SHARP TOP - Youth Ministries major Mark Simpson and his trainer, Matt Lawrence, ascend Sharp Top mountain.

From sorrow to success
Mark Simpson overcomes challenge of mountain with help from trainer
Sara Wrennender

The mountain loomed in the distance, massive and refusing to yield to Mark Simpson's determination. But despite his fear and trepidation, Mark ventured cautiously, his heart pounding with every step he took. He had to reach the base of the mountain before he could truly begin his journey.

Mark approached the base of Sharp Top Mountain, the summit he desired to reach before his senior year at Liberty University. After keeping both of his legs at a young age due to a medical condition, Mark understood the obstacles he faced would be immense.

"I wanted to take Sharp Top but not to intimidate people, but to show that no matter how small you are or what your condition is, you can do it," Mark said. Setting goals and preparing with the help of his head trainer, God's gym paved the road to success for this dedicated college senior. Mark began his two-hour climb, tension rising in his arms, heart pounding in his chest. His trainer Matt Lawrence had accompanied him, arms wrapped around his waist in support.

"We were so proud of Mark. It was a huge accomplishment for him. We knew he was capable of doing it, but we also knew it would be strenuous," Lawrence said.

Mark continued on, battling the elements, typical of the actions they were performing. The sky was gray and overcast, with raindrops falling onto his face. The climb was tough, but Mark's determination was unwavering.

"I pushed myself until it hurt, really. I knew I had to get it done," Mark said.

Mark's trip was not just about reaching the summit, it was about facing his fears and proving to himself and others that he was capable of achieving what he set out to do. Mark's climb was not only for his own benefit, but for the inspiration it provided to those who watched. It was a testament to the power of determination and the ability to overcome obstacles.

"It's not just about reaching the top, but about pushing yourself to your limits. Mark showed that you can do it," Lawrence said.

Mark Simpson's climb up Sharp Top Mountain was a challenge he faced not only to motivate himself and push the limits of his capabilities, but also to serve as an inspiration to those around him. It was a moment of triumph, but also a moment of reflection for Mark and those who witnessed his journey.

"I'm so proud of him. He didn't let anything get in his way," Lawrence said.

Mark Simpson's story is one of perseverance, determination, and the power of overcoming obstacles. It is a reminder that with hard work and determination, anyone can achieve what they set out to do.
World Help VP, alumnus visits

Graduate of LU, author, director of Cause speaks to filled crowd

By Nicole Stensbøgh, student publications editor

A graduate of Liberty University, Noel Breretons, spoke in convocation Monday, August 27. She lives in Leonardtown, Va. with her husband, E. Patrick Brereton, and their two children, Riley and Bailey. While at Liberty, Years studied government and speech and debate. She had no idea he would wind up in foreign affairs. In 1991, Noel Brewer Yates, then founder of World Help, Organizations, of which Yates is the Vice President. She is involved in the many facets of World Help, including forming the director of Cause Life and Friends of Humanization. Article, August 20, World Help, planned over 74,000 containers of meals around the world. According to a Washington Times article, World Help was founded, and is still committed to taking a look at the world. Currently, World Help is involved in spiritual needs around the globe, but it is also devoted to physical needs that they will fulfill. The new World Help website, "The World Help website, its passion for help in other countries started at 11, while she was on a short-term mission trip. To date, she has administered to more than 12 countries, witnessed two books with her father, and written a book of her own. Her book, which came out June 2012, is called Josiah. Doing a World of Good One Day at a Time. Her book, directly addresses the pressing needs of those in need around the world. It encourages her readers to open their eyes to the issues that may not be. "Helping them is not just about guilt, burdens, or charity," Brereton said. "Rather, the support is about justice, compassion and change."

Stensbøgh is a news reporter.

New food options offered

Dining services broadens meal options provided in numerous on-campus spots

By Kendra Allheimer, student publications editor

Sodexo dining services is offering new options to students with food allergies, gluten intolerance or those who prefer "simpler" foods. The Simple Servings program, among others, is designed to help students make health-conscience decisions without being limited to the growing number of students that eat on campus. Alternatively, Cafeteria and Dining Services Manager for Liberty University dining services Julie Pieler described the Simple Servings Program as one that different from anything that has been previously cared about by students who may have specific allergies.

Simple Servings offers students food prepared without any of the eight most common FBA allergens. Pieler said. These include peanuts, tree nuts, soybeans, wheat, eggs, milk, and fish. In addition to the Simple Servings option, there are several other new programs that will be added on campus. Lambda is a Mediterranean-inspired food truck that will feature sandwiches and salads with a Greek influence. According to Pieler, Red Rock is a Wraps program that is a "lifestyle, Thomas Dining Hall's old southwest station. The new menu will include pulled pork, fish tacos and noodles with order special food needs. The new "World Help Zone" will also feature a larger variety of salads and homemade dressings. Pieler said these options are ideal for a low-carb diet.

"World Help is for students who don't want to sacrifice the diversity of choices or the "comfort" of dining," Pieler said. In addition to these healthy choices, Simple Servings also offers a dining experience for students, Pieler said. The 

the Keyhole on South Campus and Click-FIXA as Dolphin Dining Hall's new southwest station. The new menu will include pulled pork, fish tacos and noodles with order special food needs. The new "World Help Zone" will also feature a larger variety of salads and homemade dressings. Pieler said these options are ideal for a low-carb diet.

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Parking continued from A1

The zones were filled both through lottery and a first-come-first-served basis according to Liben.

"We needed to come up with a way to manage that demand," Martin said. "We set out that the main campus would be the issue."

"The administration also stressed the essential pressure that impacts parking," Liben said. "The infrastructure outside of Liberty is inadequate in terms of handling the amount of traffic we bring in."

However, Liben said there are ways for students to help make a change.

"It is important for students to register to vote so they can put pressure on the city to upgrade the roads around Liberty. Lynchburg receives the least majority of its sales tax revenue from the streets surrounding Liberty, but instead of spending the money to widen Wards Road, the city spends millions on fancy sidewalks downtown," Liben said. "The only way that it is going to change is if students register to vote locally in big numbers. If students get involved, these initiatives will end," Liben said.

Liben also stressed the immediate changes that can be made in order to foster a better campus atmosphere.

"Really evaluate your need for parking," Liben said. "If you want to pay the higher amount, fine. But if you are only going to use your car twice a semester, there may be someone who really needs that space, and we will transition your decal to a known person."

MCALPIN is a graduate assistant.

TRUMP continued from A1

NCR's main store, The Apprentice, began its successful real estate career when his father's booming real estate company, Elizabeth Trump and Son, which was later renamed The Trump Organization.

Trump has recently bought Virginia headlines when he purchased the $6 million Towie. The historic building was originally built in 1864 and was once a military hospital.

"The decision in legal parking is mainly because of the imposed parking within the other zones, according to Liben.

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Chick-Fil-A fries up controversy

J. RICK LITTLE | LEXINGTON CHRONICLE

With the selection of former Congressman Paul Ryan as his vice presidential running mate, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney has bolstered his conservative credentials while attempting to attract the economic base of the 2012 electorate. Ryan has been a key figure in shaping Republican economic policy throughout his tenure in Congress, strongly Ronaldo's econo­mists policy during his time with him as his running mate. Ryan’s selection of 2007 presidential hopeful John McCain as his running mate in 2008 is one example of his choice for the health care bill, among other changes.

"This budget offers a blip on the screen of something a mediocre, middle-of-the-road, man who is simply trying to do something worthwhile. But when I look at the people in this country who are not only human, but super human, they appear to be doing something more, someone more capable than our selves, who should have made such a big difference," he said.

"It is not the time when we learn about subjects in isolation. When isn't it high school?"}

"When I read about Dennis Rehn­nber, a German pastor and theologian who went from hundreds of people looking at their jobs and jobs at judging them to be justified in their mind, who went with the desire to transform, I say this," she added. "It is not the group, shape, steer, or work that we should do the lasting of God's fate. Either we are not "to put away all malice and hypocrisy" in Leviticus 21. In Matthew 5:46, we are told to "let our light shine before others."

"So much of personality is wrong, the bigotry and hate spread toward those of that lifestyle is just as irrati­"

"Perhaps, Chick-Fil-A has brought too much attention to some people that it is time for us to see that this is not the time when we learn about subjects in isolation. When isn't it high school?"
Aurora victims deserved prayer not politics  
Ashley Humphreys  

As a Freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, I was proud to witness the university's immediate response to the tragedy that took place at the Century Aurora movie theater in July 2012. The university's administration and board of regents responded swiftly to the crisis, and the university community came together to support one another and to remember the lives lost.  

It is unfortunate that射onists and politicians have chosen to use the tragic event at the Century Aurora movie theater to score political points. It is important to remember those who were affected by the tragedy and to support one another.  

It is also important to remember that the tragedy at the Century Aurora movie theater was not an isolated incident. It was a result of a larger, more systemic issue of gun violence in the United States. It is essential that we come together as a nation to address this issue and to work towards a solution.  

In the wake of the tragedy, I urge you to remember the victims of gun violence and to support one another. Let us work together to create a safer future for all Americans.
Meeting new friends ‘At the Pool’

The social media site offers the ability to keep up with old friends with the fresh bonus of meeting new ones

Nanakandla Gumsnap@ Liberty.edu

At the Pool, a new social network created for students, will be hosting an exclusive launch at Liberty University, Aug. 28. In a world where social networks have become the norm, launches like this are nothing new. It seems as if there is a new network popping up for our membership every month. Some sites one and go remember, MySpace?, while others stick around for a while and become part of our daily routine. For many Americans, social updates are real and tweets comprise almost as quickly as the computer is opened.

But according to At the Pool founder and CEO, Alex Caperrutzi, all of these sites are missing something. The social networks that are most frequented all focus on the same idea: staying connected. Facebook, Twitter, and even Pinterest link the user with people they already know. It’s great to stay in touch with old friends, but those friendships can only go so far. When meeting away from home, students are faced with the challenge of finding new friends in a new community.

This is where At the Pool comes in. Rather than attempting to maintain friendships where physical interactions are few and far between, At the Pool strives to give face-to-face interaction. When explaining the motivation for creating the site, Caperrutzi said he was frustrated with how difficult it is to meet new people and how the Internet has been a barrier instead of a gateway. We set out to create a platform that gets us off the couch. It seems ironic that a website has been created with the intention of getting people off the Internet and out into their neighborhoods, but that is exactly what At the Pool was created to do.

So what exactly is At the Pool? A press release circulated by Caperrutzi refers to it as “a service that connects students around interests, making it fun and easy to meet new people.” As with any other social network, the information provided must be shared. Much of the process in the same: a profile picture can be uploaded, and the typical questions such as location and gender will be asked. Once these basics have been covered, the next step is to choose interests from a list that covers everything from hiking to deep sea diving. It is from these interests that “matches” will be chosen. After the match has been found, a 24-hour time frame for choosing will be given. On a large campus such as Liberty University, the intent is to find people with similar interests to break out of our social circles. “Like any good host, we make an introduction because we know you’ll get along,” Caperrutzi said in the press release.

Yes, the same sort of idea, but another invitation to join the end of social networking sites brought to make it big, but consider it an invitation to pool extraordinary people. Whether you are new to campus or returning, this is a great chance to make new connections. Divers into the new site by going to AtThePool.com and registering an invite using “Liberty” as the code. See you at The Pool.

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**Voter registration**

Tabitha Cassidy | weekly Orlo

**Student Government**

**Table: Votes cast**

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**Referendum**

In the 2012 general election local votes show, the 80th Republican National Convention had to cancel Monday's events in fear of being flooded out by Hurricane Isaac, according to a public advisory by the National Weather Service.

According to the 2012 Republican National Convention's website, governor2012.com, 2,119 delegates and 2,125 alternate delegates will congregate together from Aug. 27-30 to nominate the Republican candidate for the 2012 general election.

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Thomas repeats as coach of the year

Jonathan Pearsons

Another great year is in the books for the Liberty University golf team, and for the second year in a row, coach Jeff Thomas took home the Virginia Collegiate Golf Coaches Association’s Coach of the Year Award. He was also one of six finalists for the Dave Williams Award, the NCAA’s top honor for a men’s golf coach.

Thomas has been with the Flames for seven years and is a former player and graduate of Liberty. Last season, he led the Flames in three back-to-back titles, including the Big South Men’s Golf Championship title.

“It was a thrill to be nominated as a finalist for National Coach of the Year,” Thomas said. “It was also a thrill to be nominated for the Southeastern Coach of the Year. Thomas understands his players as the reason for his success as a coach. They’re at liberty that what is about and trying to build into what he has been trying to accomplish and for what the Flames lived up to their namesake. The lady Flames won the puck

We’ve been having good players come to Liberty that don’t know and about the Flames living up to their namesake. The Flames won 1-0 in a men’s golf team.”

Thomas also said that Liberty has a lot of really good coaches who talk to him and his players and watch them develop. He would like to see how we can improve, so he picks people’s brains just to see what happens.

“Coach Thomas has said that Liberty has a lot of really good coaches who talk to him and his players and watch them develop. He would like to see how we can improve, so he picks people’s brains just to see what happens. You can’t cover having one of the best coaches in the NCAA,” Pearsons said. “He guides our practice and our development. A lot of the improvement that has been seen in our program this past three years can be attributed to the coach.”

Nonetheless, as coach of the year, Pearsons said, “He’s happy, but he’s also realistic in that he will get up and kick you in the butt when you need to.” McKee said. “He doesn’t want to see that you know your weaknesses, but you need to find a way to overcome them. That’s definitely one of his qualities that are beneficial to the team.”

Pearsons is a sports writer.

Lady Flames torch Hawks

Liberty loses home opener 2-0 to N.C. State in front of near-record crowd

Jay St

Jasmin Graff

Players filled all of the seats in the Osborne stadium and the grass fields next to the bleachers. According to Liberty flames.com, 1,183 filled the stands, the third largest crowd ever at Osborne stadium. The bleachers were painted red with red wristbands and blowing vuvuzelas. Unfortunately for the fans, North Carolina State University defeated Liberty Flames 2-0 in their first game of the season, Aug 24.

The match began with both teams playing defensively. Through an overhand kick-on goal by Liberty’s Sadley Wilson and a shot on goal by NC State’s Nazim Abdool who would keep the crowd entralled, both team’s defenses prevented any scoring from either side.

Liberty was the first to show a lapse of concentration in the final minute of the first half as a poor attempt to clear the ball backhanded saw NC State’s Al- shabbi pick up the ball and drive it past Liberty’s goalkeeper Sam ChapPELL, to make the game-1-0.

“We communicated on play that right half before half time,” Alder said. “We didn’t know how good we were to stop them. Our keeper comes out and sees them, and you just get a tone on it. I really thought it should have been just-0-0 at half time.”

The second half saw the Flames pressuring the Wolfpack in hopes of evening up the score, but Liberty found themselves even farther behind. At the 73rd minute, NC State’s Alex Martinez lured Liberty’s ChapPELL out of his goal and crossed the ball to Monique Bokar, who brought the score to 2-0. Liberty tried to score a consolation goal in the fifth minute.

COACH OF THE YEAR

THOMAS

AUGUST 28, 2012

Thom

EDITORIAL

Defensive Battle

Major League Baseball MLB has made huge strides in reduce the use of steroids, enforcing stricter rules that make players think twice. However, MLB players still fail to recognize the cause of the ban.

According to baseball.com, nine players have been suspended for the use of a banned substance since 2011. This season, four additional players have also been suspended.

While the percentage of players that has used banned substances decreased from the past decade, it is clear that the social era is still plaguing the MLB.

Before his suspension, Cabrera and already won the MVP of the 2011 MLB All-Star game and was primed to win the National League batting title. But after being caught and admitting to his use of a banned substance, Cabrera went on an extra step and attempted to create a fake website to go along with his suspension. Cabrera is believed to have paid for the treatment through the website which would help him change the MLB's conscience. Cabrera is believed to have been banned from all ballpark in the MLB.

A former American League YY Young player of the year, noted positive for a banned substance. On Aug. 22, one week after Cabrera. a media conference was held in the New York Yankees. Cabrera signed a contract with the Athlete. He is transferred to their picking staff, sign- ing a 168,000 contract, and led the Athlete with a 5.85 earned run average: ERA.

The MLB has made reach- es that impact players, but baseball analysts believe that missing a third of a season 30 games of AL is still not enough to correct four in the heart of substance abusers.

Editorial: Is the recent MLB policy enough?

SPORTS

New facilities in the works for athletics

Ashley Thompson

libertyathletes.com

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SHAKE N'BAKE TO WAKE

Liberty VS Wake Forest - September 1, 2012

Kyle Harvey
khlibertyliberts@yahoo.com

Liberty University kicks off the 2012 football season Sept. 1 at Winston-Salem, N.C., against the Demon Deacons of Wake Forest University. With so much in mind, below are some talking points for week one.

FBS Opponents

This season marks the 15th meeting between Liberty and Wake Forest. Where the Flames will square off against at least one FBS opponent. Although there may not be many wins to date, each contest against a larger foe brings needed recognition for a program with big goals for the future.

"I think people are maybe not as familiar with many of Liberty's programs, so when you play on FBS school and then you're able to get a victory, it brings national exposure," head coach Turner Gill said. "That would help us in a lot of ways."

The Flames most recent win over an FBS team was in 2010 when Liberty defeated Ball State from the Mid-American conference, 27-23. Last year, Liberty also began the season against North Carolina against Wake Forest's ACC rival North Carolina, losing 43-21.

Wake Forest

The last meeting between Liberty and Wake Forest was in 2008, with Wake Forest winning 34-14. Wake Forest went on to win the Atlantic Coast Conference with an 8-4 record, earning a trip to the Orange Bowl, where they lost to LSU on December 30, 2008. In 2011, Wake Forest finished 6-7, but managed 5-3-1 record in the ACC.

Liberty's QB

Speaking of quarterbacks, Gill let yet to name his starter for 2012. Filling with Gill after practice Aug. 24, he seemed ready to wait until the team arrived at Winston-Salem for Liberty's first game. "We may not make an announcement until maybe right before the game," Gill said. "We'll try to keep that as an advantage for us, as far as the opponent trying to know who we are going to be playing and knowing the strengths and the weaknesses of that particular player that we may be starting.

The leading candidate for the job is most likely Brian Houstonudson, a redshirt-freshman. Coach Turner Gill from Charleston, South Carolina. As a redshirt-freshman, he was drafted by the St. Louis Rams in the NFL draft.

Winning is a key for Gill and in the wake of former coach Jeff Bargo and several key losses on offense, especially the offensive line. Gill has announced the season opener will be against Liberty's Di Lopez, a redshirt-freshman. Gill said that the quarterback will not impact the way the rest of the team prepares. "It think it shows the strength of our football team, being able to have two good quarterbacks that we believe are very good football players," Gill said. "Whoever that quarterback is, he's going to be going to be successful.

Liberty's surrounding cast

Whoever winds up behind center, he can count on senior wide receiver and captain Kyle Peddy to help him move the chains. Kelly, coming off another solid season to which he finished second on the team in receptions (45), receiving yards (501) and touchdowns (5), appears to be fully recovered from a nagging hamstring injury that limited him throughout the spring.

Game is good to go. The biggest thing was that I was just getting tired during practice,'" Kelly said. "It's just getting my wind back, the same thing that I'm finally back in the swing of things...I'm doing great, body's feeling well, so I can't wait.

In addition to Kelly, Gill hinted at the possibility of some younger players getting significant playing time. One walk-on wide receiver James (Jax), who Gill said has been impressive throughout the offseason.

Defensively, Liberty's line is led by 2012 Sunbros. Games Award-winning Bryant Lewellyn, who was named one of the four team captains. The other team captain on defense is Kevin Fogg. As a defensive back, Fogg flashed his highuchi last year intercepting two passes against Robert Morris. He also showed himself to be one of the nation's premier special teamers, leading the country with a 15.3 yard kickoff return average.

Shake N' Bake to Wake

Students and fans looking to attend Sept. 1 game in Winston-Salem can pair the Shake N' Bake to Wake cancans and be a part of the sea of red hitting the Wake Forest campus.

For a charge of $1 per vehicle, participants receive a bag which includes: Tokens for all transit, a car flag, transit Rail, rally towels, parking passes, directions and food coupons. The $1 is for entry to all Flames Club members.

The catmen will meet at Turner-Davis at 1:35 p.m. for a 2 p.m. departure. Game tickets are available in the Liberty University ticket office for $30, and parking is $5. To register your vehicle, send an email to DeadcatLiberty@yahoo.com that includes your driver name, the name of the Flames Club member to whom you are related, the date and time of your arrival, your location, and the number of people in your party.

Liberty is the sports edition.

STRUGGLE — Freshman forward Belinda Tawum fights for control of the ball.

SOCCER continued from B1

minor, when Liberty's Wilson hit the crossbar from a long-range shot, but the Flames did not manage to score for the remainder of the game. Despite the loss, the Liberty men's soccer team's head coach Jeff Alder was positive about his team's performance.

"I thought we outplayed them, and I thought we were all in great shape," Alder said. "NC State is going to be a tough team to organize, very opportunistic and it's a well-coached team, but I thought we matched them. I don't think the fans that showed up tonight saw a big difference between the two teams. We just saw the 1-0 at the end and we wereenergetic. They brought a lot of enthusiasm. I'm happy with second half that we weren't able to get a tie out of this game, or maybe a win."

Talking about the Liberty men's soccer team's hopes and expectations for the season, Alder also said that they are aiming to win championships in the Big South and see soccer as a platform to share the gospel with others.

Liberty University men's soccer team will be travelling to Farmville, Va., to compete against Longwood University on Sept. 1.

SIR is a sports writer.

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Lady Flames return to defend title

Preseason Player of the Year Loren Thomas leads a talented and experienced attack this season

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are back and ready for another
great season.

According to Pinder, the Lady
Flames have a lot of new talent
on the court this year along with
several returning starters. He ex-
plained that there could possibly
be multiple starters throughout
the season due to the amount of
talent on the team.

Pinder explained how they
have seven new freshmen in the
lineup and are working together
to integrate and learn how to
play with each other out on the
court.

Big South Preseason Player of
the Year Loren Thomas is back
to action as the Lady Flames
middle blocker.

Thomas has one of the biggest
voices in the league, and PIn-
der is looking to her as a leader
this season, he said.

Second Team All-Conference
player Lillie Haged is another
star to keep eyes on this season.
She is a returning, outside hitter
for the Lady Flames. Hap-
ed dominated last year with
396 kills. Hap'ed is alongside
Thomas on the Preseason All-
Big South team.

Returning this year is Second
Team All-Conference setter
Jade Graycraft. Pinder described
Graycraft as a "very talented se-
ter."

Also returning this season is
middle blocker Kendie Rollins.
Alongside Rollins are defensive
specialists Gabrielle Shipn and
Becca Harg. There is a lot of ex-
perience on the court this season
as opposed to last season, Pinder
said.

Pinder wants to hold to the
vision of the late Jerry Eddle
and the idea that the athletics
program should come under the
umbrella of training championships
for Christ.

"These kids are here for the
right reasons and are great fits
here at Liberty," Pinder said.
"Their journey with Christ is a
big part of the champions-
hip and the wins accumu-
lated."

According to Libertyflames.
com, the Lady Flames were
invited to the American Volley-
ball Coaches Association Team
Academy Award for the second
game of the year. The award is
given to a 90% with a cumulative
grade-point average of at least
3.50. The Lady Flames ear-
marked that with a 3.62 GPA
for the 2011-12 academic year.

The Lady Flames have been
voted to win the Big South
Championship for this season
and are hoping to make that be-
come reality over the next sev-
eral months.

"We get a lot of good things
happening," Pinder said.

The Flames volleyball team
has its home season opener at
the Vines Center on Aug. 28
against William and Mary.

TYREE is a sports writer.

Liberty U.
Dining by Sodexo

Visit our homepage frequently for weekly menus, calendar of events and news you can use.

WHERE TO EAT ON CAMPUS...

1. Doc's Diner
2. Flames Zone
3. Tilley Cafe - SubConnection, Fresh Market Buffet, Starbucks and Chick-fil-A
4. Simply To Go
5. SubConnections
6. Jason's Deli & Bakery
7. Hunger - Sandee's, Pizza Hut, Grill 155 & Freshened
8. Reber-Thomas Dining Hall
9. Bisque 71
10. Mystery location
11. Marriott Food Truck

**None available at the highlighted location**

Explore India

A CULINARY EXCURSION
YOU WON'T SOON FORGET!

Tuesday, September 4, 2012 | 5:00 - 7:30pm | Reber-Thomas Dining Hall
Liberty students flock to Hillcats game

The Lynchburg Hillcats offered minor league baseball at discounted rates to Liberty students Thursday night.

Greg Leasure
gleasure@liberty.edu

Baseball fans, Liberty University students and lovers of cheap entertainment all had one place to be Thursday, Aug. 23. That place was Lynchburg’s City Stadium, site of the Lynchburg Hillcats’ annual Liberty University night.

The Hillcats, a minor league baseball affiliate of the Atlanta Braves, have collaborated with Liberty ever since the early 1990s to bring cheap, and sometimes free, baseball to students a few times each year.

“Liberty has been the longest-running college night that we’ve had,” Hillcats Assistant General Manager Ronnie Roberts said. “The first Liberty night we had this year was last spring, Liberty sponsored the fireworks, so all students got in free that night. This one is a little bit different. We’re using it as well with the other college nights.

This particular promotion allowed Liberty students through the gates for only $2 with their student ID. Non-Liberty students wearing Flames apparel were admitted for $4, half of the original ticket price.

Always striving to please, the Hillcats have also held college nights to recognize Longwood University, Lynchburg College, Randolph College, Sweet Briar College, University of Virginia and West Virginia University.

Brian Hicks, a junior at Liberty majoring in sports management, spent his summer as a stadium operations intern for the Hillcats. The highlight of his night was being chosen to throw out the first pitch for his school’s night in the stadium.

“I think it’s a good promotion,” Hicks said. “It gets Liberty students off campus and out here. We get them interested in Hillcats baseball, and they get a good discount on tickets.

As Assistant General Manager, Roberts knows that nights like these are a great way to reach out and let people know that Hillcats baseball is the place to be on summer and fall nights.

“We’re always looking for ways to get as many people into the park as we can,” Roberts said. “The days of just opening the gates and hoping that pure baseball fans come to see a baseball game are long gone for most minor league teams. You have to go out into the community and make it attractive for the folks to come see a game and maybe come back on another night.”

Roberts has experienced almost every type of enjoyment that minor league baseball has to offer during his 22 years in his position, and part of his job is to find ways to get people interested in Hillcats baseball.

“For the most part, it looks like he’s succeeded. At least that is what Facebook says. Despite playing in the smallest market of the eight Carolina League teams, the Hillcats have the most Facebook friends of them all. That allows them to better spread the word when promotions like Liberty night are happening.”

The action on the field was every bit as good as the admission price Thursday night. The Hillcats defeated the visiting Winston-Salem Dash by a score of 8-2.

As the game wrapped up, Hicks smiled, “We’re doing them all in a row. You can just see the different cultures of the different schools, and they all get to interact.”

Opponents and game times are still to be determined, but the Hillcats now look forward to pursuing a Carolina League championship when the playoffs begin Sept. 3.
What you missed over summer

Liberty students who did not stay in Lynchburg over vacation missed many renovations, new business openings and pesky construction

Construction

The campus of Liberty University looks quite different this fall than it did in the spring. Construction projects designed to improve academic buildings, athletic facilities and much more are taking shape all across campus.

According to Charles Spence of the Office of the Chancellor, among the projects worked on over the summer were new East Campus intramural fields, a new East Campus parking lot, the courtyard terrace at DeShoe Hall, a new Vines Center parking facility, a new track surface and field improvements, and many more projects.

"The number one challenge is to keep the construction from causing a problem for the university so that they can educate the students in a manner that meets their needs and expectations," Spence said. "Construction does cause a lot of inconvenience in a lot of areas, but hopefully at the end of it all we will turn over facilities that will enhance the education process."

Dates of completion differ from job to job, but the goal remains the same: to make Liberty University a better place for students.

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Students are always looking
for new places to explore and
experience around Lynchburg,
and for those interested in rock
climbing, Rise Up Climbing has
been one of the places to be.

Scaling the indoor cliffs of
Central Virginia, it has been
four years since rock climbing
facility Rise Up Climbing burst
into Lynchburg’s social scene.
Solving to maintain the fami-
ly-like atmosphere, the owner
and employees are setting up
an array of paths, scheduling
events and offering lessons to
all who come to the establish-
ment.

“I have been in this busi-
ness for 20 years,” owner Dan
Hague said. Dedicated to his
job, Hague attempts to create a
climbing lifestyle with his busi-
tess. Through his employees,
mentality and many years of
experience, he has created a
challenging rock climbing cen-
ter that draws his customers
coming back for more.

The 40 foot wall is designed
to challenge the climber in an
intense but rewarding mix of
technique, strength and wot.
However, not everyone who
steps foot into the facility may
have a background in climbing.

In roughly 30 minutes, you can
walk right in, and the owner
and his employees can take you
through a basic skills lesson
that teaches the fundamental
techniques of climbing.

“Rise Up Climbing is a great
place to start climbing,” Dani-
elle Roberts, a Rise Up Climb-
ing Facebook follower, said.
“Everyone is very nice and
helpful. It is the best place to
spend the day, especially in this
heat.”

Although the winters in Rise
Up Climbing’s prime business
period, the summer attracts a
host of students looking to cre-
ate a brand-new experience.
According to Hague, it is a
community that encourages its
customers to challenge them-
selves, climbing higher each
time they come back.

“It is an art,” Hague said.
Each stone in every path is set
by one of the climbers on staff.
The wall ranges in difficulty
from easy to very difficult. With
each path custom-set every
week, a new challenge is
presented each time a client
comes into the facility. Hague
says that this maintains the ex-
eriment and other sensations
that come with solving the
puzzle and reaching the top of
the wall.

Offering affordable prices, Rise
Up Climbing ensures that
unwary looking to climb or
learn to do so will enjoy it. For
students, the business offers
weekly month prepaid member-
ships for $60, full year mem-
berships at $480 and $130 one-
time visits. Discount rates are
also offered Monday nights to
college students.

Rise Up, located at 1225
Church St. in Lynchburg, Va.,
is an experience in itself. Ap-
ppealing to the students used
to excel and challenge them-
sele, Rise Up Climbing is the
gimme students are looking
for to fill that empty space in
their schedules.

BEALE is a feature writer.
The downpouring rain did not wash the thoughts of Liberty University students away as fans of Relient K and House of Heroes heft towards the stage at Liberty’s annual block party, Saturday, Aug. 25. Frequent thunderstorms and line-ups of fans were among some of the options students enjoyed as they waited for their favorite bands to take the stage.

Patrick Spencer, a junior at Liberty, said that despite the rain, he was excited to see a free concert from the band he has been a fan of since elementary school. “I’ve never seen them live, so I think it’ll be pretty cool,” Spencer said before the event.

As the students prepared to hear the Relient K and House of Heroes set list, Jon Schnick, guitar player and back-up vocals for Relient K, sat down with the Liberty media to answer a few questions. Schnick, who is attending Liberty University Online (LUC), said that after going through all of his options for attending college, his decision to attend Liberty appeared clear.

“Let’s just seem like a good fit,” Schnick said. “My dad is a Baptist preacher. He was really excited that I was going to come here. You know, it just sort of made sense.”

Majoring in business, Schnick is preparing for whatever life holds, including life after Relient K. Although he does not know what specialization he wants to take yet, he said he feels that Liberty will help him achieve his goals. “I don’t really know what I’m going to do, or what I want to do. I’m trying to figure that out as I go along,” Schnick said. “I’d like to do the business thing, possibly an assistant manager of a hotel. I might like to do something fun that pays well.”

Life on the road makes getting an education hard, Schnick said, but LUC’s online education options makes taking courses easier.

“There’s so little to do other than play our show, which lasts about an hour a day, so there’s plenty of [spare] time on the road,” Schnick said. “I can spend the rest of the time studying.”

Preparing with the band for the block party concert, Schnick did not let the threat of weather ruin his outlook. While Relient K doesn’t have any pre-show traditions or rituals, Schnick said the band likes to have fun and feed all audience members during their shows. “I like to run around and jump around the stage and act silly while performing,” Schnick said. “Even though Schnick calls himself the ‘least artistic artist,’ his fan base up to now has been very interested in his performances. ‘Performing has been awesome. Probably the best,’ Schnick said. ‘I’m one of those things that you dream about when you’re a kid. Play your music for a living, it doesn’t get much better than that.’

The crowds of people that surrounded the block party stage were equally as excited to hear Schnick and his bandmates play.

A couple inches of rain soaked the feet of fans, but the energy in the crowd never faltered.

Liberty’s annual block party is one of many events hosted by Student Activities. For more information about upcoming events and how to be involved, visit their website at liberty.edu/organize/student-activities or call 434-582-8061. For more information about Relient K and their future tour dates, visit their website at relientk.com.

CASSIDY is the editor in chief.

JENNINGS is a graduate assistant.

Relient K and House of Heroes perform

Liberty students’ spirits were still high at the annual block party as rain drenched everyone in attendance.