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Salem Fire & EMS welcomes academy graduates

Aila Boyd
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Salem Fire & EMS welcomed new firefighter/EMTs following Friday's graduation from the Roanoke Valley Regional Recruit Academy, marking the completion of weeks of training and the beginning of their careers in the fire service. During the Academy 41 graduation ceremony, officials congratulated the recruits and welcomed them into the profession, expressing confidence in their future service to the community. The department recognized Acting Capt. S. Candler with the Outstanding Fire

Instructor Award for his dedication, professionalism and commitment to training the next generation of firefighters. Officials also thanked Chaplain Hughes for his continued support and encouragement and for the meaningful role he played in the graduation ceremony. The graduates joining Salem Fire & EMS are: Firefighter/EMT Caden Butt, who previously worked for United Healthcare, will be assigned to A-shift. Butt said he is looking forward to continuing the learning experience and becoming part of a firehouse family. Firefighter/EMT Luke Reeves, formerly

a bartender, will serve on B-shift. Reeves said his favorite part of the academy was creating the connections and brotherhood within his class. He also received the Chris Brown Character Award. Firefighter/EMT Ryan Kovach, who previously worked as an EMT, will join C-shift. Kovach said he most enjoyed meeting people working toward the same goal. He earned the Jeff Beckner Top Gun Award. Firefighter/EMT Emilio Smith, formerly employed in banking and finance, will serve on A-shift. Smith said he is most looking forward to helping people on their worst days, inspired by those who helped him

and his family. Firefighter/EMT Dexter McCraw, who previously worked as a recruiter assistant for the Virginia Army National Guard, will be assigned to C-shift. McCraw said he looks forward to working with like-minded people and helping others. He also received the Physical Fitness Award. Firefighter/EMT Hannah Brooke, formerly an EMT and virtual monitor technician for Carilion, will join B-shift. Brooke said her favorite part of the academy was the bonds she formed while pushing herself beyond what she thought were her limits. Firefighter/EMT Matthew StClair, who



COURTESY PHOTO
Members of Academy 41 pose following Friday's graduation from the Roanoke Valley Regional Recruit Academy. The graduating class includes Salem Fire & EMS' newest firefighter/EMTs.

previously worked for UPS, will serve on B-shift. StClair said he is most looking forward to having a new purpose and reaching his full potential as he begins his career. The department said the graduates will continue their training and gain experience while serving alongside their assigned crews.

Friendship dedicated historic daylily garden honoring Richfield Living founder



COURTESY PHOTOS
The Jane Morgan Harris Daylily Garden was dedicated on June 23.

Aila Boyd
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Friendship Retirement Community dedicated the Jane Morgan Harris Daylily Garden on Tuesday, June 23, honoring the nurse and founder of Richfield Living whose work helped shape health care in the Roanoke Valley. The dedication was part of Friendship's 60th anniversary celebration and recognized leaders whose compassion and service continue to influence the

organization's mission. According to Friendship, Richfield Living's history began in 1934 when Harris assisted a mother giving birth in an abandoned gas station. Moved by the lack of accessible health care for women and families with limited financial means, she established a care facility in a farmhouse on what later became the Richfield campus. That effort eventually grew into Richfield Living, which served older adults throughout the region for decades.



The new garden sign was unveiled during the ceremony.

Friendship welcomed Richfield Living into its nonprofit organization in 2023. The organization said its commitment to providing care for older adults, including those who outlived their financial resources, reflected the same spirit of compassion and service that inspired Harris more than 90 years earlier. While a chapel on the campus once bore Harris' name, no permanent tribute remained after campus renovations. The Jane Morgan Harris Garden now serves as a lasting memorial to one

of the Roanoke Valley's earliest female health care pioneers. The garden was recognized by the American Daylily Society as a Historic Display Garden and featured more than 500 daylily cultivars, including varieties dating to 1938. The ceremony included live music by musicians from the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, opportunities for guests to tour the historic garden, and heavy hors d'oeuvres and fellowship following the dedication.



Bla Fjell Lodge members Ken Ostby, left, and Joann Barfield carry the Sons of Norway banner in the recent Local Colors Parade of Nation.

Sons of Norway to hold annual picnic

Meg Hibbert
Contributing writer

Members and guests of Bla Fjell, Sons of Norway, will hold their annual picnic on

Saturday, July 25, from 3-5 p.m. at the home of a member. Call 540 380 2926 for information. The organization

See Norway, page 4

Rotary Club of the Roanoke Valley installs new officers



Rotary District 8 Governor Carolyn Gordon, right, installs new officers for the Rotary Club of the Roanoke Valley at the June 30 meeting of the club at the Tanglewood Holiday Inn. From left, they are John Bryant, Walt Baumel, Hayward Statum, Natalie Smith, Mohammad Hasson and Janet Johnson.

Meg Hibbert
Contributing writer

New officers were installed for the Rotary Club of the Roanoke Valley on June 30. Leading the local civic organization in 2026-2027 will be President Mohammad Hasson, President-elect Mark McRoy, Past President and new Secretary Janet Johnson, Treasurer Natalie Smith and Sergeant-at-Arms John Bryant. At-large board members are Walter Baumel, Hayward Statum and Garland Bowman. They were installed by Area 8 Governor Carolyn Gordon.

The Rotary Club of the Roanoke Valley meets for breakfast on Tuesdays at the Tanglewood Holiday Inn. For more information, see the club's Facebook page.



Salem Fair opened yesterday, runs through July 12

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The 38th Salem Fair opened Wednesday at the Salem Civic Center and Taliaferro Complex, bringing rides, entertainment, food and special events to visitors through July 12. Billed as America's largest free-gate fair, the annual event is expected to draw between

250,000 and 350,000 patrons during its 12-day run. Fair organizers said the midway features approximately 40 rides spread across 14 acres of carnival space, along with more than 30 food vendors, free daily shows and 2,000 parking spaces. Shuttle buses operate from a parking lot at 1501 Roanoke Blvd. once fair parking

See Fair, page 3



PHOTO BY AILA BOYD
Preparations for the Salem Fair were underway at the Salem Civic Center Tuesday morning.

Saturday, July 4th Only! 8AM - 7PM

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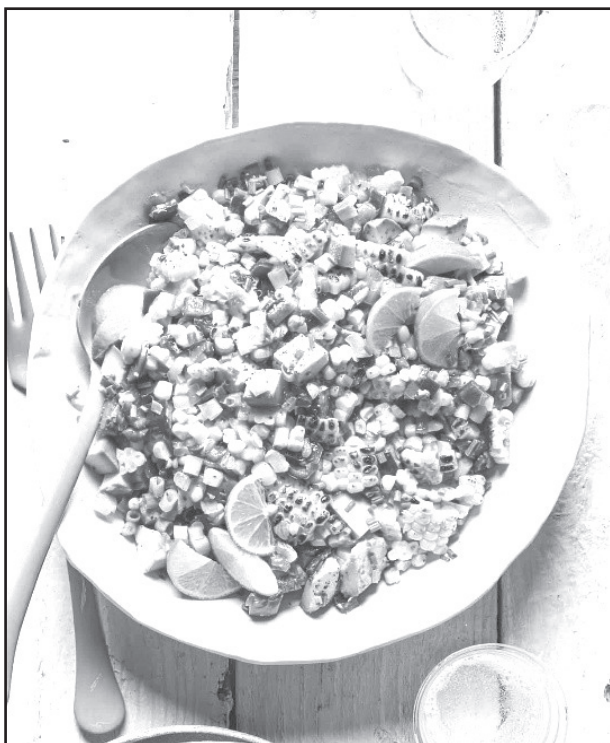
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Dr. Susan M. Gorman
 Director, Center for the Study of Women in Society
 Department of Psychology
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Contributing Writer

This year we will celebrate America's 250th birthday (Semi-quincentennial or Quarter Millenium) on July 4th, 2026, with festive recipes, red-white-and-blue desserts like a lush cake, and a variety of salads.

In a food processor crush all the cookies into crumbs. Place the cookies into a large bowl and add the melted butter. Stir until well blended. Press the cookie crumbs into the bottom of a 9x13 glass baking dish. Next prepare the fillings. In small bowl, place the cherry gelatin, and add $\frac{1}{3}$ cup boiling water. Whisk together until combined and most of



Grill the corn on an indoor or outdoor grill until lightly charred. Remove kernels from the cob. In a large skillet, heat the oil over medium high heat. Add the onion and poblano and sauté for 5-7 minutes until translucent. Add the green onions, and garlic and sauté for 60 seconds. Add corn and season with salt and pepper. Remove from heat and taste and adjust as needed. Transfer to a serving bowl and let cool slightly. Add the herbs, lime, avocado, salt and pepper to toss to combine. Serve with extra limes if desired. Notes: Grilled Corn is usually done in about 5-10

First drain pineapple and oranges, reserving liquid. Prepare the pudding with 1 c. of the reserved liquid, whisking until mixture is smooth. In a large bowl combine pineapple, strawberries and oranges. Gently fold in pudding mixture. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Add bananas and blueberries to mixture right before serving.



cover and refrigerate until cold, about 30 minutes. Just before serving, add macadamia nuts and arugula to watermelon mixture. In a small bowl, whisk vinaigrette and oil; drizzle over salad and toss to coat. Sprinkle with cheese.

from page 1

New attractions for 2026 include Circus Incredible, the Extreme Raptor Show, Pretty Bird Paradise, the All American Petting Zoo and a VA250 Car Project display on July 1-2. Returning attractions include Danny Grant Cowboy Circus, the All American Pig Races and Hilby: The German Juggling Boy.

Among the midway attractions are the Giant Wheel, Zipper, Typhoon, Tornado, Wave Swinger, Music Express, Dragon Coaster and Zero Gravity, along with numerous family and children's rides. Organizers noted that the ride lineup is subject to

Visitors also can choose from a wide

The area in front of the Salem Civic Center is closed to vehicle traffic during the fair to improve pedestrian access between parking areas, shuttle bus drop-off locations and the fairgrounds.

from page 1

The Blå Fjell (Blue Mountain) Lodge recently was awarded the International Family Lodge of the Year. The award recognizes commitment to providing a

The purpose of Sons of Norway nationally is to preserve heritage and culture of Norway and other Nordic countries (Sweden, Denmark, Finland

Meetings¹ consist of a half hour of gathering time with Nordic

For more information, contact Joann Barfield, vice president and membership director, at mighbarfield@gmail.com or phone 540 380 2926.



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OPINION

*The Salem Public Library will be closed Friday, July 3-Monday, July 6 in observance of the 4th of July holiday. *

July children’s activities

Wednesdays, July 8, 15, 22, 29; 11am. Ages 0-5. Story Explorers. Create lifelong readers! Join us for stories, songs, and boisterous fun as we share our love of books with your child. Register at salemva.libcal.com

Wednesdays, July 8, 15, 22, 29; 3:15-4:15pm. Barks & Books. Grades 1-5; must be 6 years old to attend. Read with a therapy dog! These mellow dogs love books and can’t wait to listen to you read. Everyone who signs up gets at least 10 minutes to read with a dog. You can bring your own book or pick one out when you arrive! Register at salemva.libcal.com

Thursdays, July 9, 16, 23, 30; 10:15am. Book Babies. Special Storytime designed especially for infants and crawlers. Register at salemva.libcal.com

Thursday, July 9, 16, 23, 30; 11am. Ages 0-5. Story Explorers. Create lifelong readers! Join us for stories, songs, and boisterous fun as we share our love of books with your child. Register at salemva.

Library Corner

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Tuesday, July 14, 2-3pm; Open to grade K-6. Adopt a Rock: Join us at the library for our adoption event for the ultimate low-maintenance pet: a rock! Decorate both your new pet *and* its new digs, as well as receive an official certificate of adoption.

July adult programs

Thursday, July 9, 2pm, Ages 18+; Afternoon Games for Adults. Come drop in for a fun afternoon of board games, card games, and jigsaw puzzles. Refreshments will be provided.

Monday, July 13, 10:30am: Friends of Salem Library meeting. Members will discuss advocacy and support initiatives, book sales, and more!

Tuesday, July 14, 6:30pm: True Crime Book Club. A book club to discuss cold cases and old crimes. This month we are reading “The Carpool Detectives” by Chuck Hogan, a true crime story of four suburban moms who investigate a double homicide cold case in their hometown.

Tuesday, July 14, 7pm. Virtual Speaker Event: Small Towns and Big Secrets: In Conversation with Bestselling Author Karin Slaughter. Register at <https://libraryc.org/salempubliclibrary/> to watch at home. Register ahead of time to take part in the live discussion, and for an exclusive sneak peek of *The Secrets We Hide*, coming out August 11, 2026!

Wednesday, July 15, 2:00pm: Solo Aging Book Club. Are you a solo ager looking for a thoughtful, supportive space to read and talk about books on aging? Join us for the launch of the Solo Aging Book Club, a reader- guided group exploring the many dimensions of growing older. At our first meeting, participants may choose from selected titles or bring a book of their own interest related to aging. *A solo ager is any older adult living alone without supportive family or other help nearby.* Register at salemva.libcal.com or call the Salem Library at 540-375-3089.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

On July 4, 2026, America will celebrate its semiquincentennial or 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Black Americans observed Juneteenth on June 19, 1865, commemorating that federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to announce the end of slavery months after the war had actually ended and two years after the Emancipation Proclamation.

These two holidays together can make a powerful point about America’s current state of affairs. In 2024, Americans elected a "lesser of two evils" president who promised to “Make America great... again.” Americans weren't so sure the first time around and were glad to be rid of Donald J Trump in 2020, but at least he hadn’t started wars. The 2020 race saw a sort of brotherhood of Democratic party players (President Barack Obama, Congressman Clyburn) maneuvering a struggling Joe Biden into nomination and preventing (for the second time) an “upstart” popular, elder and socialist Bernie Sanders

from sweeping in as the Democratic nominee to take away votes from "true" Democrats. Those party leaders steadfastly cleared the path to monopolize their own worn-out messages, standing their ground at their own 2024 presidential convention to bar pro-Palestinian voices from having a two-minute turn to speak while Palestinians endured genocide under self-proclaimed Zionist President Biden.

A demented President Biden never thought to restrict a steady flow of US weapons to rain down on starving Palestinian families surviving in flimsy tents. Our proxy/ally/co-conspirator, Israel, excels in targeting and killing women and children, journalists along with their entire families (Where’s Daddy?) and completely flattening an Israeli “outdoor prison” of Palestinian Gaza after Palestinians’ October 7, 2023 “surprise” attack on Israel that very well have been engineered by Israeli leaders to allow to take place. Israeli leaders ignored warnings of their own watchguards that flying machines were being prepared on their border for attack while also allowing a music festival to be located near the “border.”

It so happens that Israel has very low threshold great tolerance for leaders engaging in corruption and taking bribes – – far stricter than America's lenient constitutional emoluments clause allows. This matters, because as long as Israeli Leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, can claim that Israel is being attacked, he can avoid a judicial slam dunk prison sentence. And although Israelis despise Bibi, they love what he is doing.

Bibi’s dilemma rekindled Israel’s greater Israel project starting with an obvious Gaza genocide and continuing its long-held dream of obliterating the State of Iran—Israel’s main rival and obstacle to a Greater Israel project whose symbol is emblazoned on every Israeli Defense Fighter's uniform. Since the “Greater Israel” project requires capture of the American Empire for nonstop wars, America became what its citizens are coming to believe is a failed democracy that fails to respond to its own citizens. America is functioning as a “slave” force for an entitled Israel—our partner-in-crime--an Israel who is liberated from any constraints of international law and has drawn our empire into its evil web, making both Israel and the US despised by the rest of the world. Affected countries are seeking new security partners and architecture as they gain confidence in gravitating toward stable and more principled China with a long-term plan.

Because Bibi wanted to stay out of prison with Trump’s continuing help, thousands died and are still dying in Lebanon for nothing. For reasons yet

unacknowledged, Trump followed Israel to dismantle Iran whose main sin was escaping the clutches of America’s Empire long ago. In June 2025, President Trump named the Iran conflict the “12 Day War” declaring that Iran's nuclear capability had been obliterated. Nevertheless, Trump’s appeasement of Bibi to prosecute "Epic Fury" cost Americans over \$40 billion on extra gasoline and diesel plus inflation, \$2 billion of military equipment, the cost of deploying troops in the Strait of Hormuz,16 troops dead, 400 wounded and substantial loss of standing around the world. Trump’s “Epic Fury” adding an estimated \$1 trillion to our children's credit bill sacrifices their future and seems at long last to have instigated citizens' "epic fury" in Americans now so disgusted at the billionaire-controlled, forever war state we’ve become, that a new energy is rising to restore sanity, reality and justice to a system so warped that it is unrecognizable and has become a parody of governance. Leaders have become a fire hose of wasteful spending while Americans can’t even afford health insurance.

All this is not something to celebrate, but perhaps our semiquincentennial will be marked in history as the moment Americans realize that almost no one in our government has our backs and citizens mobilize. If we are to reclaim a semblance of democratic values, “We the people” must do it ourselves because our government is weaponized against us.

I approve the concept: “Make America Great,” but current leaders have made a mockery of that—especially now post-9/11, Americans polled a majority opposing a new war in Iran before it even started and now realize our entire leadership has gone horribly wrong with America’s disfunction spreading worldwide. Criminals are elevated and those exercising their rights are criminalized and imprisoned.

In every sense, it is a cruel perversion of the lofty founding American values: criminals and grifters are installed in government posts, pardoned for their deeds by our criminal-in-chief, who continues to be empowered by stooge US congressmen and whose overwhelming congressional majority follows orders of their AIPAC minders to ensure that Congress gives Israel everything it demands despite it not being in America's interest.

In our semiquincentennial, we wait for decades for our own liberation yet to deliver us from a corrupt, arguably fascist takeover of our current government where all must be in adulation of the leader. Sycophants surrounding Trump play along instead of sounding the alarm. Trump is surrounded by Israeli agents and Zionists. Now,

See **Editor**, page 5

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		
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CLUES ACROSS

1. __ chat

5. Statue near the Pyramids

11. A process to change the look

14. Herb

15. Think about excessively

18. Bass vocal part

19. Supreme Allied Cmdr. of NATO

21. A major division of geological time

23. New Zealand parrot

24. Cognitive contents

28. Lump of yarn

29. Atomic #109

30. Let go of

32. Indian title of respect

33. Whereabouts

unknown

35. Electronic data processing

36. Drivers’s licenses count

39. Snake-like fishes

41. They precede C

42. Popular personal computers

44. Intermediate community stage in ecological succession

46. Wings

47. Indicates position

49. Pleasantly smooth

or soft

56. In slow tempo

58. __ Falls

60. Reassertions

62. Eras

63. Hyphen

CLUES DOWN

1. Corporate executive

2. A plant used for flavoring food

3. Opinion or belief

4. Sheep in their second year

5. Intensities of sound

6. Indicates support for

7. Expression of laughter

8. OJ trial judge

9. Pointed ends of pens

10. True bugs genus

12. Lawyers argue theirs

13. Body parts

16. Closes tightly

17. World Heritage site in Nigeria

20. Islamic calendar month

22. Commercial

25. ‘O’Westworld’s actor

Harris

26. They __

27. Religious guilds

29. Woman (French)

31. Parts per billion (abbr.)

34. Brew

36. Spiritual leader

37. Indigo bush

38. Burn with a hot liquid

40. Older citizen

43. Scad fish genus

45. Morning

48. Line passing through the center (abbr.)

50. Double S-shaped curve

51. Small, thin person

53. Older

54. Mars crater

55. Humanities

57. Word element meaning ear

58. To the __ degree

59. Residue

61. It cools your home

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Editor

from page 1

when he must craft peace with Iran, Trump’s own life may be in danger from Israeli infiltrators close to him. After all, Bibi gifted him a golden “pager” carrying an implied threat. JD Vance—veering from being a convinced Zionist—struggles to clean up Trump’s mother-of-all-war-messes to salvage the situation. But neocons are all coming out to skuttle Trump’s MOU deal.

We Americans have a job to do because a substantial minority and Congressional Republicans succumb to Trump threats and being primaried. This includes our own Ben Cline who “stands squarely with Trump.” Cline must be devoting valuable time standing next to a president waffling constantly doing a 180 from nearly every one of his campaign promises that got him

elected. At least Trump, after trying everything against Iran, recognizes he must submit to Iran’s demands and newfound strategic strength as America’s strategic oil supply empties in less than a month. So, celebrate or lament, but get energized to recommit America to a real democracy that represents people—not a class of billionaires with values so unjust and warped,

that the Collective West is a laughing stock of the world if it weren’t so tragic and deadly for those in its path. We Americans must now unite to avoid a civil war and save our Social Security. Like the slaves in Galveston, we await news of our liberation from billionaire, Zionist and Epstein class masters.
*-Cynthia Munley
Salem*

Virginia Western launches new data analytics degree with Radford transfer pathway

Virginia Western Community College has redesigned one of its Information Systems Technology programs to better prepare students for careers in data analytics and programming while creating a direct transfer pathway to a bachelor’s degree at Radford University.

The college announced the launch of its Associate of Applied Science in Information Systems Technology: Data Analytics & Programming Solutions degree, replacing a previous two-year programming program. The curriculum was developed in partnership with Radford University to allow students to complete a bachelor’s degree in information science and systems through a two-plus-two pathway.

Dr. Diane Wolff, professor of computer science and information technology at Virginia Western, said the redesign responds to growing demand for professionals who can analyze data while maintaining strong programming skills.

“Organizations across industries are collecting exponentially more data, and they need professionals who can transform that data into decisions — not just store or manage it,” Wolff said. “The complementarity of analytics plus programming increases employability.”

Wolff said the updated curriculum is designed to prepare graduates to work alongside artificial intelligence tools rather than be replaced by them.

“This change modernizes the program, aligns it with current workforce needs, and improves graduate employment outcomes — without abandoning core programming fundamentals,” she said.

The new degree was developed by Virginia Western faculty in collaboration with Dr. Art Carter, chair of Radford University’s Accounting, Finance and Information Systems Department. While associate

of applied science degrees are traditionally designed for students entering the workforce, the program also includes the coursework necessary for direct transfer into Radford’s Bachelor of Science in Information Science and Systems program.

The Virginia Western curriculum includes general education courses such as precalculus and statistics, which are considered essential in the data science field.

Radford’s Information Science and Systems program combines computer science and business coursework, including database management, networking, programming, cybersecurity, accounting, management, economics, finance, marketing, cybersecurity management and decision analytics.

“We are excited about this partnership,” Carter said. “Over the years of working with Virginia Western, the students coming to Radford have been well prepared and very successful in their studies here. Our Information Science and Systems program concentrates studies in Decision Analytics and Cybersecurity Management, and the Virginia Western program will be a great preparation to finish this program with two additional years of studies.”

Students who complete the bachelor’s degree also have the option of pursuing an online Master of Business Administration in one additional year.

According to Wolff, demand for data analytics professionals continues to grow. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects employment for data scientists will increase 34% between 2024 and 2034, with about 23,400 job openings each year.

Amy White, Virginia Western’s dean of STEM and Workforce Solutions, said the redesigned curriculum reflects changing workforce needs.

“I’m grateful for both the



COURTESY PHOTO

Virginia Western has designed the Associate of Applied Science in IST: Data Analytics & Programming Solutions degree so that students can either directly enter the workforce or transfer to Radford’s Bachelor of Science in Information Science and Systems with the courses needed to graduate in four total years.

continuation of our partnership with Radford University and this proactive approach to the need for evolving curricula,” White said. “I am proud of the faculty from both institutions who have worked to meet the needs of students in this rapidly changing industry.”

The partnership also builds on existing transfer initiatives, including Tartan Transfer and the Radford Tuition Promise, which are designed to simplify the transition from community college to a four-year institution. Virginia Western is one of nine Tartan Transfer partner institutions, and Radford reported transfer student applications and admissions for the fall 2026 semester increased about 5% over the previous year.

“This partnership reflects what higher education should look like at its best: institutions working together to create clear, affordable pathways to

opportunity,” said Donna McCloskey, dean of Radford University’s Artis College of Business and Economics. “Through Tartan Transfer and agreements like this one, students can start close to home, build valuable skills and credentials, and continue seamlessly toward a bachelor’s degree and a rewarding career.”

While enrolled at Virginia Western, students also will have opportunities to earn industry certifications, including Oracle Certified Associate in Java, Information Technology Specialist in Database Fundamentals, CompTIA AI Essentials, CompTIA Security+, CAPM Project Management and CompTIA Linux+.

“The new AAS program aims to teach programming with purpose, powered by data,” Wolff said. “It’s not about learning to code for coding’s sake — it’s about using data and technology to solve real problems.”

-The Salem Times-Register

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Salem students earn academic honors from ETSU, Shenandoah University

Several Salem students recently received academic honors from their universities.

East Tennessee State University announced that Avery Lewin, Corrine Neff and Peyton Wingo were named to the dean's list for the spring 2026 semester.

To qualify for the dean's list, undergraduate students must complete at least 12 credit hours, excluding audits, incompletes, repeats and pass/fail courses, earn no grade below a B- in any course and achieve a grade-point average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

In addition, Cara Butler of Salem graduated from Shenandoah University during the 2025-26 academic year.

Butler earned a Bachelor of Science in biology and was among 1,180 students who received degrees or certificates during the academic year, which included August 2025,

December 2025 and May 2026 graduates.

Shenandoah University's 2026 commencement ceremony was held May 9 at the James R. Wilkins Jr. Athletics and Events Center in Winchester.

-The Salem Times-Register

Temporary parking restrictions remain in effect on Old Catawba Road through Thursday

Aila Boyd
aboyd@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Temporary no-parking restrictions remain in effect on Old Catawba Road (Route 864) through the end of the day Thursday as traffic is diverted around the Bradshaw Road (Route 622) bridge replacement project near Masons Cove Elementary School.

The restrictions, which began June 22, are intended to keep traffic moving safely along Old Catawba Road, which has been serving as a detour route for most vehicles during the bridge closure. Large trucks are excluded from the detour.

Roanoke County officials said temporary no-parking signs and traffic barrels have been installed along the route to help manage the increased

traffic volume.

Motorists are asked to obey all posted signs and avoid parking along Old Catawba Road while the restrictions remain in place. Vehicles parked in designated no-parking areas may be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense.

During the closure, the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle offered free rides June 26-28 to help reduce

congestion. Hikers were encouraged to park at the McAfee Knob Trailhead parking lot, reserve a shuttle ride and use alternate parking locations. Shuttle pickups were available only from the Interstate 81 Exit 140 Park & Ride lot.

Bradshaw Road is expected to reopen by the end of the day Thursday, July 2. The temporary no-parking restrictions on Old Catawba Road will be removed once the road reopens.

Send community news and photos to aboyd@mainstreetnewspapers.com

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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 Hersherberger, 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 Bible Engagement Project (A Walk through the 66 books of the Bible in one year), 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.

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.

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 - 703 Hemlock Rd NW Roanoke, VA 24017 www.rwbcbva.com, 540-362-6492 Dan Carawan, Pastor Buck Hutton, Youth Pastor, Sunday School: 9:45 AM; Morning Worship: 11:00 AM; Adult Study: 1:45 PM, Wednesday Bible Study: 6:00 PM; Youth: 6:30 PM; Choir/Praise Practice: 7:00 PM. UPCOMING: Sunday, June 21st - Thursday, June 25th - Impact Virginia - Ridgewood will help serve lunch on Tuesday, June 23rd and Thursday, June 25th.

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;

Salem
WORSHIP
DIRECTORY

To list your church,
contact Tucker Frye
at 540-309-9485 or
email tfrye@ourvalley.org

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.

CHURCHES OF CHRIST/ CHRISTIAN CHURCHES
SALEM CHURCH OF CHRIST - 401 West Main Street. 540-389-2400. Minister Taylor Plott; 10:00am Sunday Bible Study; 11:00am Sunday Worship Service; Wednesday Life Groups: 5:30 -7:00pm. For more info contact the Church Office.

WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST - 1705 Starview Drive, Salem. Ministers Luke Tatum and Jerry Anderson, 389-9139, Sunday Bible Study: 9:30 AM, Morning Worship: 10:30 AM, Evening Worship: 6:00 PM, Wednesday Bible Study, 7:000 PM.

CHURCH OF GOD/ANDERSON COVENANT COMMUNITY CHURCH - 955 Bird Lane, Salem, Va 24153, 389-5639. Pastor: Scott Hudson. Sunday School 10:00AM, Worship 11:00AM; Bible Study 6:00PM.

CHURCH OF GOD/CLEVELAND
SALEM CHURCH OF GOD - 600 Craig Avenue, Todd Stiffler, Pastor, 387-2068, Sunday School 9:30 am: Worship and Kids Church 10:30 am, Wednesday Bible Study and Classes at 7:00 pm. www.salemcog.church

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 712 Front Ave. Salem, Pastor Dan Netting (540) 389-6831. www.firstchristiansalemva.com. Adult and Children Sunday School - 9:30 am, Worship - 10:30 am. Nursery Provided for both. Everyone welcome

FORT LEWIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH - 2931 West Main Street, Salem - Pastor Matthew Cox - 380-4636 - website: www.flccsalem.org. Sunday: 9:30am Adult Study Group, 10:30am Worship, Youth & Children's Church. All are welcome!

ECKANKAR
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of all faiths are welcome.

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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCStPaulSalemVa).

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN COLLEGE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - 210 S. College Avenue, Salem VA 24153. Please visit our website www.collegelutheran.org for information on services.

NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, U.S.A., INC.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - 226 South Broad Street, Salem. Rev. Melton Johnson, 389-9648. SundaySchool 9:30 AM, Sunday Morning Worship 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
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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.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. Rev. Craig Newman, 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.



Marketplace





Yard Sale

Legals - City of Salem

Legals - Montgomery County

Legals - Montgomery County

Legals - Montgomery County

Legals - Montgomery County

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Legals - Botetourt County

NOTICE
To improve emergency 911 communications, Botetourt County plans to collocate antennae onto a rooftop at 20 E Back St, Fincastle, VA. Terranext seeks comments from all interested persons on any potential significant impacts on the quality of the human environment pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Section 1.1307, including impacts to historic or cultural resources that are listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Comments regarding potential effects to historic properties should be submitted in writing, including the property's address, to Terranext, 1106 Mill Hill Road, Richmond Hill, GA 31324, or via email to jgrover@terranext.net

03-17.00-0000.
An affidavit having been made and filed that diligence has been used without effect to ascertain the location of Ruby C. Bonham and that there are or may be persons with an interest in the subject property, including heirs, devisees, and successors in title of Ruby C. Bonham, who may be deceased, whose names and addresses are unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that each of the parties appear on or before the August 14, 2026, and do whatever is necessary to protect their interests in said land. It is further ORDERED, pursuant to Va. Code Ann.§8.01-321, that this order of Publication be published once a week for FOUR successive weeks in the *Salem Times Register*, a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Roanoke, and that a copy be posted at the front door of the Courthouse in County of Roanoke, Virginia. Entered this 18th day of June, 2026.
Honorable James R. Swanson, Judge
I ask for this:
Amy H. Geddes, Esquire
VSB#38650
OPN Law
3140 Chaparral Drive, Suite 200-C
Roanoke Virginia 24018
Phone: (540)725-8181
Fax: (540)772-0126
Email: ageddes@opnlaw.com
Counsel for Complainant

adjoining property is identified as Tax Parcel 500-((A))-5H (Parcel ID 032660). The temporary cul-de-sac is shown on a plat recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, as Instrument No. 2005008100. Information on the preceding ordinance, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073-3029 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact the Planning Department by phone at (540) 382-6120 ext. 1902 or by email at planning@christiansburg.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations. Written comments may be sent to the preceding address; please allow adequate mailing time.

aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.alldridgepите.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.alldridgepите.com. VA-353027-3.

Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comments in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact the Planning Department, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1902 or by email at planning@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.alldridgepите.com. VA-372257-1.

STATEWIDE ADS

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TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 4366 BRADSHAW RD, ELLISTON, VA 24087.
In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated May 19, 2016, in the original principal amount of \$127,645.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 160003643. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for the City of Radford, 619 Second St., W., Radford, VA, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on July 30, 2026, at 11:30 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: PARCEL 1: A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 1.063 ACRES AS SHOWN ON A PLAT ENTITLED "PLAT FOR DAVID E. VANDER VLIEET OF AN UN-NUMBERED 1.063 AC. LOT NEAR ROUTE 622 MT. TABOR MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA" PREPARED BY NEAL H. WIRT, L. S., DATED 5 NOVEMBER 1992, DESIGNED AS PLAT NO. 92-688, WHICH PLAT IS OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN DEED BOOK 766, PAGE 561. PARCEL 2: A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 5.153 ACRES AS SHOWN ON A PLAT ENTITLED, "SURVEY FOR DAVID E. & ALTHEA L. VAN DER VLIEET OF A 5.153 ACRE PARCEL SITUATE IN. THE MT. TABOR MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA", PREPARED BY JACK G. BESS, C.L.S., DATED JULY 24, 1995, DESIGNATED AS N.B. W-9 0-95648, A COPY OF WHICH PLAT IS RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF MONATGOMERY, VIRGINIA, IN DEED BOOK 886, PAGE 759. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.alldridgepите.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.alldridgepите.com. VA-353027-3.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,
By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing for Monday, July 13, 2026 at 7:15 pm or as soon thereafter, at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to receive citizen comments on the Board of Supervisors intent to adopt a resolution amending the FY 2026-2027 Budget by more than one percent of the total expenditures shown in the currently adopted budget by adding carryover funding appropriated in FY 26 for county ARPA funds, donations and grant funds, encumbrances, earmarked and one-time county projects, county capital funds balances and encumbrances that were not completed at year end, and school capital balances and encumbrances, not to exceed \$79 million. BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Angela M. Hill
County Administrator

Notice is hereby given
to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on July 15, 2026 at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of Community Church Inc, property owner and Cornerstone Classical Academy, lessee, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow for an Educational Facility, Primary/Secondary, on the property located at 1923 East Main Street (Tax Map #78-1-14).

2. Consider the request of Robertson Family Revocable Trust, property owner and Amer Alsayadi, lessee, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a retail sales, smoke shop, on the property located at 501 West 4th Street (Tax Map #143-3-14).

3. Consider the request of The Preston Place Preservation Foundation Inc., property owner, for a Special Exception Permit to allow an assembly hall, nonresidential uses in an accessory structure, and nonresidential uses out of doors, and a Use Not Provided for Permit for outdoor gatherings of less than 500 people on the property located at 1936 West Main Street (Tax Map #138-2-7).

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia.
At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.
THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY:
Christopher J. Dorsey
Executive Secretary

Order of Publication
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.-317,20-104
Case No. **CL26-1091**
VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ROANOKE
COUNTY OF ROANOKE, VIRGINIA, Complainant, vs.
CHARLIE L. PHELPS, a/k/a CHARLES L. PHELPS, *et al*
Respondents.
TO; THE RESPONDENTS; The object of this suit is to: enforce the lien for taxes assessed by the County of Roanoke, Virginia against certain real property designated as Tax Map Parcel No. 087.11-03-25.00-0000.
An affidavit having been made and filed that diligence has been used without effect to ascertain the location of Charlie L. Phelps, a/k/a Charles L. Phelps and that there are or may be persons with an interest in the subject property, including heirs, devisees, and successors in title of Charlie L. Phelps, a/k/a Charles L. Phelps, who may be deceased, whose names and addresses are unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that each of the parties appear on or before the August 1, 2026, and do whatever is necessary to protect their interests in said land. IT is further ORDERED, pursuant to Va. Code Ann.§8.01-321, that this Order of Publication be published once a week for four successive weeks in the *Salem Times Register*, a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Roanoke, and that a copy be posted at the front door of the Courthouse in county of Roanoke, Virginia. Entered this 9th day of June, 2026.
Honorable James R. Swanson, Judge
I ask for this:
Amy H. Geddes, Esquire
(VSB #38650)
OPN Law
3140 Chaparral Drive, Suite 200-C
Roanoke Va 24018
Phone: (540)725-8181
Fax: (540) 772-0126
E-mail: ageddes@opnlaw.com
Counsel for Complainant

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PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Gators have last home meet next week

Salem's Steve Cromer pushes off the side of the pool in the backstroke event for the Stonegate Swim team in a meet in Salem. The Gators were at the Ashley Plantation this Monday and have their final home meet of the season next Monday, July 6th, when they host Olympic Park and Limestone Park for an RVAA meet.

Martinez is new RC tennis coach

Roanoke College Director of Athletics, Curtis Campbell has announced the hiring of Sam Martinez as the Head Men's & Women's Tennis Coach. Martinez joins the Maroons after serving as the Head Men's & Women's Tennis Coach at Randolph College for the past four seasons.

"We are excited to welcome Sam to the Roanoke College Athletic Department," said Campbell. "He is very familiar with the ODAC as both a student and a coach and has a very impressive resume. We look forward to watching him take the tennis programs to new heights."

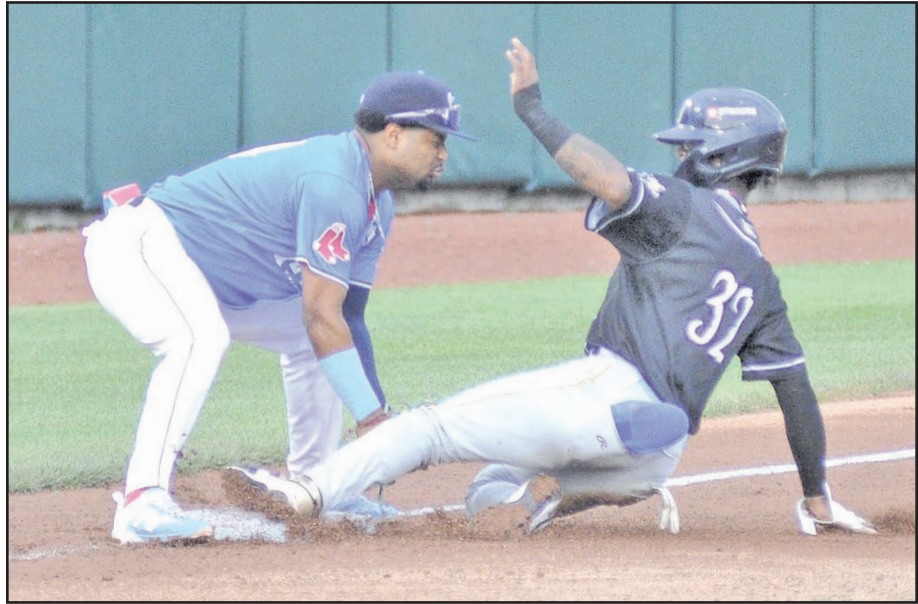
With the WildCats, Martinez led the men's team to their first ever ODAC semifinal appearances and national rankings in both 2025 and 2026. During the 2025 season, he also guided the women's side to their first ODAC semifinal appearance since 2018. Martinez also helped the WildCats to individual success on both sides. He mentored Jacob Martin on the men's side to a NCAA Singles Championships selection in 2026, making him the first non-Washington & Lee player since 1996 and the first player in program history to be invited. Martinez also guided Lena Kersten on the women's side to ODAC Rookie of the Year and ITA Atlantic-South Region Rookie of the Year honors in 2024.

"I'm overjoyed to be joining one of the best institutions in the ODAC,"

exclaimed Coach Martinez. "I want to thank Curtis for the privilege to lead the Roanoke College tennis programs. I also want to thank Jack [Fishwick] for helping me with this opportunity and I'm so happy he will be staying on the staff this upcoming year. Roanoke has always been one of the top schools in the ODAC athletically and academically, and I look forward to creating an environment in which our tennis programs will thrive. Jack's done great things with the teams in the last few years, and I can't wait to build on that. Let's go Maroons!"

Prior to his time in the Hill City, Martinez spent six years at Washington & Lee where he helped the Generals to five ODAC title winning teams as an assistant coach. He also was at Virginia Wesleyan as the assistant tennis coach from 2015-16. He helped lead the men's team to its first regular season ODAC conference title and undefeated 10-0 record in school history. Additionally, Martinez served as a graduate assistant at Pfeiffer University from 2014-2015 where the women's team won its first Conference Carolinas title.

Martinez, a 2014 Bridgewater College graduate, was a successful player as well, ending his career as a four-time All-ODAC conference singles and doubles player. He also helped lead the Eagles to their first and second ODAC Finals appearances in school history.



A Myrtle Beach runner slides safely into third just before RidgeYaks thirdbaseman Louis Andujar can apply the tag.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

RIDGEYAKS BASEBALL

continued from page 10

the Pelicans for a series split. Salem led 6-4 after eight innings but Myrtle Beach tied the game, 6-6, in the top of the ninth on a two-run homer by Yahil Melendez. Salem loaded the bases in the bottom of the ninth and Starlyn Nunez walked it off with a single for the win. Nicolas De La Cruz, who blew the save in the top of the ninth, ended up with the win to even his record at 3-3.

With the win the Yaks were just a game behind first place in the

early stages of the CL North second half standings. First half winner Fredricksburg and Fayetteville were tied atop the North and Salem, Wilson and Delmarva were all one game back heading into Tuesday's games.

On Friday of last week Boston sent former Salem High School pitcher Ethan Walker to the Florida Coast League Red Sox for a rehab assignment. There's a good chance Walker could be back with the Yaks by the time they return home on July 17.

SALEM RIDGEYAKS VS DELMARVA SHOREBIRDS

**JULY 17th 6:35 PM
Faith and Family Night**

**JULY 18th 6:35 PM
Lilo and Stitch Night**

**JULY 19th 4:05 PM
Bark in the Park**



VS AUGUSTA GREENJACKETS

JULY 21st 6:35 PM Two for 1 Tuesday

JULY 22nd 6:35 PM

RC hires soccer assistant, releases 2026 schedule

Roanoke College head men's soccer coach, Ryan Pflugrad has added Dorion Dixon to his staff. Dixon will join the Maroons as an assistant coach and performance analyst after spending the past three years at Radford University as an Assistant Coach & Director of Performance Analytics.

"We are excited to add Dorion to our staff," said Coach Pflugrad. "He brings vast experiences as a high-level player, college coach, and expertise in performance analytics that will certainly aid our student athletes and program."

After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in exercise, sport, and health education from Radford in 2021, Dixon was hired by his alma mater as an assistant strength & conditioning coach and men's soccer assistant coach. He then served as an assistant coach while earning a M.A. in Organizational Training and Performance Management at Tusculum University.

Dixon is also a certified strength and conditioning specialist through the International Sport Sciences Association (ISSA) and has an advanced Strength and Conditioning Certificate in Soccer Performance through International Sport Science Performance Federation (ISSPF).

As a collegiate player, the Chantilly, Virginia native appeared in 35 games for Radford from 2019-21. Dixon also played a year at Duquesne in 2017, competing in seven matches for the Dukes. Dixon also has semi-professional experience, playing in the National Premier Soccer League (NPSL) with Northern Virginia United.

The men's soccer squad is set to open their 2026 campaign on Sep. 1 when they face-off with Covenant at Kerr Stadium in a 7:00 pm matchup. The Maroons recently announced their fall schedule.

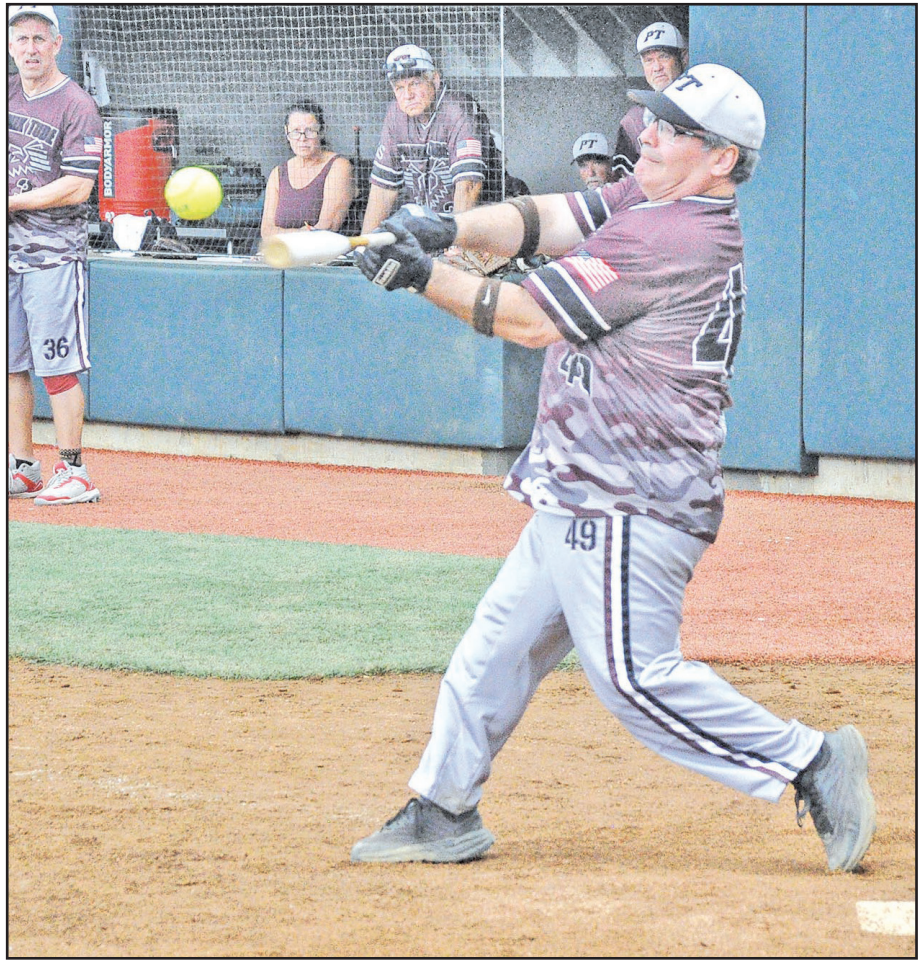
"We're excited for this group to compete against this challenging schedule next fall," said Pflugrad. "Our returning players have put in tremendous work throughout the winter and spring, and their commitment has us eager to get going with this group."

The Maroons are set to play three exhibitions, and 16 regular season contests this fall. The squad has a heavy home slate to start the season with six of their eight September games being at Kerr Stadium. RC's season opener against Covenant (Sep. 1) is one of those home games, as is their conference opener against Bridgewater (Sep. 26).

They are also scheduled to face-off with four 2025 NCAA Tournament teams: Berry (Sep. 7), Washington & Lee (Oct. 3), Hampden-Sydney (Oct. 10), and Lynchburg (Oct. 21).

"Our non-conference schedule is once again demanding, and we believe it will test us early, strengthen our SOS, and better prepare us for the challenges of ODAC play. After starting really well last season before struggling in conference, we recognize the importance of being battle-tested heading into league competition."

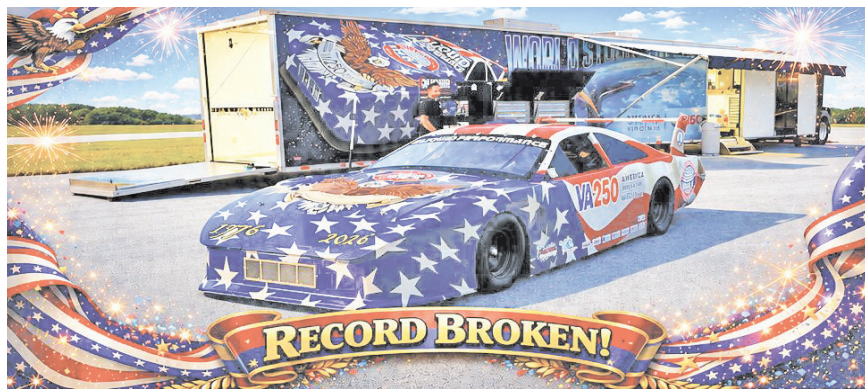
Roanoke will play their final game of the season at Guilford on Oct. 28. The ODAC playoffs are then set to begin on Oct. 31 with the quarterfinal round. The ODAC Championship is scheduled for the following Saturday (Nov. 7).



Senior softball players compete in Salem

A batter from the Phoenix Tube Slow-pitch softball team rips a hit in Sunday's game with Atlanta Sprinkler at the James I. Moyer Complex in Salem. The complex hosted the annual WBSC Senior World Cup games and the Phoenix team defeated Atlanta to win the 60-Majors Division, one of nine divisions that competed in Salem last week. Over 900 players, from age 40 to over 80, competed in the men's and women's tournaments.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 24, 2026

See America's 253 MPH Record-Setting Speed Stock Car Before It Begins Its Cross-Country Journey at the Salem Fair July 1-2

SALEM, VA – Salem Fair visitors will have a unique opportunity to experience one of the fastest stock cars in America before it embarks on a cross-country journey celebrating America's 250th Anniversary.

The VA250 Car Project will bring its record-setting VA250 Car and full interactive activation to the Salem Fair on July 1 and July 2, giving fairgoers an up-close look at the current 253 MPH Stock Car Land Speed Record Holder before the project takes center stage at the national America250 kickoff celebration in Philadelphia on July 3.

Built by Martinsville, Virginia engine builder Joey Arrington, the VA250 Car established the current stock car land speed record on March 23, 2026, reaching 253 MPH on the historic Shuttle Landing Facility runway at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The Salem Fair appearance comes just one day before the project travels to Philadelphia to participate in the official nationally televised launch of America's year-long 250th Anniversary celebration.

Following the Philadelphia announcement, the VA250 Car will begin the **253MPH: Speed Meets Heat Tour – The Road to 270**, a cross-country journey traveling from Virginia to Texas and back while celebrating American innovation, engineering, manufacturing, entrepreneurship, and achievement.

MORE THAN A RACE CAR

The VA250 Car Project was created as part of Virginia's commemoration of America's 250th Anniversary and has grown into a platform designed to inspire future generations through engineering, STEM education, and innovation.

Visitors to the Salem Fair will experience a full activation featuring:

- The 253 MPH Stock Car Land Speed Record Holder
- Meet-and-greet opportunities with Joey Arrington
- Racing simulators and the "Be the Next Legend" Challenge
- Danny's Wall of Hope interactive exhibit
- STEM and engineering displays
- Family photo opportunities
- Giveaways and educational materials
- Behind-the-scenes information about the record-setting run

Guests will have the opportunity to meet Arrington, learn about the engineering behind the vehicle, and experience firsthand the story of how a Virginia-built stock car became the fastest of its kind in history.

"This project has never been just about speed," said Joey Arrington, builder of the VA250 Car. "It's about showing people what can happen when you combine hard work, engineering, innovation, and a willingness to chase something that has never been done before. We're proud that the journey begins here in Virginia, and we're excited to share the story with families at the Salem Fair before we take it across America."

THE ROAD TO 270

The Salem Fair marks one of the final public appearances before the official announcement of the 253MPH: Speed Meets Heat Tour on July 3 in Philadelphia.

The tour will travel across the country as part of the nationwide America250 celebration, highlighting American ingenuity, manufacturing, innovation, and the communities that continue to shape the nation.

The journey ultimately leads back to Cape Canaveral in March 2027, where the team plans to attempt to become the first stock car program in history to exceed 270 MPH.

A CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN INNOVATION

The VA250 Car Project represents the spirit of innovation and achievement that has defined America for 250 years.

From engineering and manufacturing to education and entrepreneurship, the project highlights the people and ideas that continue to push the boundaries of what is possible.

Before the national tour begins, Salem Fair visitors will have the opportunity to see the car up close, meet the team behind the project, test their skills on racing simulators, and become part of the story.

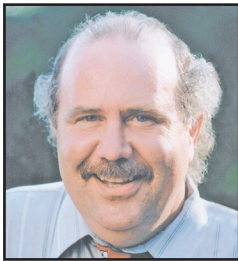
The VA250 Car Project activation is included with admission to the Salem Fair and will be available on July 1 and July 2.

SPORTS



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Brian Hoffman

They're coming to America

Have you caught “World Cup Fever?” Are you watching “futball” games day and night, rooting for Ghana to pull out a draw with England? Are you avoiding housework so you can see Messi?

I’m somewhat interested in it. I don’t watch every game, but I’ll switch to our local Fox Channel after Jeopardy and flip back and forth between the soccer and baseball games. Last Tuesday I had a round robin with baseball and soccer between picks of the NBA draft. And, I’ll always tune in when the United States or Scotland is playing.

A couple observations. I’m astounded at how good these players are. Most of the soccer I watch is high school or Roanoke College, and I’m amazed when a Blacksburg player puts a free kick in the top corner for a goal, wrapping it around a wall of players lined up with their hands over their privates.

In my many years of covering high school soccer I’ve run into all kinds of styles and coaches. Former William Byrd School coach Jeff Highfill would get his players in tip top shape to outrun the other team. He’d find a player who could throw the ball in really far, then put some football players in front of the cage to outmuscle foes and score goals. The “pure” coaches hated this style but most of the time Highfill’s teams won the game. In fact, the “pitch” at the stadium is now named in his honor.

When I write about high school soccer I always try to throw in some “futball” terms. A scoreless game will be “nil-nil” and I always use “pitch” for the playing surface, much like I’d use “gridiron” for American football. A team won’t score a goal to “tie the game,” but to “level the score.”

Getting back to the World Cup, its incredible how much better these players are than the ones I watch in the ODAC games. It shouldn’t really surprise me, because the Kansas City Chiefs are much better than the Randolph-Macon football team, but none the less I’m fascinated how they control the ball, pass with precision and run up and down the field just as fast with the ball as without.

There aren’t a lot of scores, it seems like four goals in a World Cup game is like 40 in pro football. And while the scores are few and far between, when someone does score they celebrate like

the folks on the street in France at the end of World War II. I’m sure if women and babies were allowed on the pitch there would be lots of kissing and crying. In fact, I think there is some crying already.

Also, if you think the players in the NBA are floppers you haven’t seen flopping until you watch a World Cup game. Obviously there are some collisions, and the players wear minimal equipment for protection, but many times a small bump will result in the offended player hitting the turf like they’ve been shot. Think of an old black and white cowboy movie where the guy on the roof is shot and falls to the awning below.

So far, as I write this column, the host United States has done well in making the round of 32. They opened with a 2-0 win over Paraguay that had everyone talking about how good our team is. My question is, aren’t we supposed to beat Paraguay? They’re a country with a land size smaller than California and a population of 7.1 million people. Virginia alone has 8.8 million people.

I guess we’re just not a “futball country” just yet. It seems to be the most popular sport in the world but probably doesn’t rank in the top five in the USA. If I had to list them in order I’d put our football first, baseball second, then basketball, ice hockey and probably even auto racing ahead of soccer. That’s hard to say because a lot of little kids play soccer in this country and very few compete in auto racing.

It’s funny that my wife has become a big fan of these World Cup games, as she hasn’t watched soccer since our grandchildren played in the eight and 10 year old recreation leagues. She became especially enamored with the Scotland team and their fans. They’re a heavy drinking, heavy partying bunch that has been featured on the national news wearing traffic cones on their heads and parading through the streets on 100 degree days to the sound of bagpipes. Personally, I like the Norwegian fans who “row” up the escalators.

And here’s something I question. The opening round features 12 groups of four countries with each group playing a round-robin schedule to determine who advances to the “knock-out” round. You’d think each of the 12



PHOTO BY LYNN SLADKY, AP

Scots whoop it up in Miami prior to the World Cup game between Scotland and Brazil.

would play their games at the same site to save on travel expenses, both for the teams and their fans. However, Scotland opened with games in New England, then traveled all the way to Miami to play Brazil. So, the Scots had to travel pretty much the length of the East Coast from one game to the next when it would have been simple to play all the “Group C” games in New England. I’m sure there’s a reason for that but it doesn’t make a lot of sense to me. Maybe they expected gas prices to be back under three dollars a gallon by now.

The good thing is, the Miami folks got to party with the Scots, and you know Miami is a party place. In fact, all the foreigners seem to be enjoying their time in the United States. I was watching a show the other day where the visitors were overwhelmed by the size of the portions at our restaurants, the great “ranch dressing” we have and one guy was even excited that a mint was included in his order at Sonic.

And then you have the soccer fans who visited Buc-ee’s. If you’ve ever been to a Buc-ee’s you can understand how that would make an impact. The

first Buc-ee’s in Virginia opened one year ago this week, on June 30, 2025 in Rockingham County. My wife and I were driving up 81 a week or so after the opening and saw the big beaver blow-up alongside the interstate. We decided to stop in on the way back, when time wouldn’t be a factor, to see what all the fuss was about.

Well, I can honestly say I’d never seen anything like it. First of all, before you went inside you’ll notice around 100 gas pumps as you drive around the immense parking lot. Once you go in you can find about anything you want, and the food is absolutely delicious. The best barbeque sandwich I’ve ever had, and that’s saying something. To call Bucc-ees’ a convenience store is like calling Disney World an amusement park. I assume there are no Buc-ee’s in Bosnia, so you can imagine how those folks felt.

It’s so fun to see our soccer visitors’ faces light up as they experience life in the USA. We get a bad rep sometimes due to world news coverage, and it’s nice to see folks from another country see that the people here are, for the most part, nice.

Walk-off win on Sunday earns Yaks split with Pelicans



The Salem RidgeYaks have hit the road and won’t be home again until July 17. Salem will have a six-game series in Augusta this week followed by six games in Columbia from July 7-12.

The reason for the back-to-back road trips is the annual Salem Fair, which covers the Taliaferro Complex parking lot beginning this week. The team is out of town while the Fair is in town, and then all Carolina League teams are off for the Major League Baseball All-Star break from July 13-16. Salem finally returns with a three game homestand against Delmarva on July 17.

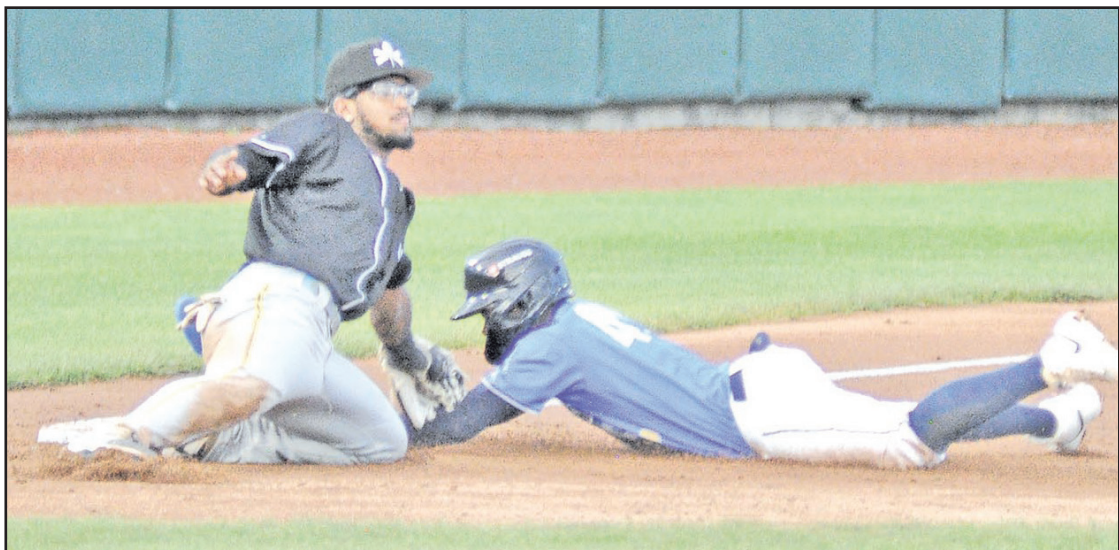
The Yaks are off to a 4-5 start to the second half of the Carolina League split season. After opening the second half in Fredricksburg the Yaks returned home last week to host the Myrtle Beach Pelicans, a Chicago Cubs farm team. The Yaks lost three of the first four games against the Pelicans but bounced back to sweep the weekend games, 8-5 on Saturday and 7-6 on Sunday.

On Saturday the Yaks were down 5-3 when they came from behind with a five-spot in the bottom of the seventh, all with two outs. Louis Andujar drove in two runs and tie the score. Andujar then scored on a throwing error to give Salem the lead at 6-5 and D’Angelo Ortiz knocked in two for some insurance and an 8-5 lead. Adam Bates got the win in relief and Joey Gartell struck out the side in the ninth for the save.

On Sunday the Yaks walked off

ZOOPELSTARS

The popular “Zoopelestars” entertained fans between innings of last Saturday’s Salem RidgeYaks game against Myrtle Beach. Above left, Dennis Frogman and Harry Canary put the squeeze on the home plate umpire, and above right Mike Rainbow Trout gobbles up a member of the grounds crew. Right, speedy Givian Sirvania is safe at third as Salem goes on to take an 8-5 win.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

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