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OurValley.org

John Saunders announces run for Council

Meg Hibbert
Contributing writer

John Saunders has unfinished business he wants to do for the City of Salem. That's why he is running for a term on Salem City Council, he announced this week.

"I still feel an urge to serve," the 63-year-old former Councilman said in an interview Monday. "I feel like I still have lots to give."

Saunders was on Council through December 2022. In that November's

city election – the first to be held in November instead of May – Saunders lost by less than a dozen votes to Councilman Randy Foley and asked for a recount.

So far, the other candidate who has announced is Anne Marie Green, who made her announcement the end of January.

This time, Saunders is running as a Republican instead of an Independent.

"I have been encouraged to make this change and I have supported

Republican candidates and the party in the past," he explained.

"This city is very dear to me as I worked for the city for over three decades. It is time to refocus on many of the aspects that made the city the envy of the area. Our infrastructure was carefully constructed, our facilities the best, and most of all we took care of our citizens and especially our employees," Saunders said.

He continued, "Our infrastructure

See Saunders, page 3



Saunders

COURTESY PHOTO



FORENSICS STATE CHAMPIONS!!!

SALEM SETS VHSL RECORD WITH 18TH CONSECUTIVE TITLE!!!

The team dominated the Class 4 field with a 40-17 win over second place EC Glass.

COURTESY PHOTO

Salem Forensics team makes history

Win marks 18th consecutive state championship

Aila Boyd
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The Salem Forensics team made history Saturday, March 23, by winning its 18th consecutive state championship.

The team dominated the Class 4

field with a 40-17 win over second place EC Glass, it's long-time regional rival, with six individual state championships and three runners-up.

The victory broke the VHSL consecutive championship record set by Christiansburg wrestling for any academic or athletic VHSL

team. Salem also now ties Madison County with the most total state championships in forensics.

"Eighteen years is a long time. Longer than almost all of the students on the team have been alive. Certainly, I didn't think

See Forensics, page 3

Salem Farmers Market opens for the summer season on Saturday



Saturday
March 30th
Opening Day

COURTESY PHOTOS

The Salem Farmers Market opens for the summer season on Saturday, March 30.

The Salem Farmers Market will open for the summer season on Saturday, March 30, from 8 am. -12 p.m.

Edmee CR Hasler
Contributing writer

The first day of the Salem Farmers Market 2024 season is Saturday, March 30. Vendors will offer up locally grown fresh foods and vegetables from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. on Saturdays. "Typically, on most Saturdays in the summer, we'll have the market full, which is 25 stalls," said Isaac Campbell, Salem Farmers Market manager.

New for the Salem Farmers Market this summer season is the market's approval as a Certified Farmers Market. "The purpose of the certification is to recognize markets in the state that meet and exceed best practices at farmers markets," Campbell

said. This means accountability and high-quality products for customers. "This is a way for markets to distinguish themselves to consumers, vendors, and their communities. The Salem Farmers Market is one of the first markets in the state to go through the certification process."

Markets are judged in these categories: Food safety, professional development, food origin, food access, equity, consumer education, market visibility, marketing and outreach, public safety and data. The Salem Farmers Market hit the Gold Standard in all areas.

An important program at the Salem Farmers Market that

started last year is The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition. "The program gives eligible seniors in our community \$50 in farmers market checks to shop for local produce, and aims to reduce food insecurity in our older populations

while also supporting local farms," Campbell said. Last year, \$50,000 was distributed to eligible seniors in the greater Roanoke/Salem community. "It is a win-win for everyone involved, and we look to expand the program this season at the market." Campbell would like to see even more participants come to the market and redeem

See Market, page 2

Hart Motor Company added to Virginia Landmarks Register

Aila Boyd
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RICHMOND – The Hart Motor Company was one of 11 places that were added to the Virginia Landmarks Register late last year.

The Commonwealth's Board of Historic Resources approved the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) listings during its quarterly public meeting on Dec. 14 in Richmond. The VLR is the commonwealth's official list of places of historic, architectural, archaeological and cultural significance.

The Hart Motor Company in Salem reflects the 20th-century trend of automobiles becoming the main mode of transportation for the public, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources said. Comprised of a showroom and a service department station, it exemplifies the type of roadside architecture built to cater to drivers as opposed to pedestrians in a traditional centralized business district.

"Located in the city of Salem, the Hart Motor Company dealership comprises an automobile showroom and a service department station connected by a metal canopy. Designed by the locally based architectural firm Kinsey, Motley and Shane, the dealership—constructed in 1972-1973—serves as an excellent example of the automobile's influence on commercial development and architectural design in the Roanoke Valley during the second half of the 20th century. With its dazzling showroom designed to catch the attention of motorists, extensive sales lot, and large service department, the Hart Motor Company reflects the emerging trend of automobiles becoming the main mode

of transportation for the public. The architectural style of the showroom reflects influences from both the International and Googie styles with its circular form, steel frame and glass curtain wall construction, projecting flat roof, and general lack of ornamentation. The utilitarian design and steel-frame construction of the service department building is indicative of the growing importance of automobile maintenance and customer service. Located on the outskirts of downtown Salem, the Hart Motor Company exemplifies the type of 20th-century roadside architecture built to cater to drivers as opposed to pedestrians in a traditional centralized business district," according to the DHR listing.

Carl Hart, president, said that the officials wanted to review the original blueprints as part of the review process. "The reason I did it was because there's nothing like it around here," he said of why he pursued the listing. "It's very well built."

At the time, DHR said that it would forward the documentation for these newly listed VLR sites to the National Park Service for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Listing a property in the state or national registers is honorary and sets no restrictions on what owners may do with their property. The designation is foremost an invitation to learn about and experience authentic and significant places in Virginia's history, DHR said. Designating a property to the state or national registers—either individually or as a contributing building in a historic district—provides an owner the opportunity to pursue historic rehabilitation tax credit improvements to the building.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES/ KATE KRONAU

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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

Shredding Event: In an effort to help local citizens protect themselves from identity theft, Vested Partners will host a free community shredding event on Saturday, April 27th from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at their office located at 300 E. 2nd Street in Salem. Hot dogs, chips and soda will be provided, and those who attend can enter a drawing to win a desktop paper shredder. No RSVP is required. This shredding event is for personal papers with a limit of three bags or boxes per person. Business shredding will not be allowed. Except for paper clips and staples, no metal, batteries, electronics or other non-paper material can be in boxes or bags brought for shredding.

Easter Egg Hunt: The city of Salem's annual Easter Egg Hunt is back at the Salem Civic Center for the second straight year. Due to the ongoing construction work at the Moyer Sports Complex, this year's free event will again take place on the grounds of the Taliaferro Complex on Wednesday, March 27, from 6-8 p.m. The egg hunts will be spread out on the fields located on the right side of the Civic Center's main entrance to ensure that all children have a fair chance to participate. The hunts will start every 15 minutes with approximately 25 kids and parents in each event. The youngest age groups (3-4) and (5-6) will hunt for eggs on the back fields with age groups (7-8) and (9-10) participating on the front fields. There is plenty of free parking for the event. Kids are only allowed to hunt eggs in their respective age group. Parents may enter the hunt area with their child, but only the children can collect the eggs. The following vendors will be in attendance: Little Critters Petting Zoo, Inflatables, Crafts, Salem Fire & EMS, MousePro Travel Agency, Salem Rescue Squad. The Tailgate will be offering concessions. Organizers said the event will happen rain or shine.

Community Easter Drama: Riverside Evangelical Church will stage its 13th annual community Easter drama of "The Life, Ministry, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ" on March 28, 29 and 30 at 8 p.m. Admission is free.

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. It will take place at the Salem Parks and Recreation Senior Rec Center at 110 Union Street, Salem.

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. It will take place at the Salem Parks and Recreation Senior Rec Center at 110 Union Street, Salem.

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."

Lebanese Festival: This year marks the 23rd Lebanese festival and will be held May 31 and June 1-2, 2024, at St. Elias Maronite Catholic Church, 4730 Cove Road, N.W., Roanoke, VA. The festival is open Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. - 9 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

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. It will take place at the Salem Parks and Recreation Senior Rec Center at 110 Union Street, Salem.

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. It will take place at the Salem Parks and Recreation Senior Rec Center at 110 Union Street, Salem.

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. It will take place at the Salem Parks and Recreation Senior Rec Center at 110 Union Street, Salem.

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. It will take place at the Salem Parks and Recreation Senior Rec Center at 110 Union Street, Salem.

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. It will take place at the Salem Parks and Recreation Senior Rec Center at 110 Union Street, Salem.

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. It will take place at the Salem Parks and Recreation Senior Rec Center at 110 Union Street, Salem.

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. It will take place at the Salem Parks and Recreation Senior Rec Center at 110 Union Street, Salem.

Public meetings: 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.

Market from page 1

the vouchers. "It was a very popular program last year," Campbell said.

The EBT program will be offered again this season. For 12 years, Salem Farmers Market has led in accepting EBT, debit, and credit cards, matching EBT charges dollar for dollar with grant funding, doubling spending power for food assistance recipients. In 2023, \$22,000 in credit tokens and \$11,000 in EBT/SNAP Match tokens were sold directly benefiting vendors. In 2024, additional grant funding will continue EBT matching, ensuring affordability for healthy food.

The Salem Farmers Market will be introducing the Junior Farmer Program later in the summer. Families visiting the market with children

will receive an educational booklet on local agriculture, nutrition, and conservation. Children will receive market bucks to shop for produce and engage in curriculum activities.

The Salem Farmers Market is also doing their part in addressing hunger. The Giving Garden, a volunteer-operated community garden adjacent to the farmers market, donates all its produce to local partners, including the Salem-Roanoke County Food Pantry, HopeTree Family Services, and Family Promise. Additionally, there is a weekly pop-up market at the food pantry, providing fresh produce to anyone in need, along with cooking demonstrations and nutrition outreach.

SALEM MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT



COURTESY PHOTO

Hands-On Military History Artifacts

Families looking for something fun to do this weekend can visit the Salem Museum for free for one of a kind experiences.

This weekend, visit our Hands-On History station to learn about United States Military history. See items from the Revolutionary War to World War II and beyond. Visitors can put on a glove and hold history in their hand.

The Museum has five floors of exhibits for visitors to experience. Learn about Salem's early history, how world events affected the local area, and times Salem and Roanoke Valley citizens made impacts on national and international events.

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

POLICE REPORT

City of Salem Police Department



Weekly Arrest Report

Week of March 12, 2024 – March 18, 2024

DATE	NAME	AGE	OFFENSE
03/12/2024	Brian L. Thierry	45	Possession of Controlled Substance
03/12/2024	James S. Eubank	53	Assault & Battery
03/13/2024	Robert C. King	59	Assault & Battery, Criminal Trespass
03/13/2024	Barbara K. Duffy	52	Petit Larceny, Harassing Communication, Criminal Trespass
03/13/2024	David W. Henson III	35	Possession of Controlled Substance, Criminal Trespass, Obstructing Justice
03/14/2024	Cory J. Reynolds	35	Burglary, Possession of Controlled Substance, Paraphernalia
03/15/2024	Tracy L. White	53	No Business License
03/15/2024	Brandon T. Holland	37	Violation of Probation
03/15/2024	Cody A. Lawson	32	Shoplifting
03/15/2024	Iuan I. Hash	29	Criminal Trespass
03/15/2024	Omara M. English	20	Contempt of Court
03/15/2024	Jeffery D. Palmer	31	Possession of Controlled Substance
03/16/2024	April M. Rinker	39	DUI
03/16/2024	Ava C. Vanek	20	DUI, Possession of Fictitious Identification Card
03/17/2024	Christen D. Chenoweth	42	Entering Property of Another to Damage It, Public Intoxication
03/17/2024	Phillip E. Stultz	52	Petit Larceny, Criminal Trespass
03/17/2024	Rachel O. Dudley	47	Possession of Controlled Substance
03/18/2024	Cierra O. Mangum	21	Possession of Marijuana
03/18/2024	Kerrigan G. Murphy	21	Possession of Marijuana
03/18/2024	Mikayla R. Hefferon	22	Possession of Marijuana

City of Salem Police Department



Weekly Crime Report (Felony Cases)

Week of March 12, 2024 – March 18, 2024

DATE REPORTED	LOCATION	OFFENSE REPORTED
13-MAR-2024	300 BLK Ross St	Possession of Controlled Substance, Possess Firearm with Controlled Substance
13-MAR-2024	O BLK N College Ave	Threat to Bomb
13-MAR-2024	2200 BLK Salem Industrial Dr	Grand Larceny, Damage Property
13-MAR-2024	O BLK McDiwitt Rd	Grand Larceny
14-MAR-2024	600 BLK E Calhoun St	Burglary
15-MAR-2024	400 BLK N Bruffey St	Vehicle Theft
15-MAR-2024	1600 BLK S Colorado St	Euading Police

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

I have a bad case of spring fever. I always feel somewhat giddy in the spring. Every season gives us cause to celebrate but I like spring best. It feels like a new beginning. The weather is getting warmer and there is more sunshine in the day. The leaves have that perfect shade of green as they start to emerge. And I must admit my favorite flower has always been the dandelion. Those bright yellow petals against the green leaves make my heart happy. Easter is early in spring this year and there are some Easter traditions I always follow. A new outfit for Easter church is a must; if you wear new clothes you have good luck the rest of the year. There is usually a baked ham and deviled eggs on our Easter table. Nothing says Easter like eggs. Decorating, hiding, and eating eggs in spring are a tradition that is thousands of years old. Easter baskets filled with eggs represent birds' nests and new life. The reason ham is traditionally eaten at Easter is actually that it's in season. Historically, pigs were usually slaughtered in the fall, when it's chilly outside and the cold could keep the meat fresh during the several days it would take to break down and prepare the hog. The curing of the ham would take several months, making the ham ready just in time for Easter dinner. In our house the night before, we leave out carrots for the Easter Bunny, Erick. Why we think his name is Erick is a mystery no one in my family can answer.

This week's recipes are carrot based. Carrots are good raw but are better for you when cooked. Cooking allows beta carotene, an antioxidant compound that gets converted into Vitamin A in the intestine, to absorb more easily in the body. Vitamin A helps your eyesight. Carrots also contain fiber that helps keep your gut healthy and Vitamins that help support bone mass.

May your Easter be a delightful melody of savory dishes, sweet treats, and great memories. Happy Easter!

Carrot raisin salad



Shelly Koon

Contributing Writer

Ingredients:

4 ½ cups shredded carrots
1 8 oz can crushed pineapple, undrained
¾ to 1-1/2 cups raisins (I use dried cranberries)
1/2 cup mayonnaise
½ cup sugar
1 ½ Tablespoons lemon juice

Instructions:

Mix the ingredients together in a large bowl. Refrigerate for at least two hours before serving.

Carrot casserole

Ingredients:

2 ½ cups diced carrots
2 eggs, separated
1 cup bread crumbs
1 tablespoon finely chopped onion
1 ½ cups milk
Salt and pepper to taste

Instructions:

In a saucepan over medium heat, stem or boil the carrots until tender. Drain, then mash the carrots and season with salt and pepper. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Grease a 1 quart casserole. In a small bowl, beat the egg yolks. In another bowl, combine the carrots, egg yolks, bread crumbs, onion, and milk. In a large, chilled bowl, beat the egg whites until stiff. Gently fold the whipped whites into the carrot mixture. Turn into the prepared casserole. Bake for 45 to 60 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out clean. Serve hot.



PHOTOS BY SHELLY KOON

Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission unveils new website

Roanoke—The Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC) recently announced the launch of its newly redesigned website. The revamped platform aims to enhance accessibility and engagement for the entire community by offering improved navigation, interactive content, accessibility options, and multi-lingual support. The organization said milestone signifies RVARC's dedication to fostering regional collaboration.

The user-friendly and inclusive design, the organization said, is poised to promote active participation in local initiatives and bolster RVARC's connection with the community. By providing a platform that accommodates the needs of all residents, RVARC seeks to empower and catalyze positive change throughout the region.

"We are excited to introduce the public to the new RVARC website," said Jeremy Holmes, executive director of RVARC. "This

platform represents a significant advancement in our mission to encourage collaboration and provide essential resources to the residents and stakeholders of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany region."

The site was the result of a collaborative design process with Richmond-based agency BKO, a full-service digital agency.

Nicholas Macauley, managing partner of BKO, expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership, stating, "We are delighted to have worked with RVARC to redesign their website and better serve the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany community. We eagerly anticipate the positive impact it will have on the region."

The newly updated site is now live and can be accessed at www.rvarc.org. For more information, please visit the website or contact Elizabeth Elmore at eelmore@rvarc.org or (540) 343-4417.

-The Salem Times-Register

Saunders

from page 1

is in a degrading situation, and our roads are not up to par and it's one of the most telling signs of the prosperity and future of a city. I consistently hear more complaints on our roads than most anything else."

Saunders worked in the Civic Center for 33 years, and it is one of his main focuses. "It needs a lot of updating and the complex of the Civic Center, the football and baseball stadium need many improvements." He added, "I think I understand what it takes to put the Civic Center and the stadiums back in the upper echelon of facilities in the state. Most of the improvements necessary were placed in the capital projects list during the years of my employment and in my predecessors' employment but times were hard and money was needed urgently in other areas. It's time to find the money."

He said a lot of people don't realize how important the Civic Center complex is to the economics of the city. "You can see it when visitors crowd into Mac and Bob's and spend money," Saunders said.

One of the reasons Saunders said he is running as a Republican is with the city election the same time as the presidential one, local candidates are on the back of the ballot at the bottom. He is encouraging voters to remember to turn over their ballots.

Saunders is Salem born and Salem bred. He graduated from Salem High School in the first graduating class – before that year, Andrew Lewis was Salem's high school. He then attended Ferrum College, the University of Virginia and graduated from Roanoke College in 1983 with a business administration degree.

"That really helped in understanding city budgets," he added. Saunders started his career with the city as a night watchman at the Civic Center, then, when he was 23, was hired by former Civic Center Complex Administrator Carey Harveycutter to be his assistant.

Saunders has a daughter, Heather, 23. He is a cancer survivor, is proud to be a season ticket holder to the Salem Red Sox games and Roanoke Rail Yard Dawgs ice hockey. He is active with the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame.

In closing, Saunders emphasized "In times of inflation which is rampant we need to properly use taxes for items necessary to sustain our city and in the citizens' best interest. Lowering taxes is always a goal yet not always attainable. We need to be business friendly as our partners are fighting the same battles the city is. Our code needs changing and yet applied in the way Salem used to provide - a business friendly approach.

Forensics

from page 1

when this started in 2006 we would continue winning until now," Mark Ingerson, coach, said. "Well, maybe in my wildest dreams I hoped it would happen. However, it's a testament to the consistency we have had gaining new students and then developing their talent. I'm most proud of that. That's a team effort, not just a responsibility of the coaches. We've had over 200 students go through the program during that time and a large percentage medaled at states. Ultimately, we have a consistently high number place at states, a majority of those win their events, and it has led to victory consistently."

Senior Kade Lakin led the team with his third straight Serious Duo championship. Lakin's first win in 2022 was with his brother Nash, last year he won with Grasyn Mitchell, and this year with sophomore Bella Poarch.

Along with Poarch, Salem had several first-time state champions: Lebron Parsell in Extemporaneous Speaking, Claire Rawlins in Impromptu Speaking, Noah Lovern in Storytelling, Charlie Bain in Humorous, and 8th grader Tara Farrokhpoor in Prose. Eighth graders are eligible to compete in varsity level academic competitions for the VHSL. Poarch, Rawlins, Lovern, and Farrokhpoor are all in their first year on the team. Thirty of Salem's 40 points were scored by their state champions, with five team points awarded for a first place, three for a second, and one for third.

"This team has been led by outstanding seniors, Kyra Netting and Kade Lakin. They are great leaders, teachers, and teammates and have been welcoming and inclusive to all the new students we've added this season. We only had four members who had ever medaled at states on this team and I was worried about that coming into the season. However, with Kade and Kyra's leadership, we were able to integrate and develop new talent and see 8 new state medalists at states," Ingerson said.

Medalists for the 2024 VHSL Class 4 Champions

State champions Kade Lakin (12th) and Bella Poarch (10th), Serious Duo State champion Lebron Parsell (12th), Extemporaneous Speaking State champion Noah Lovern (11th), Storytelling State champion Claire Rawlins (11th), Impromptu Speaking State champion Charlie Bain (11th), Humorous Interpretation State champion Tara Farrokhpoor (8th), Prose Interpretation Runner-up Kyra Netting (12th), Poetry Interpretation

Runner-up Connor Smythers (11th) and Colton Easter (11th), Humorous Duo

Runner-up Lacey Stratton (10th), Humorous Interpretation

3rd place Rebekah Steinweg (10th), Extemporaneous Speaking

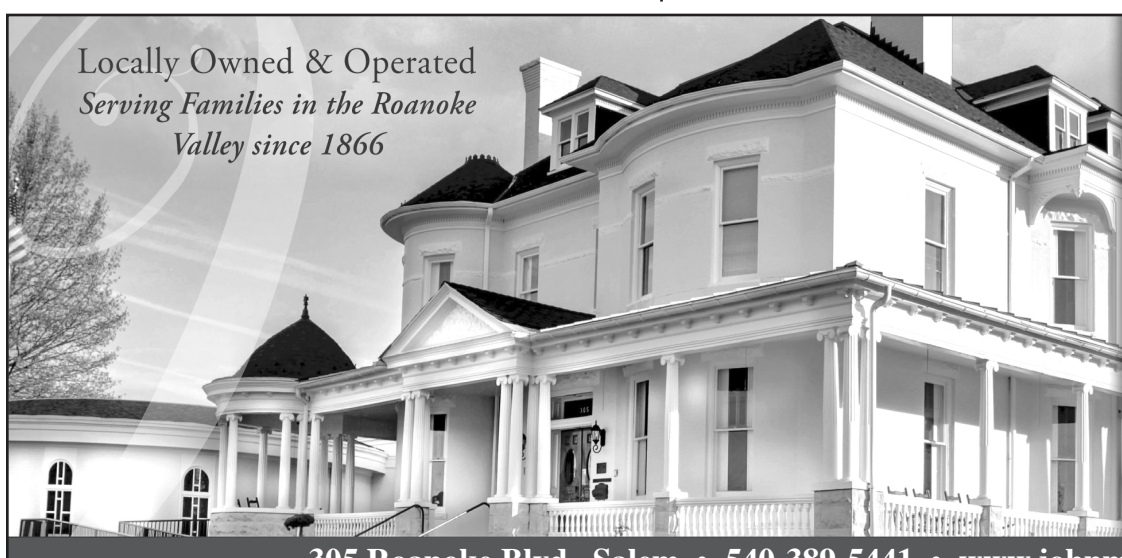
Zane Easter (12th) in Impromptu Speaking, Parneet Gill (10th) in Original Oratory, and Kaylee Sutphin (9th) in Serious Dramatic also competed for Salem at the state championships.

"We won three events at the Super Region (state semi-finals) and I think we were a little disappointed in that. Students came and worked with me and we had to recruit and fix some speaking and performance problems. The students were very open and receptive to feedback and new ideas. That led to six events championships at states and we scored more points at states than we did in the semi-finals. I was extremely excited about that. It's a great lesson to learn that focusing on improving leads to better outcomes," Ingerson said.

Salem Forensics facts and figures

- Since 2004, Salem has won 99 individual event championships
- The team now has had 186 top three finishes at states, with 99 firsts, 54 seconds and 33 thirds.
- Salem has won 15 consecutive Humorous Interpretation state titles (and 18 in total)
- Kade Lakin becomes the 10th Salem Forensics competitor to win at least three individual state championships in their career.
- Salem swept the top two spots in Humorous Interpretation for the 7th time in the event and the 24th time across all events.
- Tara Farrokhpoor is the first Salem 8th grader to medal at states (top three) and did so in style with a state championship.
- Lebron Parsell (1st Forensics/3rd Debate) joins Emma Snead (1st Forensics/4th Debate), Sami Hoyer (2nd Forensics/1st Debate), and Jerrel Ledbetter (1st Forensics 3x/2nd Debate) as the only state medalists in school history in both Forensics and Debate
- Parsell (1st) and Rebekah Steinweg (3rd) became the first teammates in the program's history to make the top 3 in Extemporaneous Speaking in the same year.
- After Saturday's results, Kyra Netting, Kade Lakin, and Connor Smythers became the 40th, 41st, and 42nd Salem Forensicators to place in the top three at states at least three times in their career. Nine of the 42 accomplished that feat four times.

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OPINION

It was another packed week back in session, as the fight to restore fiscal sanity continued. The Republican Study Committee introduced its annual budget for fiscal year 2025 that will balance the federal budget in seven years. On the Budget Committee, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget testified to defend President Biden's fiscal year 2025 budget proposal. In another hearing surrounding the topic of the budget, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Secretary Vilsack testified before the House Appropriations Agriculture Subcommittee to discuss the Department of Agriculture's fiscal year 2025 budget request. The House passed a deal to keep the government funded until September, but it was unfortunately another green-light for more of Pelosi-era bloated budgets and open border policies. On a brighter note, I introduced the One Agency Act which would consolidate federal antitrust enforcement. As always, it was a pleasure to meet with businesses and organizations on the Hill. I will continue working to stop the harmful policies currently in place that have continued to hurt the people of Virginia's Sixth District.

Fiscal Sanity for America

For too long, irresponsible spending habits in Washington have made the cost-of-living more expensive for hardworking American families, and they are fed up with business-as-usual. President Biden's reckless spending has created devastating inflation, imperiling the American economy, and rapidly accelerating our country toward a national debt crisis. There are no signs that this will stop with his recently released FY 2025 budget, which seeks to spend an astonishing \$7.3 trillion.

That is why last week, the Republican Study Committee (RSC) introduced its annual budget for fiscal year 2025, "Fiscal Sanity for America," which balances the federal budget in seven years and cuts spending by \$16.7 trillion over 10 years by prioritizing smart, common-sense policies to empower the American worker and reduce out-of-control spending to pay for what's important. As Chairman of RSC's Budget and Spending Task Force, I'm fighting to restore fiscal sanity to our Nation's finances, and our plan will do just that.

Standing Against Business-As-Usual Washington

When House Republicans took the gavel back in January, we made a promise to the American people to pass all 12 appropriations bills, avoid a continuation of former Biden, Chumer, and Pelosi's reckless spending levels, and stop the



Ben Cline
Congressman

chaos at our southern border. Recently, our national debt reached a staggering \$34.5 trillion, and the total number of illegal border crossings have hit a new record high this year.

Unfortunately, Congress once again in a last-ditch effort to keep the government funded before the March 22 deadline passed a spending deal that was written behind closed doors, released within just a few hours for us to read, and busts spending limits agreed to just a few months ago. That's why I voted NO on the minibus spending bill. It also funds more of the same business-as-usual policies that have hurt American families. Rest assured, as a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I will fight to restore fiscal responsibility, root out government waste, and get our Nation back on a path to economic prosperity.

The Biden Admin Fails To Hold China Accountable

Last week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Secretary Vilsack testified before the House Appropriations Agriculture Subcommittee to discuss the Department of Agriculture's fiscal year 2025 budget request. I took the opportunity during the hearing to discuss my concerns over USDA's collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Sciences on a project. Although Secretary Vilsack stated that it, "is not a collaboration per se," their website says otherwise.

It's no secret that the Communist government poses a large threat to our national security. That's why the USDA should not be collaborating with the Chinese government on risky virus research when they have violated U.S. grant and gain of function policies, obstructed COVID origin investigations, and refused to share critical data on US COVID Research. We cannot allow China's malicious influence campaign to continue unchecked.

Sounding the Alarm on Big Government Spending

Last week, Shalanda Young, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget testified before the House Budget Committee to defend

President Biden's FY25 bloated budget proposal. This nightmare will explode the deficit and lead to skyrocketing inflation rates, while harming our families and our small businesses in the process.

The President's proposal spends more than \$7.3 trillion a year for the next decade and adds \$16.3 trillion in inflationary deficit spending. Further, the proposal includes \$5 trillion in new taxes and could break President Biden's promise of not raising taxes on those making less than \$400,000. This will hurt small businesses and jobs and take money out of the pockets of hard-working Americans. President Biden has proven he is unwilling to make the tough decisions to confront the reality of our nation's unbalanced budget and weak economy. The reckless spending and economic damage done by this Administration and years of Democrats' control shows that their beliefs do not align with the values of the American people.

House Republicans have been long sounding the alarm on the fiscal challenges facing our nation and taking the necessary steps to put the nation on a more sound, fiscal path.

Introducing the One Agency Act

I was also pleased to introduce the One Agency Act last week, which would consolidate federal antitrust enforcement in the Department of Justice's Antitrust Division. Federal antitrust enforcement is currently divided between the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission. Not only will consolidating antitrust enforcement be more efficient and productive than the current situation, but the FTC can continue to operate as an independent commission focused on its consumer protection mission, which includes investigating fraud and scams, assisting Americans with identity theft, and operating the National Do Not Call registry to prevent "robocalls."

It's important to note that the One Agency Act carefully transitions personnel from the FTC to the DOJ without disrupting current enforcement proceedings. I look forward to the passage of the One Agency Act, which will strengthen antitrust enforcement by putting resources into one agency and streamlining the focus of the FTC.

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.

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Up your gardening game by learning from Roanoke Master Gardeners

Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community
Benita VanCleave

Join Jessica Miller, Roanoke Master Gardener, for an enlightening presentation on the transformative power of composting on April 3 from 6-7 p.m. This eco-friendly practice our ancestors used diverts food waste from landfills and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Miller will share various composting methods you can use whether you are an urban dweller with limited space or have a backyard to work with. No registration required.

Pick up the April copy of The Resilient Library Newsletter at the

library or request an e-mail copy at library@salemva.gov or call the library at 540-375-3089. This month's issue focuses on gardening to attract pollinators, gardening with Southwest Virginia Native Plants, and Container Gardening tips.

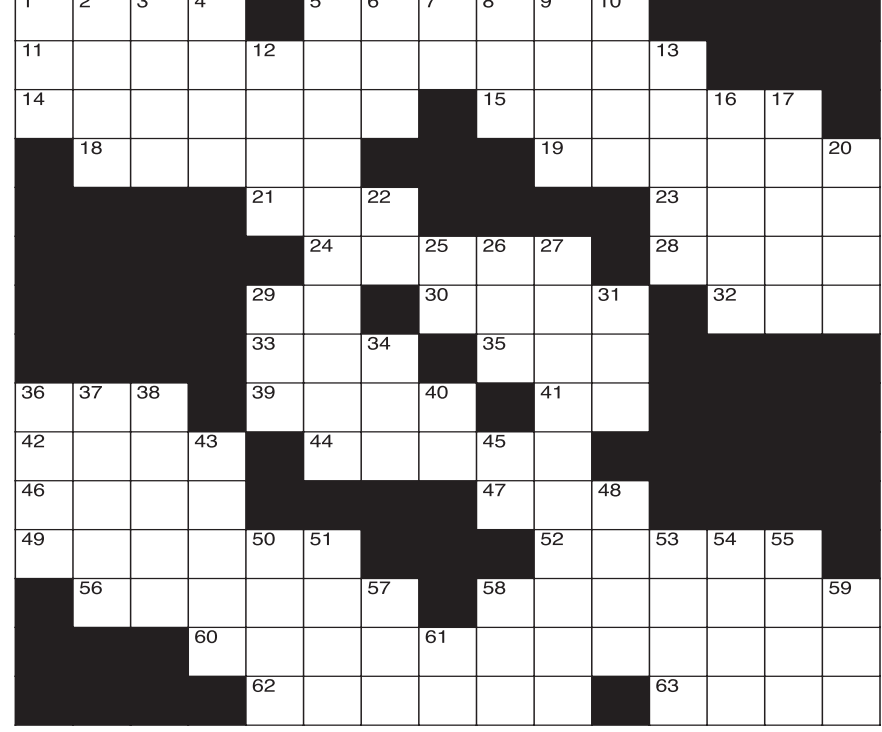
Flower seeds will be available to pick up from our Seed Library as of April 1. Select up to give types of flower seeds per household.

Other events include:

Friday, March 28; 1 p.m., Grades 6-12; Anime Hangout; Come make candy sushi, draw your own characters, read manga, and hang out with other anime fans. Register at salemva.libcal.com

Tuesday, April 2, Special Storytimes to celebrate International Children's Book Day! Book babies (Infants & Crawlers) 10:15 a.m.; Story Explorers (Ages 0-5) 11 a.m.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Millisecond
 - 5. Narcotic drug
 - 11. Accident
 - 14. Formal submissions
 - 15. Popular 70s rock band
 - 18. Discourage from doing
 - 19. More socially elite
 - 21. Arid
 - 23. A way to look
 - 24. Heroes
 - 28. A surfer rides it
 - 29. Potato state
 - 30. Insect repellent
 - 32. Cool!
 - 33. Have already done
 - 35. Collegiate women's fraternity
 - 36. To the ___ degree
 - 39. Gasteyer and de
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Woman (French)
 - 2. Province of Pakistan
 - 3. This (Spanish)
 - 4. Transportation device
 - 5. Greater in importance or priority
 - 6. The human foot
 - 7. Within 8. Consumed
 - 9. Respectful Malaysian term
 - 10. Therefore
 - 12. Ceased to exist
 - 13. Type of macaroni
 - 16. English composer
 - 17. Wooded tract
 - 20. Tall, slender-leaved plant
 - 22. 36 inches
 - 25. Take too much (abbr.)
 - 26. Allow
 - 27. Individually
 - 29. Journalist Tarbell
 - 31. Bar bill
 - 34. Hong Kong food
 - stall: ___ pai dong
 - 36. Not messy
 - 37. Species that includes reedmace
 - 38. Former MLB catcher Ed
 - 40. Northern U.S. state
 - 43. Wilt
 - 45. Commercial
 - 48. Bolivian river
 - 50. Nursemaid
 - 51. A car needs four
 - 53. Guns (slang)
 - 54. American state
 - 55. Clusters of fern fronds
 - 57. Body part
 - 58. A person's brother or sister
 - 59. Breed of sheep native to Sweden
 - 61. Of 1



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Virginia Western welcomes Bernadette Battle as new associate vice president of student affairs

ROANOKE—Virginia Western Community College announced last week that Bernadette “Bern” Battle has joined the college as associate vice president of student affairs. With over two decades of experience in higher education, Battle has consistently demonstrated her commitment to student success and community engagement.



COURTESY PHOTO

Bernadette “Bern” Battle joins Virginia Western as the associate vice president of student affairs.

Battle has held key leadership positions at two Virginia Community College System institutions, Reynolds Community College and Southside Virginia Community College, where she spearheaded initiatives to promote student engagement, retention and academic success. With a diverse skill set encompassing strategic planning, capacity building and data analytics, she is poised to make significant contributions to Virginia Western's student affairs division, the college said.

“I am deeply honored to join the Virginia Western community and collaborate with faculty, staff, and students to advance our shared mission of academic

excellence and student success,” said Battle. “I look forward to leveraging my experience and expertise to create innovative solutions that empower our students to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.”

As associate vice president of student affairs, Battle will oversee a wide range of student support services, including the Hall Associates Career Center, Trio Pathways program, intervention services, financial aid and records, retention and student success, enrollment and academic advisement, and student engagement programs. She will play a pivotal role in shaping the student experience and fostering a vibrant and inclusive campus

community at Virginia Western, the college said. “This position demonstrates our commitment to student success, and Bernadette Battle is uniquely qualified for the job,” said Virginia Western President Robert Sandel. “With her depth of service in the Virginia Community College System, she keenly understands the community college experience. We at Virginia Western are impressed by the impact of her initiatives at previous institutions, and we are so fortunate to have her here.”

Bernadette Battle's commitment to service is underscored by her involvement in elected and appointed positions, as well as her participation in numerous professional affiliations and committees, the college said. She has received several prestigious awards and accolades recognizing her leadership and contributions to higher education. She brings both passion and expertise to her role on the Virginia State Historical Records Advisory Board, where she is currently serving her third term under the guidance of three Virginia governors.

Battle holds a Master of Counseling from Virginia State University and has completed coursework toward an Ed.D. in Community College Leadership. She and her husband, Preston Battle III, have raised a son and daughter, both of whom are community college dual enrollment graduates who later graduated from Virginia Tech.

-The Salem Times-Register

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 overpass.

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
 See VDOT, page 7

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The Roanoke Hardware Company has the distinction of being the oldest hardware and general store in business. The old store of Walter Hill & Sons, established in 1855, was succeeded by Evans & Chatham, at 105 Campbell Street, was the beginning of what is now the Roanoke Hardware Company. This firm was succeeded by Evans & Chatham, which in turn was purchased by the present firm in 1901. In 1901 the Roanoke Hardware Company purchased the business of Fairfax & Bell, located on Jefferson Street, between A. H. H. Road, W. B. Chatham, L. H. Chatham and R. F. Wandy.

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FROM THE TIMES-REGISTER ARCHIVES

Community invited to Roanoke County's Easter Egg-Stravaganza

ROANOKE COUNTY
presents

EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

MARCH 23, 2024 | 11 AM-1 PM

GREEN HILL PARK
2501 GREEN HILL PARK RD, SALEM, VA 24153

Join us for an afternoon of family-friendly fun!
Egg hunting will begin at 11:00 am - bring your own basket!
Touch-A-Truck will be from 11 am - 1 pm!

This event is in collaboration with:
Roanoke County Police Department
Roanoke County Sheriff's Office
Roanoke County ECC
Roanoke County Fire & Rescue
District 15 Probation & Parole
Roanoke County DSS
Bonsack Wal-Mart
Roanoke County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism
Roanoke County Library
Western Virginia Regional Jail

COURTESY IMAGE

Roanoke County is hosting the first-ever Easter Egg Stravaganza on Saturday, March 23, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Green Hill Park. The community is invited to attend the family-friendly event. Staff from many Roanoke County departments, including its public safety agencies, will be on hand to greet and talk with families. Egg hunting will begin at 11 a.m., and everyone should bring a basket. The county will also host an always-popular Touch-a-Truck event, which is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

OBITUARY

Reese, Shirley Ann Wilson

Shirley Ann Wilson Reese, 91, of Salem, Va., went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, March 20, 2024.



She was a faithful member of Central United Methodist Church in Salem, Va., where she participated in the Business Women's Circle and taught Sunday School for many years. Reading her through her Bible numerous times was one of her greatest accomplishments.

includes her beloved husband of 67 years, Walter (Don) Reese; children, David Reese and wife, Sandy, and Neal Reese and wife, Penny; and numerous nieces and nephews who she loved very much.

Preceding her in death were her sisters, Ruth Agee and Ada King; and brothers, Jimmy Wilson and Johnny Wilson. Her surviving family

p.m. on Friday, March 22, 2024, at the John M. Oakey & Son Funeral Home in Salem, Va. The funeral service was conducted at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 23, 2024, at the Central United Methodist Church in Salem, Va., with Pastor Bryan Buckles officiating. Interment was immediately following at Sherwood Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, charitable contributions may be made to Central United Methodist Church in Salem, Va. Online condolences may be expressed at www.johnmoakey.com.

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

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VDOT

from page 5

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 with occasional slow rolls during nighttime hours are possible to stop traffic for up to 15 minutes at a time for setting bridge beams.

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 early 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.

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 June 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.

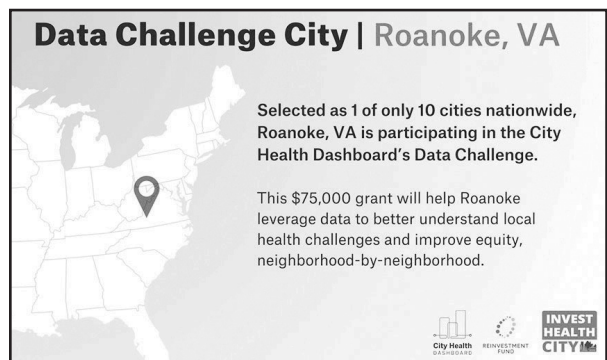
MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE – The Mountain Valley Pipeline construction project is underway. Temporary intermittent flagging operations will be in place in the county throughout the project to load/unload equipment at crossings and construction entrances. Scheduled completion is June 2024.

Roanoke's Invest Health Team awarded \$75K as part of Inaugural Nationwide City Health Dashboard Data Challenge

Roanoke is one of only 10 small and mid-sized cities nationwide participating in the City Health Dashboard's inaugural Data Challenge. A \$75,000 grant will help Roanoke leverage data to better understand local health and neighborhood condition challenges and help target resources to community development strategies that ensure everyone has a fair and just opportunity to achieve their best health.

The City Health Dashboard, a free online data and mapping resource with community-level health, social and economic metrics, is launching the Data Challenge in partnership with Reinvestment Fund's Invest Health initiative, a project supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that seeks to build healthier, more equitable communities.

Roanoke's team, comprised of representatives from City of Roanoke, Roanoke College (project lead), Carilion Clinic, Freedom First Credit Union and the Roanoke City Health District, will



COURTESY IMAGE

be working to enhance the city's data capacity to encourage health-promoting community development and investment strategies. In addition to informing new cross-sector and citizen-led initiatives, the team seeks to evaluate the impact of recent strategies designed to improve resident health and access to health-promoting resources.

The selected cities will also participate in a year-long working group that will use data and collaboration to advance more equitable community development investment that improves the social drivers of health.

The 10 communities selected for the Data Challenge are: Buffalo, New York; Eau Claire,

Wisconsin; Hartford Connecticut; Jackson Tennessee; Missoula Montana; New Britain, Connecticut; Providence, Rhode Island; Roanoke, Virginia; Roseville, California; and Savannah, Georgia.

-The Salem Times-Register



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ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH - located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for midweek masses and events. (in Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

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 6:30p.m.; Fellowship Meal 5:45 p.m.; Praiz Kidz 6:00p.m.; Family Night Activities 6:30 p.m. website: www.ridgewood-baptist.com.

FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH - Salem Campus: 1226 Red Lane Extension (Salem). North Campus: 7640 Alpine Road (Roanoke). Southwest Campus: 3585 Buck Mountain Road (Roanoke). Español Campus: 1226 Red Lane Extension (Salem). Worship Times: 9:00 AM and 10:45 AM for Salem, North, and Southwest; 10:30 for Español. For more information, visit: www.fcclife.org

CATHOLIC

OUR LADY OF PETHOLIC HELPCATHOLIC CHURCH - 314 Turner Rd, Salem VA. 540-387-0491. Mass Times: Saturday 5 pm and Sunday 10:30 am (nursery available). Visit our website: olpchsalem.org for our full schedule.

CHURCHES OF CHRIST/ CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

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.salemco.g.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.

FOURSQUARE

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. Sunday School 9:30 AM, Sunday Morning Worship Service 11:00 AM, Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM.

SHILOH BAPTIST- 201 South Market Street, Salem, Rev. Adrian E. Dowell, H) (389-0409). Sunday School at 8:30 a.m. (All classes) via zoom and conference call line. Wednesday Adult Bible Study at 7:00 p.m. in person for adults, children and teens. Adult class is also streamed on Facebook. Men's Bible Study Saturday at 7:00 a.m.(Zoom). Saturday Intercessory Prayer Service at 8:00 a.m. (conference call line). Sunday Women's Bible Study Class at 8:30 p.m. (Zoom). In-person Worship on Sunday at 11:00 a.m. or worship with us on line via Facebook. Church office can be contacted for additional information.

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

CHRISTIAN LIFE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH - 1 CLI Way, Salem, VA, 540-343-3801 | www.clichurch.org. Sundays @ 10 am | Wednesdays @ 7 pm. Livestream on YouTube & 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

Legals - Montgomery County

TOWN OF BLACKSBURG - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

BLACKSBURG TOWN COUNCIL will hold public hearings on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, regarding the following items:

Ordinance 2048: An Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the Town of Blacksburg, Virginia for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2024 and Ending June 30, 2025; Adopting the Real Estate Tax Rate; and Appropriating Funds for the Fiscal Year. The proposed

Legals - Montgomery County

ordinance would approve the Town's 2024/2025 operating budget and maintain the existing tax rate. This is described in more detail in the stand-alone advertisement published in the Roanoke Times on March 24, 2024.

Ordinance 2049: An Ordinance Amending Blacksburg Town Code Sections 18-201, 18-400, 24-301, 24-306, 24-314, And 24-602 to Increase Fees for Water and Sewer Services and Meter Fees. The ordinance increase the amounts of the referenced fees; the increases are described in more detail in stand-alone advertisements published in the Roanoke Times on March 24, 2024 and March 31, 2024.

Ordinance 2050: An

Legals - Montgomery County

Ordinance to Amend the FY 2023/2024 Operating Budget to Appropriate \$2,500,000 of Bond Proceeds to the General Capital Improvement Fund. Ordinance 2050 will appropriate funding for the potential purchase of several parcels of land. The funding for this purchase will be included in the 2024 bond offering.

All persons affected by or interested in the proposed items above may appear and present their views. After each public hearing, Town Council will consider action on the item. Copies of materials related to the above items are on file and can be obtained in the Office of the Town Clerk, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m.

Legals - Montgomery County

and 5 p.m. For land use matters, copies of applications and all related items may also be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/public hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in this meeting should contact Lorraine Spaulding, Town Clerk at (540) 443-1025 or 443-1000 (voice or TDD).

ABC NOTICE

NEW RIVER BARBECUE LLC, trading NEW RIVER BARBECUE, 3205 ROANOKE ST. CHRISTIANSBURG, VA

Legals - Montgomery County

24073. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for RESTAURANT, ON AND OFF PREMISES BEER AND WINE license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

JAMES B. SHERMAN-OWNER

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING-

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia 1950, as amended, the Radford City Council hereby gives notice of a joint public hearing with Planning Commission to be held on April 8, 2024 at 7:00 P.M., in the City Council Chambers, at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA, in order to hear citizen comments regarding City Council's intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request: A request by K&J Properties (applicant) on behalf of Islands on the New, LLC (owner) for a Special Use Permit to allow for an RV Resort. The use is defined as "Recreational Vehicle Park" in the Zoning

Legals - Montgomery County

Ordinance, which is allowed in the M-1 Zoning District and within the CD Zoning District only by an approved Special Use Permit. The property is located at 3080 Little River Dam Rd, further identified as Tax Parcel 24-1-8, with 36 acres, zoned CD Conservation and M-1 Light Industrial. The property is designated as Low-Density Residential in the Comprehensive Plan. Copies of the proposed plan, applications, ordinances may be examined at the Community Development Office, 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

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PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Glenvar teammates celebrate with Kiptyn Jones(#3) after his first half goal in last week's middle school soccer game against Andrew Lewis at Highlander Stadium.

GMS takes 3 of 4 from Lewis

Andrew Lewis and Glenvar Middle School teams met in four sports last Thursday and Glenvar took three of four, including shutouts in both soccer games. The Highlanders also won the softball game but Lewis won in baseball.

The Glenvar boys took a 3-0 soccer win on the Highlander Stadium pitch. Captain Kiptyn Jones scored the first goal, Jaxson Kuzmich scored the second and Zane Smith scored on a header goal off a

Jones corner kick. Goal keeper Hudson Brendel and the defense got the shut out and Glenvar is now 6-0 on the season.

The Glenvar girls took a 6-0 win on the field behind Andrew Lewis. Goals were scored by Addie Conner, Cam Stevens and Gabby Barba as Glenvar improved to 5-2 overall.

In softball the Highlanders won 30-4 at the Salem Civic Center field. Caroline Rickman and McKenna

Tice had three hits each. Kherington Jewell pitched three innings for Glenvar, striking out six batters. Paisley Hodge came in to pitch in relief and struck out the side to end the game. Aspen Hannum had two hits for Lewis.

Lewis won the baseball game at Green Hill Park, 20-6. Aiden Poff hit his second home run of the season to pace the Wolverines and Cayden Boger struck out eight in four innings to pick up the win on the mound. Max Price had three hits for the Wolverines and Nate Biggar had two. Xzavier Cash had two hits for Glenvar.

The middle school teams are off this week for spring break.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Cayden Boger of Andrew Lewis Middle School takes the throw at second in last week's game at Green Hill Park.

Wolverines run fast on Salem High track

The Andrew Lewis track teams competed against Pulaski, Read Mountain and Covington Middle Schools last Wednesday at Salem High School.

The girls were led by double winner Kathryn Rincon, who won the 1600 and 800 meter runs. Jayla Wood scored points in the shot put and the discus while Kaylana Brown scored in the 100 meter hurdles and the triple jump. Audrey Harmon scored points in the 1600 and 800 meter runs.

The boys were led by double champions Jayden Wood and Braylon Smith. Jayden won the 100 meter dash and the long jump, while Braylon took the 110 meter hurdles and the 200 meter dash.

Tristen Noel won the 400 meter dash and Caden Underwood won the triple jump. John Stovall was victorious in the 800 meter run and the team of Wood, Smith, Noel, and Keenan Helm won the 400 meter relay.

Salem High tennis teams are both 3-0

The Salem High tennis teams swept Cave Spring last Friday, one on the court and one by forfeit.

The Salem High boys took a 6-1 win over the Knights at home. Drew Perez led the way with his third 6-0, 6-0 shutout win in a row. Cooper Davis came out on top with steady play in the deciding tiebreaker at third singles and at four Logan Butcher played well in the crucial moments to turn both sets around. Rookies Chance Long and Alan Burr won at five and six to give Salem a 5-1 edge in the singles.

Perez and Joren Poush won their number one singles just before the rain came, stopping the match with Salem up 6-1.

"Cave Spring is a formidable, deep team, so this was an opportunity to test the entire Salem



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Salem's Drew Perez has won three straight singles matches by 6-0, 6-0 scores.

line-up," said Spartan coach Steve Willinger.

The girls were scheduled to play Cave Spring as well but the Knights called in a forfeit. Both the Salem and

boys and girls are undefeated at 3-0 and will return from break next Tuesday with matches against Blacksburg. The girls will be home and the boys will be at Blacksburg.

BYINGTON

continued from page 14

had James Madison ranked among the national leaders in scoring offense after averaging better than 80 points per game.

"I'm thrilled and honored to be the head men's basketball coach at Vanderbilt University. I know Commodore fans are eager for success and we will get there together," said Byington. "I was blown away by the passion and enthusiasm of Vice Chancellor and Athletic Director Candice Storey Lee and Chancellor Daniel Diermeier. We share the same vision that Vanderbilt basketball belongs as one of the nation's elite programs. I look forward to meeting the fans, alumni, students and all of Commodore Nation. Our time is coming. Get ready!!!"

Prior to his stint at James Madison, Byington was head coach at Georgia Southern for seven seasons where he guided the Eagles to four 20-win campaigns—including each of the last three, the first time for the program in 30 years—before moving to James Madison. He inherited a team that had suffered seven consecutive losing seasons and led it to the semifinals of the Southern Conference Tournament his first season in charge, then helped the Eagles to a 22-9 mark, a runner-up finish in the Sun Belt Conference standings and a berth in the Sun Belt Tournament championship game the following year after a transition in leagues. After helping Georgia Southern move up 184 spots in the RPI that season, the biggest improvement in the nation, Byington was named the NABC District 24 Coach of the Year.

He would lead the Eagles to a 21-12 finish in 2017-18, including a win over Wake Forest, then guide the program to its highest RPI ever, second place in the Sun Belt standings and a 21-12 mark the following season. In 2019-20, Byington helped Georgia Southern to a 20-13 record and the semifinals of the Sun Belt Tournament before the remainder of the season was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. In addition to posting a 131-97 mark overall in charge at Georgia Southern, he helped Tookie Brown become the first member of the program to be named the Sun Belt Player of the Year and first individual in league history to be selected first-team all-conference four times.

Before taking over at Georgia Southern, Byington was an assistant coach at Virginia Tech during the 2012-13 season. He served two different stints on the staff at Charleston, first as assistant coach from 2002-04 and then as assistant and associate head coach from 2005-12. During his time with the program, the Cougars went 194-100 overall including 108-51 in Southern Conference action.

Byington also has experience as a graduate assistant (1999-01) and director of operations (2004-05) at Virginia, and was an assistant coach at Hargrave (Va.) Military Academy during the 2001-02 campaign.

Byington will replace former University of North Carolina and NBA star Jerry Stackhouse as coach at Vanderbilt. Stackhouse coached the Commodores for the past five seasons and was fired on March 14 after posting a 9-23 record.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Glenvar's Alex McLwain hits a return.

GHS tennis off to fast start

The Glenvar tennis teams continued their good starts with wins last week before taking off for spring break. The boys won two and the girls won one.

The boys won back-to-back matches against Patrick County and Northside. The defending Class 2 champs beat Patrick, 7-1, and Northside, 9-0, to improve to 4-1 on the season. Patrick was the Highlanders' first district match.

"Patrick is a solid team with a good tennis tradition," said GHS coach Bob Haynie about the news kids in the Three Rivers District. "They make boys' tennis in the district even stronger, and will be a good rivalry."

The girls are 3-1 after beating Patrick, 8-1. Singles winners were Natalie McMahon, Rebecca Magruder, Riley Price, Shawna Garwood, Priya Patel and Karis Gillespie. Newcomer to the team this year Maiah Gentry and partner Chelsea Garwood were winners in doubles as well as McMahon and Magruder.

The Highlanders were scheduled to play Northside on Friday but that match was postponed due to threat of inclement weather. Both teams return to action next Tuesday against Carroll County with the girls at home and the boys in Hillsville.

GLENVAR BASEBALL

continued from page 14

hits and other Highlanders with two hits included Dawson Anderson, Rhett Henderson, Peyton Deel and Jake Stanley. Glenvar had 13 hits as a team.

On Friday the Highlanders went down to defeat for the first time as they dropped a 12-7 game to visiting Northside. Glenvar outhit the Vikings but a dozen walks and five errors doomed the Highlanders.

"We didn't look like the same team," said Cromer. "This was a winnable game. We played our worst game of the season and we were still up 6-5 into the top of the sixth."

Vaughan started and walked six in four innings. He allowed five runs but only one was earned. Henderson and Hutchison followed with little success as Northside scored seven in the last two innings to pick up the non-district win. Meadows had three hits for Glenvar and Adam Franklin had two.

Glenvar is off this week and hoping to get Anderson back on the mound when they return next week. Dawson was one of Glenvar's best pitchers last year but he's had a sore throwing shoulder.

"Hopefully he'll be able to go next week with another week's rest," said Cromer. "We can have a really good staff if they throw strikes."

Maroon tennis teams sweep Johnson & Wales

The Roanoke College tennis teams swept Johnson & Wales at the Elizabeth Campus courts in Salem on Sunday. The men took a 5-4 win and the women won 8-1.

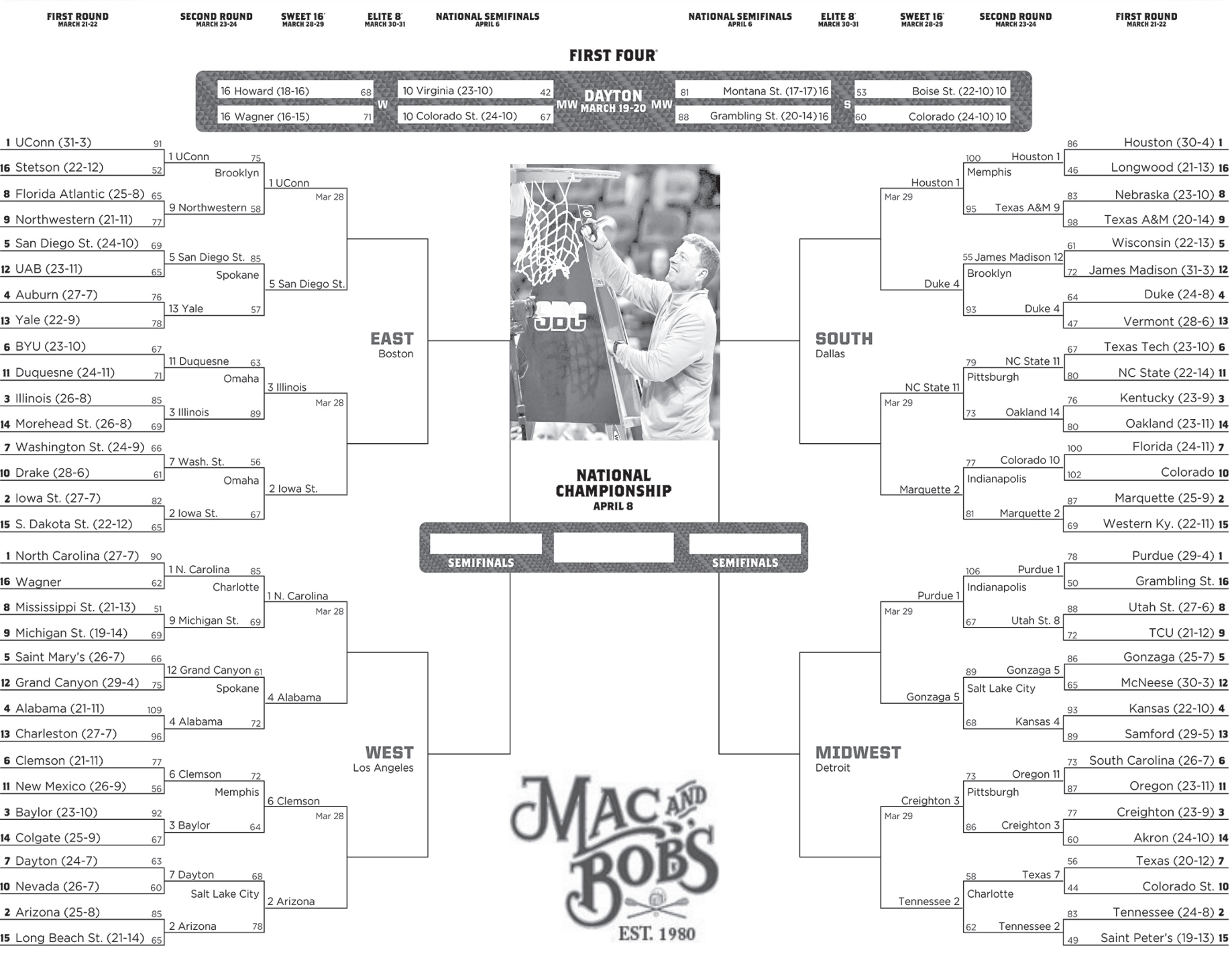
In the men's match the Maroons took a 2-1 lead through the doubles round. Federico Maccari and Zach Kriebel won at No. 1, while John-Henry Herrington and Glenvar High grad Marco Gustafson were victorious at No. 3. Kriebel, Maccaari, and Lance Belcher won their singles

matches to give the Maroons the 5-4 win.

The women picked up their fourth straight win. Roanoke claimed all three points from doubles play. Halle Fernstrum and Glenvar High grad Bella Gustafson cruised to an 8-1 victory at No. 1, Lia Streibich and Julia Bassett won 8-1 at No. 2 and Camryn Breedlove and Sidney Wright won at No. 3. Gustafson also won her singles as match as RC rolled to the win.

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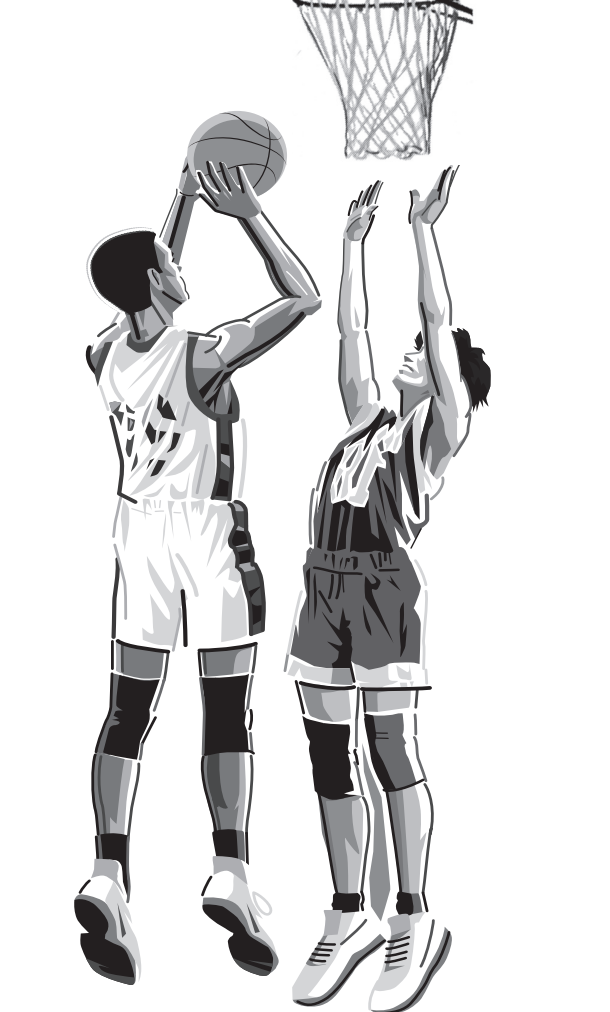


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Maroons are 7-1 in ODAC baseball, host W&L Sat.

The Roanoke College baseball team swept a doubleheader from the Tigers at Hampden-Sydney University Sunday, then downed Guilford on Tuesday to improve to 7-1 in Old Dominion Athletic Conference games.

The Maroons won the first game against Hampden-Sydney, 5-3. Thomas Burgess went the distance on the hill for Roanoke, striking out six while allowing just six hits, two walks and three earned runs.

Cayden Freels was 2-for-3 with a double and Hayden Giordano and Justyn Steens also had two hits.

In the nightcap the Maroons took an 8-1 win. Mason Roy earned the win with six scoreless innings out of the bullpen. Gardner Meeks got the start on the mound and gave up one earned run in his three innings with four strikeouts. At the plate Jonny Wall finished 3-for-5 with two runs and two RBIs and Dylan Bonzon also had three hits. Giordano had a double and a walk.

On Tuesday Roanoke dodged the rain to take a 5-3 win over Guilford at Salem Memorial Ballpark. Brae Farrell, a Lord Botetourt High product, picked up the win on the mound.

With the three wins the Maroons are now 11-11 overall. Roanoke was scheduled to host Greensboro in a non-conference game on Wednesday, followed by a big doubleheader with Washington & Lee Saturday at home. The first pitch is scheduled for noon.



Nate Prince bats for the Maroons. PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Roanoke lacrosse men are 7-2 overall

The Roanoke College men's lacrosse team will be in Winchester Saturday to take on Shenandoah in an Old Dominion Athletic Conference lacrosse game. Faceoff time is 1 pm.

The Maroons haven't played since they defeated Centre College, 17-6, at Kerr Stadium in Salem on Wednesday, March 20. Roanoke was scheduled to play Ferrum in an ODAC game on Wednesday of this week but

Ferrum forfeited due to a lack of players. That did not count as an overall win but did count as a win in RC's ODAC record, which is now 2-0.

The Maroons are 7-2 overall after defeating Centre in a non-conference game last week. Luke Kammerman scored a career-best six goals one game after setting the program's points record. He had scored five goals on four previous occasions during his tenure

in Salem. Luca Docking and Salem's Wyatt Whitlow each notched three goals and one assist, and Docking also led the team with five ground balls. Quinn Evans contributed two assists, while Jay Frye tallied four ground balls, two caused turnovers and one goal.

Taylor Lewis recorded 13 saves with just five goals allowed in 54:40 between the pipes in his first start of the season.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Grace Koutouzis had six points against Shenandoah.

Women win ODAC opener

The 17th-ranked Roanoke College women's lacrosse team collected a 13-8 victory over 24th ranked Shenandoah in the Maroons' first Old Dominion Athletic Conference game of the season at Kerr Stadium Saturday.

The Maroons fell behind early, 2-0, but answered with four straight goals, including two from Salem High grad Libby Bowman, to assume a 4-2 advantage by the 1:12 mark of the first quarter. RC would not relinquish the lead for the rest of the game.

RC's Grace Koutouzis led all scorers with six points, notching four goals and two assists. Kate Loughran totaled three goals and one assist and Bowman also recorded a three-goal hat trick. Kyleigh Chickering made a season-high 14 stops in goal, totaling seven saves in each half to keep the Hornets' attack at bay.

With the win the Maroons improved to 6-2 overall and they're unbeaten after two ODAC games. Roanoke was scheduled to host Mary Washington Wednesday before heading to Bridgewater for a 4 pm ODAC game on Saturday.

Maroon men win final home volleyball match

The Roanoke College men's volleyball team is 14-12 after sweeping Averett in three sets Tuesday at the Cregger Center in Salem. The win was the final home match for the Maroons this season.

Last Saturday at home the men split two matches, splitting two matches. Roanoke lost to Juniata in four sets but bounced back to beat Warren Wilson in three.

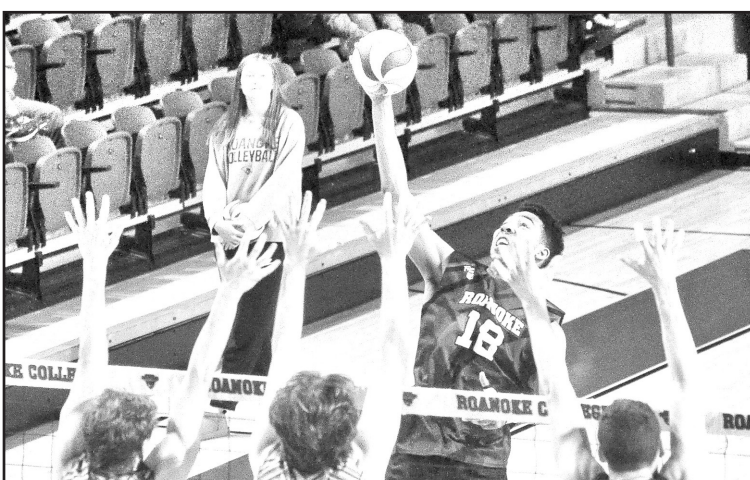
The Maroons won the first set against Juniata, 26-24, but lost the next three by scores of 25-16, 25-20 and 25-15. Michael Cummins posted 10 kills and six digs and Jackson Rutkowski had nine kills and six digs.

Against Warren Wilson RC won 25-15, 25-21 and 25-20. Cummins had 10 kills and no errors for a .588 hitting percentage to go with three aces while Pierce Faulcon had six

kills and five digs and Rutkowski had five kills. Gabe Fabbro handed out 18 assists and Davin Stevenson had 11.

This weekend the Maroons will wrap up the regular season with

a match against Rutgers-Newark in Newark, New Jersey on Friday and two matches in Union, New Jersey on Saturday. Roanoke will play Kean at noon and Penn State-Schuylkill at 2 pm.



Pierce Faulcon of Roanoke College goes high for a spike in Saturday's match with Juniata College in Salem.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Maroon track team takes a dozen top-5 finishes at Doc Jopson meet in Bridgewater

The Roanoke College track team competed in the Doc Jopson Invitational at Bridgewater University last weekend. The Maroon women had three second-place performances and a total of nine Top-5 finishes the men recorded three Top-5 finishes.

The Maroons claimed three of the top six spots in the 200m. Haylee Gamble finished second in 25.56 seconds, while Lindsey Hobin placed fourth (25.94) and Mikayla Hefferon came in sixth (26.26).

RC's Ophelia Ladner was the runner-up in the 400m hurdles, completing the race in 1:07.41. In the high jump, Kaitlyn Nguyen placed second at 1.59m. Olivia Viers finished third in the long jump, posting a mark of 4.99m, and Anna Stafford came in third in the pole vault with a height of 2.99m.

In the men's meet Elijah Bolich finished fourth in the 100m, logging a time of 10.84 seconds. Dominic McCombs posted a mark of 3.88m to place fourth in the pole vault and Davis Neel rounded out the Maroons' Top 5 performers with a fifth-place performance in the 110m hurdles, clocking in at 19.19 seconds.

The Maroons will travel to Lynchburg for the Hornet Open this weekend.

RC cycling team claims five spots on the podium in Criterium

The Roanoke College Cycling Team claimed five podium spots last weekend, including first and second overall in the NC State/UNC Chapel Hill Criterium on Sunday.

Jensen Cervati once again took the top step of the podium, coming to the line with his teammate, Kelby Hanson right behind him.

In the Road Race on Sunday, Hanson had a stellar performance, attacking the field early to establish a breakaway with one other NC State rider. They rode the majority of the race off the front, working well together and opening up a gap of over five

minutes to the chasing field. Cervati was able to outsprint the field in the bunch sprint for an overall third-place finish, while Hanson had emptied the tank a little too early to contest the sprint and finished second.

Andre Gates also scored a podium for the team, finishing in third place in the Road Race. After a University of Maryland rider attacked the field and rode away solo, the rest of the bunch was sprinting for second and Andre was able to navigate a long and dicey sprint after 70 miles of racing for third-place overall.

Knights shut out Salem softball team

The Salem High softball team opened their River Ridge District season with a loss to Cave Spring last Friday night. The Knights shut out Salem, 4-0, at Cave Spring.

Cora Grace Sparger pitched for the Spartans and was saddled with the loss despite giving up just one earned run. She struck out four.

Offensively, Caitlin Wells had a single and a double in three at bats but the Spartans couldn't push across a run. With the loss Salem fell to 3-2 on the season.

Salem was rained out of an appearance in the "James River Bash" at the Botetourt Sports Complex last Saturday. The event was cancelled and Salem lost two games. They hope to pick up two more games sometime later in the season to replace the rainouts.

The Spartans return to action on Tuesday, April 2nd, when they host Blacksburg at the Salem Civic Center field.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Glenvar's Amelia Gierke slides safely into third.

Glenvar downs Vikings

The Glenvar softball team won an intra-county rivalry game at Northside last Friday when they took a 10-3 win over the host Vikings.

Glenvar got the bats going early when Abby Teubert reached based on a fielder's choice and Claire Spence hit a single to reach base. Chloe Maxey then hit a double, scoring both Teubert and Spence for a 2-0 lead.

In the third inning Glenvar scored when Amelia Gierke singled and stole second. Spence then singled and reached third and Gierke scored on a throwing error. Maxey then singled in Spence.

Glenvar added three more runs in the fifth when Spence and Haley Leginus both singled to reach base. Hayden Hartz singled, scoring Spence, and Augusta Ford singled in Leginus. Hartz then ended up scoring on a fielder's choice and Leginus knocked in two

more in the sixth. Gierke scored on a sacrifice fly in the seventh for some icing on the cake.

Glenvar had a total of 18 hits, led by Spence with four. Maxey had three hits and three RBIs while Gierke, Teubert, Leginus, Hartz, and Izabella Lavoie had two hits each. Teubert went the distance on the mound, allowing five hits and striking out five.

With the win Glenvar improved to 3-3 on the season. The Highlanders lost a Three Rivers District game to Patrick County, 4-1, at Patrick last Wednesday. Spence had two hits, including a home run. Teubert went the distance on the mound in this one as well, allowing seven hits and striking out six.

The Highlanders are off this week for spring break, returning to action with a jayvee-victory doubleheader at Carroll County next Tuesday, April 2nd.

RC softball rained out

The Roanoke College softball team was rained out of two doubleheaders at the Botetourt Sports Complex last weekend. RC had twin bills scheduled for Randolph-Macon on Saturday and Virginia Wesleyan on Sunday.

Since both doubleheaders were against Old Dominion Athletic Conference rivals they most likely will be made up later in the season. The Maroons had won their previous three games and the weekend doubleheaders were the last of a 10 game homestand at the BSC. On Wednesday RC was scheduled to play a doubleheader at Eastern Mennonite, followed by a home doubleheader with Ferrum next Tuesday, April 2nd, that will start at 5 pm.

Roanoke comes into the week with a 7-5 overall record, and the Maroons were yet to play a conference game.

Maroon golfers rally to take 17th in Georgia

The Roanoke College golf team climbed from 26th place to 17th overall in the final day of play Sunday at the three-day Jekyll Island Collegiate. The event included 30 schools and was held at the King and Prince Golf Course in St. Simons Island, Ga.

Junior Palmer Cuny paced RC with a total score of 221 over the three days, shooting a weekend-low 72 Sunday to tie for 20th. Sean Furlong tied for 81st with 230 strokes overall with Brett Chodos right behind with a 231 to tie for 85th.

The Maroons will next compete at the 51st Annual Camp Lejeune Intercollegiate in Jacksonville, N.C. at the Paradise Point Golf Club Gold Course on April 5-7.



PHOTOS BY EDMEE HASLER

Salem Red Sox open in 8 days

The Salem Red Sox held their annual "Sox Fest" last Saturday for fans to pick up or purchase tickets at Salem Memorial Ballpark. A light rain didn't dampen the spirits of the kids and fans who enjoyed activities and ball park food and just getting ready for baseball to return. The Sox open at home on April 5th against the Carolina Mudcats. Left, Mary Hurteau is presented with a unicorn balloon from balloon man Jefferson Rose. Right photo, left to right, Tessa Vaden, Hannah Lewis, and Karley Cundiff pose with Mugsy.

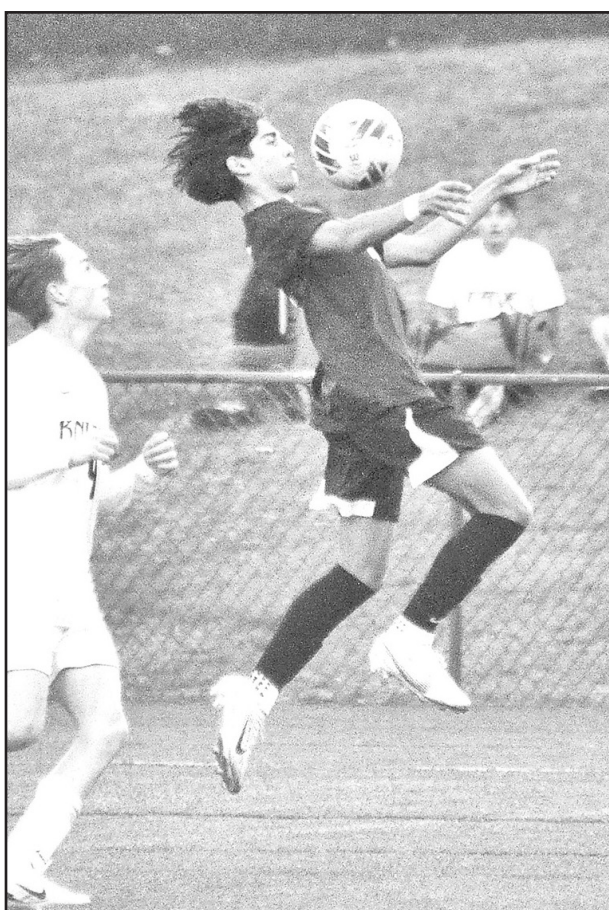


PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Salem's Elijah Clark controls the ball in last week's win over Cave Spring at Spartan Field.

Salem boys soccer unscored upon after three games, play Blacksburg Tuesday

The Salem High boys' soccer team is off to a great start. Salem is 3-0 after opening the River Ridge District season with a 4-0 shutout of Cave Spring last Thursday at Spartan Field.

"Solid effort by the guys to open up River Ridge play," said Salem coach David Atkins.

Logan Lavinder got things going with a first half goal, assisted by Anthony Rugama. Logan would add another before half-

time, again assisted by Rugama, to give the Spartans a 2-0 lead at intermission.

A Fisher-to-Fischer goal put Salem up 3-0 in the second half as Graham Fischer scored with an assist from TJ Fisher. Graham Fischer scored his second goal of the night on a penalty kick to account for the final score.

Max Benne had his third shut-out of the year with three saves as the Spartans have yet to give

up a goal this season. Salem has outscored three opponents by a combined score of 17-0.

The Spartans are off for spring break this week. They'll try to keep it going when they return to action next Tuesday, April 2nd, with a game at Blacksburg. The Spartans have never beaten the Bruins, who are annually state contenders. Blacksburg is 4-0 at the break and have outscored their opponents 19-2.

Salem girls soccer team shuts out Cave Spring

The Salem High girls' went into the break on a high note as they shut out Cave Spring, 2-0, on the Knights' pitch last Thursday night. Salem is now 2-1 on the young season.

The Spartans scored both goals in the first half. Eliza Fleenor got the first score off a Blair Bowers assist, then Avery Mangus scored for the Spartans for a 2-0 lead at intermission. The defense held strong in the second half as Salem picked up a win in the first River Ridge District game of the season.

"The defensive effort in the second half was the highlight of the game and allowed us to hold onto our lead," said Salem coach Justin Applegate.

The Spartans are off this week but they'll return to action on Tuesday, April 2nd, with a 7 pm home game against Blacksburg.

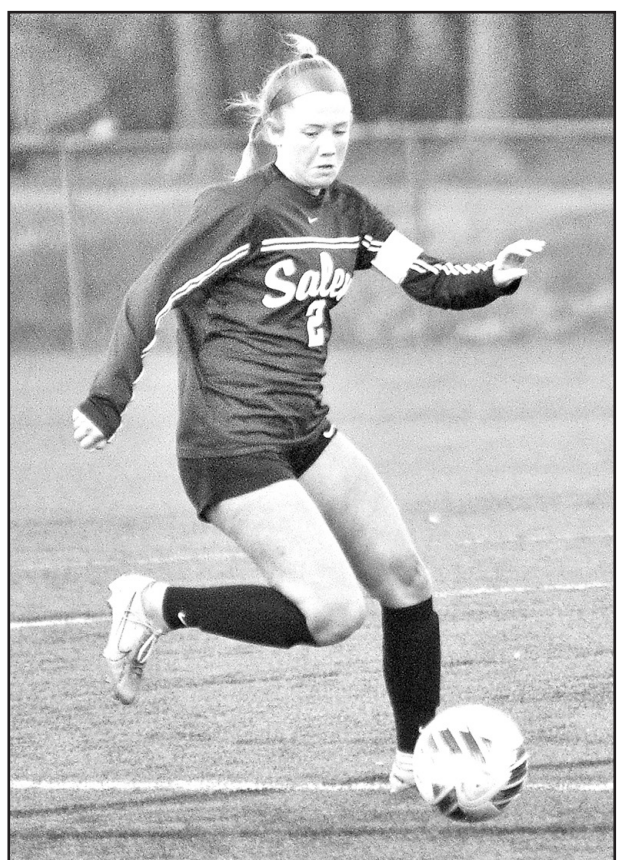


PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Abby Pitts pushes the ball for the Salem High girls.

Highland girls win big

The Glenvar girls will put their undefeated record on the line when they return from spring break with a home game against Carroll County on Tuesday, April 2nd. Glenvar is 5-0 on the season.

The Highlanders had two more impressive wins last week. They opened their Three Rivers District schedule with an 8-1 win over Patrick County on March 20th. Jules Stanley led the way with four goals, Campbell Hardin added two and Annie George and Davin Tate had one apiece. Tate also had three assists.

On Friday in Rocky Mount the girls took a 6-2 win over host Franklin County. Stanley had a three-goal hat trick in that game and that gave her 96 goals for her Glenvar career, needing just four more to hit the century mark. Tate, George and Hardin had one goal each.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Jules Stanley of Glenvar is four goals away from 100 for her high school career.

Glenvar boys are 5-0

The Glenvar boys' soccer team defeated two teams by a combined score of 14-0 in their final two games before spring break. Glenvar beat Patrick County, 8-0, and Franklin County, 6-0, both at Highlander Stadium.

The Patrick game was a Three Rivers District affair and Glenvar made it a short one with a mercy rule win that was stopped with nine minutes on the clock. Glenvar scored the first goal four minutes into the game as Luke Farmer finished a cross from Zach Curfiss. Wesley Feliciano scored the second goal from a Bryce King assist, then Curfiss got behind the defense, taking a King

through ball to score the third. King would score again right before the half for a 4-0 lead.

Heath Russell began the scoring 30 seconds into the second half from a Griffin Geddes assist. Levi King would add two more goals and Geddes a goal of his own. Glenvar outshot the Cougars, 20-0, to pick up the shut-out win.

Seth Nichols would add two assists as well. We outshot Patrick County 20-0 on the evening. "We probably could have finished a bit better but the guys came out the second half with good energy and focus."

Friday against the Eagles Bryce King started the scoring off a cor-

ner kick five minutes into the game. Adam Saunders took a free kick by Tyler Curfiss and netted the second goal five minutes later and the Highlanders added two goals right before the half as Zach Curfiss got in behind the defense to score the third and Farmer struck a shot from 22 out for the fourth.

Glenvar added two more goals in the second half as King and Saunders tallied another goal each. Grayson Shepherd and Connor Magruder combined for the shutout in the net as Glenvar outshot Franklin 14-1.

Glenvar is now 5-0-0 after a challenging early schedule, with two wins against Class 3 teams and two against Class 5 Franklin County. The Highlanders return from break with two more Class 3 teams, at Carroll County on Tuesday of next week and home against Lord Botetourt a week from tonight.

"The guys did a great job of finishing off the first part of our regular season schedule before spring break," said coach Josh Jones. "We just keep trying to get better each practice and each game. We will get a bit of a physical and mental break by getting some days off over spring break and then get back to work."



PHOTO BY JIM DEVINNEY

Jake Williams is a key member of the Glenvar defense.

Salem laxmen down Raiders

The Salem High lacrosse teams are off this week for spring break as both have extended periods without a game. The boys have 18 games between games and the girls have 19 days off.

The Salem boys last saw the field on Wednesday, March 20, when they took a 17-6 win over private school power North Cross at Spartan Field. Andrew Crumpacker had four goals and three assists while Jackson Winger had four and one to lead the Spartans. Dakotah Hawkins had three goals, Holden Custer had two and Kaiden Garst had a goal and two assists for Salem. Richard Hof had nine saves in goal.

Salem is now 3-0 against three quality opponents. The Spartans won't play again until Monday, April 8th, when they go to Rockbridge.

The girls were scheduled to play North Cross last week but that game was postponed due to illness on the Raider team. Salem has played just one game thus far, a loss to powerful Western Albemarle, and the girls won't hit the field again until next Wednesday, April 3rd, when they go to Virginia Episcopal.



PHOTO BY SCOTT GARDNER

Richard Hof had nine saves in Salem's win over North Cross last week.

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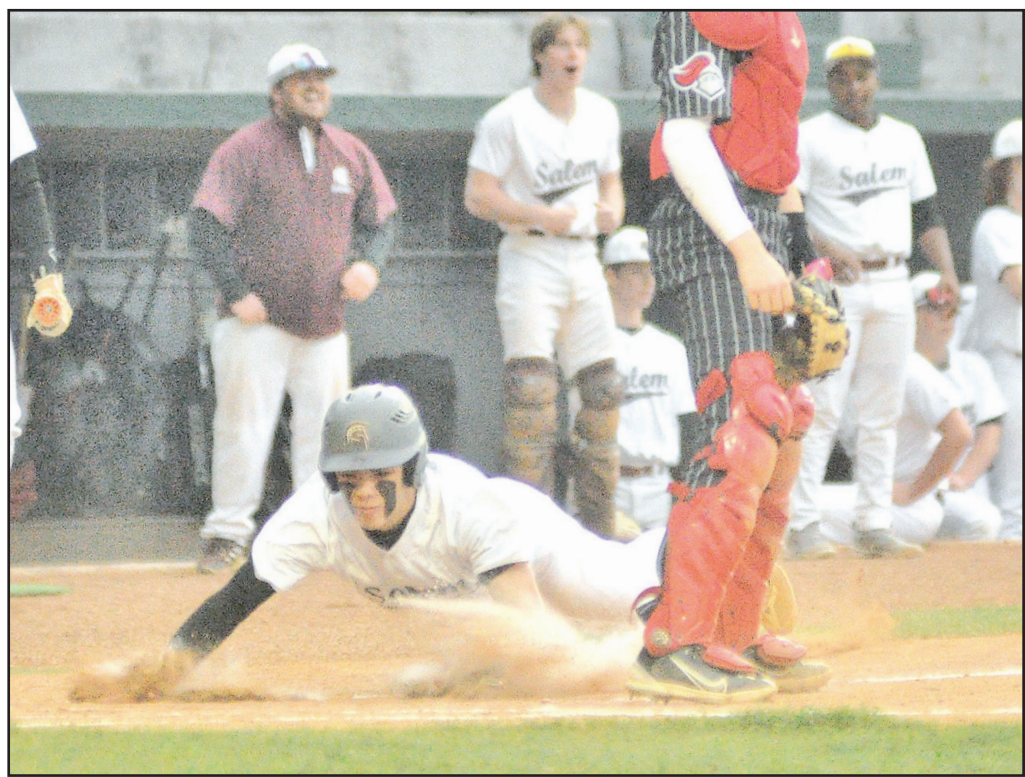
Spartans remain undefeated after slaughter-ruling Cave Spring

The Salem High baseball team remained undefeated as they take a week off for spring break. Salem is 3-0 after shutting out Cave Spring, 10-0, at Billy Sample Field in Salem last Friday night.

Trace Monroe got the start for Salem and pitched a strong game against the Knights. He allowed just two hits over five innings while striking out eight and walking two. He was never in hot water as he picked up the win with Evan Fletcher coming out of the pen to pitch the sixth.

Salem got on the board early when Owen DeWalt singled home Mason Hale in the second inning. Then two infield errors allowed two more runs to score and the Spartans went up 3-0.

The Spartans put the game away in the sixth with a big rally, winning by slaughter rule. Wilson



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Left, Salem's Wilson Rakes beats out an infield hit in last week's win. Right, Mason Hale slides home with a run for the Spartans.

Rakes had a double to the leftfield alley in that inning and Thomas Millard also had a clutch hit. The last two runs scored on an error.

Rakes had two hits for the Spartans and James Buckles and Caleb Furmage each reached base three times and combined to score five of Salem's runs.

The Spartans will return from break next Tuesday with a game at Blacksburg. They'll host Lord Botetourt next Wednesday, April 3rd, then play at Hidden Valley on Friday.

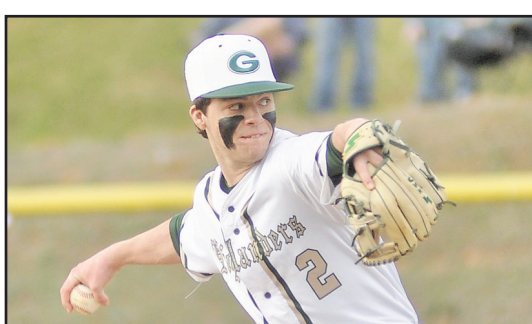


PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Ashton Meadows pitched Glenvar to a win over 2023 state champion Patrick County last week.

Glenvar baseball team is 3-1 at the break

The Glenvar Highlanders are 3-1 after splitting their last two baseball games before spring break. Glenvar will return to the diamond next Tuesday with a home game against Carroll County.

Last Wednesday Glenvar opened their Three Rivers District schedule with a game at Patrick County. The Cougars are the newest team in the district and defending Class 2 state champions, but the Highlanders hammered them to the tune of 13-4.

"We played really well," said Glenvar coach Jeremy

Cromer. "We still have stuff to improve on, but it was good to get off that bus and pick up a win after driving for two hours."

Ashton Meadows got the win for Glenvar, giving up three hits and two earned runs over four and two-thirds innings while striking out seven. Cale Vaughan pitched the final two and a third innings and gave up two hits.

Offensively, Reed Hutchison had three hits and drove in two runs. Meadows also drove in two runs with two

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Runnin' with the Big Dogs

Salem High football coaches attended a clinic at the University of Georgia in Athens, GA last weekend and got to spend some time with Bulldogs' prized recruit Chris Cole, a freshman from Salem. The Spartans attended spring practice and Salem head coach Don Holter reports Cole was "running with the twos" with the perennial NCAA contending Bulldogs. Left to right are Viante Tucker, Josh Kestner, John Fedison, Shaquan Manning, Brian Hooker, Chris Cole, Don Holter, Ryan Murphy, Lewis Pitts and Matt Kesler.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



Salem's Byington leaving JMU to coach hoops at Vanderbilt

After leading James Madison to its most successful four-season stretch in over 30 years, highlighted by a victory over Wisconsin in the NCAA Tournament Friday, 1994 Salem High School graduate Mark Byington was named men's basketball head coach at Vanderbilt Monday by Vice Chancellor for Athletics and University Affairs

and Athletic Director Candice Storey Lee.

Byington will be officially introduced at a news conference today, Thursday, at 4 p.m. at Memorial Gymnasium. The event will be available on SECNetwork+ and the department's YouTube channel.

A 1994 graduate of Salem High,

Byington was an all-state basketball player for the '94 Salem state championship team under coach Charlie Morgan. He's the son of Salem's Dale and Trula Byington and was a teammate of current Salem High coach Kevin Garst.

After high school Mark was a three-year starter at UNC Wilmington, where he scored 1,088 points at the collegiate level and was named both second-team All-CAA and to the league's All-Defensive Team as a senior. He received his bachelor's degree in physical education from the school in 1998, and would go on to earn a master's degree in sport psychology from Virginia in 2003.

"Vanderbilt is getting an extraordinary coach and person in Mark Byington. From our first conversations, Coach Byington impressed me with his competitiveness, his intensity, his passion for developing young men on and off the court, his love for the game, and his plan to elevate Vanderbilt men's basketball to new levels of success," Lee said. "I was struck by the shared passion that we have for what this basketball program can be and for all that is possible at this great institution. I was also impressed with Mark's approach to building an elite culture and his desire to fully immerse himself in all corners of Commodore Nation. He has proven his ability to turn programs around at Georgia Southern and James Madison by working tirelessly and communicating a shared vision.

"I could not be more excited about the future of our men's basketball program."

"At Vanderbilt, we challenge ourselves to seek excellence in everything we do through hard work and collabora-

tion," Vanderbilt Chancellor Daniel Diermeier said. "Hiring Mark Byington demonstrates our commitment to helping student-athletes reach the full heights of their athletic potential while also fostering their lifelong learning and growth. I congratulate Coach Byington and commend Vice Chancellor Lee for bringing to Vanderbilt someone whose record of mentoring champions embodies our university values."

Byington opened 2023-24 by leading the Dukes to a victory at No. 4 Michigan State, as they would spend eight weeks in the Associated Press top 25 poll throughout the course of the season. He would go on to lead the school to the Sun Belt Conference Tournament championship, a win over fifth-seeded Wisconsin in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament and a 32-4 overall record. After taking over a program that had recorded four straight losing seasons, Byington guided James Madison to an 82-36 mark over the next four seasons.

He was voted the Colonial Athletic Association Coach of the Year after helping the Dukes to the 2020-21 regular season championship, and then—after the school switched affiliations to the Sun Belt Conference—guided the school to a 9-2 nonconference victory during the 2021-22 campaign highlighted by victories over Virginia and Florida Atlantic. The following season, his efforts helped James Madison record the highest NET ranking in program history as he was voted the Virginia State Coach of the Year after leading the Dukes to a 22-11 finish.

Over the last two seasons, Byington

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JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY PHOTO

Salem High grad Mark Byington is the new head basketball coach at Vanderbilt University after leading James Madison to a 32-4 season and an NCAA tourney win.