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SALEM TIMES-REGISTER

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Crawley to retire from police chief position

Salem police chief, Michael Crawley, announced his retirement from the force last week, effective June 1, Crawley has served Salem's citizens as a treasured member of the Police Department and the community for nearly 25 years. "It has been an absolute honor to work alongside the many men and women who have served in the Salem Police Department," Crawley said. "While the world has changed drastically in the past few decades the commitment to serve and protect our Salem community has remained strong."

Crawley, 50, began working with the Salem Police Department in December 1999 as a Patrol Officer and was voted Officer of The Year by his peers just three years into his Salem law enforcement career. After completing field service as a Patrol Officer, he was promoted to the rank of Senior Police Officer and transferred to the Detective Division in 2004 where he was assigned to the Special Investigation Unit. "I truly need to thank the late Judge George Harris for seeing something in me many years ago and encouraging me to better myself through law enforcement,"

Crawley said. "His encouragement helped me land my first position in Salem at a time when it was very difficult to get a job with the department." "When Mike left his Sergeant's position in Vinton to take a patrol position in Salem, I thought he was crazy, but it turns out that he knew what he was doing," said Kevin Boggess, former Salem city manager and Vinton town manager. "He moved to a great community where he and his family have thrived, and he worked



Crawley

COURTESY PHOTO

See **Crawley**, page 3



PHOTO BY EDMEE CR HASLER

The ribbon cutting was held on Feb. 29.

McAfee Knob Trailhead shuttle expands service

Edmee CR Hasler
Contributing writer

The city of Salem and Roanoke County came together on Feb. 29, for a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the expansion of the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle service into Salem. Speakers at the event included Phil North and Martha Hooker from the Roanoke

County Board of Supervisors, Renee Turk from the Salem City Council, Dr. Ray Smoot from the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board, Ed Clark from the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and Lisa Sink from Ride Source.

McAfee Knob overlook is one of the Appalachian Trail's most photographed spots, drawing

in approximately 50,000 hikers annually. "The National Park Service has for many years kept an eye on rising visitation rates, the impacts on the Appalachian Trail, as well as the constraints on parking capacity," remarked Phil North. "Hikers will now have additional parking options

See **McAfee Knob**, page 2

Salem High School Drama Department to stage 'Clue'

Aila Boyd

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exciting play that can entertain the whole family," the department said.

The Salem High School Drama Department is set to present its next spring play, "Clue." Based on the 1985 movie of the same name, this fun and exciting play is sure to entertain audiences of all ages, the department said.

"This play is narrated by Wadsworth (Cameron Wimbish), a butler who invites several high-class people to a mysterious mansion. However, things take a turn for the worse when Mr. Boddy (Noah Lovren) is murdered. Throughout the play, the audience will follow Wadsworth and the high-class guests to figure out who is behind the murders. This is an

The Salem High School Drama Department is presenting the play at four different times. The main cast will be performing at 7 p.m. on March 7, 8 and 9, and the understudy cast will do their performance at 2 p.m. on March 9. The play will be in the Salem High School auditorium, at 400 Spartan Drive. "The Salem Theater is very excited to present this play, so make sure to mark your calendars and see this amazing play," the department said. The department wants attendees to note that the play does feature some adult themes, loud noises and flashing lights.

Tickets, which are \$7, will be available for purchase at the door.

Presidential primaries were held on Tuesday



The parking lot at the Salem Civic Center is pictured around 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday.

Aila Boyd

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Salem voters went to the polls on Tuesday, March 5 to cast their ballots for selecting delegates to the national convention for the Republican and Democratic parties for the office of president of the United States.

All precincts voted at the Salem Civic Center from 6 a.m.-7 p.m. Donald Trump and Joe Biden won their party's respective primaries in Virginia.

On the Democratic ticket, voters selected from Marianne Williamson, Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and Dean Benson Phillips. The Salem results were: Williamson (5.93%), Biden (90.58%) and Phillips (3.49%), according to unofficial results on the Virginia Department of Elections website on Wednesday morning. Voter turnout on the Democratic side in Salem was 5.09%.

On the Republican ticket, voters selected from Chris Christie, Ryan L. Binkley, Vivek Ramaswamy, Donald J. Trump, Ron D. DeSantis and Nikki R. Haley. The Salem results were: Christie (0.35%), Binkley (0.10%), Ramaswamy (0.20%), Trump (68.45%), DeSantis (1.31%) and Haley (29.58%), according to unofficial results on the Virginia Department of Elections



PHOTOS BY AILA BOYD

Signs in front of the Salem Civic Center direct voters on how to participate in curbside voting.

website on Wednesday morning. Voter turnout on the Republican side in Salem was 11.09%.

General election:

Early, no-excuse voting for the general election at the Salem Registrar's Office will take place from Sept. 20-Nov. 2.

Oct. 14 will be the last day to update one's registration or to register to vote in the November election.

Oct. 25 will be the last day to request an absentee ballot application to vote by mail for the general election.

The Salem Registrar's Office will open on Saturday, Oct. 26 for in-person voting from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. On Saturday, Nov. 2, the office will again open for in-person voting from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The deadline to vote early for the general election will be 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2.

The general election will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 5 from 6 a.m.-7 p.m., with all precincts once again voting at the Salem Civic Center.



COURTESY PHOTOS

The department's production of "Clue" runs through March 9.

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Briefly: Salem News In Brief

Bonsai and Japanese Gardening Class taught by Jackie Fujikawa: Born and raised in Japan and came to the United States when in his youth. Being taught by his father and experienced in the Japanese culture and tradition, he has been involved in teaching and consulting the techniques of Japanese gardening and bonsai. Bonsai class will be with a focus on care and maintenance, learning all the basics of bonsai design. Select a tree, learn how to prune, transplant, landscape with rocks, and discover what the art of bonsai is all about as you create your very own bonsai to enjoy at home. Fujikawa is currently teaching Japanese at Roanoke College. The class will be Monday, March 4-April 8 from 6-7:15 p.m. at the Salem Senior Center. The cost is \$10 for the class instructor will give you a list of the things you will need to purchase and the cost for this could be anywhere from \$40 to \$100, depending on the size of pot, etc. that you purchase. All supplies can be purchased from Lowe's, Walmart, Amazon, etc. Sign up on Active Net or call 540-375-3054

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.

Raising Lazarus: The Search for Solutions with Beth Macy: The event will be on Tuesday, March 12 from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Olin Theater. To attend the lecture, register here: <https://www.givecampus.com/schools/RoanokeCollege/events/an-evening-with-beth-macy> James C. and S. Maynard Turk Pre-Law Program presents the Gentry Locke Lecture featuring journalist and best-selling author (Factory Man & Truevine), Beth Macy. She will discuss the unraveling of rural America, from the aftermath of globalization to the opioid crisis, the subject of her book, Dopesick.

A Dialogue on Freedom, Difference, and Civil Society with Dr. John Inazu: The event will be on Tuesday, March 15 from 7-8 p.m. in the Wortmann Ballroom in the Colket Center. Registration: <https://www.givecampus.com/schools/RoanokeCollege/events/an-evening-with-dr-john-inazu> The Henry H. Fowler Public Affairs Lecture Series hosts John Inazu, the Sally D. Danforth Distinguished Professor of Law and Religion at Washington University in St. Louis. He is the author of Liberty's Refuge: The Forgotten Freedom of Assembly (Yale University Press, 2012) and Confident Pluralism: Surviving and Thriving Through Deep Difference (University of Chicago Press, 2016), and co-editor (with Tim Keller) of Uncommon Ground: Living Faithfully in a World of Difference (Thomas Nelson, 2020).

Sunday Service: Grace Fellowship Church at the corner of Franklin Roanoke and Elm in Roanoke is having a Sunday service with guest speaker Dr. Patricia Garitson at 11 a.m. The day before from 1-4 p.m., guest speakers Garitson and Linda Busuttill will also be at the church.

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.

First Mondays: 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. The event is on Monday, April 1: 7-9 p.m. - Maynard & Lee Palmer.

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."

First Mondays: 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. The event is on Monday, May 6: 7 p.m. - Mike Conner and 8 p.m. - Rarely Available.

Happy Trails Film & Television Festival: The festival will take place at CommUNITY Church in Salem on May 17, 18 and 19. There will be panels, workshops, special programming, autographs and a banquet. The event is billed as a "nostalgia/faith media convention for the whole family."

First Mondays: 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. The event is on Monday, June 3: 7-9 p.m. - Eastern Divide.

Shane Gillis: Shane Gillis is coming to Salem this summer to headline the arena with his standup comedy on June 21. In 2021, Gillis released his debut comedy special "Shane Gillis: Live in Austin" on YouTube. It has been viewed over 14 million times. Gillis is one-half of Patreon and Apple's top 10 podcasts Matt and Shane's Secret Podcast. Tickets start at \$42.50 and go up to \$92.50. Tickets can be purchased at the Salem Civic Center Box Office or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

First Mondays: 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. The event is on Monday, July 8: 7 p.m. Virginia-Carolina Band.

First Mondays: 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. The event is on

Monday, Aug. 5: 7-9 p.m. - Maynard and Lee Palmer.

First Mondays: 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. The event is on Monday, Sept. 9: 7-9 p.m. - The Guard.

First Mondays: 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. The event is on Monday, Oct. 7: 7-9 p.m. - Franklin Station.

First Mondays: 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. The event is on Monday, Nov. 4: 7-9 p.m. - Luv Buzzards.

First Mondays: 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. The event is on Monday, Dec. 2: 7-9 p.m. - The Bluegrass Brothers.

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

The School Board will meet on Tuesday, March 12 at 7 p.m.

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

The School Board will meet on Thursday, March 21 at 7 p.m. (special meeting)

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

The Salem City Council will meet on Monday, April 8 at 6:30 p.m.

The School Board will meet on Tuesday, April 9 at 7 p.m.

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

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

The Salem City Council will meet on Monday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m.

The School Board will meet on Tuesday, May 14 at 7 p.m.

The Salem City Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, May 15 at 7 p.m.

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

The Salem City Council will meet on Monday, June 10 at 6:30 p.m.

The School Board will meet on Tuesday, June 11 at 7 p.m.

The Salem City Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, June 12 at 7 p.m.

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

The Salem City Council will meet on Monday, July 8 at 6:30 p.m.

The School Board will meet on Tuesday, July 9 at 7 p.m.

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

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

SALEM MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT

Story of Williams-Brown House told in documentary

"The Stories Within These Walls," the documentary about the Williams-Brown House that is the heart of the Salem Museum, will premiere on YouTube and Vimeo on Monday, March 4.

This film, researched and produced by Chloe Shelton, takes viewers from the home's construction (1845) to

today. Shelton and her team conducted extensive research, and searched West Hill Cemetery for the final resting places of the house's residents. To recreate the store (now our Biggs Gallery), they built a scale model to take viewers back in time.

-The Salem Times-Register

McAfee Knob

from page 1

and access to the shuttle right here at Longwood Park, as well as at the South Broad Street parking lot. Thanks to VDOT, other new shuttle stops include the Orange Market Park and Ride and Route 311 near the Dragon's Tooth Trailhead, which will be open in April," North added.

To make this project a reality, Roanoke County secured funding through a grant from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) in 2022. In 2023, additional funding was obtained to extend shuttle services into Salem, with new stops at Longwood Park and 101 South Broad Street. "For many years we have faced the dilemma of limited parking capacity at the McAfee Knob trailhead parking lot. Working together allows localities to combine their ideas and resources to solve problems in a more thorough way," Martha Hooker said.

"This expansion is only made possible because of the collaboration with the City of Salem and the many partner organizations and government agencies dedicated to not only help hikers reach McAfee Knob, but also to improve their experience from first step to last," Hooker added. "The investment in transit helps offer a sense of excitement and convenience for visitors, encouraging

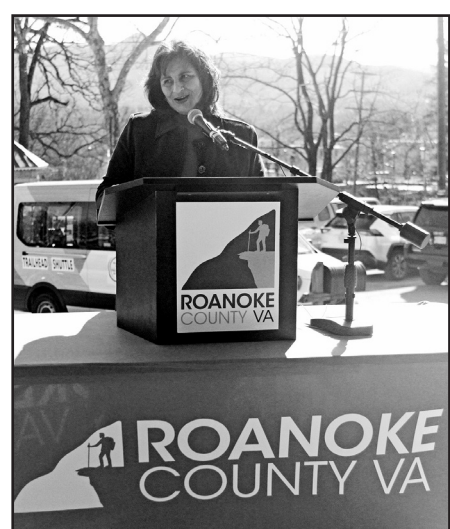


PHOTO BY EDEE CR HASLER

Salem Mayor Turk speaking during the event.

them to return and promotes tourism for our region," Hooker added.

Salem hiker Brian Boggs, who rode one of the first small shuttles after the ribbon cutting, said "the bus is extremely comfortable and holds a maximum of nine hikers."

The McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle resumed service on March 1, and will run through Dec. 1. Passengers can make reservations at www.McAfeeShuttle.com, with tickets priced at \$5.

POLICE REPORT

City of Salem Police Department



Weekly Arrest Report

Week of February 20, 2024 - February 26, 2024

DATE REPORTED	NAME	AGE	OFFENSE
02/20/2024	Linda K. Massengill	61	False Name to Police, Vehicle Theft
02/21/2024	Christopher A. Lindamood	62	Public Intoxication
02/22/2024	James L. Garst	67	Attempt to Circumvent Ignition Interlock
02/22/2024	David W. Dudley	49	Contempt of Court
02/22/2024	Justin D. Hopson	36	Possess Firearm by Felon Possession of Ammunition by Felon
02/22/2024	Rafael Vazquez	52	DUI, Unreasonable Refusal
02/22/2024	Cassie L. Hoback	37	Public Intoxication
02/22/2024	Michael D. Napper	44	DUID, Unreasonable Refusal, Possession of a Controlled Substance
02/22/2024	Angela M. Cayse	22	Probation Violations, Contempt of Court
02/23/2024	Joshua N. Epperly	22	DUI
02/23/2024	Jorsendi Fleurinord	20	Sexual Assault
02/23/2024	Davion M. Watson	20	Domestic Assault
02/23/2024	Anthony D. Muse	37	Public Intoxication, Fail to Appear
02/24/2024	Tristin D. Bonds	20	Possess Stolen Property, Possess Vehicle w/ VIN Removed
02/24/2024	David A. Chavies	44	Unauthorized Use of Vehicle
02/24/2024	Tiffany L. Moses	36	Conditional Release Violation
02/25/2024	Norman L. Dalton	41	Domestic Assault
02/26/2024	Laura M. Brunk	43	Violation of Protective Order

City of Salem Police Department



Weekly Crime Report (Felony Cases)

Week of February 20, 2024 - February 26, 2024

DATE REPORTED	LOCATION	OFFENSE REPORTED
20-Feb-2024	1800 BLK W. Main Street	Embezzlement
20-Feb-2024	1800 BLK W. Main Street	Embezzlement
20-Feb-2024	200 BLK Craig Avenue	Sexual Assault
21-Feb-2024	800 BLK W. Main Street	Larceny
21-Feb-2024	100 BLK E. Clay Street	Hit and Run
21-Feb-2024	1500 BLK Electric Road	Burglary, Vehicle Theft, Larceny
22-Feb-2024	1700 BLK Salem Commons Ln	Possession of Controlled Substance
22-Feb-2024	800 BLK W. Main Street	Hit and Run
22-Feb-2024	2100 BLK Ellison Avenue	Possess Firearm by Felon
22-Feb-2024	900 BLK Camelot Drive	Burglary
24-Feb-2024	1900 BLK W. Main Street	Unauthorized Use of Vehicle
24-Feb-2024	100 BLK Kimball Avenue	Larceny
26-Feb-2024	1400 BLK Apperson Drive	Hit and Run

RECIPE OF THE WEEK



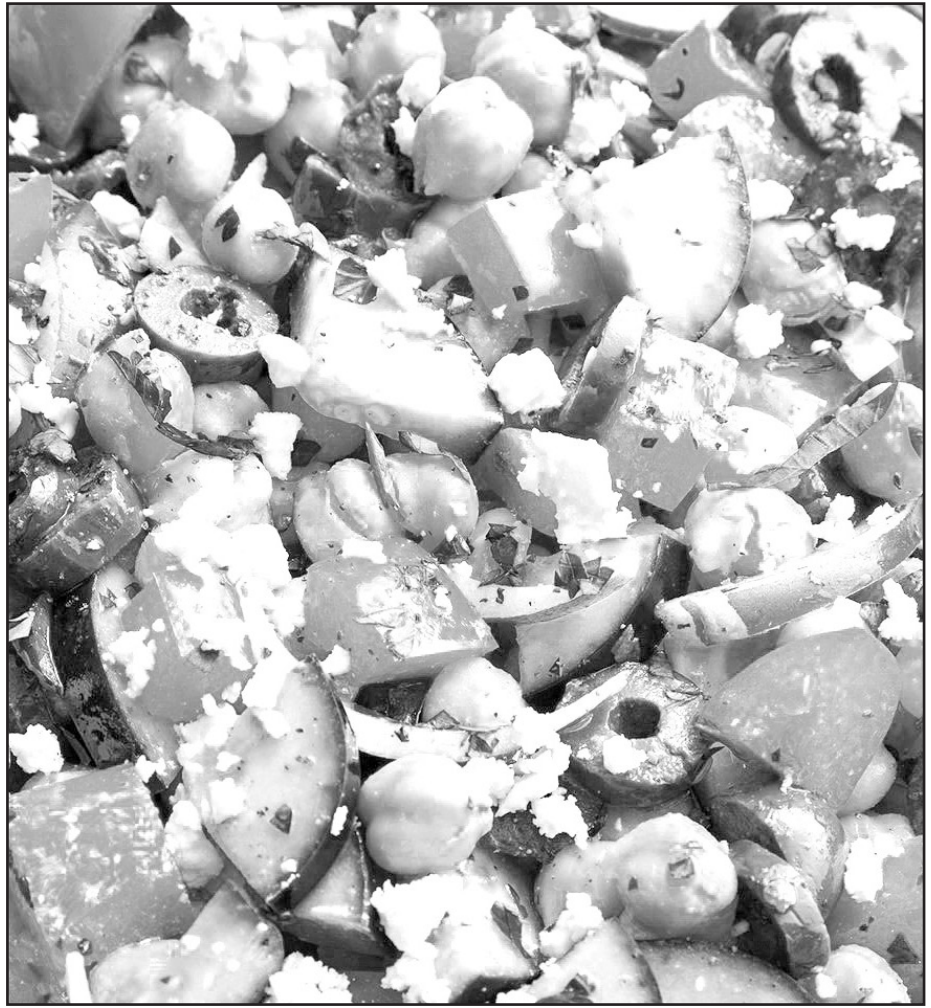
Shelly Koon

Contributing Writer

There is one day a year that I look forward to. I wake up before my alarm feeling well rested and ready to go. That is not happening this weekend. This weekend I will struggle to get up on time and be grumpy for at least two days. Daylight Saving Time begins every year on the second Sunday of March. At 2 am the time moves forward one hour. It happens at this time of day since most of us are at home sleeping, buses, and trains are not busy, and this causes the least amount of disruption. Time changes to save money on electricity started during World War I and in 1942 War Time (Daylight Saving Time) was in effect year-round until 1945 due to WWII. Until 2005 Daylight Saving Time was observed from the first Sunday in April to the last Sunday in October. In 2007, President George W. Bush ordered it extended for four weeks; set to run from

the second Sunday in March to the first Sunday of November.

Daylight saving time was originally started to use daylight more and save energy. Most people do not like Daylight Saving Time since it is hard to adjust to a new sleeping schedule. Most people are tired the days after a time change. In fact, the day after the time change is National Napping Day. Let's look on the bright side, Spring is practically here, and we get an extra hour of sunlight in the evenings. We have had enough of slow cooker comfort food and winter soups so here is a light, and simple recipe for spring. This dish is a "chickpea salad," but you can switch out chickpeas for your favorite canned beans: creamy cannellini beans, black beans, kidney beans are all great options. The leftovers pack well for a lunch option.



Coconut Chicken with Chickpea Salad

Ingredients:

For the chicken:

- 2 chicken breasts or 4-6 chicken tenders
- ½ cup unsweetened coconut flakes
- 1-2 tsp sweet paprika
- 1 egg
- Salt and pepper
- For the salad:
- 2 (15-oz.) can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 1 medium cucumber, chopped

- 1 cup halved cherry tomatoes
- 1 bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 red onion, thinly sliced
- 1/2 c. chopped kalamata olives
- 1/2 c. crumbled feta
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- For the lemon-parsley vinaigrette
- 1/2 c. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/4 c. white wine vinegar
- 1 tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 tbsp. freshly chopped parsley
- 1/4 tsp. red pepper flakes
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350°F. Meanwhile, prepare coconut chicken by coating breasts in egg wash and then covering with a mixture of coconut flakes, sweet paprika, and salt and pepper. Place encrusted chicken on a sheet pan and bake in oven for 10-15 minutes or until starting to brown (165°F internal temp).

While the chicken bakes, assemble the salad by tossing together chickpeas,

cucumber, bell pepper, red onion, olives, and feta. Season with salt and pepper. To make the vinaigrette, in a jar fitted with a lid, combine olive oil, vinegar, lemon juice, parsley and red pepper flakes. Close the jar and shake until emulsified, then season with salt and pepper. Dress salad with vinaigrette just before serving. Once the chicken has cooked, remove from oven, and let cool slightly before slicing and serving over top of the chickpea salad.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Crawley

from page 1

his way through the ranks to lead a department that he loves.”

In 2006, Crawley was transferred to General Investigator, and he rose to the rank of sergeant in that Division. He also served as the services division sergeant and patrol division sergeant before being appointed to the rank of major by Chief Tim Guthrie in 2014. In January of 2016, he became Salem's first Black police chief when Boggess named him Guthrie's successor.

“Throughout my life, there have been a number of people who have taken a chance on me and placed me in leadership roles,” he said. “Tim Guthrie and Kevin Boggess gave me this opportunity and I have tried not to let them or Salem's citizens down during my tenure as chief.”

Much of his time as Salem's top cop has been defined by several unique challenges that his predecessors never had to encounter. Policing during a pandemic, navigating a shrinking employment pool, and handling the backlash from national police events have all presented unique challenges.

“God placed me in this position at this time for a reason,” Crawley said. “There have been plenty of challenges along the way, but I believe we have met them head on and are truly better because of the adversity we had to overcome.”

“The last decade since Ferguson, Missouri has been a very difficult stretch for police departments,” said Boggess. “Chief Crawley was fortunate to work in a very supportive

community during this time, and Salem could not have asked for a better leader during these tumultuous times than Mike Crawley.”

As a father of both graduates and current students in the Salem School Division, Crawley prioritized his department's presence inside each of Salem's six schools throughout his time as chief.

“While some localities were debating the merits of resource officers in the schools, we never wavered in Salem,” he said. “In fact, we sacrificed other areas of policing when it was necessary to make sure our students and educators were safe. Citizens constantly thank me and our officers for having this type of positive relationship with the school division.”

Crawley is a Roanoke native and a 1991 graduate of Patrick Henry High School. He attended Virginia Western Community College and earned his bachelor's degree in management and leadership from Bluefield College. In 2018, he graduated from the F.B.I. National Academy as part



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are the past five Salem police chiefs: Tim Guthrie, from left, Jeff Dudley, Harry Haskins, Jimmy Bryant and Mike Crawley.

of its 271st class. He also is a member of Shiloh Baptist Church, and he resides in Salem with his wife and children.

“His ability to analyze public policy and societal changes in order to create real results for our community has been exceptional,” said Tom Bowers, Salem Commonwealth's Attorney. “I have learned so much from watching

and working with him because he understands the true value of cultivating and maintaining relationships in order to be an effective leader. He is both a team builder and bridge builder, and I wish him nothing but the best.”

When Crawley took over as Chief, Salem was accredited by the state's professional standards commission.

Now, the department is internationally accredited by CALEA – the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. It is considered the “gold standard” for public safety.

“I am extremely proud that we have been able to achieve these high standards and at the same time increase the overall diversity of personnel

within the department on all levels,” Crawley said. “The Salem community has always been extremely supportive of our officers and made them feel appreciated.”

Salem City Manager Chris Dorsey plans to begin the process of hiring Salem's next police chief immediately.

-The Salem Times-Register

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.

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OPINION

Roanoke College's IPOR releases Super Tuesday poll

Virginians weighed in ahead of Super Tuesday; President Biden's ratings down, Donald Trump favored in the commonwealth's Republican primary, and the latest on November's general election.

The Institute for Policy and Opinion Research (IPOR) at Roanoke College has been asking Virginians about the Super Tuesday primary and looking ahead to the November general election. IPOR also asked about public attitudes related to state and national politics, as well as opinions on public figures and organizations.

IPOR interviewed 705 adult residents of Virginia between Feb. 11 and Feb. 19, 2024, in a survey of public attitudes related to state and national politics, opinions on public figures and organizations, and election thoughts for Super Tuesday and the November general election. The survey has a weighted margin of error of 4.62%.

2024 Republican Nomination and Potential General Election Matchup

As Super Tuesday approached and Virginians cast their ballots in the Republican primary on March 5, the Roanoke College Poll continued to measure Virginians' opinions about the current race for the Republican presidential nomination, including who they would most prefer to be the Republican candidate for president in 2024.

Among self-reported Republicans, Donald Trump has a huge lead of 75% as their first choice to be the Republican nominee for president in November, followed by 15% for Nikki Haley and 8% for someone else. Support for both candidates has increased since November as other candidates have dropped out of the race; Trump is up 24% and Haley is up 5%. When asked about their second choice for the nominee, 6% chose Trump, 25% picked Haley and 56% would prefer someone else.

We asked Virginians about their intention to vote in the Republican primary on Super Tuesday (March 5, 2024) and 56% of Virginians indicated that they were very or somewhat likely to vote. Of those likely voters, Trump holds an 8-point lead over Haley (51% to 43%). Among likely voters on Tuesday, Democrats prefer Haley (87%) over Trump (10%), Republicans choose Trump (80%) over Haley (18%) and the closeness of the race comes from independents who prefer Haley (54%) over Trump (44%). Of the entire sample, 40% of Democrats, 84% of Republicans and 55% of independents self-identified into the "likely voter" category.

Roanoke College Poll

Looking ahead to the general election in November and likely matchups for the presidency, President Joe Biden maintains a four-point lead over Trump (47% to 43%). If Haley were to be the Republican nominee, she would have a nine-point lead over Biden (49% to 40%).

Since we last asked in November, more Virginians would consider voting for an independent candidate in November, up 5% to 50% compared to 45% of Virginians considering an independent candidate three months ago. When asked about the most important issue Virginians consider when voting, jobs and the economy (27%), immigration (17%), inflation (13%) and abortion (9%) were reported.

Approval, Favorability, and Directions of Virginia and Nation

Virginians' approval of Gov. Glenn Youngkin remains approximately the same as our polls from May 2023, with 53% of Virginians approving of the way Youngkin is handling his job as governor. In that same period, Biden's job approval has decreased among Virginians, down nine points from an approval rating of 42% in May to 33% in this poll. In November, Biden's approval was at 37%, and this poll marks the first time that more than 60% of Virginians disapprove of the way Biden is handling the presidency.

The percentage of Virginians who believe things are generally on the wrong track in Virginia and the nation remains stable from our last poll, with 42% reporting that things are on the wrong track in Virginia and 73% reporting that things are on the wrong track in the nation. As for the legislatures at the national and state levels, 16% of Virginians approve of the way Congress is handling its job (up two points since November, but within the margin of error) while 49% approve of the way the Virginia General Assembly is handling its job. The approval rating for the General Assembly increased four points since November and is within the error margin of its approval one year ago (48%).

With the General Assembly considering bills that

would potentially authorize and allow retail sale of cannabis in Virginia next year, the poll partnered with Biology Professor DB Poli, coordinator of the new Cannabis Studies Program at Roanoke College, to ask Virginians about their level of support regarding the possible laws. We found that 63% of Virginians strongly or somewhat support laws that would help small businesses compete with pharmaceutical companies and existing medical cannabis dispensaries while only 15% somewhat or strongly oppose. A similar proportion (60%) strongly or somewhat support laws that would regulate education needs for dispensary workers in Virginia with only 12% indicating any level of opposition. Responses were largely non-partisan, with majority support among Democrats (68% and 62% for the two questions), Republicans (56% and 53%) and independents (70% and 55%).

We continue to ask Virginians about their favorability ratings for key political figures and found slight changes since the last Roanoke College Poll. Approximately 48% of Virginians report a favorable impression of Youngkin (down two points), while 41% report an unfavorable impression (up two points). At the national level, 35% of Virginians report a favorable impression of Biden, which is another four-point drop from our last poll in November. About a third (35%) of Virginians report a favorable view of Trump while 61% report an unfavorable view (up six points since November). For the first time, we asked Virginians about Nikki Haley, with 29% having a favorable view, 50% having an unfavorable view and 18% not knowing enough about her to indicate their favorability. We again asked Virginians about their impressions of the U.S. Supreme Court, with 40% reporting a favorable view and 49% an unfavorable view of the court; this is relatively unchanged since November.

There continues to be substantial partisan gaps in Virginians' attitudes, including 42- and 47-point gaps in Youngkin's approval and favorability ratings, 55- and 60-point gaps in Biden's approval and favorability ratings, and a 78-point gap in Trump's favorability rating. Since November, Democrats' job approval and favorability of Biden both fell eight points. These gaps also appear in Virginians' attitudes about the direction of the nation (30-point gap) and favorability rating of the U.S. Supreme Court (32-point gap). However, we found no partisan gaps in the favorability rating for

See Poll, page 7

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The March wind blows in new programs for all age groups

There is more "spring" in the step of the Youth Services department of the Salem Public Library. Additional staff added to the Youth Services team allows the library to add programming for more age groups: A food-themed story time (Library Buffet) for Grades 1-3 will meet once a month on a Saturday; a Middle School Graphic Novel Book Club for grades 6-8, and a spring break Anime Hangout for Grades 6-12 on Friday, March 29 at 1 p.m. These are in addition to a creative writing group for grades 3-5 and a Middle School Book Club for grades 6-8.

In addition to all the new Adult Book Clubs added to the schedule, the Art Series for ages 55+ continues with a Mandala Dot Painting workshop and later in the month, another "Giggles & Grins."

Upcoming events for kids
Saturday, March 9, Library Buffet Storytime, Grades 1-3; 11

Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community
Benita VanCleave

a.m.-12:45 p.m.: Eat your way through the library! Register at salemva.libcal.com

Join us for a new, delicious Storytime! Each month we'll read a food-themed book and then make its recipe together. This month we're reading Thundercake by Patricia Polacco and making our own thundercakes!

Please be aware the following ingredients will be used and consumed: sugar, butter, cocoa powder, milk, vanilla extract, sprinkles, strawberries, chocolate cupcakes (purchased at the Kroger bakery)

Tuesday, March 12, 3:30 p.m. Grades 6-8; Middle School Book

Club: Percy Jackson: The Chalice of the Gods; Register at salemva.libcal.com

Thursday, March 14, 4 p.m. Virtual Author Talk—Christopher Paolini: 20 Years of Dragon-Riding in YA Fantasy, All ages. Online event. Register at www.salemva.libcal.com

Friday, March 15, 3:30 p.m. Grades 6-8; Middle School Graphic Novel Book Club. Calling all graphic novel enthusiasts! Register at salemva.libcal.com

Upcoming events for adults
Tuesday, March 12, 6:30 p.m. True Crime Book Club: Trained by Kathryn Mills.

Wednesday, March 13, 2 p.m.; Mandala Dot Painting: Create mandalas on river rocks with paint. Ages 55+. Register at www.salemva.libcal.com

Thursday, March 14, 6 p.m. Silent Book Club. Join us with your current read!

CROSSWORD

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	
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56					57		58		59		60
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64					65				66		

CLUES ACROSS

1. European Common Market
 4. Poetic go quickly
 7. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
 10. Pigeon pea
 12. Sao __, city in Brazil
 14. Longest division of geological time
 15. __ Alto, California city
 16. Small terrestrial viper
 17. Coming after all others
 18. Penetrate with a sharp fork
 20. Still-hunt
 22. Chinese frying pan
 23. Cave-dwelling salamander
 24. Any thick messy substance
 26. About the moon
 29. AKA Tao
 30. Jet cabin requirement

35. Prince Hirobumi, 1841-1909
 36. An easy return in a high arc
 37. Italian commune
 38. L. Comfort's illuminator
 44. Foot digit
 45. Minute tunicate genus
 46. Green regions of desert
 48. Direct a weapon
 49. __ de Janeiro
 50. Equestrian animals
 53. Acreas Tomei
 56. Head of the RCC
 57. Twines
 59. Scientific workplace
 61. Minerals
 62. Hypothetical original substances
 63. Hit with the open hand
 64. Political action committee
 65. Winged goddess of the dawn

CLUES DOWN

1. Electronic data processing
 2. Man or boy (Br.)
 3. W. African nation
 4. Fault's incline from vertical
 5. Method of birth control
 6. City founded by Xenophanes
 7. Legumes
 8. Beckham's spice girl
 9. Explosive
 11. 1936 Nobel winner Otto
 12. Greenbay teammate
 13. Brass that looks like gold
 14. School graduates
 19. Lively, merry play
 21. Make indistinct
 24. Egyptian mythological figure associated with floods
 25. Washing sponge
 27. Old name for nitrogen

28. Impounds for lack of payment
 29. Radiotelegraphic signal
 31. MN 55731
 32. Sun in spanish
 33. Helps little firms
 34. Cease living
 39. Flames up
 40. Egyptian sacred bull
 41. To wit
 42. Mire
 43. Bring two objects together
 47. Filths
 50. Israeli dance
 51. Oil cartel
 52. A particular instance of selling
 53. Microelectromechanical system
 54. Var. of 45 across
 55. Goat & camel hair fabrics
 56. Soda
 58. A firm's operational head
 60. Seaport (abbr.)

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V DOT ROADWATCH

Interstate 81

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 Drive 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 NB & SB BRIDGE REHAB OVER ROUTE 100 AT EXIT 98 - Beginning late March 2024, work will begin on I-81 rehabbing the northbound and southbound bridges over Route 100 at Exit 98. Lane and shoulder may be in place on Route 100 north and on I-81 northbound and southbound, 8 p.m. – 6 a.m. Flagging operations may also be in place on Route 100 north for up to eight-minute slow rolls. Both northbound and southbound on and off ramps at exit 98 for I-81 traffic will remain fully operational for the duration of this project. Estimated completion date is summer 2024.

I-81 NB & SB BRIDGE REHAB OVER ROUTE 100 AT EXIT 98 - Beginning late

March 2024, work will begin on I-81 rehabbing the northbound and southbound bridges over Route 100 at Exit 98. Lane and shoulder may be in place on Route 100 north and on I-81 northbound and southbound, 8 p.m. – 6 a.m. Flagging operations may also be in place on Route 100 north for up to eight-minute slow rolls. Both northbound and southbound on and off ramps at exit 98 for I-81 traffic will remain fully operational for the duration of this project. Estimated completion date is summer 2024.

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: 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 will be in place on Monday, January 22 and Tuesday, January 23 on I-81 northbound from mile marker 104 and 106 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Slow rolls may be utilized periodically on both the northbound and southbound lanes from mile marker 98-109 for structural steel deliveries and setting beams.

I-81 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.

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.

APPALACHIAN TRAIL BRIDGE OVER ROUTE 311 – A new pedestrian bridge is under construction over Route 311 at McAfee Knob trailhead. The trailhead parking lot is currently closed and will remain closed during construction. Flagging operations will be in place daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Occasional

slow rolls during nighttime hours are possible to stop traffic for up to 15 minutes at a time for setting bridge beams. Alternate areas for parking and updates on the shuttle can be found on the shuttle website at www.roanokecountyva.gov/McAfeeShuttle.

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.

ROUNDAABOUT: 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.

Craig County

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.

Montgomery County

WATERLINE PROJECT TO IMPACT TRAFFIC - Intermittent lane closures are in place on Route 658 (Meadow Creek Road), Route 693 (Childress Road) between Meadow Creek Road and Route 8 (Riner Road) between Meadow Creek Road and Route 1097 (Turnberry Lane) for a water line infrastructure project. Expected completion in late 2024.

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.

Roanoke County, RVARC offering free septic system pump-outs

Roanoke County and the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC) have partnered using grant funds from the Virginia Environmental Endowment to provide a no-cost septic tank pump-out program for qualified Roanoke County residents.

This grant-funded program aims to reduce the environmental impact and property damage caused by failed septic systems.

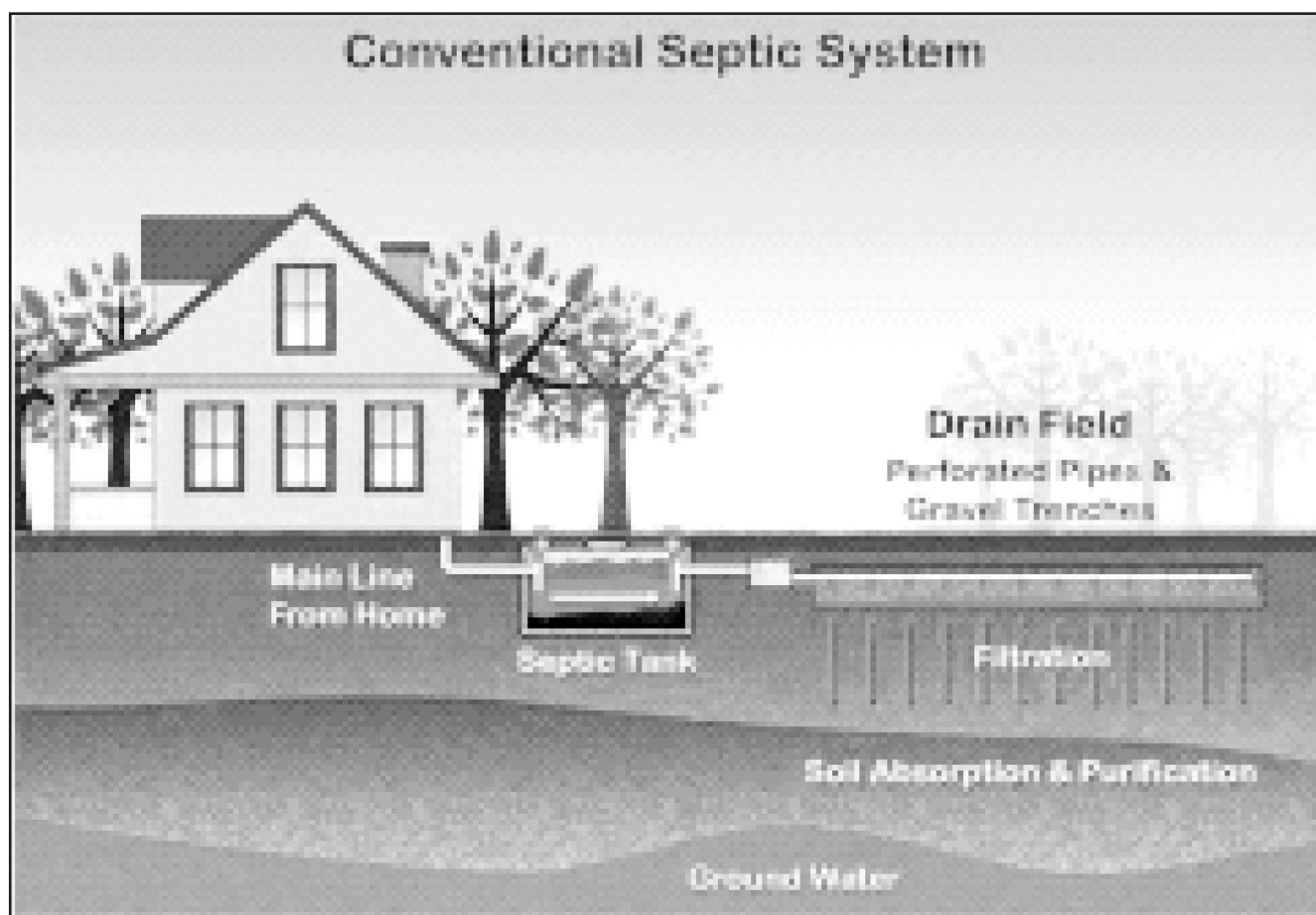
Septic systems that have not been maintained are a possible source of nutrient and bacteria pollution that may lead to stream impairments throughout Roanoke County. Septic systems that fall into disrepair can back up into homes or overflow into yards, creating costly issues for homeowners.

Households with an annual income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line are eligible to apply for this program. Residents are encouraged to attend an educational workshop, where they can apply for the free pump-out during the event. The next workshop is scheduled for Saturday, March 9, 2024, at the Vinton Library from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Maintaining septic systems benefits households, the local community, and the environment. Septic systems should be inspected every one to three years and pumped every three to five years, depending on use.

To learn more about the free septic pump-out program and how a septic system works, click <https://www.roanokecountyva.gov/septic>.

-The Salem Times-Register



COURTESY PHOTO

Septic systems that fall into disrepair can back up into homes or overflow into yards, creating costly issues for homeowners.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

RICHARDSON – WAYLAND NOW IN TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR; PIONEER IN DEVELOPMENT OF W.D.B.J.

Firm Recently Celebrates Anniversary – Electrical Jobs Through Out This Section Outstanding

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

The Richardson-Wayland Electrical Corp., now celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary, was incorporated in January 1913, a quarter of a century ago, beginning with a staff of only six employees including the boss.

The original officers were J.M. Richardson, president-general manager, and J.E. Wayland, vice-president. Later, Mr. A.D. Miller joined the organization in the capacity of secretary-treasurer, followed by O.F. Carmack as superintendent.

The original store was located in the same block that the retail store and offices now occupy. The entire business then consisted principally of the wiring of houses and the sale and installation of lighting fixtures. Electrical contracting was paramount in the minds of these six men and naturally, they were on the lookout and ready to submit estimates on any jobs within their reach.

The company now has jobs under construction in five different states, and during the year of 1937 reached a peak employment of around three hundred people. Contract work has been performed in Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. The corporation has received requests for bids on projects in foreign countries.

Built Rural Lines

In recent years, the company has gone in extensively for the building

of transmission and rural distribution lines. More than two hundred miles of rural lines have been constructed during the past two years for the Appalachian Electric Power Company. Approximately one hundred miles of 66,000-volt transmission and rural lines have been constructed for Virginia Public Service Company. At present, there is a large fleet of trucks, tractors, equipment and personnel which are engaged and are capable of doing any class of electrical power or communication lines.

In 1913, the total business of the corporation amounted to \$24,000.00. In 1937, the total gross business was over one-half million dollars. During its twenty-five years of corporate existence, Richardson-Wayland has paid out more than one and one quarter million dollars to labor.

The Richardson-Wayland Electrical Corporation sold at retail, the first complete radio sets ever offered in Roanoke. The first parts for the fans who wished to build their own were also sold by this company.

Realizing that all broadcasting stations then in operation were too far removed to provide reliable service, it became necessary to establish a local station. Application was made to the Department of Commerce, and in 1924, a license was granted, and the call letters WDBJ assigned.

WDBJ STARTED

With a humble beginning of 20 watts, the station grew to 50 watts, then to 250 and finally to 500 watts. Much

time and money were expended in its development and in the protection of the license from the encroachment of others.

In the late twenties the station attracted the attention of the Columbia Broadcasting System and became a member of that network bringing to Roanoke for the first time full day light service and many big time evening features.


In 1931, the WDBJ had grown to such proportions that it became evident that it required so much time on the part of the management that other business suffered in consequence. Therefore, it was decided to dispose of the radio station. Offers were received from several sources, but the purpose of out-of-town buyers was not to build up a station for Roanoke but rather to reduce it to a status of a local station to benefit more profitable stations in metropolitan areas.

In May 1931, the sale of WDBJ to The Times-World Corporation was consummated. Owned by local public-spirited citizens, their aim was to build rather than to destroy. When one now hears the good programs and the technical excellence of the broadcasts from WDBJ, there can be no doubt as to whether or not the proper custodian of this great instrument of public service was chosen.

Richardson-Wayland also designed, built and installed WLVA of Lynchburg. The company has served in an advisory capacity for other stations in this area.

RICHARDSON - WAYLAND NOW IN TWENTY - FIFTH YEAR; PIONEER IN DEVELOPMENT OF W. D. B. J.

COUNTY CLERK



The Richardson-Wayland Electrical Corp., now celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary, was incorporated in January 1913, a quarter of a century ago, beginning with a staff of only six employees including the boss.

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The original store was located in the same block that the retail store and offices now occupy. The entire business then consisted principally of the wiring of houses and the sale and

FROM THE TIMES-REGISTER ARCHIVES

In 1937 the Appalachian Electric Power Company awarded a contract to the Richardson-Wayland Elec. Corp. for the electrical work incident to the enlarging and modernization of their Logan Plant at Logan, West Virginia.

Early in 1933, the Richardson-Wayland Electrical Corporation started its Air Conditioning Department. After making thorough investigation of the products then available with the thought of quality and dependability as the main influence in making a choice, the General Electric line of Air Conditioning equipment seemed to best meet these requirements. Therefore, this company has since then exclusively merchandised General Electric Air Conditioning equipment.

-Prepared by Lisa King

Salem VA Health Care System to hold veteran town hall

The Salem VA Health Care System will hold a town hall for veterans Tuesday, March 26 beginning at 2 p.m. in the Bldg. 5 Auditorium.

Hospital leadership as well as representatives from the Veterans Benefits Administration will be on hand to provide information and answer questions.

Veterans who cannot attend the town hall are encouraged to submit questions by emailing: VHASAMPUBLICAFFAIRS@VA.GOV

Vietnam-era veterans who would have not received a Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemorative pin and would like to have one presented during the town hall, should reach out at the email above to schedule a pin presentation during the event.

Veteran Town Hall meetings are conducted quarterly. Meetings this year will be held March 26 at 2 p.m.; Wednesday June 5, at 2 p.m.; and Tuesday September 24 at 2 p.m.

-The Salem Times-Register

Bonsai, Japanese gardening class to be offered

Jackie Fujikawa was born and raised in Japan and came to the United States when in his youth. Being taught by his father and experienced in the Japanese culture and tradition, he has been involved in teaching and consulting the techniques of Japanese gardening and bonsai. Bonsai class will be with a focus on care and maintenance, learning all the basics of bonsai design. Participants will select a tree, learn how to prune, transplant, landscape with rocks and discover what the art of bonsai is all about. Fujikawa is currently teaching Japanese at Roanoke College.

The new class from Salem Parks and Recreation will be Monday, March 4-April 8 from 6-7:15 p.m. at the Salem Senior Center. The cost is \$10 for the class instructor will give you a list of the things you will need to purchase and the cost for this could be anywhere from \$40 to \$100, depending on the size of pot,

etc. that you purchase. All supplies can be purchased from Lowe's, Walmart, Amazon, etc. Sign up on Active Net or call 540-375-3054

Description: Six-week class 1.5 hours

Week 1 – Introduction and directional guidance

Week 2 – Concept and technique

Week 3 – Japanese landscaping and culture

Week 4 – Preparation and vision

Week 5 – Practice and evaluation

Week 6 – Practice and summary

Future Options for this class:

- Forming a bonsai club
- Exhibiting the art of bonsai at a show
- Trip to a Japanese garden in or out of state
- Trip to Japan

-The Salem Times-Register

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

E	C	M	H	I	E	P	P	T
D	H	A	L	P	A	U	L	O
P	A	L	O	A	D	D	E	R
P	I	E	R	C	E	A	M	B
W	O	K	O	L	M	B	U	S
S	L	I	M	E	L	U	N	A
D	A	O	P	R	E	S	S	U
I	T	O	L	O	B	O	P	I
T	I	F	F	A	N	Y	L	A
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Left, Parker Stallard and Roanoke College teammates watch his second inning home run leave the park in Saturday's game with Dickinson. Right, Parker is congratulated by RC coach Zach Ullrich as he rounds the bases.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Maroon baseball team opens ODAC play against EMU Saturday

The Roanoke College baseball team will be at home today for a 4 pm game against Centenary University of New Jersey. It will be the third game of a three game series with Cyclones at Salem Memorial Ballpark.

The Maroons are looking to make

up some ground after getting swept at home by Dickinson College over the weekend. Roanoke dropped a doubleheader at Salem Memorial on Saturday, 9-2 and 16-4, then lost a Sunday afternoon game, 8-5, to fall to 2-7 on the season.

Leadoff man Nate Prince and cleanup hitter Tucker Schiavoni had three hits each in Sunday's loss but the Maroons were outthit 14-9 for the game. Mason Roy pitched the first three innings and took the loss for Roanoke.

The Maroons will open their Old Dominion Athletic Conference schedule this weekend with a Saturday doubleheader against Eastern Mennonite University. The first game is scheduled for noon at Salem Memorial Ballpark with the second game to follow.

RC softball team will host Maryville Monday

The Roanoke College softball team is an even .500 after six games. After winning their first two games of the season the Maroons went 1-3 on a trip to Columbus, GA.

Roanoke opened the trip with a 5-4 loss to Wartburg, then shut out Piedmont 8-0 last Saturday evening as Baylee Compton pitched a no-hitter. Compton struck out eight and walked four to pick up her second win of the season. Leah Butts had a two-run homer for the Maroons.

On Sunday the Maroons dropped two, falling 3-2 to Transylvania and 10-1 to Linfield.

The Maroons are back home Monday to host Maryville in a doubleheader at the Botetourt Sports Complex in Troutville. Games are scheduled for 2:30 and 4:30 pm.

Roanoke men will play at Lacrosse Hall of Fame

The Roanoke College men's lacrosse team went down to defeat for the first time when the Maroons dropped a 15-13 game to Dickinson College in Potomac, Maryland Sunday. The Maroons had won their first five games to open the season.

Wyatt Whitlow led the Maroons with four goals. Luke Kammerman notched three goals and one assist.

The Maroons are back in action Sunday when they take on Wesleyan College at the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame in Sparks, MD at noon.

RC's Koutouzis is ODAC women's lacrosse P-o-W

Grace Koutouzis of Roanoke College was named the Old Dominion Athletic Conference Women's Lacrosse Offensive Player of the Week for the week of March 4.

Koutouzis, a junior from Marietta, GA, tied her career-high with seven points as the 17th-ranked Maroons defeated 23rd ranked Denison, 14-7, in Salem last Saturday at RC's Kerr Stadium. Grace tallied three goals and four assists for seven points.

Maddy Bowman finished the day with five goals for Roanoke. Tracey Benzing contributed two goals and Roanoke also got a goal apiece from Kate Loughran, Maddie McDonald, Sydney Harrison and Zoe Blair. Zoe a freshman from Salem who scored her first collegiate goal.

Now 2-1, the Maroons are scheduled to play St. John Fisher in Clearwater, FL Tuesday, then return home to host Kenyon on Saturday at 1 pm and Messiah next Tuesday at 4 pm.

Royals down Maroon volleyball team

The Roanoke College men's volleyball team will be looking for a couple wins this week as they head down the stretch of their second season. The Maroons were scheduled to play at home on Wednesday against Southern Virginia before heading to Asheville,

NC on Friday to play Warren Wilson College.

The Maroons are 9-8 after dropping a three-set match to Eastern Mennonite in Salem last week. The Royals took a 25-19, 25-20, 25-22 win at the Roanoke College Cregger Center.

Maroons qualify for NCAA Division III indoor track meet

The NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Track & Field and Cross Country Committee has announced the participants for the 2024 NCAA Division III Indoor Championships and Roanoke College will have two athletes participating.

Junior Brady Fowler has been selected to compete in both the 60m and the 200m and senior Kaitlyn Nguyen has qualified to compete in the high jump. The championships will take place this Friday and Saturday, March 8-9, at the Virginia Beach Sports Center.

GLENVAR STATE TRACK

continued from page 12

won the 55 hurdles with a time of 8.04.

"As coaches, you're always trying to figure out where the team can be helped moving forward in the season," said coach Loder, his mom. "With Joey being

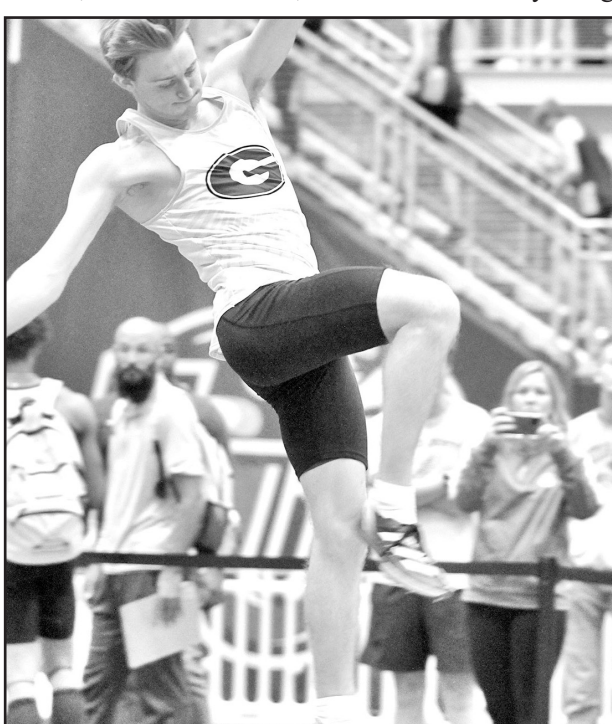


PHOTO BY REGGIE BRYSON

Colby Thompson set school records in the long jump and triple jump at the state Class 2 indoor meet.

a hurdler from outdoor, we asked him mid-January if he would run the 55H to possibly help score points overall for the team. Our thought process was to lay down a time and let's see where that could place you at states. Even if we could get one point, that would be huge."

After his first meet in the 55 hurdles Loder qualified for states and was ranked in the top eight going in. Once he competed in the Wednesday state preliminaries Joey was seeded fourth going into the finals on Thursday.

"Come Thursday, he was ready," said mom. "All he needed to do was run a clean race, and he did. After his first place finish it set the tone for the boys' team"

Leading up to the main running events Thompson had already started setting the tone for the boys. Going into the Triple Jump Colby wasn't even seeded to gain points for the team, but he had other plans. Thompson placed fifth overall and set a new PR and school record with a jump of 43'0.5".

Colby didn't stop there. He came in fourth in the Long Jump, setting a new PR and school record with a jump of 20'11.75". He also placed second in the 500 meters, third in the 300 meters and was a part of the boys' winning 4X400 team.

"Colby is only a junior and it's going to be exciting to watch him in outdoor and his senior year," said Loder.

Two seniors had outstanding performances. Zach Curfuss finished third in the 500 and sixth in the 300 and was a part of the winning 4x400 team along with Horrell, who placed fourth in the boys 1000 with a PR time of 2:43.02. Charlie also set a PR in his 1600

with a time of 4:34.78.

"These two young men over their Indoor careers have set an outstanding tone in not only leadership for others to carry on, but what an athlete represents," said Loder.

Not to be overshadowed, the girls had a good meet as well. The 4x800 team of Val Loreda-Castillo, Emma Pope, Anna Hall and Rayya Bryson placed fourth. Loreda-Castillo also placed seventh in the girls 1000, setting a new PR time of 3:15.71.

The highlight of the meet for the Glenvar girls was a first place finish in the 4X400 with Hall, Kailee McDonald, Bryson and Aiden Beverly. They won with a time of 4:21.12 and Poquoson was right behind them at 4:21.38.

"It was a tight race, and every emotion of nervousness and excitement was there the whole time while watching it," said Loder. "They got it done and afterwards our anchor, Aiden Beverly, said, 'I could feel her breathing on me and said to myself, nope that's not happening'."

The girls finished with 17 points for 13th place. Bruton won the girls' title in another close one, edging Lee High of Jonesville, 54.25 to 52.

"Ending a season is always bittersweet, and this year was a year that we will always remember," said Loder. "These athletes showed up and put in the hard work that was needed day after day to have the success each of them displayed.

"We took a total of 19 athletes to States. Not all placed top eight, but their time is coming and we're excited to see it all unfold. With Outdoor Season underway, we look forward to seeing what they all continue to do and achieve."



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Kherington Jewell pitches for Glenvar against Cave Spring.

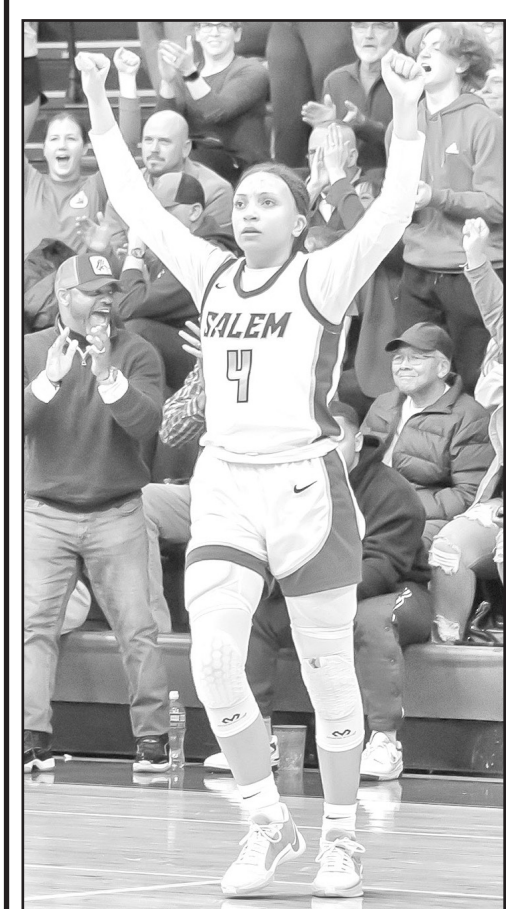
Snyder allowed only one corner kick and one shot on goal to preserve the shutout. Arelis Salinas opened the score in the second half with a goal assisted by Tara Farrakhpoor. The second goal was from Ava Brewer assisted by Hamden.

The Glenvar boys are 2-0 after wins over Northside and Cave Spring. On Monday at Cave Spring they came from 2-0 down to win 3-2. Parker Doolan got the scoring started, followed by a header goal by Zane Smith. Kiptyn Jones put the finishing touch on the win off a free kick with less than a minute to go to give the Highlanders the win.

The Highlanders girls split their first two. They opened with a 6-0 win over Northside as Cam Stevens, Gabby Barba and Genna Shanks all scored goals. On Monday they lost a defensive battle to Cave Spring, 1-0.

Lewis is back in action tonight with the softball and girls' soccer teams hosting William Byrd and the baseball and boys' soccer headed to Vinton. Next Monday the baseball and boys' soccer host Hidden Valley and the softball and girls' soccer go there.

The Glenvar Middle teams don't play again until next Wednesday, March 13. The baseball and boys' soccer teams will host Ben Franklin Middle while the two girls' teams head to Rocky Mount.



STR FILE PHOTOS

Local hoopsters on All-District, All-Region basketball teams

All-District and All-Region basketball teams were recently announced and Salem and Glenvar teams were well-represented. Left, Salem's Gabby Crawley was named first team All-River Ridge District and first team All-Region 4-D. Second from left, Bailey Rider of the Spartans was a first team All-District selection and second team All-Region. Emme Custer of Salem was second team All-District and Honorable Mention All-Region. Second from right, Salem's Lucas Yerton is a first team All-River Ridge District and second team All-Region 4D selection. Cam Boles was second team All-District and Honorable Mention All-Region and Marvin Fields was second team All-RRD. Right, Brody Dawyot of Glenvar was named to the first team in both the Three Rivers District and Region 2C. Glenvar teammates Reed Hutchison and Aiden Hylton were both named to the All-Three Rivers second team.

Spring sports officially begin on Monday for VHSL schools

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, and a day later is the official opening of high school spring sports in Virginia. Teams in the Roanoke Valley have been practicing and scrimmaging for the past three weeks to get ready for what promises to be another exciting spring of high school sports.

On Monday Salem High has two openers. The Salem softball team is home against William Fleming at 5 pm for the debut of new head coach Jeremy Wells. The Spartans will be playing their home games at the Salem Civic Center once again as work on the James I. Moyer Complex is yet to be completed.

"It's going to be an exciting season," said Wells. "We're in a strong district and our players have to work hard and compete every day to be successful."

"Our pitching and overall defense will be strong, so we've got to swing the bats well to be in ball games. We have two seniors and nine juniors, so we'll rely on their leadership throughout the season."

The Salem High boys' lacrosse team also opens Monday. The Spartans will host Virginia Episcopal at 6 pm at Spartan Field.

"We're really excited about this year's team," said coach George Revercomb. "This is the best since I've arrived at Salem three years ago. Very skilled, but most importantly they are developing a high level of lacrosse IQ."

"Our assistant coaches do an amazing job, Chad Custer, Joey Dishaw and Chad Fisher along with AJ Blankenship and David Turk with the jayvees. Our goal is to win the region championship first and then compete for the State Championship."

Glenvar has five opening games on Monday; baseball, softball, both tennis teams and girls' soccer. The baseball and softball teams will host Craig County at 5 pm.

"We're looking forward to a great season," said Highlander baseball coach Jeremy Cromer. "The guys have been working really hard. Our ultimate goal is to get back to the state tournament, but we know that we will have to go through some really tough competition to get there and the guys are up for the challenge."

The girls are looking to improve on last year's softball season with a young team.

"We only have one senior this year, Claire Spence, and it's her first time playing with the Lady Highlanders," said coach Lonnie Raines. "I believe she will have an impact on the team, both offensively and defensively. She may split time between playing catcher and third base."

Glenvar has most of the starters returning from last year, including junior pitchers Abby Teubert and Hannah Street.

"We will be a young team once again so it will be a learning year for us," said Raines.

The Glenvar tennis teams will open with William Fleming Monday. The girls will be home and the boys will begin defense of their 2023 state championship in Roanoke.

"Four senior starters on last year's undefeated team have graduated," said coach Bob Haynie. "Alec McIwain, our 2A state finalist in singles, is back along with varsity starters Logan Garner and Elliot McClintic. In addition to these three, we have a hard working group of guys that will fill in the gaps. While this is a young team, I feel very good about where the program is and we are excited about the season."

The girls have a new coach in Vicki Thompson.

"Returning from the 2022 state championship Team, and after a year long knee injury recovery, Natalie McMahan is at Number One," said Thompson. "Five returning players from 2023 will help to lead the team. We have six seniors on the team this year and hope to have a successful season and develop a strong team and players."

The Glenvar girls soccer team also opens Monday. The Highlanders will host William Fleming at 6 pm.

"I'm really looking forward to another great season this year with a very talented group of girls," said coach Kyleigh Drew. "They have been working hard this off season, spending time in the weight room and getting some training and conditioning work in. We have 10 returning players and six freshmen and we all have goals we are looking to achieve this year and are working hard to be sure we get there."

Glenvar's boys will begin defense of their 2023 state soccer championship on Tuesday of next week. The Highlanders will open against Class 3 Lord Botetourt, a formidable opponent.

"We're led by captains Zach Curfiss, Jake Williams, and Kian Fisher," said coach Josh Jones. "Bryce King and Curfiss are our only two seniors this year and they're surrounded by 13 juniors, including returning starters Williams, Fisher, Alan Vu, Wesley Feliciano and Aidan Hylton. All-State players, Cooper Mullins and Tyler Curfiss return as well as sophomores. Junior Grayson Shepherd will tend the net after spending two years backing up first team All-State goalkeeper Marco Gustafson."

"We had a good week of tryouts and first week of practice. We will look to just improve each week and play the best that we can moving forward. I am looking forward to seeing what this group can accomplish."

Both Salem soccer teams also open next Tuesday, March 12. The boys will host Rockbridge and the girls will go there. Justin Applegate is the new coach of the Salem girls' team and David Atkins returns to coach the boys.

"Our goals this season are to build a winning environment and to get the best out of all of our players," said Applegate. "Our sights are set at winning championships. We have a lot of individual talent on the roster, but our success depends on how well we come together as a unit. This year we're playing under the mantra 'Team First,' which means that we play to support each other and above all else work for the team to be



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Salem's Kaiden Garst (#16) scores in last week's boys' lacrosse scrimmage against the Botetourt Club team.

successful."

The boys also have a talented side returning.

"The players and coaching staff are looking forward to the spring season and look to build on this past spring," said Atkins. "We return eight starters from last year's team and several other players with varsity playing experience. We will be a tough team in our District and Region and hope to compete for the district and region titles this season."

Next Wednesday, March 13, the Salem High baseball team opens with a 5:30 pm game against James River on Billy Sample Field at Kiwanis Park.

"I'm very excited about this season and my expectations are high," said coach Jimmy Winterer. "We're returning 13 players with varsity experience. Seniors Evan Fletcher and Wilson Rakes are looking to be a force on the mound, as well as lefty juniors Trace Monroe and Carter Black. We also expect to get innings out of two varsity newcomers, juniors Keegan Craighead and Mark Debord."

"Our goal is to continue to pitch well and play solid defense. Senior Marshall University commit Caleb Furrage will once again be our captain behind the plate and one of our big bats in the lineup. Seniors James Buckles, Ryan Coe, Owen Dewalt and Nate Wells can also bring some pop to the plate and are looking to help us on the corners of our infield and in the outfield."

"Offensively, we want to improve from last year. Junior Thomas Millard, who had a great year with the jayvees last year, is looking to help us do just that. Three sophomores, Mason Hale, Chase Rutledge, and Brayden White, will also be a vital part of our run production. These three have tremendous speed and are also returning with varsity game experience."

Glenvar's girls' soccer team is at Auburn next Wednesday and the softball team will host Carroll County.

A week from today, on Thursday March 14, Salem's tennis teams will open against Glenvar. The girls are at home and the boys are at Glenvar.

"We have six new players this year and two seniors," said Spartan girls coach Elisha Baba. "We're looking forward to another great spring season of good, fun, and competitive tennis."

Steve Willinger returns to coach the Salem boys.

"We have a roster of 21 players possessing a wide range of experience," he said. "The team is led by sophomore Drew Perez and senior Joren Poush, both acclaimed as All-Regional for 2023. Senior Cooper Davis and junior Logan Butcher are returning starters who were major contributors last year who continue to improve."

"Several prospects have been preparing to step into key roles, so there is an excellent chance that the Spartans can challenge all the strong opponents they face. With incredible support from assistant coaches Jill Perez, Dallas Bradley, and Tommy McDonald, the boys will be well-prepared. Foremost, our goal is to improve, to play well-organized matches, and have a great team experience."

Both Salem lacrosse teams also play next Thursday, both against Western Albemarle. The boys are at home and the girls are on the road with new coach Carly Coyle.

"I'm looking forward to leading this team for the 2024 season," said Coyle. "We've been putting in the work every day at practice and have seen growth each and every practice. We're ready to start seeing all the pieces fall right into place for us."

RC tennis sweep Raiders

The Roanoke College tennis teams swept Mount Union in Hilton Head, South Carolina on Tuesday. The men won 6-3 and women took an 8-1 win over the Purple Raiders.

After losing two of three doubles the men won five of six singles. Singles winners for RC were Zach Kriebel, Federico Maccari, Julio Marques, Hardt Lesko and Lance Beheler.

The women won all three doubles with the teams of Bella Gustafson and Halle Fernstrum, Victoria Rios and Lia Streibich and Julia Bassett and Camryn Breedlove. Roanoke then won the first two singles to clinch the match, including a 6-1, 6-2 victory by Glenvar High graduate Gustafson at number three.

The women are now 2-2 and the men are 3-1 and both will take on Lebanon Valley at Hilton Head today.

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PHOTOS BY REGGIE BRYSON

The Glenvar boys and girls swept the 4x400 relays in last week's state track meet at Liberty University. Left photo is the boys' 4x400 state champion relay team. Left to right are Asst Coach Madison Bourne, Zach Curfiss, Charlie Horrell, Colby Thompson, Joey Loder and Head Coach Bekka Loder. In the right photo is the girls 4x400 state championship foursome. Left to right are Asst Coach Madison Bourne, Aiden Beverly, Kailee McDonald, Rayya Bryson, Anna Hall and Head Coach Bekka Loder.

Glenvar boys finish one point behind state champ in Class 2 track meet

The Glenvar High boys were runners-up and the girls took 13th place in the state Class 1&2 indoor track meet at Liberty University last Wednesday and Thursday. Bruton High of Williamsburg swept the boys' and girls' state team titles among 36 schools that scored in the meet in Lynchburg.

"We could write a book on this meet," said Glenvar coach Bekka Loder. "It was one of the best meets overall for our class. The track was hot and all the athletes were lying down fast times. There were twists and turns in almost every race. It was great for our athletes to see and learn not to take what's on paper for granted."

This year's Highlander team had 27 athletes and many new team members after graduating 11 seniors last year. The team had four seniors and three juniors with the remaining athletes being freshmen and sophomores.

"For a lot of these athletes, it was their first time stepping on the track or being new to the team," said Loder. "Once the season got underway we saw the great potential we had in all of them. Our seniors, Charlie Horrell, Zach Curfiss, Emma Pope and Joanna Killeen, set a great tone in leadership by helping and guiding them all along the way. These seniors helped set the tone for the success our athletes had at states."

The boys' team scored 57 total points, just one fewer than Bruton. The state championship came down to the 4x400 and Glenvar had to win to have a chance. Colby Thompson, Charlie Horrell, Joey Loder and Zach Curfiss won the race in 3:30.95, four seconds better than second place Floyd and 4.06 better than third place Bruton, but that wasn't quite good enough to catch the Panthers in the team standings.

"We had to win, yet there were so many variables that could play out for an overall team win, tie or not placing in the top two at all," said Loder. "We needed Bruton to finish fourth or lower for us to tie or win, but they had the same game plan as we did. They took third in the 4x400 and that gave them a final one point lead over us."

An early highlight of the running events came when sophomore Joey Loder

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PHOTO BY REGGIE BRYSON

Joey Loder (green singlet) is on his way to a state championship in the 55 hurdles.

Salem's Persinger is Class 4 state runnerup in 55 meter dash

The Salem High boys' track team finished 17th overall among 34 teams who scored in last week's Virginia High School League Class 4 state track meet. Atlee High of Mechanicsville swept the boys' and girls' team championships in a meet held at Liberty University in Lynchburg on February

26 and 27. Salem junior Josiah Persinger was the state runnerup in the 55 meter dash with a time of 6.44, two one-hundredths of a second behind winner Connor Salmin of Woodgrove. Persinger also teamed up with Carter Black, Rumiel Nugent and Khamari Garner to place

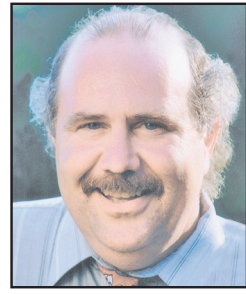
sixth in the 4x200 relay with a time of 1:32.05. Atlee's team won that relay in 1:29.84.

Mitch Taylor, Black, Nugent and Nazaser Miller placed third in the 4x400 relay. That Spartan foursome set a new Salem High record with a time of 3:28.47, less than a second behind

winning Atlee's time of 3:27.65.

"This was the last meet for the high school indoor season but several team members have qualified for the indoor national meet in early March," said Salem coach Tom Roth.

The Salem outdoor team has its first meet on April 6 at William Byrd High.



Brian Hoffman

Pistol with a Ponytail

I never thought I'd see the day when women's basketball would sell out big arenas, but that day is here.

Give much of the credit to Iowa University senior star Caitlin Clark, who has sold out venues everywhere she goes. She broke the NCAA women's all-time scoring record on a long three-point shot, then last Sunday she passed one of my all-time favorites as the all-time leading NCAA scorer, regardless of gender. That person she passed would be "Pistol" Pete Maravich.

It's not so much that Clark scores a lot, but "how" she plays the game that makes her stand out. She shoots three pointers with Stephen Curry accuracy and passes the ball like John Stockton with a ponytail. She's fun to watch.

I must admit, I don't watch a lot of women's basketball. I've never watched a WNBA game from start to finish. I go to most of the Roanoke College women's home games and I watch a whole lot of high school girls' games, but if there's a choice between the women and an NBA game or a good men's college game on TV I'll watch the men.

That might be changing. When Caitlin Clark finishes her career, however far the Hawkeyes go this year, I'm anxious to see how she does in the WNBA. I might just watch an entire game if she's in it.

And then you have Virginia Tech. I never thought I'd see the day when the Virginia Tech women were selling out Cassell Coliseum. . . getting bigger crowds than the men! I can remember 20 or so years ago when a woman I covered in high school was on the Tech team. I'd go to the game and people were showing up five minutes before tip-off and easing down to seats by the court. Those days are gone, at least for now.

Unfortunately the Hokies have hit a slide at the most inopportune time. Their star player, Elizabeth

Kitley, suffered a knee injury in a loss at UVA Sunday in front of the largest crowd ever to watch a women's basketball game in the state of Virginia. As I write this column her status going forward is unknown, but the old saying "adding insult to injury" was never more appropriate as the heavily favored Hokies lost the game to the underdog Wahoowomen. Stay tuned for updates.

Getting back to Caitlin Clark, I was fascinated that she was the one to outscore Pete Maravich after all these years. . .54 to be exact. As I mentioned I like watching Clark play. I LOVED watching Pete Maravich play.

I was in high school when Maravich played for LSU. One of my best friend's growing up, Gus, had an older brother who was a really good football player at our high school, Souderton High School in Pennsylvania. He got a scholarship to play football at LSU, so right then and there Gus became a big LSU fan and I joined the club. On a clear night we could get LSU basketball games on the radio and we'd sit on his front porch and listen to Pete Maravich light it up.

Thing is, if you just listened to Pete play you missed a whole lot. He was all entertainment. He had those floppy gray socks and he played like his hair was on fire, and boy did he have some hair! Those late '60s were the time when long hair was the norm and Pete's mop top went every which direction as he dribbled down the floor.

Everything he did was exciting. I haven't seen anyone before or since handle the ball like he did. It was said he carried a ball where he went growing up, bouncing it in the aisle of the movie theatre and dribbling on the way to and from



school. When he dribbled it was like the ball was part of him, and I know you can say that about a lot of players but it was never more obvious than it was with Pete.

He could pass the ball like no one I've seen since. The closest I've seen was a couple times when Ricky Rubio would throw one of those full court bounce passes that found the mark, but Pete would do that with regularity. Our high school coaches frowned on behind-the-back passes, but Pete did it so well it was a weapon. And remember that fake behind-the-back that Rajon Rondo would do? Pete was a master of it.

And boy could he shoot. He would pull up from Damion Lillard land and swish 'em with regularity. Only thing is, he only got two points for that shot back in the day. You had to guard him out there, but he could also go by you and wiggle through traffic on his way to the hoop. If they had called fouls in the NBA back then as closely as they do now no one could have ever stopped him.

Going back to the long shots, you have to remember that Pete didn't play college ball with the three point shot. He also played just three years, because when he was at LSU freshmen weren't eligible. If he had played four years with the three point shot no one would touch his scoring records. That's not taking anything away from Caitlin Clark, it's just a fact. She broke the record fair and square with today's rules.

One more thing about Pete. His last year at LSU was my last year in high school. He was drafted by the Atlanta Hawks about the same time I decided to attend Roanoke College. I had just arrived in Salem, not knowing anyone in the entire state and not having a car, when I saw that the Hawks were going to play an NBA exhibition game at the Salem Civic Center.

This was in October of 1970, and I didn't even know where the Salem Civic Center was. I got vague directions and walked to the game from Roanoke College to see Pete play live for the first, and as it turned out only, time in my life. It was exciting to see him play in those old lime green Hawks uniforms with the stripes running across the chest and down the side, floppy gray socks and all.

Unfortunately Pete died of a heart attack at just 40 years of age, playing pickup basketball, but he'll always be remembered as one of the most exciting players ever. And Caitlin Clark can truly be called the "Pistol Pete" of women's basketball and no one should question it.