartans played in a two-day event at Wilson Memorial High and won both nights. On Thursday they played Clarke County and raced to a 70-45 win over the Eagles. Boles had a big night with 20 points and 17 rebounds for the Spartans and Bryce Carver added 10 points.

On Friday the Spartans took on host Wilson Memorial took a 65-51 win over the Gladiators. Boles was hot again with 22 points and seven rebounds for the Spartans while Kam Brown had 13 points and Foxx had 10.

The Spartans have their work cut out for them in the coming week. After playing always tough Northside and Christiansburg this week Salem is home to Patrick Henry next Tuesday.

"I thought they might come back to the pack a little bit this year but that doesn't seem to be happening," said Salem coach Kevin Garst. "They're very athletic and really skilled. They beat Cave Spring and won at Blacksburg and they've been playing well."

Highlanders return to court after two week break

The Glenvar High basketball teams will return to the court this week with a busy schedule. Both the boys' and girls' teams were slated to return from the holiday break on Wednesday.

The Glenvar boys took a 2-5 record into the new year with

a Wednesday home game with Carroll County. The Highlanders are at Christiansburg today, then continue a busy schedule with a game at Blacksburg Monday and a home game with Radford on Wednesday, January 10.

The GHS girls were looking

for their first win when they traveled to Patrick County Wednesday for a Three Rivers District game. The girls, who finished 2023 0-6 will be home to Carroll County Friday, home to Floyd County next Tuesday and at Radford on January 10.

AL hoop teams finish basketball season with combined 30-2 record

The Andrew Lewis Middle School basketball teams went a combined 30-2 in the just completed season with the only losses coming, twice, to the Pulaski County girls.

The Wolverines boys finished their first season under former Spartan player Adam Rutledge with an undefeated record in 16 game. In their final two games before Christmas the Wolverines defeated Northside, 56-21, and Blacksburg, 57-14, to polish off the undefeated season.

"I believe this makes us the fourth team to go undefeated at Andrew Lewis Middle School," said Rutledge. "We did it my seventh grade year under Richard Morgan and I think they did it the year before last under Coach (Dewayne) Harrell. So, two out of the last three seasons we've gone unbeaten."

Rutledge sees a bright future for the high school team in coming years.

"It's hard to not get excited about the future of Salem Basketball," he said. "There is a great group of kids in the system right now and I feel the same way about the younger groups in the Salem Generals and Salem Rec organizations. The future is bright."

The girls polished off a 14-2 season with a 38-15 win over Blacksburg. For the season, Rosie Horne and Emily Warren were the team's leading scorers, while Evie Van Liew and Elizabeth Keffer patrolled the boards and led the team in rebounding. Emma Elder and Keffer did an excellent job sharing the ball and led the team in assists. Leading the charge defensively, Keffer, Van Lew, Horne, and Elder led the team in steals and blocks.

"This team was as mentally tough as any group I've coached," said coach Nat Franklin. "They just kept playing and battling regardless of the opponent or score. A really great group eighth graders that I believe will help Salem High School in a variety of sports. Happy to be a part of their journey and look forward to seeing all they accomplish in the future."

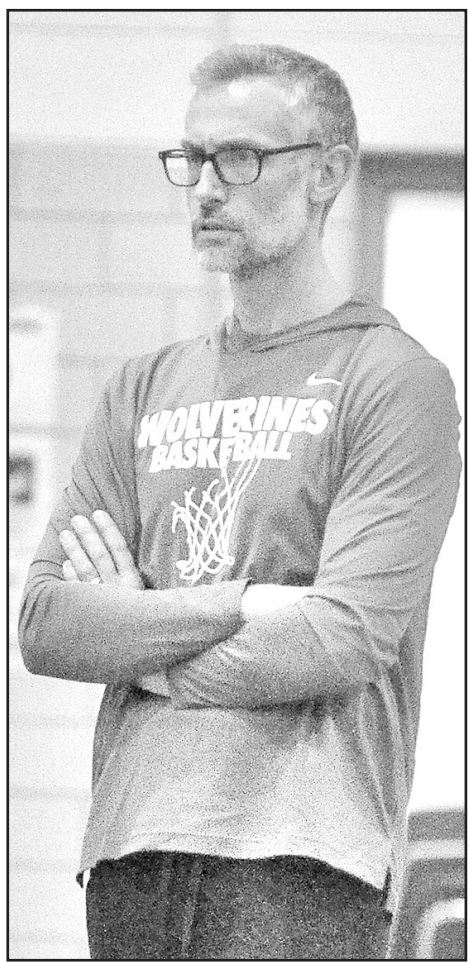


PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Adam Rutledge coached Andrew Lewis to an undefeated season in his first year as Wolverine coach.

Sandlot football players recognized

For the first time ever area youth football players are being recognized for their accomplishments with the selection of "All-Tri-County" teams. Teams for 10-and-under and 12-and-under were chosen by youth coaches for players from Roanoke County, Franklin County and Botetourt County as well as the City of Salem.

"It's something new we're doing this year to bring some recognition to youth football in the valley," said Cody Underwood, a Vinton youth football coach and recreation booster. "Players

are chosen by opposing coaches. Coaches could not vote for their own players."

On the 10U team Salem had three boys make the first team offense, Aaron Brower at a "skill" position and two offensive linemen, Kade Hughes and Stephen Crawford. Glenvar's Luke Collins was also selected as a first team lineman.

On defense Hughes and Crawford were both named first team on the line while Maclin Hale and Trystan Gaines were named to skill positions. Braylen Carroll of Glenvar was named

first team on the defensive line.

Second team offense, All-Tri-County 10U, went to Hale and Gaines at skill and Jake Warren and Ian Crouch on the line. Second team defense selections were Joshua Elliott, Cameron Martin and Cam Scharnus at skill and Graham Pollard and Aiden Sowers on the defensive line.

On the 12U team there were no selections from either Salem or Glenvar as Vinton and Cave Spring dominated that team after meeting in the Sandlot Super Bowl final, and there was no team selected for the 8U division.

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Maroon men capture Cregger Invitational

The Roanoke College men came out on top in the four-team Cregger Invitational basketball tournament last weekend. The Maroons defeated Worcester State University and Ohio Wesleyan to win the tourney.

The Maroons opened with Worcester State on Friday afternoon and took an 87-73 win over the defending MASCAC champions. The Maroons got out of the gate quickly, opening a 14-2 lead at the outset before the Lancers rallied to cut the lead to one at the half, 41-40.

The second half was close throughout, with RC leading by five with just over a minute to go. The Maroons hit seven of eight free throws down the stretch to put it away.

Justin Kuthan led RC with 26 points and 13 rebounds. Joshua Morse had 19 points and a dozen boards, Zach Rosenthal had 18 points and Joshua McClary had 12 points, seven rebound and six assists.

On Saturday afternoon the Maroons hosted Ohio Wesleyan, who beat Sewanee in Friday's other semifinal. This was another one that went to the wire as RC took a 79-75 victory to win the two-day tournament.

Clayton Gaither netted a team-best 18 points to go with five offensive rebounds and three assists. Rosenthal scored 17 points and added six defensive rebounds while Morse had 12 points, four rebounds and four assists.

Kuthan, a senior center, was named the tournament MVP after scoring 17 points Saturday, compiling 43 points and 20 rebounds in his two tournament games. Morse was also named to the all-tournament team.

With the two wins the Maroons evened their season record at 6-6. They were still looking for their first Old Dominion Athletic Conference win when they hosted Averett University in Salem on Wednesday. Results were too late for press deadlines.

Roanoke will travel to Ashland this Saturday for a 2 pm game against Randolph-Macon. The Yellowjackets come into the week at 9-3.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Left, Patrick Clevenger of Roanoke College shoots a corner three in the Maroons' win over Ohio Wesleyan Saturday afternoon. Right, Marcus Morgan is fouled as he drives to the basket.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Left, Susan Dunagan Classic MVP Rose Sande is hammered as she goes to the basket in Saturday's win over Lancaster Bible. Right, Jacquelyn DeJesse of the Maroons scores two of her 19 points in Friday's win.

RC women sweep Dunagan Classic

The Roanoke College women improved to 8-4 in basketball when they swept two games in the Susan Dunagan Holiday Classic in Salem last weekend. The event was held at the Cregger Center on the RC campus.

The Maroons opened the four team event on Friday with an 81-58 win over York College of Pennsylvania. Roanoke used a dominant performance in the second period, rallying from five points behind to take a 42-25 lead at the half. York whittled the lead down to 45-33 with 6:49 remaining in the third quarter but the Maroons countered with a 13-5 stretch, quickly putting the game out of reach.

Sophomore point guard Jacquelyn DeJesse scored 19 points for RC to tie her career-high. Kate Littlejohn also set a new career high with 17 points, knocking down 4-of-5 attempts from three-point range, while Rose Sande had 15 points, 10 rebounds, six assists and four steals. Jada Steele had 11 points and 11 boards.

On Saturday evening the Maroons used a big finish to defeat Lancaster Bible College, 85-64, to complete the weekend sweep. Roanoke turned a 14-point deficit late in the third quarter into a 21-point victory.

Sande had 19 points and 12 rebounds for the Maroons and was named the Most Valuable Player of the Susan Dunagan Classic. Madison Nereu was also named to the All-Tournament team.

The RC women were scheduled to play Washington & Lee in a big ODAC game in Lexington on Wednesday of this week but results were too late for publication. On Saturday the Maroons will host Virginia Wesleyan at 2 pm.

Salem girls unbeaten after pounding HV

The Salem High girls remained undefeated with a 62-36 win over Hidden Valley at Salem High School Tuesday night. The Spartans were 8-0 heading into a Wednesday evening game at Northside.

Salem jumped on the Titans from the outset, taking a 29-9 lead after the first quarter. Bailey Rider outscored Hidden Valley herself in the first period with 10 points while Elizabeth Smith and Emme Custer had six each.

The Spartans continued to rout in the second period, outscoring the Titans 17-8 for a 46-17 halftime lead. Coach Scott Jester cleared the bench in the second half as nine different Spartans scored, led by Rider with 13 and Custer with a dozen. Lexi Hart had 11 points off the bench.

Last Friday afternoon the Spartans wrapped up the 2023 portion of the schedule with an 82-20 rout of Rockbridge County at Salem High. Hart led the team with 18 points and three others were in double figures, Gabby Crawley with a dozen, Custer with 11 and Faith Nance with 10 points.

"Really strong offensive effort," said Jester. "We got 40 points from our bench. The kids did a great job of sharing the ball to get the best shot for us."

The Spartans will be back in action Friday with a game at Christiansburg. Next week they'll have their hands full with 8-2 Magna Vista at home on Monday and a trip to Roanoke to play a strong Patrick Henry team on Tuesday.



PHOTOS BY SCOTT GARDNER

Left, Salem's Gabby Crawley grabs a rebound in last Friday's win over Rockbridge. Right, Elizabeth Smith takes it to the hoop for two points.