

OurValley.org

McCracken reflects on retirement, legacy at CommUNITY Church

Aila Boyd

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After more than three decades in ministry — including the founding of CommUNITY Church in 2005 — Pastor Thomas McCracken is stepping into retirement, reflecting on a career defined less by buildings or attendance numbers and more by community engagement, service and presence during moments of crisis.

"As I reflect on my retirement, the moments that stand out most are the ones when the church became exactly what it was meant to be — a conduit of hope, grace and mercy," McCracken said.

One of the most defining seasons of his ministry came during the COVID-19 pandemic, when in-person worship was halted statewide. Rather

than closing its doors, CommUNITY Church opened its campus for weekly outdoor services. McCracken preached from the church roof as congregants gathered in the parking lot and lawn, sitting in chairs, spreading blankets and listening from their cars.

"That Easter became the largest Easter attendance in our history," he said. "In a time marked by fear, division and isolation, CommUNITY Church became a safe place for people to land."

That same period also saw the church take worship into the community, holding services in the parking lots of local restaurants struggling under pandemic restrictions. Offerings collected during those services went directly to restaurant staff, with some businesses reporting record sales days.

"We hung a banner on the church that read, 'The church has left the building,'" McCracken said. "When it mattered most, the church showed up."

Those efforts earned front-page coverage in The Roanoke Times, which dubbed CommUNITY "The Traveling Church of the Pandemic," and recognition in the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia publication The Proclaimer.

Founded in July 2005, CommUNITY Church was built with a clear mission, McCracken said — to actively engage the surrounding community rather than wait for people to come through its doors.

"When Allison Parker and Adam Ward were tragically shot on air in 2015, we gathered outside the WDBJ7 offices to pray," he said. "When Hurricane Harvey



McCracken

devastated Texas, we delivered 2,000 new bikes to public school children who had lost everything."

The church also became deeply involved in anti-bullying initiatives, work that contributed to McCracken's election to the Roanoke County School Board in 2015 and later helped support legislation in Virginia making bullying a crime.

"My vision was realized not in buildings or numbers," he said, "but

in the way this church consistently invested in people."

McCracken's leadership style was shaped in part by 14 years of military service, where he learned the importance of teamwork, discipline and shared mission.

"In the church, no one outranks anyone else," he said. "People are volunteers, not subordinates — and that makes all the difference."

He also balanced

pastoral work with careers in education and higher learning, refusing a church salary in the early years and instead teaching in Salem and Roanoke public schools so church funds could be directed toward community outreach.

"Being in the schools every day gave me a front-row seat to the struggles people were facing," he

See McCracken,
page 5

Yokohama announces potential plant closure, large-scale layoffs in Salem



FILE PHOTO BY AILA BOYD

Management at Yokohama Tire Manufacturing Virginia's local plant celebrated the 100 millionth tire with city officials in March 2023.

Aila Boyd

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Yokohama Tire Manufacturing Virginia LLC has notified union

leaders of significant upcoming layoffs at its Salem plant and is evaluating a potential permanent closure of the facility later this year, according to a letter dated Jan. 16 that USW Local 1023 has shared

publicly.

In a notice issued under the federal Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act,

See Tires, page 2



Shepherd



Radford

meetings will be held at 2 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Public hearings are scheduled for 6 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month unless otherwise advertised.

Meeting agendas are available on the county's website. Board meetings are streamed live on the Roanoke County website and can also be viewed live on RVT-3.

Shepherd, who represents the Vinton District, has served on the board since 2024. This is her first year serving as board chair.

The board also selected David F. Radford, Windsor Hills District representative, as vice chair for 2026. Radford has served on the board since 2018. He previously served as board chair in 2020 and 2025 and as vice chair in 2021.

Regular board

critiques of electioneering through witty dialogue and exaggerated characters.

The staged reading will mark the first time Munford's comedy has been presented in the Roanoke Valley.

Salem Museum volunteer Steve Aaron will direct the production. Aaron, an actor and longtime Museum Ghost Walk performer, said the play's themes remain relevant today.

"I am thrilled to be directing The Candidates," Aaron said. "Its rich characters are relatable to us all, with issues that transcend the modern political and social



A quill and inkwell.

today's audience. The Candidates reminds us that it's good to laugh

See Play, page 5

climate and translate well to

the 1700s comedy play.

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Briefly: Salem News In Brief

The Losers Club: Held at the Salem Center but not just for seniors. All adults are welcome. Every Tuesday 5–6 p.m. No registration fee with \$3/month dues. Contact: Charlene Lester 540-293-7753.

Parent Advocates for Salem Kids (PASK): Join us for our first bi-monthly parents meeting where we connect, share insights, and empower each other to support our children's educational and athletic journeys. Let's be champions for our kids, together! Date: Jan. 29 at 6:30 p.m. at 28 E. Main Street in Salem. Please RSVP to parentadvocatesforsalemkids@gmail.com or join the PASK group so we can plan accordingly.

Sam Barber: Rising country sensation Sam Barber will bring his heartfelt lyrics and soulful sound to the Salem Civic Center on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026.

Winterfest Beach Bash: Salem's annual Winterfest Beach Bash will return in February 2026, featuring the Band of Oz at the Salem Civic Center. The indoor beach party is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m. inside the Salem Civic Center arena. The 2026

event marks the 19th consecutive year the Band of Oz has been selected to headline the popular gathering. This year's concert is sponsored by Renewal by Andersen. Tickets went on sale at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, at the Salem Parks and Recreation Department, 620 Florida St. Advance tickets are \$10, with tickets priced at \$12 on the day of the show. Tables seating eight are available for \$80. Cash, check and credit cards will be accepted from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays from Dec. 16 through Feb. 5. Organizers note the event typically sells out.

The Candidates by Robert Munford - A Staged Reading at the Salem Museum: The Salem Museum is excited to host a staged reading of Colonel Robert Munford's "The Candidates; or, The Humours of a Virginia Election - A Comedy in Three Acts." Written and set in the early 1770s on the eve of the American Revolution, this farcical tale about a Virginia House of Burgesses election satirizes the corrupt campaigning culture of the day. With stinging critiques of electioneering and witty dialogue to boot, Munford's three act comedy will

be put on in the Roanoke Valley for the first time ever through a staged reading at the Salem Museum. Volunteer Steve Aaron will lead this production, and is actively seeking participants to read for numerous characters. If interested in reading a part or volunteering on the project, please contact the Salem Museum via phone at 540-389-6760 or via email at info@SalemMuseum.org.

Black Label Society: Heavy metal powerhouse Black Label Society will bring its blistering riffs and high-energy performance to the Salem Civic Center on Tuesday, May 12. The band will be joined by openers Zakk Sabbath and Dark Chapel. Tickets can be found at the Salem Civic Center box office and through Ticketmaster.

Public meetings:

The Salem City Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 26.

The Salem City Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 9.

The Salem City School Board will meet at 7 p.m. on Feb. 10.

The Salem City Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 23.

The Salem City Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. on March 9.

The Salem City School Board will meet at 7 p.m. on March 10.

The Salem City Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. on March 23.

The Salem City Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. on April 13.

The Salem City School Board will meet at 7 p.m. on April 14.

The Salem City Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. on April 27.

The Salem City Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. on May 11.

The Salem City School Board will meet at 7 p.m. on May 12.

The Salem City Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. on May 26.

The Salem City Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. on June 8.

The Salem City School Board will meet at 7 p.m. on June 9.

The Salem City Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. on June 22.

The Salem City Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. on July 13.

The Salem City School Board will meet at 7 p.m. on July 14.

The Salem City Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. on July 27.

Tires

from page 1

the company said declining demand for small-diameter tire products has led to reduced production and underutilization at the Salem facility, located at 1500 Indiana St.

If implemented, the first phase would involve the layoff of approximately 307 bargaining unit employees beginning March 18 or within 14 days thereafter. The company said those layoffs are expected to last longer than six months and could become permanent.

Yokohama said it is also considering a complete and permanent closure of the plant, which has been operating since 1968. A decision has not been finalized and discussions with the United Steelworkers union are ongoing, according to the letter.

"Unfortunately, manufacturing facilities across Virginia and the nation have encountered difficult challenges in recent years," Salem Mayor Renee Turk said

in a statement. "While this news is painful, it's not entirely unexpected, as companies like Yokohama have had to adapt their operations and staffing due to changing conditions."

Yokohama cited aging infrastructure, rising maintenance costs and outdated production processes as factors contributing to the possible closure. The company said modernizing the Salem plant to meet current manufacturing standards would require substantial capital investment.

If a permanent closure is approved, tire production would cease July 16 or within 14 days, resulting in the permanent layoff of an additional 50 bargaining unit employees. A full plant shutdown could follow Sept. 17 or within 14 days, at which point all remaining bargaining unit employees would be permanently laid off.

City Manager Chris Dorsey said the announcement will have far-reaching effects

beyond economics.

"This won't just be a financial impact on the city, but it is also a personal impact on the community and families who depend on these jobs," Dorsey said. "For generations, Yokohama has been part of the fabric of Salem."

Economic Development Director Tommy Miller said the city is coordinating with regional and state partners to support affected workers.

"Our priority is supporting the employees and families who are impacted," Miller said. "We're focused on making sure those affected can connect to available resources, workforce services and support programs during this uncertain time."

The Salem plant has deep roots in the community. Construction began in 1967 under the Mohawk Rubber Company, with operations launching in June 1968. The 62-acre facility expanded multiple times in the 1970s and again in the 1980s.

Yokohama Tire acquired the



FILE PHOTO BY AILA BOYD

The 100th millionth tire from 2023 was a GEOLANDAR A/T GO15.

plant in 1989 and expanded production in 1994, employing more than 1,000 workers at its peak in the mid-1990s. The facility produced its 100 millionth tire in 2023.

Yokohama officials said

any final decision regarding layoffs or closure will be communicated as more information becomes available and after discussions with the union are complete.

SALEM

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RECIPE OF THE WEEK



Shelly Koon

Contributing Writer

I had never made "Garbage Bread" until recently. The concept is simple... throw whatever you like into a pizza crust and roll it up, cinnamon roll-style. Garbage bread is essentially stuffed pizza dough. It falls into the stromboli, calzone, or panzarotti category because it uses pizza dough and similar toppings to pizza (which can be anything, right?), but the toppings become fillings when the dough is wrapped around them. Panzerotti are a popular Italian street food; a deep-fried pocket of dough filled with tomato sauce and mozzarella cheese. A calzone is single serving of a folded pizza-like dish from Naples, Italy, made from pizza dough filled with ingredients like cheese, meats, and vegetables, and then baked with a side of marinara on the side. A stromboli is a log-shaped item made by rolling up pizza dough with fillings like mozzarella and made with sauce baked inside.

Garbage Bread is a simple and inexpensive meal that feeds around 4 people and will fill you up without breaking the bank. Not to mention, this is one of those delightful experiments in cooking where anything goes. Just raid your cupboards and fridge to make up whatever topping combination strikes your fancy.

Garbage bread can literally be made in so many different ways. One of this week's recipes is a cheeseburger version; it essentially tastes like a White Castle Cheeseburger. (And if you've never tried a White Castle I feel both sorry for you and jealous of you all at the same time.) The other recipe is for a breakfast garbage bread that is good for feeding a crowd.

Here are some tasty combinations you can try:

*BBQ Chicken Garbage Bread: Spread barbecue sauce over the dough and top with shredded cooked chicken, red onions, and mozzarella cheese. Bake as directed.

*Pizza Garbage Bread: Spread pizza sauce over the dough and top with fresh mozzarella cheese, cherry tomatoes, and basil. Bake as directed.

*You can substitute the ground beef with ground turkey or a plant-based alternative for a lighter touch. Any cooked and crumbled sausage also works wonders.

*Feel free to add other veggies

you have on hand, like mushrooms, or perhaps a handful of spinach for a touch of green.

*For those picky eaters, keep it simple with just cheese and beef, or even just cheese; it'll be our little secret.

You can prepare the Garbage Bread ahead of time and refrigerate it before baking. Just let it come to room temperature for about 30 minutes prior to popping it in the oven. Adapt, enjoy, and most of all, gather round because this meal is made for sharing and caring.

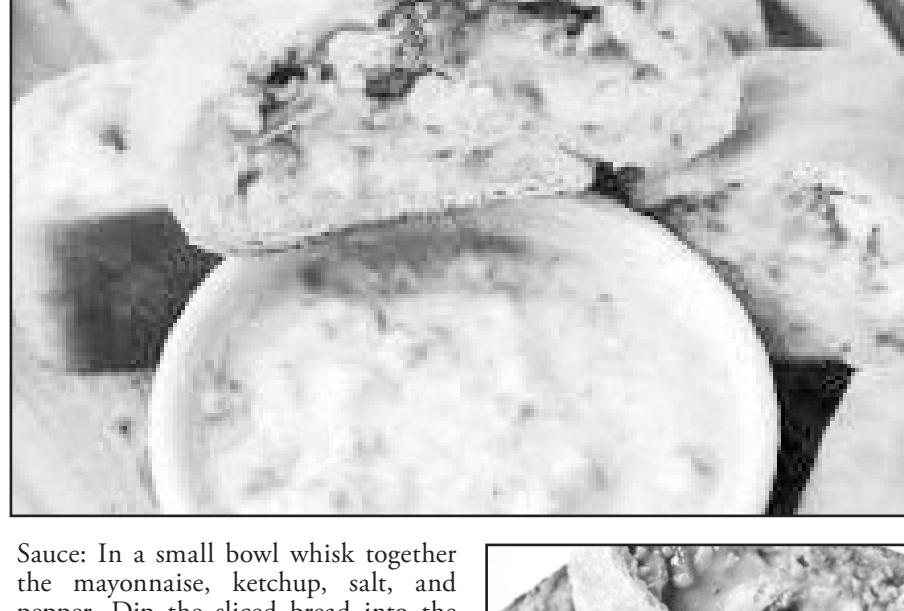
Bacon Cheeseburger Garbage Bread

Ingredients

- 1/2 pound chopped bacon
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1-pound lean ground beef
- 1 tablespoon steak seasoning
- 2 ounces Velveeta, cubed
- 1 (13.8 ounce) thin crust pizza dough
- 1 1/2 cups grated cheddar jack cheese
- Sauce
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons ketchup
- salt & pepper to taste

Instructions

Preheat oven to 425°. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside. In a large skillet over medium-low heat cook bacon until it's crisp. Remove the bacon from the pan and set aside. Drain most of the grease. In the same skillet, heat to medium high. Add the onions and ground beef into the skillet and cook until the onions are soft and the meat is cooked through. Drain anymore excess liquid/grease from the pan. Place the skillet back on the heat and turn the heat to low. Add bacon back into the pan and season with the steak seasoning. Add in the Velveeta and stirring continuously cook until the cheese is melted. Remove the pan from the heat. Roll the pizza dough out onto the prepared baking sheet. The dough should be approximately a 15x10 rectangle. We're not looking for perfection; rustic is good for the soul. Spread the meat mixture evenly on top, leaving an inch at the edges to allow for spreading. Sprinkle the grated cheese on top of the meat. Roll up the pizza dough, starting with the long sides and pinch the crust together to seal. Bake seam side down for 15-20 minutes, or until golden brown. Allow the bread to cool for 5-10 minutes before slicing.



Sauce: In a small bowl whisk together the mayonnaise, ketchup, salt, and pepper. Dip the sliced bread into the sauce, if desired.

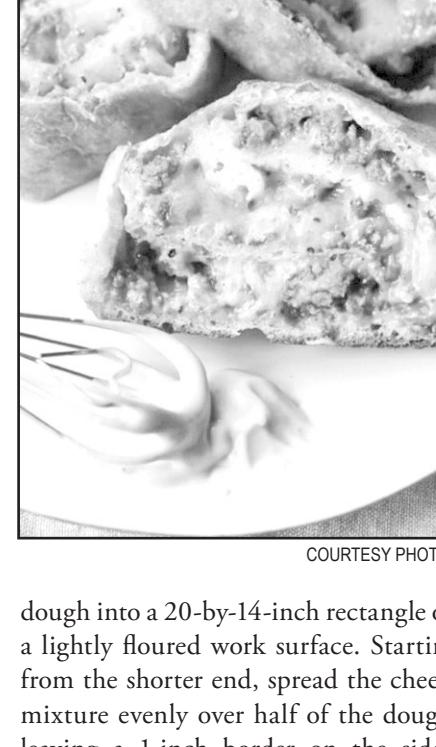
Breakfast Garbage Bread

Ingredients

- 2 1/2 cups frozen potato tots
- One 12-ounce package pork breakfast sausage
- 10 strips bacon (8 ounces)
- 5 large eggs
- 2 cups grated American cheese (6 ounces)
- 2 cups grated white Cheddar (6 ounces)
- All-purpose flour, for dusting
- 1 1/2 pounds store bought pizza dough (see Cook's Note)
- Ketchup and/or hot sauce, for serving

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with parchment and spread the potato tots on the sheet. Bake until golden brown and crisp, about 25 minutes. Transfer the baking sheet to a wire rack and let cool. Lower the oven to 400 degrees F. Meanwhile, heat the sausage in a large nonstick skillet over medium heat and cook, stirring to break up the sausage, until browned and no longer pink, about 8 minutes. Transfer the sausage to paper towels with a slotted spoon to drain; discard any remaining fat. Let the sausage cool, then crumble into 1/2-inch pieces. Heat the bacon in the skillet over medium heat and cook, flipping once, until browned, about 8 minutes. Using tongs, transfer the bacon to paper towels to drain; discard any remaining fat. Let the bacon cool, then crumble into 1/2-inch pieces. Prepare a bowl of ice water and set aside. Cover 4 eggs by 1 inch with water in a small saucepan and bring to a boil. Cover the pan, remove from the heat and let the eggs stand for 6 minutes. Uncover and drain the eggs, then transfer to the bowl of ice water and let stand for 3 minutes. Drain and peel the eggs, then quarter each egg lengthwise. Toss the American cheese and Cheddar together in a small bowl until evenly combined. Roll the



COURTESY PHOTOS

dough into a 20-by-14-inch rectangle on a lightly floured work surface. Starting from the shorter end, spread the cheese mixture evenly over half of the dough, leaving a 1-inch border on the sides. Scatter the sausage, bacon and potato tots evenly over the cheese. Arrange all the egg quarters, yolk up, along the short side of the rectangle. Working from this short side, tightly roll the dough up, jelly roll-style, into a log. Pinch the open seams together to seal, then tuck them underneath the log. Beat the remaining egg. Transfer the log to the prepared baking sheet and brush with the egg wash. Bake until the bread is golden brown all over, about 40 minutes. Let the bread cool for 10 minutes. Halve the bread lengthwise, cut each half crosswise into 4 equal pieces and serve warm with ketchup or hot sauce. Cook's Note: To make rolling and shaping the dough easy, keep the dough refrigerated until 10 to 15 minutes before you are ready to use it.

OBITUARIES

Seymour, George Marvin



George Seymour peacefully passed away in his home on January 18th, 2026, at the age of 85. George was originally from Elizabeth City, NC and held close family ties with that area for his entire lifetime. He relocated to Roanoke, VA, in 1967, where he began teaching music within the Roanoke County School System. He and Glenda married in 1967 and began an unforgettable journey that included raising their own precious children in addition to teaching thousands of students at Glen Cove Elementary School and adults at Hollins University. He was also a devoted and active member of Central United Methodist Church, where he served as choir director for many years. He also routinely shared his vocal talents throughout the Valley with the Salem Chorale Society, and endless private events. George eventually decided to share his creative decorating talents and enthusiasm for floral design when he became co-owner of the Wiley-Seymour House in Salem, VA. His excitement for creating and planning the perfect wedding experience was contagious and left many couples with incredible memories. George truly never met a stranger and shared a loving and radiant energy with

every person who had the pleasure of meeting him. He loved, prayed for, and supported everyone he cared about; especially his family. George would often reflect that his wife, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and his extensive family were, above all else, the most beloved part of his life. George spent many moments of reflection and shared his feelings about how abundantly God had blessed his life. In fact, the magnificent legacy he left behind will impact us all, leaving us with valuable lessons and what it is like to live with values, character, faith, endless laughter, and kindness. These memories will forever be entwined and woven into the story of our lives. Our hearts will never forget George Marvin Seymour. A cherished husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, cousin and friend. George was reunited in heaven with his son, Cliff Seymour, his sister-in-law, Donna Seymour, his nephew, Jeff Seymour, and parents, Marvin and

Hilda Seymour.

George Seymour is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Glenda Seymour; his daughter, Christi Spice (Richard); daughter-in-law, Cathy Seymour; former son-in-law, Tony Hendricks; and brother, Richard Seymour. His eternal love will be remembered by his cherished grandchildren, Cody, Walker (Briahna), Preston (Ginger), Olivia, Logan, Kristina, Malyna, Zane; and his great grandchildren, Bennett, Graham George and Bauer. He leaves behind a host of beloved nieces and nephews, the "Cousins", and the "Bridge Club", in addition to a tight circle of friends who were considered family. A special acknowledgement of appreciation to the Vandergrift Family, Mark Forbes, Dr. Jonathan Barrett, and the Fresenius Dialysis Team. A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held at 4 p.m. on Friday, January 23, 2026, at Central United Methodist Church in Salem, Va., with Rev. David R. Mucha officiating. Friends may visit with the family from 1 p.m. until the hour of the service at the church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Online condolences may be expressed at www.johnmoakey.com.

Etheridge, Kathleen "Jeri" Boggs



Kathleen "Jeri" Boggs Etheridge, 96, of Salem, Virginia went to be with her Savior on Thursday, January 8, 2026.

She was born on June 9, 1929, in Pueblo, Colorado to the late Clarence Waverly and Kathleen Taylor Boggs. She was raised in Cumberland County, Virginia and has been a resident of Salem since 1952. She attended West Hampton at the University of Richmond and Mary Washington University. She was a faithful wife and devoted mother who deeply loved her husband and family. She was an active member of Salem Baptist Church where she led the Girls of Grace Sunday School class. She also taught Girls in Action (GAs) and Acteens Missions classes for many years. She was a member of the Roanoke Valley Christian Women's Club and the Straw Hatter's Bible Study that provided financial support to the Village Missions program. She had a wonderful spiritual heritage that included five generations of women who were devoted to Southern Baptist ministries throughout Virginia and beyond and was related to Lottie Moon, the great Virginian Southern Baptist Missionary.

Sensing God's call to a

Etheridge of Columbus, Ohio, CDR Robert Jeffrey Etheridge, USN (retired) and his wife, Kathleen Kumi Etheridge of Stafford, Virginia and daughter, Jill Etheridge Milam and husband, Dr. James T. Milam of Danville, Virginia; six beloved grandchildren who always knew her as "Nana", Lauren Etheridge Shannon and husband, James Francis Shannon, III, Robert Jeffrey Etheridge II and John Lionel Etheridge, Addie Leigh Milam, Mary Kathleen (Mary Kate) Milam and James Thomas (J.T.) Milam, Jr.; great grandsons, James Francis Shannon IV and Cillian John Shannon; one brother, Michael T. Boggs and wife, Linda of Cumberland, Virginia, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be conducted on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at CommUnity Church in Salem; service details are forthcoming.

In lieu of flowers please send donations to the DAR, the UDC, CommUnity Church, the International Mission Board, the Family Foundation and The Least of These in memory of Kathleen 'Jeri' Etheridge.

Online condolences may be expressed to the family by visiting www.johnmoakey.com.

See **Obituaries**, page 6

OPINION

Live tutoring available 24/7 on library database

Experiencing a late-night meltdown over math homework or a writing assignment? Live Tutoring for all learners, child and adult, is now available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on "Help Now" database available under "Research Resources" on the Salem Public Library's website (www.salemlibrary.info). Receive instant homework help and skill practice in math, reading, writing, English, science, and social studies for grades K-12 and adult learners. Training on AI (Artificial Intelligence) is available for parents to learn about it and how to work with and advise their children on how to use it correctly.

Access real-time assistance through the Brainfuse Online Classroom, where patrons receive personalized tutoring support. Tutors work to help learners master core academic concepts rather than simply providing answers. HelpNow also offers live tutoring in Spanish for all subjects offered in English.

- Instant homework help and skill practice in math, reading, writing, English, science, and social studies.

Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community
Benita VanCleave

- Bilingual tutors available in English and Spanish with a built-in chat translation tool to support ESOL, ELL, and multilingual learners.

Expert Writing Assistance

Patrons can receive real-time guidance on brainstorming, revising, and refining their writing. For more in-depth help, our Writing Lab offers a detailed analysis of submitted papers within 24 hours.

Academic and Test Prep Support: Help learners prepare for academic and standardized tests using SkillSurfer, a comprehensive library of lessons, practice

tests, and videos. This resource supports subjects from elementary school through college, and includes test prep for the SAT, ACT, GED, ASVAB, TOEFL, and more.

Adult learners can get assistance with:

High School Equivalency Preparation: Receive training to enhance test-taking skills, take practice tests, and get live, online test coaching.

1. Prepare for the US Citizenship Test
2. Microsoft Office Help: Learn MS Word, Excel or PowerPoint with LIVE experts.
3. Career Resources: Tips and resources to start your job search
4. Resume Writing assistance

Academic and Test Prep Support

Help learners prepare for academic and standardized tests using SkillSurfer, a comprehensive library of lessons, practice tests, and videos. This resource supports subjects from elementary school through college, and includes test prep for the SAT, ACT, GED, ASVAB, TOEFL, and more.

Virginia Western issues call for nominations for 2026 Distinguished Alumni Award

ROANOKE — The Virginia Western Educational Foundation and the Virginia Western Alumni Association are calling for nominations for the 2026 Distinguished Alumni Award. The annual recipient or recipients will receive the award at a special Scholarship Awards Ceremony in the spring, and a plaque will be placed on the Virginia

Western Distinguished Alumni Wall outside Whitman Theatre.

For many, the road to lifetime achievement started at Virginia Western Community College. The Virginia Western Alumni Association established the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2006 to recognize those alumni who have achieved outstanding success and made a lasting impact

on their community. The prestigious award is intended to showcase the diversity of Virginia Western graduates and their range of influence on our region.

Prior honorees:

2025 — Dr. Michael Brennan

2024 — Yolonda L. Weaver, D.D.S. '94

2023 — Dr. Brenda L. Hale '89 and Joe Gaither '77

2022 — Elvir Berbic '06 and Jason Peters

2021 — Mary Catherine (Kate) Lawrence '06

2020 — Tony Pearman '10

2019 — Deborah L. Petrine '74

2018 — Elizabeth Testerman '06

2017 — Dr. Carol Swain '78

2016 — Mary B. Loritsch Ed.D., R.T. (R) '74 and Michael A. Crawley

2015 — Deborah A. Yancey '97 and '98

2014 — Chief Craig S. Harris '00 & J. David Wine '73

2013 — Cheryl Cunningham '86

2012 — Anne Hogan '76

2011 — Carolyn Webster '81

2010 — Russell H. Ellis '80

2009 — Shirl D. Lamanca '75 and Dennis R. Cronk '72

2008 — Donna L. Mitchell '81

2007 — Dr. Kent A. Murphy and Charlotte

C. Tyson '84

2006 — John B. Williamson, III '75

Anne Hogan ('76)

serves as chairwoman of the Alumni Association.

The Association fosters a mutually beneficial

relationship and interaction between

the College, its alumni and the community, connecting with the

College community to recognize and foster

the diverse talents and successes of Virginia

Western graduates.

Distinguished Alumni Eligibility requirements:

To be eligible for nomination, the

candidate must:

- Be a graduate

of or have completed

a minimum of two semesters at Virginia Western Community College.

- Have attained extraordinary distinction and success in his or her profession or life.

- Be a person of such integrity and stature that the College will take pride in his or her recognition.

- Have attained regional, statewide or national prominence and significant involvement in civic, cultural or charitable affairs.

How to nominate: Anyone may nominate a Virginia Western Community College alumna/us or former student for this

COURTESY PHOTO

The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes Virginia Western alumni who have achieved outstanding success and made a lasting impact on their community.

award by completing a nomination form. This form can be submitted online or downloaded from the College's website at virginiawestern.edu/alumni. Two letters of reference are also required.

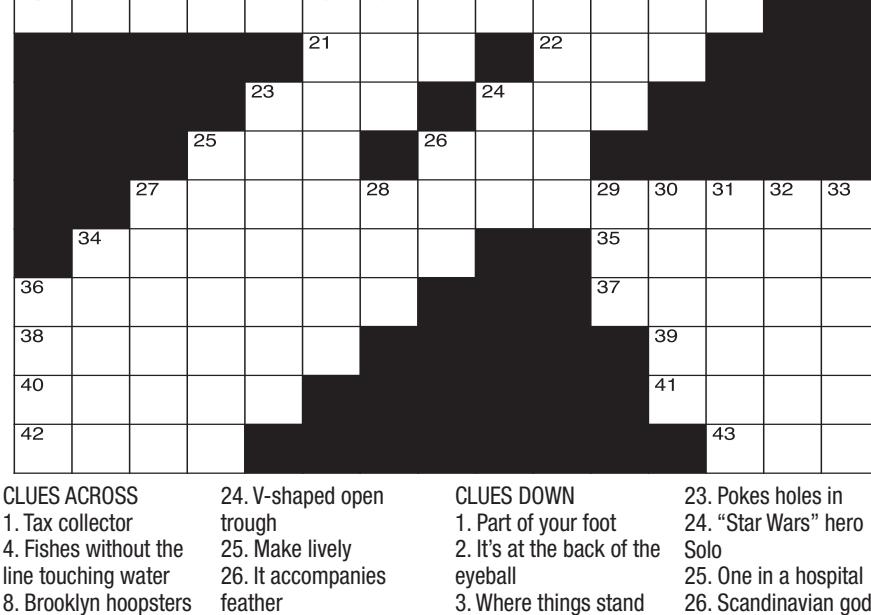
Deadline:

Nominations must be received by Feb. 27.

For more information, contact Syreeta Combs, philanthropy relations officer, Virginia Western Community College Educational Foundation, at scombs@virginiawestern.edu or (540) 857-6833.

-The Salem Times-Register

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

1. Tax collector
4. Fishes without the line touching water
8. Brooklyn hoopsters
10. Actress Lathan
11. A metric for athletes
12. Food storage location
13. Colossus
15. Desolations
16. Accustom to something unpleasant
17. Kubrick, filmmaker
18. You might ask this
21. Arkansas city
22. Gave food to
23. Request
24. V-shaped open trough
25. Make lively
26. It accompanies feather
27. Blonde bombshell
28. One who revolves
29. Blushing greens
30. Charity
31. Having the shape of a cube
32. Unwind
33. Believed by some to be the supreme being
34. Checks or guides
35. Unwind
36. Colossal
37. Having the shape of a cube
38. Unwind
39. Believed by some to be the supreme being
40. Checks or guides
41. Leak slowly through
42. Top-quality
43. Midway
44. South and southeast
45. Request

CLUES DOWN

1. Part of your foot
2. It's at the back of the eyeball
3. Where things stand
4. Offered
5. Contains pollen
6. Boisterous get-together
7. Asserts out loud
9. They're in the sky
10. Canonized
11. Politician's official stances
12. It can catch fish
13. British thermal unit
14. Helps little firms
15. Where patients go for treatment
16. Large red deer
17. Pokes holes in
18. "Star Wars" hero Solo
19. One in a hospital
20. Scandinavian god of battle
21. Famous cat
22. Angeles: City of Angels
23. Type of drug (abbr.)
24. City along the Rhine
25. Animal disease
26. Martini ingredients
27. Get away
28. Rare species of rodent
29. Suppress

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Local students earn college honors, degrees

James Madison University

James Madison University has announced students who earned academic honors for the fall 2025 semester, as well as those who graduated during December commencement exercises.

Named to the President's List were Avery Witt, a biology major; Treya Gunn, a communication studies major; Logan Wade, a computer information systems major; Mateo Moore, a dietetics major; Nicholas Woodson, a nursing major; and Emma LaFountain, a psychology major, all of Salem.

Named to the Dean's List were Ian DelCid Martinez, architectural design; John Atkins, Andrew Rea and Liam Paxton, business; Chance Long, English; Chloe Butt and Richard Williams, health sciences; Tate Spitnale, media

arts and design; Gabriel Bryson, music; Alexus Israel and Madalyn Pressman, nursing; Avery Flynn and Bailey Fralin, psychology; and Henry Ellis, sociology, all of Salem.

Graduating during the Dec. 13, 2025, commencement were Michael Ahearn, who earned a bachelor's degree in history; and Alexus Israel and Madalyn Pressman, who each earned bachelor's degrees in nursing, all of Salem.

Radford University

Radford University has released its dean's list for the fall 2025 semester, recognizing students who achieved academic excellence.

Students named to the dean's list from Salem include Shayln Bandy, Summer Bayne, Lucas Birdlebough, Kaylor Boothe, Keira Booze, Elizabeth Bost, Allison Brown, Corey Bryant, Emily

Callaghan, Amaya Chapman, Skylar Coalter, Sophia Crawford, Ryland Darby, Owen DeWalt, Jaylin Delby, Brenny Duff, Elizabeth Duhon, Hunter English, Benjamin Fernandez, Dylan Forster, Caroline Frantz, Maylin Gerken, Clara Gunter, Andrew Harshbarger, Haley Hartz, Catherine Henderson, Eliza Hoback, Ava Janney, William Jenkins, Macy Johnson, Kylie Jones, Elise Jupin, Tabia Khan, Matthew King, Miracle King, Nathanael King, Mallory LaPrad, Ashleigh Langfitt, Avery Luper, Morgan Manetta, Noah McCroskey, Maria Miguel, Isabella Miller, Natasha Miranda Angeles, Kaden Moore, Thomas Morton, Saniyah Myers, Isabella Peters, Emma Puckett, Matthew Ross, Sophia Shearer, Ashlyn Smith, Samantha Smithwick, Emma Snead, Kirk Wooldridge and Kyah Yeoman.

Carson-Newman University

Connor Wilkes of Salem was named to the Carson-Newman University Dean's List for the fall 2025 semester.

Dean's List honors are awarded to students earning a grade-point average between 3.5 and 3.9 while completing at least 12 credit hours.

Commonwealth University-Bloomsburg

Hunter Austin of Salem was named to the Commonwealth University-Bloomsburg President's List for the fall 2025 semester.

The President's List recognizes students who earn a 4.0 grade-point average while completing 12 or more semester hours of letter-graded coursework.

- The Salem Times-Register

Play

from page 1

at ourselves."

Aaron and the museum are seeking participants to read for multiple roles. No previous acting or theater experience is required. Those interested in reading a part or volunteering may contact the Salem Museum at 540-389-6760 or by email at info@SalemMuseum.org.

The Salem Museum is located in the historic 1845 Williams-Brown House at

801 E. Main St. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission and parking are free, with donations accepted. The entrance is located at the Oakey Field Complex sign across Main Street from the Berglund Ford service entrance.

More information is available at SalemMuseum.org.

McCracken

from page 1

said. "It kept the church grounded in real life."

Family support, McCracken said, was essential throughout his ministry, though it came with sacrifices. His wife, Dr. Laurie McCracken, served in numerous leadership roles within the church while supporting him through public criticism, threats and long absences from family life.

"This transition is also about health," McCracken said, citing a traumatic brain injury sustained during military service that led doctors to recommend retirement.

"Caring for one another is just as much a calling as caring for a congregation."

"I will not stop serving my God," he said. "I'm just changing how I do it."

As he looks ahead, McCracken offered advice to younger pastors entering ministry.

"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care," he said, quoting Theodore Roosevelt. "Ministry doesn't stop when the building closes. In many ways, that's when it begins."

V DOT ROADWATCH

ROANOKE CITY

ORANGE AVENUE OFF RAMP SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS - Drivers can expect shoulder closures, narrow ramps and lane closures eastbound and westbound on Route 460 (Orange Avenue) from Burrell Street northwest and Gainsboro Road northwest to the intersection of Williamson Road northeast and on the off ramp from I-581. Shoulder closures expected on Route 460 (Orange Avenue) eastbound and westbound with right and left lane closures in place during nighttime hours. New signal installation is underway. Delays are possible.

• OVERNIGHT RAMP CLOSURE PLANNED FOR NEW SIGNAL ACTIVATION

- Starting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 19, the exit 4E off ramp will be closed temporarily and is expected to reopen before the morning rush hour on Thursday, November 20. Signs will be posted to help detour traffic during the ramp closure. Northbound I-581 traffic can take exit 4W onto westbound Orange Avenue and then head southbound on I-581 to use exit 4E to eastbound Orange Avenue. Starting the morning of Nov. 20, the new signal

located at the bottom of the northbound I-581 off ramp and eastbound Orange Avenue will be activated. Drivers should be alert to this change in traffic pattern. During the overnight ramp closure on Nov. 19, crews will be installing an overhead sign structure and putting in lane separating posts between the eastbound Orange Avenue through lane and the left turn lane onto Williamson Road. This work must be completed so the new signal can be activated on Thursday morning. Electronic message boards will be in place to alert drivers to the upcoming ramp closure.

BOTETOURT COUNTY

ROUTE 621 (ROARING RUN ROAD) REDUCED TO ONE LANE FOR CULVERT REPLACEMENT - Work is underway on Route 621 (Roaring Run Road) for a culvert replacement in the vicinity of 618 Roaring Run Road. As of Tuesday, July 15, Route 621 (Roaring Run Road) is reduced to one lane of traffic controlled by a temporary signal that will alternate traffic through the work zone until completion of the project. Delays are possible. Expected completion is fall 2025.

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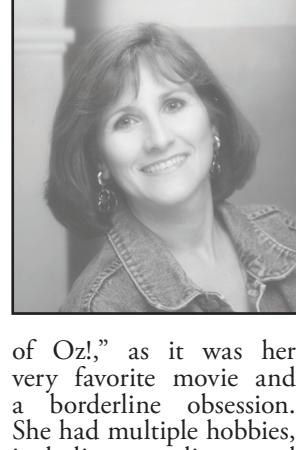
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Obituaries

from page 3

Stepp, Deanna "Teensy" Simmons



Deanna "Teensy" Simmons Stepp, 65, of Salem, VA, and formerly of Eagle Rock, VA, passed away Friday, January 16, 2026, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born on Thursday, September 22, 1960, in Clifton Forge, Virginia, to Phyllis Reynolds and the late Donald Simmons.

In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by her grandparents, Hobart & Geneva Patterson and Abraham & Stella Simmons; father-in-law, James Reynolds; and sister, Darlene Wimberley.

Deanna attended Marshall University, where she earned her undergraduate degree and met her husband, Jimmy. She later continued her education at Radford University, where she obtained her MBA.

Deanna cherished her trips to the beach, where the soothing crash of waves and warm sand between her toes brought her peace and tranquility. She also enjoyed attending concerts with friends and family, with favorites including Alabama and Lionel Richie. If you knew Deanna, you knew just how much she adored the movie "The Wizard

of Oz!" as it was her very favorite movie and a borderline obsession. She had multiple hobbies, including reading and lounging by the pool. She also spent countless hours pouring love and attention into cross-stitching, a passion she passed down to her daughter. She used her cross-stitching to decorate her home and gift cherished projects to her loved ones, filling their homes with continued reminders of the love, attention, and time Deanna poured into them.

Deanna was a driving force and fiercely loyal to those lucky enough to know and love her. Her love, passion, and guidance were ever-present, and her legacy will carry on through her greatest joy and source of pride: her family.

Deanna was a driving force and fiercely loyal to those lucky enough to know and love her. Her love, passion, and guidance were ever-present, and her legacy will carry on through her greatest joy and source of pride: her family.

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.sttfc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

BETHEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD - 1683 Red Lane Extension, Salem, Va. Senior Pastor Jesse L. Bass. 540-580-7748. Sunday morning worship 10:30am. Wednesday night Bible Study "Facing your giants" 5:00pm

BAPTIST (INDEPENDENT)

THE BEACON BAPTIST CHURCH OF SALEM, 307 N. Bruffey Street, Salem, VA, and

THE BEACON CHRISTIAN ACADEMY K-12, 307 N. Bruffey Street, Salem, VA, Phone:

(276) 340-2445, Sunday Services: 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 5 p.m., Thursday Evening Services: 7 p.m. Find us on Facebook at: The Beacon Baptist Church or on the Web@bbcsalem.org, Pastor Jeremy Raby and the Congregation Welcome You! Independent, Fundamental, Bible Believing, KJV Bible Church

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.

LAKE SIDE 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

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. Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. with nursery available and children's ministry, Ladies Mission Group.

RIDGEWOOD BAPTIST - 540-342-6492 703 Hemlock Rd NW Roanoke, VA 24017 Website: www.rwbcva.com Dan Carawan, Pastor, Sunday School 9:45AM, Morning Worship 11:00AM Wednesday Bible Study 6:00PM, Youth 6:30PM, UPCOMING: Happy New Year. Come join us for worship as we look into Time, Tithes and Talents in the month of January. More activities coming soon!!

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

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POLICE REPORT

City of Salem Police Department



Weekly Arrest Report

Week of January 6, 2026 – January 12, 2026

1/6/2026	Jeremy M. Beard	39	Public Intoxication
1/7/2026	David L. Kuol	21	Public Intoxication, Entering/Setting Vehicle In Motion
1/10/2026	Sherry A. Price	45	Petit Larceny – Not From Person
1/11/2026	Brittany C. Buchanan	34	Battery on Emergency Healthcare Person
1/11/2026	Javion L. Crowder	19	Brandishing Firearm, Carrying Concealed Weapon
1/12/2026	Nevaeh L. Pagans	18	Embezzlement

City of Salem Police Department



Weekly Crime Report (Felony Cases)

Week of January 6, 2026 – January 12, 2026

DATE REPORTED	LOCATION	OFFENSE REPORTED
1/8/2026	0 BLK Wildwood Rd	Commercial Burglary
1/9/2026	1400 BLK Apperson Dr	Embezzlement

Salem WORSHIP DIRECTORY

EPISCOPAL

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 42 East Main Street, Salem, 389-9307. Rev. J. Edward Morris, Minister. 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 ChurchSalem, 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.clicchurch.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 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.salemppres.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, Sunday: Genesis Contemporary Service at 8:45 a.m., Traditional Service at 11:00 a.m., Sunday School classes meet at 9:50 a.m. www.fumcsalemva.org.

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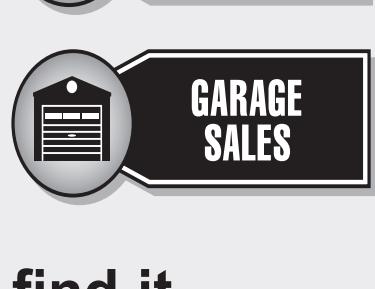
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Boston Red Sox announce RidgeYaks manager, staff for '26 season

The Salem RidgeYaks, in conjunction with the Boston Red Sox, have announced their coaching staff for the 2026 Carolina League season. The staff is highlighted by the return of manager Ozzie Chavez and four coaches from the 2025 Salem staff.

Nelson Paulino (Hitting Coach), Alex Reynolds (Pitching Coach), Kyle Schmidt (Defensive Coach) and Brenden Argomaniz (Assistant Pitching Coach) all return to Salem for the 2026 season. New additions to the RidgeYaks' coaching staff include Ivan Quackenbush (Assistant Hitting Coach), Jessica von Kessel (Athletic Trainer), and J.P. Echeverría (Strength and Conditioning Coach), completing the club's 2026 staff.

Chavez returns for his second consecutive season as Salem's manager after leading the club during the 2025 campaign. Now entering his fourth season with Salem, Chavez previously spent two seasons as the club's bench coach before being promoted to manager ahead of the 2025 season.

A former 12-year minor league player, Chavez brings prior managerial experience within the organization, having managed the Red Sox Dominican Republic Academy from 2019–22, including a run to the Dominican Summer League semifinals in 2022. Chavez has been a member of the Red Sox organization since 2015.

"Pepe" Paulino returns for his 29th season in the Red Sox organization and his 10th season as Salem's hitting coach. The longest-tenured coach in Salem baseball history, Paulino helped guide the 2025 Salem Red Sox to the highest team batting average in the Carolina League (.243). Salem also ranked among the league's top clubs in total hits (second, 1,019), home runs (second, 77), and extra-base hits (first, 303). Paulino first arrived in Salem in 2013 and has also made additional coaching stops with the Greenville Drive and Lowell Spinners.

Reynolds returns to Salem for his second consecutive season as pitching coach. Prior to joining Salem, Reynolds spent the 2023 and 2024 seasons with the Greenville Drive, serving as a development coach before being promoted to assistant pitching coach.

Reynolds grew up in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, and is a former catcher at Babson College. He played a key role in pitcher development during the 2025 season. Under his guidance, 14 Salem pitchers earned promotions to High-A Greenville, while Salem pitch-

ers collected six Carolina League Pitcher of the Week honors, the most by any team in the league.

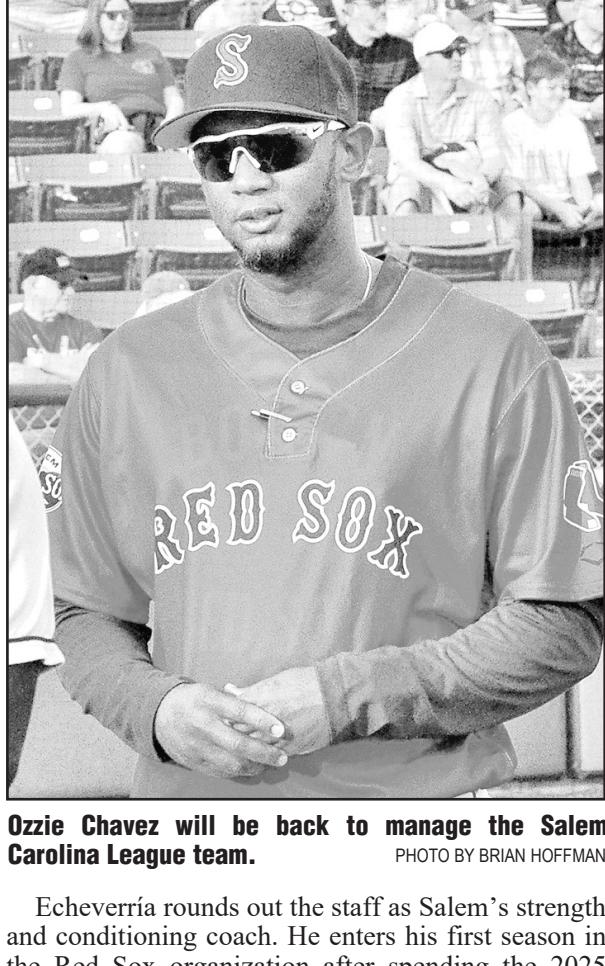
Schmidt returns for his third consecutive season in Salem and his second straight season as the club's defensive coach. Kyle joined the organization as a seasonal affiliate coach in 2024 before being promoted to defensive coach ahead of the 2025 season. Prior to coaching, Schmidt played professionally as a catcher in the Minnesota Twins organization from 2019–23. The University of Richmond product helped lead a Salem defense that ranked fourth in the Carolina League in total runners caught stealing in 2025.

Argomaniz enters his second season as Salem's assistant pitching coach. Prior to his arrival in Salem, Argomaniz spent the 2024 season as the pitching coach at Division II Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania. He also pitched at Orange Coast College and the University of Richmond, where he served as a weekend starter for the Spiders. Argomaniz was also a member of a 2022 Richmond squad that finished runners-up in the Atlantic-10 Conference Tournament.

Quackenbush begins his first season coaching in the Red Sox organization as Salem's assistant hitting coach. A native of England, Quackenbush played collegiately at St. Louis Community College and Ottawa University Arizona, graduating from Ottawa in 2021. He also represented Great Britain as a catcher on the British U23 National Team during the 2019 and 2021 European Championships.

Quackenbush began his coaching career at Division II Maryville University of Saint Louis in 2022 and returned to Maryville in 2024 following a season as the Director of Baseball Operations at Division I Missouri State University in 2023.

Jessica von Kessel earned a promotion from the Florida Complex League to Single-A Salem and will serve as the RidgeYaks' athletic trainer in 2026. A graduate of Marist University and Touro University, von Kessel spent the 2025 season in Fort Myers as the FCL Red Sox head athletic trainer and physical therapist. This will be her second season in the Red Sox organization, with previous experience including stops with the Tampa Bay Rays FCL club, the Long Island Ducks of the Independent Atlantic League, Division II Molloy College, and the Staten Island FerryHawks of the Atlantic League.



Ozzie Chavez will be back to manage the Salem Carolina League team.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Echeverría rounds out the staff as Salem's strength and conditioning coach. He enters his first season in the Red Sox organization after spending the 2025 season in the Athletics' minor league system as the assistant sport performance coach for the Arizona Complex League Athletics. His previous strength and conditioning experience includes stops at Huston-Tillotson University and Jacksonville College. A 2017 graduate of the University of Texas at San Antonio, Echeverría takes over the role previously held by José Benjamin.

The Salem RidgeYaks will take the field under their new identity for the first time on Thursday, April 2, 2026, when they host the Delmarva Shorebirds on Opening Day at Carilion Clinic Field. For more information on the upcoming season, visit ridgeyaks.com or call (540) 389-3333.

GHS girls come close against Craig but come up short again

The Glenvar girls saw their four season losing streak reach 54 games Monday with a 49-35 loss to Craig County.

The Highlanders were in Martinsville last Thursday where they fell 51-29. Audrey Moles had eight points, Grace Fiedler and Zella Hayes had seven each and Chloe Meyer had eight rebounds.

On Friday the girls hosted Patrick County and were in the game into the fourth quarter before falling 51-38. Moles had 10 points, Hayes had eight and

Ryan Jones had a dozen rebounds.

"We played much better in this game than we did in Martinsville," said coach Cheryl Hayes.

On Monday at home the girls were only down eight early in the fourth quarter before the Rockets pulled away. Moles had 14, Zella Hayes had eight and Fiedler scored seven points.

The Highlanders were home to William Byrd on Wednesday night but results were too late for publication. On Friday they travel to Floyd, then they have back-to-back home games against Martinsville and Giles next Tuesday and Wednesday. Giles is 2-9 thus far.

Grace Fiedler looks for an open teammate Monday.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Grace Fiedler looks for an open teammate Monday.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Tyler Barnes scores for the Maroons.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Glenvar's Landen Rakes shoots a three as the Highlander student section anticipates a splash.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

GLENVAR BOYS BASKETBALL

continued from page 12

coach Hank Luton. "Love how our guys competed and had a shot inside of two minutes to win the game. Martinsville is athletic, and well coached."

The Highlanders had to turn around and get on the bus to Stuart less than 24 hours later for a game against Patrick County. Doolan scored 26 as Glenvar returned with a well-earned 63-53 win. Bolling had 11, all in the second quarter.

"Parker shot the ball," said Luton. "Good district win on the road. Always tough to play back-to-back and Patrick is much improved. Proud of the defensive effort despite a ton of foul trouble. Guys are competing."

Marlins defeat RC women

The Roanoke College women will look to bounce back after dropping an Old Dominion Athletic Conference game in Virginia Beach last Saturday. The Maroons fell to Virginia Wesleyan, 74-50, in the first game of a double-header with the men.

The Maroons fell behind the Marlins early and never caught up after the first quarter. Alicea Farmer led the team

in scoring with 13 points while Paige Breuer and Moriah Tate had seven each. Ashley Fowler had six rebounds.

With the loss the Maroons fell to 7-8 overall and 1-5 in the ODAC. Roanoke was scheduled to host the University of Lynchburg on Wednesday and Friday they go to Randolph-Macon.

Cade Kinne paced RC in kills with eight while posting a .500 hitting percentage. Michael Cummins and Pierce Faulcon weren't far behind, tallying seven and six kills. All three of Roanoke's setters for the match hit double digit assists. Johnny Moran led the way with 17, followed by Gabe Fabbro with 12, and Leo Houser with 11.

After Tuesday the Maroons are off for 10 days before traveling to Pittsburgh, PA on January 30 to play Chatham University.

RC volleyball tops Shenandoah

The Roanoke College men's volleyball won their first ODAC match of the campaign as they defeated league newcomer Shenandoah, 3-0, at the Cregger Center in Salem Saturday. The Maroons improved to 2-0 overall and were scheduled to host Randolph College on Tuesday of this week.

Cade Kinne paced RC in kills with eight while posting a .500 hitting percentage. Michael Cummins and Pierce Faulcon weren't far behind, tallying seven and six kills. All three of Roanoke's setters for the match hit double digit assists. Johnny Moran led the way with 17, followed by Gabe Fabbro with 12, and Leo Houser with 11.

After Tuesday the Maroons are off for 10 days before traveling to Pittsburgh, PA on January 30 to play Chatham University.

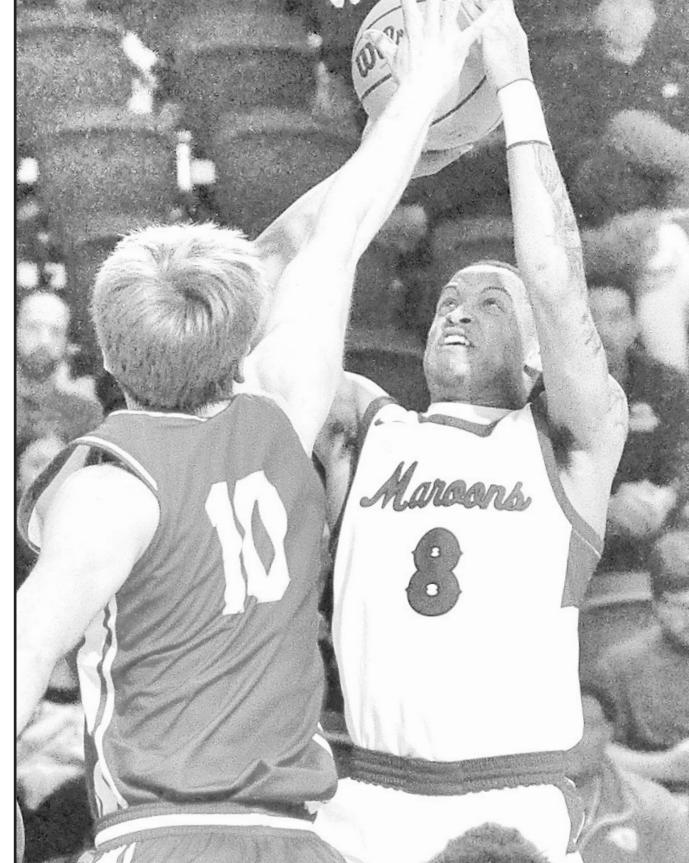
RC men's b'ball

cont. from pg 12

extended the advantage to eight. The Roanoke defense put the game away by allowing just one point in the final 2:44.

In addition to Bell and Morgan the Maroons got 14 points from Franze and 10 from Barnes. Bell added a game-high nine rebounds.

With the win the Maroons improved to 11-4 overall pending their trip to Lynchburg Wednesday. This Saturday Bridgewater is here for a 2 pm tip-off at the Cregger Center in Salem.



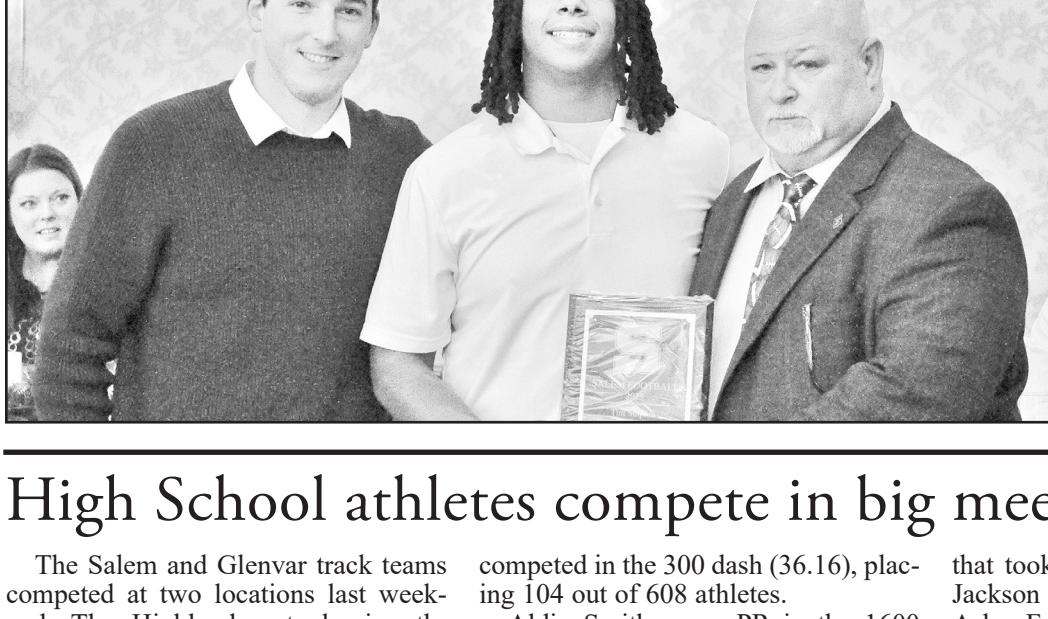
Tyler Barnes scores for the Maroons.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Above is Spartan Bell winner Jake James with Salem Times-Register Sports Editor Brian Hoffman, left, and Spartans head coach Don Holter, right. Right photo, Tolin Saul accepts the Spartan Silk Screen Scholar Athlete Award from SSS proprietor Richard Smith. Below, DJ Lynch was presented the Tim Sutphin Award. Left is Tim's son Chandler and right is Coach Holter.

PHOTOS BY GRACE MULLINS & BRIAN HOFFMAN



Spartans honor football athletes with banquet at the Salem Civic Center

The Salem Civic Center community room was the site of the annual Salem High School football banquet on Wednesday, January 14. Jeff Sluss, the "Voice of the Spartans" was the Master of Ceremonies and Spartan coach Don Holter conducted the evening honoring players, coaches and support staff from the fall season.

The jayvee and varsity teams were introduced with special recognition to Jordan McCadden for Honorable Mention All-State honors and first team All-Region 4D accolades. Jake James and Tolin Saul were cited as second team all-region selections.

Winners of the community sponsored awards included two honors for James, a sophomore. He won the Spartan Bell for hardest hitter, as presented by the Salem Times-Register, and the Ole Mule Award for top offensive lineman. Saul was the recipient of the Spartan Silk Screen Scholar Athlete Award and DJ Lynch was presented the Tim Sutphin Award for volunteering and passion for the game.

The Salem Sports Foundation gives out four awards. Winners were McCadden for the Danny Wheeling Award, Ethan Millard for the Bob Barnett Hustle Award, Tanner Overstreet for the Roger Surber Award and Kevin Easley took home the Johnny Jones Award.

Holter presented five awards given by the team. James won the Iron Spartan Award for work in the weight room and McCadden is the Popeye Buchanan Special Teams Player of the Year. Dillon Williams was presented the Salem Spartan Character Award and two Scout Team Awards were given in honor of the late Adam Ward. Tyler Correll was presented the Defensive Scout Team Award and the Offensive Award went to Mike Tatoute.

Seniors presented coaches with special gifts and the evening closed with the benediction by Overstreet and Michael Crawley.

Salem Times-Register Spartan Bell Winners

1977	Dale Weeks
1978	Dale Weeks
1979	Dale Weeks
1980	Carlton Ertel
1981	Larry Love
1982	Robert Houchin
1983	Tim Sutphin
1984	William Kimbrough
1985	Johnny Meadows
1986	Johnny Meadows
1987	David Sweeney
1988	Eddie Dooley
1989	Richard Goodpasture
1990	Richard Goodpasture
1991	Shaine Miles
1992	Chad Custer
1993	Michael Murphy
1994	Rusty Howell
1995	Rusty Howell
1996	Jeff Akers
1997	Ivan Brewer
1998	Ivan Brewer
1999	Chris Gumaer
2000	Spencer Christley
2001	Reico Jordan
2002	Austin Casey
2003	Austin Casey
2004	Jonas Rawlins
2005	Jonas Rawlins
2006	Nick Spradlin
2007	John Ribble
2008	Kyle Schwizer
2009	Seth Fisher
2010	Seth Fisher
2011	Devin Smith
2012	Chad Fisher
2013	Zack Hill
2014	Tyler Fedison
2015	Alex Ramsey
2016	Riley Fox
2017	Joseph Quinn
2018	Anthony Haupt
2019	Bobby Pinello
2020	Zavione Wood
2021	Noah Collins
2022	Jaelyn Allen
2023	Jaelyn Allen
2024	Jake James
2025	Jake James

High School athletes compete in big meets in Lynchburg, Virginia Beach

The Salem and Glenvar track teams competed at two locations last weekend. The Highlanders took six athletes to the big VA Showcase meet in Virginia Beach and both the Salem team and other Highlanders competed in the Walter Bass Invitational at Liberty University, which also had a large number of schools entered.

At Virginia Beach Glenvar senior Joey Loder was selected for the Invitational 55 hurdles, placing 15th out of 41 with a time of 7.67. He also

competed in the 300 dash (36.16), placing 104 out of 608 athletes.

Aldin Smith ran a PR in the 1600 with a time of 4:45.63 and a nine-second PR in the 3200 with a time of 10:10.66. The girls 4x400 relay with Anna Hall, Kailee McDonald, Rayya Bryson and Aiden Beverly had a season best with a time of 4:21.27.

At Liberty University Glenvar's Evan Harris took fifth in the boys' open 500 with a time of 1:10.10. Evan was also part of the boys' 4x800 team

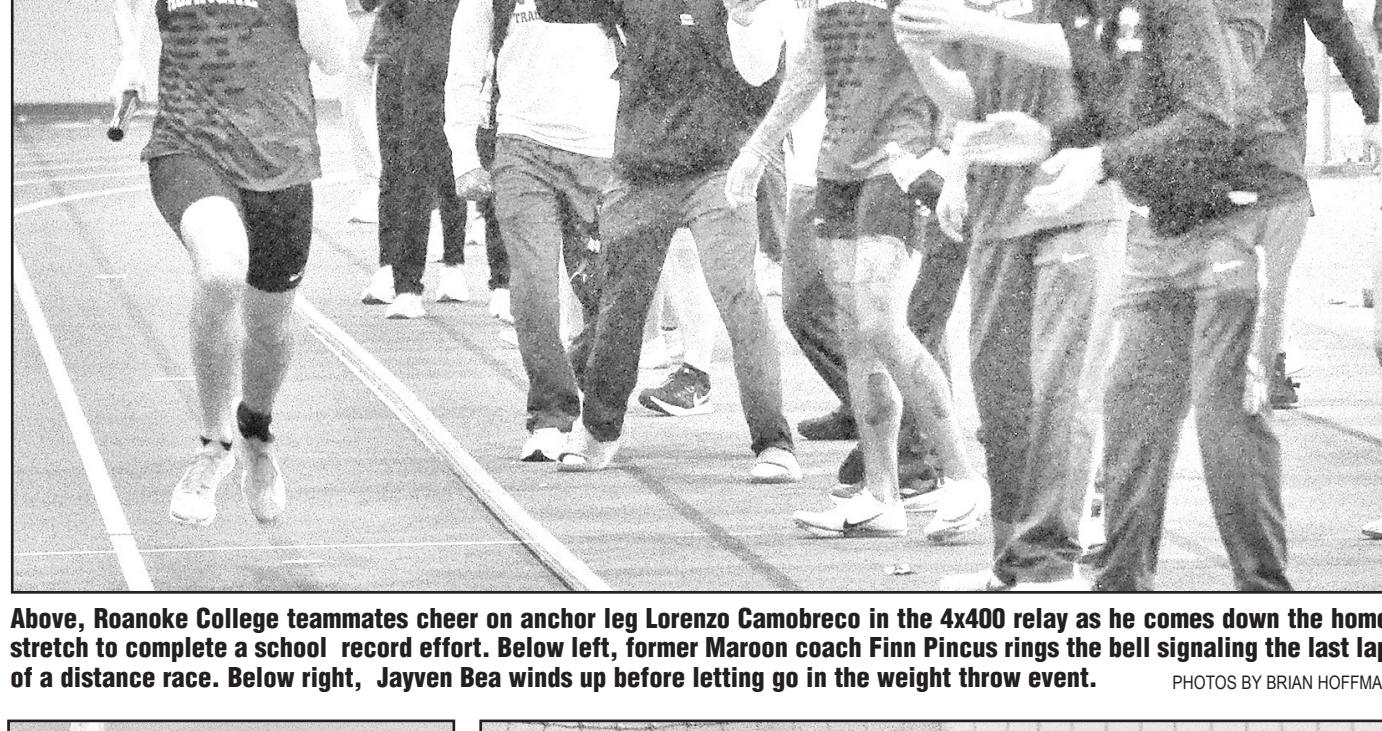
that took fifth overall with teammates Jackson Wimmer, Cash Malcolm and Asher Fought, and the boys 4x200 who ran a personal best with teammates Will Howard, Wimmer and Bill Brown.

"We are looking forward to being back together and preparing for our next meet on February 7th at Roanoke College for those who qualify," said coach Bekka Loder.

Salem also ran at Liberty and had some strong performances. DaVon Jones met the state standard in the

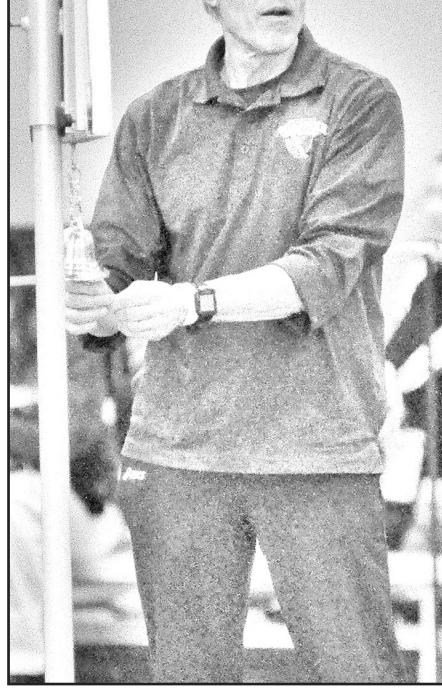
55 hurdles and Aedon Wiley did the same in the 300 dash. Salem's 4x400 team of Wiley, Jones, Fergins Ciril and Nicholas Baxley also met the state standard and Salem's 4x800 relay team finished fourth and ran a season's best with Grant Horner, Isaac Snow, Austin Prosser and John Stovall.

"We were very happy to get back to the fast, banked track at Liberty University," said coach Tom Roth. "Although it was a very long day, we had many season best performances."



Above, Roanoke College teammates cheer on anchor leg Lorenzo Camobreco in the 4x400 relay as he comes down the home stretch to complete a school record effort. Below left, former Maroon coach Finn Pincus rings the bell signaling the last lap of a distance race. Below right, Jayven Bea winds up before letting go in the weight throw event.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



The Roanoke College track team hosted a home meet for the first time this season last Saturday and had some strong performances. The Kerr-Cregger Fieldhouse was the site of the annual Finn Pincus Invitational, named for the former RC Hall of Fame track coach.

For the men, the Distance Medley Relay team of Ian Fellows, Brandon Heffinger, Elias Ammon, and Nathaniel Orban leads the country in the event after posting a program record time of 10:26.83. They won the event by just over 25 seconds. RC took the first five spots in the mile with Orban (4:28.24), Beau Brebner (4:30.87), Fellows (4:31.70), Aaron Massey (4:32.26), and Samuel Brasler (4:34.92).

Lorenzo Camobreco won the 400m with a time of 49.08. His program record breaking performance puts him ninth in the country and first in the conference. Ammon won the 800m race with a time of 1:57.09 and now leads the ODAC in the event. The Roanoke 4x400m squad of Max Cardwell, Heffinger, Ammon, and Camobreco won the event. Their time of 3:21.32 set a new program record while placing them atop the conference and fifth in the nation.

Mitchell Taylor, a Salem High grad, qualified for the finals in the 60m hurdles while taking second with a time of 8.33. Salem High grad Bryson Hill and Sam Linebaugh were the top two DIII finishers in the 200m, taking second and fourth.

For the women, Rebecca Carr, Ophelia Ladner and Olivia Viers went 1-2-3 in the qualifier for the 60m hurdles. Viers led the way in the final at 9.17 seconds, followed by Carr at 9.37, and Ladner at 9.61 to go 2-3-4.

The DMR squad of Ava Wray, Maryrose Molina-Shuman, Allie Gallaher and Maya Herndon won the event by 22 seconds with a time of 13:31.10. They move into fifth in program history. The squad also currently sits first in the ODAC and fifth in the nation.

Roanoke is back in action this weekend when the Maroons head to the Liberty Open in Lynchburg.



PHOTOS BY KYNN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Left, Sayge Herndon of Salem took first place in 106 weight class at the Big Blue. Herndon wrestled Peter Escudero of Fort Mill (pictured) in the final match, winning 4 to 1. Right, Levi Wright of Glenvar took first place in the 144 weight class. Wright wrestled Quin Carter of Magna Vista in the finals (pictured), winning that match 22 to 7.

Spartans are second, Glenvar fifth in Big Blue wrestling

Salem High was second and Glenvar was fifth among 18 teams that scored in last weekend's Big Blue wrestling tournament in Christiansburg.

The Spartans were the top team from Virginia as Fort Mill High from South Carolina won the tournament with 275 points. Salem was second with 198.5 while host Christiansburg was third at 162.5. Grayson County was next with 153.5 and Glenvar was fifth with 146.

"Another great weekend of wrestling," said Salem coach Lawrence

Van Liew. "We had a few guys come back to the lineup who are still not 100% percent but they made a big difference."

Salem had two champions, Sayge Herndon at 106 and Derek Bush at 120. Three other Spartans made the finals but settled for second, Kolynn Eastman at 126, Anthony Baudanza at 132 and Robert Herndon at 285. Wrestling back to win consolation finals for third were Giuseppe Baudanza at 138 and Keegan Price at 190, and taking fourth were Patrick

Patterson at 113 and Aaron Gordon at 190.

"It really was a whole team effort again this weekend," said Van Liew. "This year we have faced adversity, illness, injury, etcetera, but still have managed to take first, second and third at some very big competitions. I am excited for post season with this momentum we are building."

Glenvar had a champion with Levi Wright at 144. Nick Yetzer was second at 113, Haden Henderson was third at 150 and fourth places went to

Jack Yetzer at 106, Jack Osburn at 157 and John Vishneski at 165.

Glenvar is now off until the Highlander Invitational on January 30 and 31. Salem was at Blacksburg for a quad match on Wednesday and tonight, Thursday, the Spartans have a tri-match in Daleville with host Lord Botetourt and Jefferson Forest. This weekend Salem is at Orange County for the "Coach K Memorial" tournament.

"Very big tournament," said Van Liew.

Lewis caps off undefeated mat season with win at Norseman Invitational

The Andrew Lewis Middle School wrestling team capped off an undefeated season by winning the Norseman Invitational at Northside Middle School last weekend with four individual champions. Glenvar finished eighth and had two champions.

Lewis won the meet with 193.5 points to 178 for second place Read Mountain, and William Byrd was third with 164.5. Individual champions for Lewis were Christopher Verner, Brooks Oliver, Zaire Reynolds and Grant Martin.

Glenvar had two individual champions, Ethan Yetzer and Wyatt Frantz.

Lewis also finished undefeated in dual matches. The Wolverines won their final dual match against Central Academy last Wednesday. CAMS was also undefeated in dual matches prior to falling to the Wolverines.

Top-ranked Roanoke wrestlers are undefeated in dual matches

The Roanoke College wrestling team, ranked number one in the nation in Division III, remained undefeated in dual matches with a 42-3 win over Marymount last Sunday afternoon. The match was held at the Mill Mountain Theatre in Roanoke, which has become an annual attraction for the RC team.

With the win the Maroons improved to 12-0 in duals. RC started the match with four-straight technical falls: Mac Cafurello (19-3 at 125), Jude Robson (20-5 at 133), Mark Samuel (15-0 at 141) and Taylor Smith (21-6 at 149).

Casey Smith scored the only pin of the afternoon at 157 in 4:37.

After Marymount earned a decision victory at 165, the Maroons posted two technical falls with Joe Zereini (17-2 at 174) and Brock Sullivan (16-1 at 184). Hunter Moore won, 8-2, at 197 and Nicholas Cook closed out the dual at 285 with a dramatic 4-1 win in the sudden victory session.

The Maroons will be back on the mats to take on Greensboro College for a dual in Greensboro, NC on Thursday, January 29.



UNDEFEATED CHAMPIONS



Above, the Andrew Lewis Middle School wrestling team takes a photo with the championship trophy at the Norseman Invitational Saturday. Left is the Glenvar Middle School team.

PHOTOS COURTESY LEWIS & GLENVAR WRESTLING

Maroon swimmers finish regular season

The Roanoke College swim team completed the regular season with a meet against Southern Virginia at the Rockbridge Aquatic Center last Saturday. The RC men took a 153-84 win while the women tied, 121-all.

The men won nine events, including two relays. The Maroons' 200 medley relay team of Jack White, Morgan Taylor, Tyler Hill and Dyllan Hartman started off the meet with a win in 1:38.94 and the

foursome of Peyton Meyer, Ryan Franceys, Hartman and Hill teamed up to win the 200 free in 1:31.31. Franceys won both the 100 and 200 freestyle events.

The women won seven races. Halle Schart won the 50 yard breaststroke in 33.07 and the 500 free in 5:27.40. Carter Satterfield won the 100 breast in 1:13.78 and the 200 IM in 2:19.41.

The Maroons are now off until the ODAC championships in Greensboro, NC on February 11.

Glenvar, Salem swimmers are back in the water Tuesday

The Salem and Glenvar swimmers will be back in the water next Tuesday for meets. Salem will be in Christiansburg while Glenvar is home for a meet at the Salem YMCA.

Glenvar swam at the Salem Y last Thursday with five other schools. The Highlanders swept the boys' opponents and the girls went 4-1, losing only to a strong Radford team by a narrow margin.

For the boys Landon Cairns earned victories in both the 200-yard individual medley (2:11.95) and the 100-yard freestyle (52.84). Aspen Thompson also turned in a standout performance, winning the 100-yard butterfly (1:01.20) and the 100-yard breaststroke (1:11.59). Both of Thompson's individual

swims met VHSL state qualifying standards.

The Highlanders closed the meet by sweeping the 400-yard freestyle relay, finishing first and second with times of 4:09.61 and 4:11.56, completing a

clean sweep of all five opposing teams.

The Glenvar girls were led by Macy McMahon, who won the 200-yard freestyle in 2:17.33 and later placed second in the 100-yard butterfly. The girls closed the meet with

a win in the 400-yard freestyle relay, as Evelyn Gard, Sophie Childers, Chloe Childers, and McMahon touched first in 4:52.85.

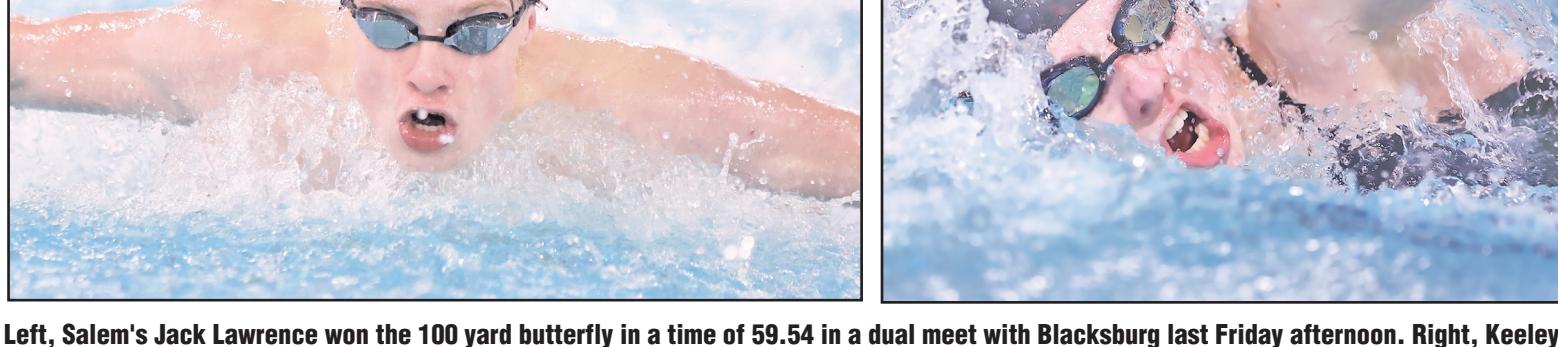
"It was a fun and competitive evening of swimming with many

Highlanders setting new personal records and others swimming tougher events for the first time," said Glenvar coach Shannon Hall.

The Swimming Highlanders had a solid meet Thursday night

against Liberty, with strong performances from both the boys and girls teams.

The Spartans had a dual meet in Blacksburg with the host Bruins last Friday.



Left, Salem's Jack Lawrence won the 100 yard butterfly in a time of 59.54 in a dual meet with Blacksburg last Friday afternoon. Right, Keeley Prosser of the Spartans swims the 100 yard freestyle.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

SPORTS

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Spartans get another shot at Cave Spring Friday

The Salem High boys' basketball team will have a chance to avenge one of their two losses when the Spartans play at Cave Spring High Friday night. Salem lost to Cave Spring in Salem on December 19, 63-52, and the Spartans have only lost one more time since.

"In the first game we played pretty well in the first half but we didn't shoot well in the second half," said Salem coach Kevin Garst. "We missed four or five outside shots decided to settle instead of taking the ball inside."

The Spartans are 8-1 since that game and were riding a four game winning streak prior to Wednesday's game with Lord Botetourt, which was too late for press deadlines. Last Friday in Dublin the Spartans pulled out a 62-60 River Ridge District win over host Pulaski.

"They're dangerous," said Garst. "They're not tall but they can shoot the ball. They can beat anyone on a given night."

Salem led 44-30 at the half and appeared to have the game under control. However, the Cougars came out firing after halftime and outscored Salem 22-4 in the third quarter to take a 52-48 lead into the final period. The Spartans regrouped and held off the Cougars to pick up a close win. Cam Boles and Gabe Martin had 14 each to lead Salem and Braylon Smith and Tanner Overstreet had a dozen each. Boles had nine rebounds and three assists.

"That was a good win for us against a good team, playing on the road," said Garst.

On Monday the Spartans played at Alleghany, where the Cougars are coached by former Roanoke College forward Seth Bradley. Again the Spartans went up early, leading 31-22 at the half, but this time they didn't give up the lead in the second half as they took a 66-59 win.

Oliver Gilliam led Salem in scoring with a season-high 15 points. Smith had 13, Elijah Paddyfote had 10 and Overstreet had eight points and 10 rebounds. Salem outrebounded Alleghany 34-21 and had 38 points in the paint compared to 16 for the Cougars.

With the win the Spartans improved to 12-2 overall. After hosting LB on Wednesday and playing at Cave Spring Friday they have three home games next week. Blacksburg is here Tuesday, Hidden Valley Friday and a make-up game with Mecklenburg on Saturday, January 31 at 3:30 pm.



Left, Salem's Gabriel Claxton-Martin goes to the hoop to score. Right, Jack Stroud shoots a three pointer.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Salem's Emme Custer passes around a Pulaski opponent to find a cutting teammate in last Friday's win over the Cougars at Salem High.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Highlanders host Floyd Co. in big game

The Glenvar boys' basketball team will have their hands full as they host Floyd County on Friday and then play at Martinsville next Tuesday. Floyd comes into the week at 11-1 and Martinsville is 11-3 and the only team to beat Floyd this season.

The Highlanders were 6-8 overall and 2-3 in the Three Rivers District after splitting two games last week. Glenvar was at William Byrd on Wednesday of this week but results were too late for publication.

Glenvar had a tough back-to-back on Thursday and Friday last week, opening with a 75-66 loss to Martinsville at home. Parker Doolan led the Highlanders with 19 points, Jax Bolling had 11 and James Housh scored 10 and had a big fourth quarter to keep the Highlanders close.

"Another close district loss, this time to arguably the best team in AA," said Glenvar



Glenvar's James Housh lines up a three pointer.

continued on page 9

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Maroons are back in the ODAC race after wins over Tigers, Marlins

The Roanoke College men's basketball team picked up two big wins in the span of four days to jump back into the Old Dominion Athletic Conference race. The Maroons beat Hampden-Sydney in Salem last Wednesday, 62-47, then traveled to Virginia Beach Saturday where they gave host Virginia Wesleyan University their first conference loss of the season, 73-64.

After last weekend three ODAC teams now have one conference loss, Washington & Lee, Randolph-Macon and Virginia Wesleyan, while three others have just two losses, RC, Hampden-Sydney and Averett. The Maroons were scheduled to play at the University of Lynchburg on Wednesday but results were too late for publication.

The win over Hampden-Sydney was big as it was a bounce-back game after losing a heartbreaker to Washington & Lee, by one point, in their previous outing. Roanoke jumped up on the Tigers 28-19 at the half and a 9-0 run with just under five minutes to play sealed the win. Roanoke's defense held the visitors to just three-for-23 shooting from three-point range.

Junior Jackson Bell earned the first double-double of his career, scoring 17 points with 10 rebounds and four assists. Caleb Franze had 11 points and Marcus Morgan finished with eight points, nine rebounds, four assists and three steals.

On Saturday at Virginia Beach Bell and Morgan led the charge

again with 17 points each as the Maroons downed the Marlins.

Roanoke led by as many as nine points in the first half but the Marlins cut the edge to 37-36 by intermission. The Maroons led by just two points with two minutes left in the contest before layups by Tyler Barnes and Bell and two free throws by Patrick Clevenger

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