

OurValley.org Bridge dedicated to local Naval hero Jimmy Buriak

Meg Hibbert Contributing writer

Remember heroes. That's the message underlying the sign mounted on the Diuguids Lane Bridge over the Roanoke River near Greenhill Park.

On July 8 the James P. Buriak Memorial Bridge sign was dedicated in memory of Naval Air Crewman Rescue Swimmer Jimmy Buriak, a local Salem hero who died along with four other Navy men in a helicopter accident Aug. 31, 2021.

Buriak's father and mother, Jim and Carol Buriak, wife Megan and young son Caulder unveiled the sign in front of a crowd of 150 people at Greenhill Park. His sister, Laura, and husband Eric were also there along with many of Jimmy Buriak's teachers, neighbors, friends and local elected officials.

Jimmy Buriak often walked and played in the park when growing up, his dad recalled.

His best friend since second grade, Patrick Pollifrone, gave touching tribute to his friend, recalling his pride in becoming a Navy SEAL, his humor, his kindness and how he wanted to help people.

"On his day off he rescued a drowning person from a rip tide in Guam," Pollifrone remembered.

Buriak graduated from Salem High School and Roanoke College in 2012

See Bridge. page 3



Jimmy Buriak's parents Jim (left) and Carol and Jimmy's wife Megan and son Calder admire the sign that will be placed at the bridge crossing the river on Diuguids Lane in Roanoke County during Monday's dedication ceremony at Green Hill Park.

Renovated James I. Moyer Complex opens



Salem Mayor Renee Turk cuts the ribbon among a host of dignitaries to officially open the renovated James I. Moyer Complex on Monday. A large crowd showed up on a hot day to welcome the re-opening of the complex after a year and 11 months of work. After listening to remarks from Mayor Turk and Salem Department of Parks and Recreation Director John Shaner the crowd toured the grounds and received a free lunch from the concession stand. Story and more photos in this week's sports section.

Salem Fair drew big crowds over July 4th holiday weekend



PHOTO BY MEG HIBBERT

At the July 8 work session before the regular meeting, Salem City Councilmembers and staff talk about citizen comments brought up at recent Council meetings.

Routine Monday Council meeting lasts 13 minutes

Meg Hibbert Contributing writer

A routine Salem City Council meeting with no citizen comments nor controversial rezoning hearings lasted 13 minutes Monday night. Mayor Renee Turk and the other four

members were present. Council:

• Accepted

11-month financial statement ending in May. Councilman Randy Foley pointed out to the audience that the city's lodging tax revenue was below that of the previous "Hopefully, year. with Moyer Sports opening Complex back up those taxes will expand," he

See Council, page 5



The Salem Fair opened on Wednesday, July 3 at the Salem Civic Center/Taliaferro Complex. It's open to the public from 4-10 p.m. on weekdays and 12-10 p.m. on weekends. Over the July 4th holiday weekend, the fair drew in large crowds. This year marks the 36th anniversary of the fair, which draws in between 250,000-350,000 patrons annually. The fair will conclude on Sunday, July 14.

See **Fair**, page 3

Ringing of the Bell ceremony held on 248th birthday of the Declaration of Independence

the



PHOTO BY MEG HIBBER

Salem Tourism Director Carey Harveycutter prepares to ring the bell at the annual Fort Lewis Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution ceremony at the Salem Civic Center. Names of each of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were read with each strike of the historic1883 fire bell.

Meg Hibbert

Contributing writer

On the 248th birthday of the Declaration of Independence, speaker Edward J. Bennett promoted pride in our

nation as he delved onto some little-known facts about the signers.

Bennett spoke at the annual Ringing of the Bell sponsored by the

See **DAR**, page 6

FOCUSED Bank of Botetourt ONYOU



PAGE 2 · THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2024 · SALEM TIMES-REGISTER

www.ourvalley.org **Briefly: Salem News In Brief**

TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly): All ages are invited to participate in the non-judgmental program at the Salem Senior Center on Tuesdays from 5-6 p.m. There is a registration fee and a \$3 per month fee. Call Charlene Lester at 540-293-7753 with questions.

Switchfoot leads trio of rockers: Switchfoot, Blue October and Matt Nathanson are excited to announce a triple headliner Summer Tour dubbed "Help from My Friends". The 30-city-run of dates will make a stop in Salem on Friday night, July 26. Featuring three of the most beloved and genuine artists of the new millennia, the performances will make for an enthralling evening with each performance complementing the other two. Each night a different artist will open and close the show and fill the middle spot. Ticket prices are: Floor \$49.50, \$39.50, \$49.50, & \$59.50 Tickets can be purchased at the Salem Civic Center Box Office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and 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, 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.

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Rock Royalty ZZ Top: "That Little Ol' Band From Texas" has been at it for well over a half century, delivering rock, blues and boogie on the road and in the studio to millions of devoted fans. ZZ TOP is synonymous with beards, hot rod cars, spinning guitars and that magic keychain, all of which transcend geography and language. The band will perform on Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are: \$49.50, \$59.50, \$79.50, \$89.50, \$99.50 and \$139.50. Tickets can be purchased at the Salem Civic Center Box Office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and 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, Oct. 7: 7-9 p.m. - Franklin Station. It will

take place at the Salem Parks and Recreation Senior Rec Ċenter at 110 Union Street, Salem.

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Public meetings:

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.

ALEM MUSEUM SPOTI

While today they often called are tricorn (short for tricorner) hats, this style was never called that during the Colonial Era when they were worn. Instead, they were called "cocked because the hats" sides were cocked up. Before this style became popular, hats were usually tall with large brims. As wigs became important status symbols, hats smaller became with folded brims to better show them This design off. kept soldiers' also

POLICE REPORT

hats safe from the fire of their guns. Shortened hats were easier to hold under of an arm when inside colonial life, buildings. These factors gave cocked hats their distinct size and shape that is synonymous with the free! Colonial Era.

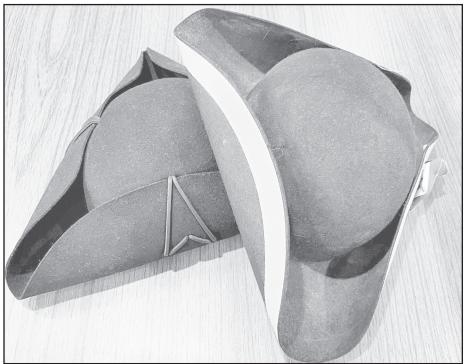
Students 8-14 can see these on Saturdays at 11 Colonial hats and a.m. and again at 2 more this weekend at the Salem Museum will be the same at during the Summer both times each day. Fun program.

This Summer Fun will explore "Colonial Virginia and the

Revolutionary War." Students will learn about the founding our country, and our surprising local connections to the Revolutionary War.

All programs are

Each hour-long ages program will be held p.m. The content Call 540-389-6760 week or email garrett@ salemmuseum.org RSVP to register. Required.



Colonial-era hats

COURTESY PHOTO



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:

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 DECK OVERLAY AT PEAK CREEK MILE MARKER





Weekly Arrest Report

Week of June 25, 2024 - July 01, 2024

6/25/2024	Allan F. Portillo	36	Violation of Protective Order
6/25/2024	Joshua D. Cantrell	33	Conceal Merchandise
6/25/2024	Wayne T. Murphy	61	Possession of Controlled Substance
6/27/2024	Joshua L. Smith	36	Failure to Appear
6/27/2024	Rickia C. Chase	25	Domestic Assault & Battery
6/28/2024	Eric C. Jones Jr.	28	Domestic Assault & Battery, Prevent Another From Summoning Law Enforcement
6/28/2024	Amber N. Wilson	34	Shoplifting
6/29/2024	Jonathon M. Collins	29	Reckless Handling of Firearms, Discharging of Firearms
07/01/2024	Lawrence D. Crowder	37	Possession of Controlled Substance, Public Intoxication
07/01/2024	Michele T. Johnson	37	DUI

City of Salem Police **D**epartment



Weekly Crime Report (Felony Cases)

Week of June 25, 2024 - July 01, 2024

DATE REPORTED	LOCATION	OFFENSE REPORTED					
25-JUN-2024	800 BLK W Main St	Conceal Merchandise					
28-JUN-2024	1700 BLK Margaret Ln	Strangulation of Another					
30-JUN-2024	1700 BLK Lancing Dr	Unauthorized Use of Vehicle					
1-JUL-2024	1400 BLK W Main St	Possession of Controlled Substance					

- 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.
- SHIFTS TRAFFIC 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 periodic lane closures that require a quick merge into traffic onto Thompson Memorial Drive from the southbound exit ramp of exit 140. Work zone located at bottom of the ramp for work on the I-81 bridge at the underpass.
- RAMPCLOSURES: 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,

95.7 - Repair work is underway on the northbound and southbound bridges on I-81 over Peak Creek near mile marker 95.7. This repair work will require nighttime single lane closures for the duration of the project. Lane closures may occur nightly from Sunday night through Friday mornings between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. For the deck overlay process, lane closures may be in place between Sunday nights through Friday mornings. For the southbound lanes these will occur between the hours of 7pm and 10am, and for the northbound lanes between the hours of 6pm through 9am. Details on these closures will be listed below on a weekly basis. Estimated completion is scheduled for end of 2024.

NORTHBOUND I-81 AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER REPLACEMENT BRIDGE 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.
- Nighttime left lane closures scheduled on I-81 southbound during nighttime hours, 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. the next morning, beginning Sunday, July 7 through Saturday, July 13.
- 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.

See VDOT, page 6

Recipe of the week



Shelly Koon

Contributing Writer

This week's recipe takes me back to my roots. My family is from Arkansas, and we would return to Little Rock at least once a year to visit our grandparents and great aunts and uncles. One summer, Dad's uncle Dennis came to visit us in Toledo, Ohio. My greatuncle Dennis was a menopause baby, so he was 15 years younger than my dad (his nephew); only 8 years older than me. I thought he was so cool. A teenager traveling through 5 states on the bus to see his relatives all on his own. We were living in Toledo, Ohio at the time and I was 8 years old. My mom asked him what his favorite dessert was, thinking to make it for him. He told her it was possum pie. My mom looked at him and told him "No way, no how" was she making possum pie. Dennis laughed and told her it was pie that was made with pudding not meat. My mom called great-grandma Mills to see if she had a recipe. Grammy Mills said she got the recipe from the "Arkansas Democrat-Gazette" in the 70's and this pie became a favorite of ours, just like great-uncle Dennis.

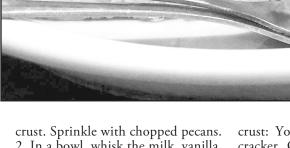
Called many names, this multi layered dessert is called possum pie in Arkansas. This no bake pie gets its name from playing possum. Just like a possum plays dead to fool its enemies this pie's simple appearance hides what's

underneath, only visible when you cut in. The pie is made with several layers, usually a vanilla pudding or cream cheese layer, then another layer like chocolate custard in a pecan shortbread crust. Topped with whipped cream or Cool Whip Topping, it's an easy no bake pie that takes a few minutes to mix together. This recipe is my mom's, so it uses a storebought crust, instant pudding, and Cool Whip instead of a homemade crust, custard filling, and whipped cream. You can always make your own nut crust, custard fillings and use meringue for the topping if you are more ambitious.

Possum Pie Ingredients:

- 6 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 3/4 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 graham cracker crust (9 inches)
- 1/4 cup chopped pecans
- 1-3/4 cups cold whole milk
- 3/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup instant vanilla pudding mix • 1/3 cup instant chocolate pudding
- mix
- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream, whipped (or use 8 oz Cool Whip)
- 12 to 16 pecan halves **Directions:**

1. In a small bowl, beat cream cheese and confectioners' sugar until smooth. Spoon into ready-made



2. In a bowl, whisk the milk, vanilla, and pudding mixes for 2 minutes. Let stand for 2 minutes

or until soft set. Spoon over the pecans.

3. Refrigerate for at least 4 hours. Top with whipped cream and pecan halves.

How To Switch Up Possum Pie. While this pie is already decadent and beautifully layered, you can't go wrong with a little customization: Type of crust: You can also opt for a graham cracker, Oreo, or standard pie crust if preferred, although it isn't traditional. Add flavorings: For a little extra flavor, add a sprinkle of cinnamon to the shortbread, a hint of orange zest to the cream cheese layer, or a splash of bourbon to the chocolate pudding. Decoration ideas: Take this pie to the next level by garnishing with a drizzle of melted chocolate, chocolate chips, chocolate curls, or a sprinkle of flaky sea salt to balance the sweetness.



Jimmy Buriak's son Caulder chats with Navy sailors who attended the James P. Buriak Bridge dedication Monday.



Lemonade stand set up on Carrollton Avenue



COURTESY PHOTO

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Patrick Polifrone, Jimmy Buriak's best friend from Salem High School, talks about his friend at Monday's ceremony naming the bridge on Diuguids Lane after Buriak.

Navy.

He was а swimmer with Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Eight when helicopter Loosefoot 616 crashed.

Roanoke College retired Dean of the Chapel the Rev. Paul Henrickson and a former neighbor remembered Jimmy growing up. "He would do in one day what I would never do in a lifetime," Henrickson said. "God sends people like Jimmy – and others – to serve us."

Local elected officials included Roanoke County Supervisor Martha Hooker, who opened and closed the ceremony, Virginia Delegates of House member Joe McNamara and State Senator David Suetterlein. McNamara and Suetterlein were instrumental in getting the Virginia Department Transportation to of place the memorial sign.

Across the street from where the ceremony's tent was set up, members of the Fort Lewis Fire Department raised a large American flag from Engine 9.

Megan Buriak set up the James Buriak Foundation that will host a run in October, with proceeds helping other military families who lost people they loved.

Members of the Salem

before enlisting in the Garden Club dedicated a paver stone to Buriak's Naval memory two years ago.

His mother is a longtime member of the club.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Salem's Felix Ruch (left) and Conner Yerton used a hot day to their advantage Sunday as they set up a lemonade stand on Carrollton Avenue. The boys said business was good as the temperature soared into the 90s.





wish him Happy 50th Anniversary of covering all our local sports with all the gusto he can muster! We appreciate him immensely!

Brian Hoffman, thanks for all you have done and continue to do for our newspapers!

All Positions Available, SALE REP, ACCOUNTANT and MANY MORE

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 - Account Coordinator
- Finance
 Business
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- Office Clerk Help Desk Assistant

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Let's create art together

Saturday, July 13, Grades 6-12. Teen Chill & **Create:** Embrace your inner artist and join us as we create with air dry clay! Register at salemva.libcal. com

Wednesday, July 17, 1 p.m.; Ages 18+: Soothing Create colorful soothing art in a few simple Art: steps! Art supplies and in-person instruction will be provided. No drawing or painting experience required. Seats are limited. Registration required. Register at salemva.libcal.com or call the Salem Library (540-375-3089).

Thursday, July 18, 2:30 p.m.; Grades 6-12. Bubble Tea Make and Create. Join us and sip on bubble tea while you create your own mini bubble tea keychain. Register at salemva.libcal.com

Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community Benita VanCleave

Monday, July 22, 2 p.m.; Grades 9-Adult. Decoupage Seashell Trinket Dish: Create a trinket dish to hold tiny treasures. Register at salemva.libcal. com or call the Salem Library (540-375-3089)

Wednesday, July 24, 2 p.m., Grades 1-4, Make an Axolot! Learn all about the amazing axolot and create one of your own. Register at salemva.libcal.com

Tuesday, July 30, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. while supplies last; Craft Supply Swap & Art Tool Kit Takeaway; Bring your unwanted craft materials to the library and swap for new ones! We'll have supplies to create your own art tool kit at home.

DMV Connect will be at the Salem Library Tuesday, July 30, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; 1-4 p.m. Walk-ins only.

Fridays in July: 10 a.m. to Noon. What the Tech Office Hours. Need computer, e-reader, iPad or smartphone help? No need to register, just stop by!

ROM THE ARCHIVES COTCH-IRISH IMMIGRANTS FIRST SETTLERS IN THIS ROANOKE COUNTY SECTION John Lewis Initial Pioneer In The Valley - Most Of Settlers Wanted Freedom More Than Economic Security

From the 1938 centennial edition of The Times- who settled near Staunton on 1732. He was the father Register

The first settlers in what is now Roanoke county were of that adventurous band of Scotch-Irish which came down from Pennsylvania or Maryland to build homes in a wilderness. The first Settlers in this vicinity arrived about the year 1740 and the identity of the first settler is now known. It might have been James McAfee who settled on the Catawba river, William Carvin who located at Tinker's Knob, James Burke who settled on the Roanoke river or Mark Evans who founded that great plantation, Cedar Springs.

However, the fact is fairly sell established that the first settler in the Shenandoah valley was John Lewis

SALEM TIMES-REGISTER

A newspaper of, by and for the people of

the City of Salem and Roanoke County.

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(540) 389-9355

1633 West Main Street

of our renowned Andrew Lewis and came here from Ireland via Portugal.

At this time the Scotch-Irish were pouring into the America by the thousands. After being persecuted in Scotland and Ireland for years these hardy souls in whose veins flowed the blood of the ancient Scottish clansman, who defied the Church of England, sought refuge in a land where they could worship as they pleased.

These Scotchmen, most of whom were Presbyterians, had left Scotland for the northern part of Ireland because of religious persecution. In Ireland all went well for a whole but new troubles were soon to engulf them. Not only were they subjected to religious persecution in Ireland but in the matter of commerce they were treated outrageously.

Presbyterians Oppressed

In 1698 England became jealous of the successful Scotch-Irish manufacturers in Ulster, and laws were passed which soon had the effect of crippling the growing linen and woolen mills of Northern Ireland. Moreover Presbyterians were not permitted to have schools and their ministers were not permitted to perform the marriage ceremony. It was enacted that a marriage performed by a Presbyterian minster be held null and void, and that the marriage be declared illegal. Under such disadvantages the Scotch-Irish people were up against the same old method of oppression

as prevailed in Scotland so that in the 50 years which followed half a million came to these shores. Most of them landed at Philadelphia while some entered this country via Charleston, South Carolina.

In Ireland the Scotch had intermarried with the Irish and for that reason the names of the new settlers showed evidence of as much Irish descent as Scotch.

Nor were all those who came down the valley from Pennsylvania Scotch-Irish, but there were a number of Germans who accompanied them. These people were of a sturdy pioneer stock who were better adapted to the settlement of wild country than the English settlers who had occupied the eastern part of Virginia.

The Germans came here to make a living by tilling the soil while the Scotch-Irish came here not for that reason alone, but to find a place where they were free from oppressive laws and religious intolerance.

The Scotch-Irish immigrants were inclined to talk of rights and privileges and not so much of building up a civilization. For that reason they were foremost in the fight to free this land. Later the same Scotch-Irish pioneers were the backbone of the Jeffersonian democracy as opposed to the aristocratic party of Hamilton. Later on it was these people who were responsible for the election of Andrew Jackson to the presidency.

- Prepared by Lingjie Gu



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The Times-Register encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Times-Register reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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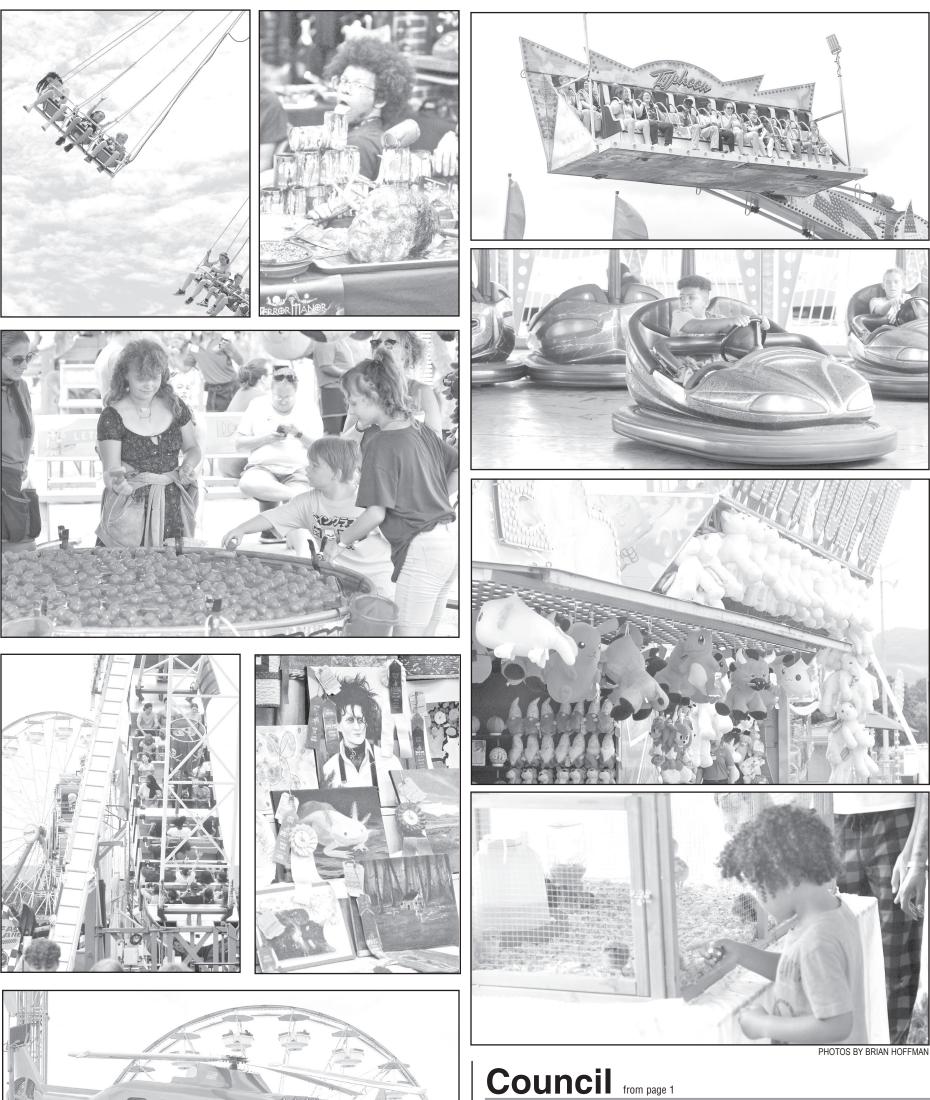
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Fair from page 4



said. The newly renovated complex,

city's fair and tourism budgets;







complete with pickleball courts, was dedicated earlier that day;

- Adopted a resolution in support of SMART SCALE Round 6 Funding Applications. Salem is applying for the 100 percent grant from VDOT for signal improvements at Electric Road/ Texas Street/Lynchburg Turnpike; and streetscape improvements along East Main Street from Mason Creek Bridge to Parkdale Drive;
- Received an abstract of votes from the June 18 Republican Party Primary Election. Hung Cao received the most votes, 394, out of the more than 700 votes cast;
- Appropriated \$36, 278 in state grants from the Virginia tourism Corp. Marketing Incentive Program. The Salem Fair's \$18,000 grant will enhance marketing efforts in Harrisonburg, Richmond and Metro DC. The \$18,278 Outdoors Marketing Leverage award will enhance "eating, drinking and sleeping in Salem." Both grants require a match through the
- Appropriated \$2,500 in AARP grant funds for the Salem Public Library to "implement educational offerings and modifications to make homes safe and comfortable for people ages 50 and over. No local match is required.
- Council also appointed to various boards and commissions:
- reappointed Cole Keister for a threeyear term on the Fair Housing Board;
- Nathan Routt to fill the unexpired term of Vicki Dalton and Mark Henrickson to the unexpired term of Neil Conner on the Salem Planning Commission;
- Jason Fountain to fill the unexpired term on the Economic Development Authority of Macel Janoschka who has been appointed to the Salem School Board.

Mayor Turk thanked all who applied for vacancies. "I am encouraged by the number of people who applied," she said.

The Council meeting ended at 6:43 p.m.



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Fort Lewis Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, that was held at the Salem Civic Center on July 4.

He reminded his audience of 30 people how during the Revolution, "Women were left to take care of home and hearth" while their husbands, fathers, sons and sweethearts were fighting against British troops.

Bennett set the stage for the day when the Declaration was signed: "The sun was shining, there was a light wind from the southeast and it was 72.5 degrees," he said, quoting from Virginian Thomas Jefferson's meticulous diary.

The doors to the chamber were locked when all the delegates arrived, he said, causing the room to heat





PHOTO BY MEG HIBBERT

Speaker Edward J. Bennett presents a Betsy Ross design American flag to Fort Lewis DAR Regent Elizabeth Vincel, left, and Vice Regent Kaye Wilkerson at the DAR's annual July 4 Ringing of the Bell ceremony.

up and the horseflies that entered from the slightly opened window tops to torment the signers.

Jefferson, who was the author of the Declaration, grew increasingly frustrated as other delegates made 86 alterations to his words, Bennett said.

Voting took place by colony, from north to south. "There was no fanfare, no cheering as Congress moved forward with other business," Bennett said.

He reminded the audience that the signers faced the threat of hanging if the colonies were unsuccessful in their fight, because the action was an

act of treason against the Crown.

Ultimately, the British captured five of the signers and 11 had their homes destroyed. One of those was the home of Thomas Nelson of Virginia, which was being used as the command center for General Cornwallis. The home was not hit initially, but Nelson ordered his own troops to fire on it to send a message to Cornwallis.

The home has been restored and can be seen today, Bennett said.

He noted that two of the signers, Jefferson and John Adams, both died on July 4, 1826.

VDOT from page 2

• SLOW ROLLS: 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

PROJECT ON SIDEWALK SOUTHBOUND WILLIAMSON ROAD IN HOLLINS AREA - Work is nearing completion in the next few weeks 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.

HIGHLAND ROAD CLOSED FOR GREENWAY CONSTRUCTION – Beginning June 18, Highland Road will be closed between Hogan Road and Rutrough Road for construction of the Roanoke River Greenway through the Blue Ridge Parkway underpass by Roanoke County. The roadway will reopen by August 14, 2024, before the first day of school for Roanoke County Public Schools. ROANOKE GAS UTILITY WORK - Roanoke Gas is renewing gas lines along Route 1306 (Bower Road) and Route 1371 (Hyde Park Drive). This utility work will be done under pavement and will require milling and pavement replacement in the affected lanes. Estimated completion is scheduled for the end of May 2024.

APPALACHIÁN TRAIL BRIDGE OVER ROUTE 311 – A new pedestrian bridge is under construction over Route 311 at McAfee Knob trailhead. The trailhead parking lot is currently closed and will remain closed during construction. Bridge beams were placed across Route 311 on the new bridge on June 11. Flagging operations will be in place daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Occasional slow rolls during nighttime hours are possible. Alternate areas for parking and updates on the shuttle can be found by calling 540-387-5588 or visiting the shuttle website at www. roanokecountyva.gov/McAfeeShuttle.

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY CLOSURES IN ROANOKE AREA -Blue Ridge Parkway may be repairing roads in our area that require road closures and flagging operations and detours may be in place. Visit their website at www. nps.gov/blri/planyourvisit/roadclosures. htm for more information.

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 January 2025.

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ANGLICAN

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

389-3818. Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Morning Worship11:00 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

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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,

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). Español Campus: 1226 Red Lane Extension (Salem). Worship Times: 9:00 AM and 10:45 AM for Salem and North; 10:30 AM for Español. For more information, visit: www.fcclife.org

CATHOLIC

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

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 light and sound service is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 11:00 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 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.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - 226 South Broad Street, Salem. Rev. Melton Johnson, 389-9648. SundaySchool 9:30 AM, Sunday Morning Worship Service11:00 AM, Wednesday Bible Study and PrayerMeeting 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, Genesis Contemporary Worship at 8:45 a.m., Sunday School at 9:50 a.m., Traditional Worship at 11:00 a.m. www.fumcsalemva.org.

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

To list your church, contact Wendi Craig at 276-340-2445 or email advertise@ourvalley.org

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GRACE JARVIS v. BRIAN IONA, JR. The object of this suit is to: DIVORCE. It is ORDERED that BRIAN IONA, JR. appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before JULY 31,2024. JUNE 13, 2024 Joel R. Branscom, Judge Tommy L. Moore, Clerk

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These ballplayers participated in the recent Salem Red Sox baseball camp at Salem Memorial Ballpark. A second camp is scheduled for August 7-9.

Red Sox wrap up 12 game road trip in Kinston

The Salem Red Sox will complete their longest road trip of the season this week when they travel to Kinston, NC for a six game series with the Down East Wood Ducks. The Ducks are a farm team of the Texas Rangers.

Salem is in the midst of a 12 game road swing with the Salem Fair taking up the parking lot at Salem Memorial Ballpark. Last week the Sox played six games in Lynchburg and split the series, 3-3. Salem lost the first two games, 10-5 and 5-0, but bounced back to win the next two, 11-5 and 5-4. They dropped a 6-5 decision on Friday but gained the split with a 5-3 win on Saturday evening.

Brooks Brannon had two hits for Salem on Saturday, raising his batting average to .310. Albert Feliz also had two hits for the Sox and drove in three runs. Elmer Rodriguez-Cruz started on the mound and picked up the win, allowing two runs while striking out five in five and two-thirds innings of work. Conor Steinbaugh pitched the last three and a third innings to pick up his first save, allowing one run and fanning three.

With the split the Sox find themselves at 7-8 through Monday in the second half standings. Fredricksburg leads the Northern Division of the Carolina League with a 12-3 record, five games up on the Sox.

After this week's trip to Kinston the Red Sox are off next Monday through Thursday for the Major League Baseball All-Star game. The Sox return to action on Friday, July 19, with a three game series at home against Fredricksburg.

TALK AND SPORTS

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Kids get autographs from Salem Red Sox ballplayers at the recent Sox camp at Salem Memorial Ballpark.

Andrew Lewis Middle School fall sports practices begin the end of July, athletes need current physical

Andrew Lewis Middle School fall sports will soon be having tryouts and practices. Volleyball tryouts will start July 29th at 8 am in the main gym at Andrew Lewis Middle School. Football equipment will be handed out starting at 9 am on Thursday, July 25th, at the Salem High Fieldhouse.

Football practice starts Monday July 29th at 8:30 am. Football practice is held at Salem High.

To participate in Andrew Lewis athletics you must have a physical on the Virginia High School League (VHSL) form dated after May 1, 2024.

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Well, as undisputed

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

PAGE 10-SALEM TIMES-REGISTER-THURSDAY JULY 11, 2024



OLD KID ON THE BLOCK

Today's edition is Thursday, July 11, 2024. That's significant to me because my very first column in the Salem Times-Register was exactly 50 years ago today, on July 11, 1974.

I can remember it like it was yesterday. I had graduated from Roanoke College in May and went back home to Pennsylvania to try and find a job. I was working at the ceramic tile factory in Lansdale, PA, where my mother had worked for years when I got a call from Ray Robinson in Salem.

Ray was the owner of the Salem Times-Register and his part-time sports editor, Rick Harvey, had resigned. I had been the sports editor of the Roanoke College newspaper, the Brackety-Ack, which was printed on the Salem Times-Register press. Apparently Ray had been reading my stories and liked them, so he reached out to see if I'd like to return to Salem and replace Rick.

I had decided about a month before graduation I'd like to pursue journalism. I majored in Business Administration because I thought it was the most well-rounded field, but in addition to being Sports Editor for the RC paper I also worked for the Sports Information Department, writing stories for the basketball program and helping the late Ray Brown. I was also the head stat man for the Maroon hoops team, so it hit me I might want to do this for a living.

I had applied for a job at the Allentown Morning Call, but with no real newspaper experience I had little shot of getting that job. So, rather than sweat in that tile factory for an uncertain length of time I decided to take Ray up on the offer.

My dad and I loaded up my uncle Bill's truck with any furniture we could find and drove to Virginia. We took a room at the old Regina Motor Lodge on West Main Street and looked through the paper for possible apartments. We found a place on Craig Avenue, Greenbriar East, that's still there and I soon had a one bedroom apartment about a mile away from the Roanoke College campus I had just left.

I realized right away I wasn't going to get rich doing this, at least not in a financial sense. My



NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

First of all I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and welcome you to the world of sports, or, as Joe Garagiola puts it, the toy section in the department store of life. I'm a young, witty, handsome journalist who has a tendency to lie a lot. In all seriousness, I am young.

As the new sports editor I hope to keep you informed on the local scene as well as providing some sidelights on a national scope as they pertain to you. Any comments, criticisms, or suggestions will be greatly appreciated and possibly printed if they so merit. Just drop a line to me, Brian Hoffman, at the Salem Times-Register, 1633 West Main

Piccola Hops Plane

Here's the beginning of Brian Hoffman's very first column on July 11, 1974. He doesn't look any different today

the issue."

salary was \$40 a week plus mileage and I worked from home, which was now my one bedroom apartment. To "supplement" my income I got a job at the Damon Company machine shop, which was then located on Tennessee Street in the building where B&B Fastners now operates. I came home every day smelling like lubricant oil and soon my '63 Chevy Impala took on the same aroma.

As mentioned, my first edition was 50 years ago today. After introducing myself I wrote a column about Dave Schultz, who had played for the Salem Rebels ice hockey team and was a key member of the '76 Philadelphia Flyers, who had just won the Stanley Cup. Other sports that week included the naming of the Little League All-Star baseball teams, which included Chance Crawford, Jimmy Chisom, Todd Hannah, Ron Myers, Billy Jones, Tommy East and several others who would become my friends in years to come.

I also had a story about the Salem Pirates and the Carolina League All-Stars that week, and a story about how a friend of mine from college, Jay Piccola, would be participating in a try-out camp for the New Orleans Jazz basketball team. The Jazz had drafted Piccola in the eighth round of the NBA draft (yes, they had eight rounds IN) on a tip from Tulane University coach Charlie Moir. Charlie had recruited Jay to Roanoke College, won a national

championship in 1972, then took the Green Wave job in New Orleans after Piccola's junior year. As you may know Moir eventually wound up coaching Virginia Tech and his son, Page, coached for many years at Roanoke College.

Street. I hope to be hearing from you and vice versa.

IF YOU CAN'T BEAT 'EM, CHANGE THE RULES

Where does this leave Schultz?

Many things have been said about ex-Rebel Dave Schultz. No matter what you think of him, you must admit that you do think of him. One person on whose mind the name of Schultz

weighs quite heavily is NHL referee-in-chief Scotty Morrison.

At the recently completed league meetings several bits of legislation appeared to be directed at the Flyers' leftwinger. One new rule stipulates that a bench minor shall be assessed when a penalized player fails to go directly to the box. Formerly, the rule dictated a 10-minute misconduct, not leav-ing the team shorthanded. Now it will be costly not only to the combatant but the team as well if he decides to "press

champ of the NHL there's always some young hopeful who's ready to take him on in spite of the pain a broken nose renders.

Now, there affords the chance to sneak in some quick cheap shots and run before the "Hammer" can assert himself. If

Dave decided to follow up the initial meeting, the whole team

suffers. Are you listening, Dale Rolfes of the world? Several other rules were also enacted which were pointed

directly at the first Rebel ever to have his name on Lord

Municipal Stadium in Salem will be the setting for tonight's mid-season Carolina League All-Star game. John Lipon's

Pirates will take on the best the rest can assemble in recog-

Carolina All-Stars

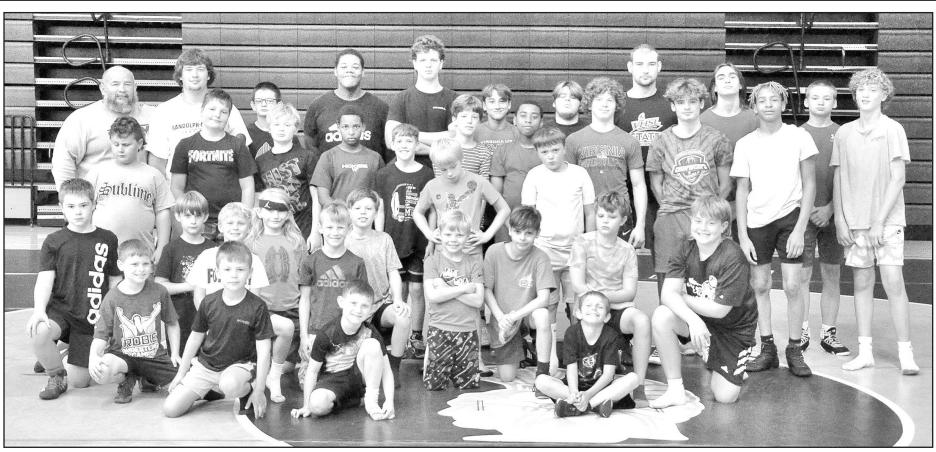
To Take On Bucs

Front page news that week included a story about how Salem dropped plans to build a recreation center, anticipating the high cost of building a new high school. There were also a variety of columns, eight pictures of brides and lots of advertisements from places like the Langhorne Pharmacy, Davis Pizza and Hart Olds.

By September one of our news writers, the late Pat Hooker, had decided to leave and I was hired full-time to do sports and news, enabling me to quit the Damon Company. I enjoyed the sports much more than the news and worked my way into doing just that. In years to come our company purchased the Vinton Messenger and Fincastle Herald and I started doing the sports for the Salem, New Castle, Vinton and Fincastle papers, as I do today.

It doesn't seem like 50 years. I've made many friends over the years and have totally enjoyed bringing sports stories to you in our papers on a weekly basis. I met my wife here at the paper and have truly enjoyed a wonderful life in this Shangri-La we call Salem.

Everyone should be so lucky.



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PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Salem High wrestling coach Lawrence Van Liew(back left) along with his staff and wrestlers conducted the Salem Department of Parks **On the Mats** & Recreation camp the last week of June at Salem High School.

Maroons announce moves to wrestling coaching staff

The Roanoke wrestling team has announced three coaching moves. Assistant coach Blake Rosenbaum was elevated to Associate Head Coach and Recruiting Coordinator and two new additions joined the staff. Collin Gerardi is the new assistant coach and director of training and Matt Hand will serve as Head Regional Training Center Coach.

Rosenbaum has been with the program since the start, serving as a volunteer assistant in 2020-2021 and then as head assistant coach from 2021-24. He has coached three Maroon All Americans and was named the Southeast Regional Assistant Coach of the Year this winter.

"Blake has been here since the beginning and helped shape our culture and program," said head coach Nate Yetzer. "I can't think of a more deserving person being elevated to this position. From his days as an athlete to his time as a coach at Ferrum College and now here at Roanoke, I am so proud to call Blake a friend and colleague. He has proven himself as one of the top recruiters in the country the last few years and has continued to be someone that I lean on heavily. I'm very happy for Blake."

Gerardi, a former wrestler at Virginia Tech, is a two-time Division 1 National Qualifier. Gerardi was a U23 USA Wrestling Freestyle All American and a two-time VHSL State Champion. Also a NHSCA Senior National Champion, he is a former assistant at Machine Shed Wrestling Club.

"I have known Collin for a number of years and one thing that has always stood out to me is his positive attitude and work ethic," said Yetzer. "These two things really stood out during the interview process. When we look at bringing people into our program, we always look what kind of person are they. You won't find many as genuine as Collin. His experience,

knowledge, and passion for the sport of wrestling will help him mold our young men and I'm excited to work with him."

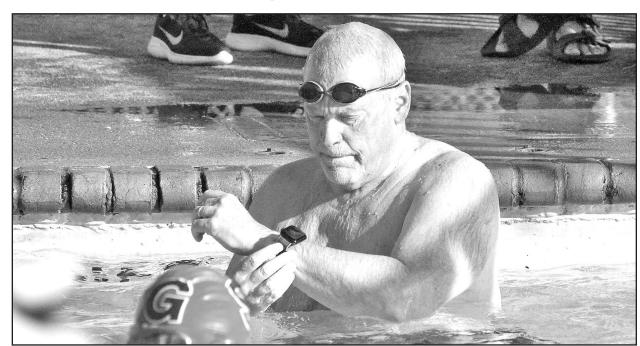
Hand is a former wrestler at the University of Iowa and was part of the 1996-2000 National Championship Teams. An Iowa State Champion, Hand served as the head coach at VA Elite from 2017-2022 and at Machine Shed from 2022-24. He guided his squads to three VAWA Team Titles and coached several VAWA and VHSL Champs.

"I am so fired up to add coach Matt Hand onto the staff to head up our Regional Training Center," said Yetzer. "The club deserves someone that will invest themselves fully and Matt is that guy. I was bummed we did not get him last year, but finally glad to have him guide our RTC program. The RTC has been growing the last few years and is ready to take off to the next level. Matt will be the guy to do it."

GATORS WRAP UP MONDAY SCHEDULE

The Stonegate Swim Club competed in their last regular season meet of the Roanoke Valley Aquatic Association season when they swam at Castle Rock Monday night. The Gators will now prepare for the annual City-County meet, scheduled for the Christiansburg Aquatic Center on July 19 and 20. Here long time Gator Morgan Griffith checks his time after swimming in a meet at the Salem pool. Griffith is in his 57th season on the Stonegate team.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



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bullpens and dugouts that can house 47 players. There are two batting practice facilities easily accessable from every field.

Field three will be Salem High's home field and Field Four will be home to Roanoke College. Both have windscreens on the outfield fence that highlight the home team and RC chipped in to pay for their windscreen that includes names of All-American players and team highlights.

Each dugout has a bathroom and a water bottle filling station, and those stations are located throughout the renovated complex. The center tower now has an elevator, an office for complex director Jim Farmer and a renovated kitchen for the concession stand.

"We can serve breakfast, lunch or dinner," said Shaner. "Once you come in the complex there's really no reason to leave until you're ready to go home."

One of the complaints in prior years was the lack of shade, and the new Moyer Complex not only has covered seats but shaded areas at the playground and pickelball courts to make patrons comfortable on the hottest of days.

The 22-acre complex originally opened in April of 1992, and it annually hosts a variety of events ranging from youth softball and baseball tournaments to NCAA women's national softball championships. The Moyer Complex is typically in use an average of 230 days a year with a yearly attendance of approximately 250,000 guests.

"The Moyer Complex has been a huge asset to our valley for over 30 years and all of these renovations and updates will ensure that the facility remains a strong economic driver for the region and one of the top sports complexes on the east coast," said Shaner.

In 2004, the venue hosted Jennie Finch and the United States Olympic Softball team for a sold-out exhibition game and in 2011 the facility was named the Complex of the Year in the United States by USA Softball. Year after year a variety of college conferences and the Virginia High School League crown champions at home plate.

"When we look at the Moyer Complex, we see an opportunity for the future," said Jon Oney of Virginia's Blue Ridge. "Sports tourism is a \$52 billion dollar industry and \$2.7 billion was generated in the Commonwealth alone in 2022, which puts us in the top 10 in states across the country. "It is a collective voice to attract and recruit events to this region.' said Oney. "Having a state-of-the-art facility like the Moyer Sports Complex gives Virginia's Blue Ridge a leg up in retaining current business and recruiting new business. For that, we are eternally thankful." Virginia Senator David Suetterlein, House of Delegates member Joe McNamara, Salem City Council members, Roanoke Mayor Sherman Lea and Roanoke County Supervisors Vice-Chair, Martha Hooker, were among those in attendance for the reopening ceremony. Also attending were members of the Salem High and Roanoke College softball teams and a large gathering of Salemites who were anxious to see the improvements and get a free lunch to boot.





Business

Above, fans gather outside the James I. **Moyer Complex** gate awaiting the ceremony officially to reopen the Salem facility Monday on morning. Left, attendees walk into the complex to examine the new digs. **Below, Complex** Director Jim **Farmer** stands behind the plate on Field One.





Ground was broken on the Moyer project on September 28, 2022, and the renovations were funded by a combination of Salem funds and a \$15 million bond.

"The complex has served so many of our citizens since it opened in 1992," Turk said. "It has been a critical facet of the economic growth that has occurred in Salem and the surrounding communities in the past 32 years and we are confident it will continue to thrive.'

The venue will see its first post-renovation action in just a few days. The USA Girls 14-andunder and 18-and-under Class A national championships will take place at the Moyer and the Botetourt Sports Complex in Daleville on July 17-21.

"One thing I'm proud of is that in one year and 11 months we only missed one event that we weren't able to host during the renovation," said Shaner. "That's a tribute to our staff and the relationship we have with Roanoke County, Roanoke City, Botetourt County and our partnership with the whole Roanoke Valley."

Above left, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Eric O'Brien spins the large ball outside the complex gate. Above right, Jim Moyer's nephew, Tom Harvey, and wife Nancy listen to the opening ceremonies with some Roanoke College softball girls behind them. Below left, Salem High softball girls listen intently and, below right, project coordinator Donald Gibson of G&H Contracting is presented a batting helmet in thanks for his work on the project. Left to right are O'Brien, Gibson, Jim Farmer and Scott Scharnus.



Left, Salem Parks & Recreation Director John Shaner addresses the crowd as Salem City Council members and dignitaries look on. Above right, the new pickelball courts were already getting lots of action, as was the new playground, below right.

Sports



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Big crowd on hand for reopening of Moyer Complex

Salem's award-winning James I. Mover Sports Complex is officially back in business. After a 22-month renovation process civic leaders and many others who were instrumental in the facility's major facelift gathered outside the main gate to cut the ribbon and reopen the facility on Monday morning.

"By renovating, the Moyer Complex will continue to shine as it serves everyone in this part of the country for years to come," said Salem Mayor Renee Turk. "Visitors, coaches, and athletes have filled our hotels, restaurants, grocery stores, and gas stations since 1992, and we cannot wait to have them back."

The complex features four updated diamonds that can also be used for soccer and youth flag football games. There are 13 pickleball courts that were already packed following the opening ceremony on Monday. A new community playground with special needs accessibility has a variety of equipment for kids and a rubberized surface for safety, and, there is also lots of additional parking.

"Adding additional parking was a priority," said John Shaner, Salem Parks and Recreation Director. "This includes a new lot on Colorado Street that will help with overflow event parking and allow for easy access to our greenway and the Roanoke River."

The complex now has 383 total parking spots. A new brick framed sign at the entrance highlights coming events and the parking lots are landscaped with trees.

"Right when you come off the street you know that this is the complex," said Shaner. "Before the renovations the area off the street looked terrible. With the new parking lots, the sign and the pickelball courts it gives you a good feeling right away and it also enhances the greenway."

The facility's upgrades were budgeted at \$27.9 million, and the project has

remained under budget throughout the often-arduous construction phases. A great deal of the credit for that success goes to Salem's own G&H Contracting.

"They are the heart and soul of this project," said Shaner. "There were so many moving parts with the construction of this facility, and G&H really knocked it out of the park."

Once folks enter the facility and pass the pickelball courts, with windscreens sponsored by Blue Ridge Cancer Care, they'll see the playground and pavilion to their left. Then, straight ahead, is the new entrance to the four-field facility with a large rotating ball on a water base. It comes from Germany and

similar balls are used at many major league parks and large scale venues. It's inscribed with the new "Moyer Complex" logo in the hand-writing of former Salem mayor Jim Moyer, who the complex was named for.

"Mike Stevens(Salem's Public Relations Director) found Jim Moyer's signature and we decided to use that for our logo," said Shaner. "The ball is a great place for people from out of town to take photos.³

Moving into the complex, a twowindow ticket office is to the right that also houses changing rooms for the umpires. It includes showers and a TV, and in fact there are many TVs located

PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF SALEM

through the complex that will stream the action on the fields.

The main field has 860 chairback seats as well as lots of standing area. The scoreboard remains the same and the field has two bullpen areas, a Bermuda grass playing surface and artificial turf aprons in front of the dugouts.

"A lot of places are going to that," said Shaner. "With the artificial wings we can use a smaller tarp to cover the field and it only takes four or five people to roll it out. Plus, it displaces less water."

All four fields have Bermuda grass, continued on page 11









PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Left to right. Kaidan Garst, Jackson Wininger, Andrew Crumpacker and Ronnie Frith all were named to the VHSL Class 4 first team in lacrosse.

Spartans well-represented on state lacrosse, Revercomb is Coach of the Year

The Salem High boys' lacrosse team had their best George Revercomb. representation ever when the Virginia High School League announced the Class 4 All-State team last Revercomb has led the Spartans from a 10-7 record in week. Salem put four on the first team, two on the 2022 to an 11-5 record last season, and this season he

George Revercomb is the Class 4 Coach of the Year.

Since taking over the Salem program in 2002, second team and had the state Coach of the Year in guided the Salemites to a 17-1 record and a spot in the



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Bailey Redford is the 2nd team all-state girls' goalie.

state quarterfinals. His Region 4D regional championship was the program's first in over a decade and the best season and record in Salem lacrosse history. In addition to his VHSL state Coach of the Year honor Revercomb also was named the 2024 US Lacrosse All-American Area Coach of the Year.

Salem had four players make the VHSL first team, senior Kaidan Garst at attack, senior Andrew Crumpacker at midfield, junior Jackson Wininger short stick defensive midfield and sophomore Ronnie Frith on defense. Second team honors went to junior Jackson Jones at midfield and sophomore Carson Garland on defense.

Garst led Salem with 48 goals and 38 assists for 86 points. Crumpacker was second on the team with 33 assists, fourth with 35 goals and led the team in draws won percentage. Wininger led the Spartans with 97 ground balls and Frith was team leader with 50 takeaways.

E.C. Glass senior attackman Robert Sorenson is the Class 4 Player of the Year. He had 76 goals and 28 assists on the season. Atlee High joined Salem with four first team selections and E.C. Glass had three

The Class 4 All-State girls' team was also announced last week and Salem goalie Bailey Redford, a sophomore, was named to the second team. Ally Campbell of Meridian is the Player of the Year and Peggy Williams of Western Albemarle was named Coach of the Year.

The all-state boys' lacrosse team consists of four attackers, four midfielders, four defensive players, one SSDM, one LSM, one face-off specialist and one goalie. The girls' have five each at attack, midfield and defense and a goalie. The selection committee is comprised of two coaches from each region.