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Fires strike parts of Candler's Mountain

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A portion of Candler's Mountain went up in a blaze Saturday night, as several brush fires struck Central Virginia over the weekend due to strong winds. The fire ignited nearly one week after the area had experienced the first brush fire on Monday Feb 14.

"Over the past week or so we've had a lot of strong winds. That fuels the flames and makes the fire spread very quickly," said Matt Ferguson, WSET's Good Morning Virginia meteorologist. "We also have very low humidity as well. So all that combined gives you the perfect setup for forest fires and brush fires."

Ferguson said that since Jan. 1, Lynchburg has only received a total of 1.4 inches below normal for the year. With dry land and dry leaves covering the area, Ferguson said this is a perfect setup for forest fires and brush fires.

"So we've had a lot of strong winds, very low humidity and dry ground, which combined gives you the perfect setup for forest fires and brush fires."

Songs raise awareness

Talents help recognize the importance of clean water

ASHLEY BOLLINGER
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pedestrian bridge

Officials move closer to Wards Road proposal

JONATHAN PARKER
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Lynchburg and Liberty University officials drew up a tentative agreement this week to build a pedestrian bridge over Wards Road.

City Manager Kimball Payne will present the agreement to City Council members, who have the final say on building a bridge, this spring.

Payne said the city and Liberty University officials met Monday, working closely months earlier on the bridge proposal.

"This is a partnership," Payne said. "We entirely intend to do this in a partner ship fashion."

Under the proposed agreement, the city would contribute $2.75 million toward the $5.7 million pedestrian bridge.

Payne said Liberty will build and own the bridge, paying $3 million or anything exceeding the $1.7 million estimated cost.

"We are pleased with all of this and the contribution from the city," Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. said. "It's a natural extension of Liberty, but also a complementary to all the pedes trians on Wards Road."

Payne said the city to scrap plans for a street level pedestrian crossing and instead build a bridge. The proposed bridge was to be 28 feet above Wards Road.

"I think you mean more pastas," Falwell said.

The proposed bridge would coincide with a $1.3 million pedestrian and bike tunnel, which Liberty will build under the railroad tracks beside the VPI andsuers for access from the campus to Wards Road shopping venues.

Falwell said the university plans urgent funding along the railroad to channel students to the knit of which officials are expressing.

"It's a huge project," Falwell said.
School launches mobile phone application

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Nowadays, it seems as though everything can be accessed on the go. From Facebook to movies, it is becoming easier and easier for people to gain access to technology from anywhere. With myLibertyU, a new mobile phone application, students have the opportunity to have Liberty in the palm of their hands, literally.

"Liberty University wanted to provide relevant campus information and application status to students," says Deborah Huff, chief marketing manager for Information Technology (IT) communications. "With myLibertyU available, students can access key campus maps and many others."

"With access to 86 student services, we added the ability to see campus maps and find places they're looking for in the news, images and videos on the app, users are able to stay up to date on all Liberty's exciting happenings."

Although Liberty is not the first university to have the app, the IT department is working to customize it further. Several other universities have the app in use, such as BC. Johnson said, "The TI Development will be adding and customizing custom built splitters for the myLibertyU mobile app, and these will be unique to the University."

According to Johnson, most of the feedback she has received from students has been positive. "When I heard about the Liberty app, I thought it was a great idea and immediately looked into it," sophomore Skye Scott said. "I was disappointed to find out that we wouldn't be able to download the Liberty app onto the iPod Touch."

MyLibertyU was made available for the iPhone and Android in January. Students can download the app for free on iTunes and the Android Market. The IT department plans to continue enhancing and adding features to myLibertyU, and it will be available for BlackBerry phones soon, according to Johnson.

For more information about myLibertyU, visit liberty.edu/mobile.

♦ SMITH is the features editor.

GONE MOBILE — The new application makes for easy access to all things Liberty.

Summer term heats up with new changes

More sessions to be offered last two weeks in August

JESSICA ROWELL
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Liberty University's 2011 Summer School program is gearing up to suit students needs with courses ranging from aviation to logarithms.

The university opened its summer session registration for 2011 on Jan. 31 and now offers a variety of summer options, both residential and online. Changes in the summer session program seek to alter the courses to be more convenient for students who can choose to earn their credits in week-long sessions to be more convenient for students who can choose to earn their credits.

The most popular classes taken include general education courses like Bible, English, theology and biology. A lot of classes are scheduled for the last two weeks in August to allow students coming back during spring semester to earn credits in week-long sessions to be more convenient for students who can choose to earn their credits.

Courses are offered for credit every major, even graduate and doctoral level courses can be taken.

Regardless of their major, students can get a degree more and more students are taking in the best fits of the summer semester.

JOYFUL SONGS — Children sing to raise awareness of the conditions in Third World countries. (Photo courtesy of Joyful Songs)

The truth is that although the need across the globe is great, people can still make a difference.

"These children are not here as tourists, they are here as missionaries."

Carrington Johnson said. "The children have dreams of growing up and changing the world."

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"The children are in the United States for approximately 30 months out of each year performing different events to raise awareness of the reality."
GLTC over budget, buses to still run

MARY SEILKOP
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Long, blue buses roll around campus every day transporting students to class, dorms or extracurricular destinations. What students probably do not think about while they are cruising around campus is how they would get places without them.

“The Greater Lynchburg Transit Company overspent their budget by $195 thousand,” said Carroll. “As a result, the company is considering their options in order to cut back on expenses. The budget includes labor costs, material and supplies, travel and repairs. Two-thirds of the operating budget is labor alone, according to General Manager of GLTC, Michael Carroll.

‘Budgets aren’t cast in stone. It’s a stroke of luck to hit it exactly Sometimes you come in over budget, sometimes under,’” Carroll said. “We certainly don’t like to see this.”

Director Tim Spencer also sees no reduction in the Liberty service at least for this semester.

“There are no plans to cut anything back at this at this time is confirmed,” Spencer said. “We don’t know what will happen in the fall yet, but we plan to offer the same service but with a few added benefits.”

The budget for the year allocated $235 a gallon for fuel costs but fuel prices increased to up to $2.90 a gallon. Hybrid buses have helped by cutting fuel prices by 15 percent due to fuel economy.

“Until they insert a bus that runs on air, we’ll have to deal with fuel costs. The last thing we want to cut is service on the street,” Carroll said.

Spencer explained that Liberty and GLTC negotiate a yearly contract. Thus GLTC provides buses to run the campus routes. According to Spencer, Liberty has 13 GLTC buses that run on routes around campus and also off campus to apartment complexes and places. After 5 years, and 10 pm, buses are cut back on the routes to save costs.

“We restructured the bus service. It allows for more capacity and we are able to become more efficient than the past with this new system,” Spencer said. “We want to make sure that students are getting the most out of their transportation.”

Moving forward — GLTC plans to continue with its usual routes despite the $195 thousand over budget.

Carroll said he was not aware of any set plans to slightly over-spend. He went on to say GLTC will reconsider when they can look into reducing fuel costs and travel, cutting down on training costs and hours and talking with ‘appropriate officials’ to see what can be done.

The Liberty service will continue as usual for the remainder of the semester.

SEILKOP is a news writer

Free clinic provides hope and health to community

ASHLEY BOLLINGER
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Pink eye, strep throat, influenza, pneumonia, eczema. For the uninsured like Nathalia Giraldo, simple medical diagnosis and remedies are hard to find. Dr. Gregg Albers, main physician at the Ruth Brooks Free Clinic, as well as one of the main physicians at Liberty University’s Health Services, has seen a variety of different ailments since its founding.

“就诊 clinic is a scarce commodity in the Lynchburg area. Albers explained. “We are technically the only free clinic because all of the other clinics here have various charges associated with them,” Albers said.

The Ruth Brooks Free Clinic, was created two years ago, in honor of Ruth Brooks, a longtime nurse at Liberty University’s health services and Thomas Road Baptist Church member who died of breast cancer.

“Ruth Brooks was our first clinic nurse about 29 years ago. Through the years we have known Ruth and Don Brooks, the couple who have been our medical practice and lent their help,” Albers said. “When we lost her, we felt that we needed to do something to honor her. We had been thinking about a free clinic, and seemed fitting.”

Liberty now has the offices of Liberty Christian Academy, the clinic has seen nearly 1,200 patients with a variety of different ailments since its founding.

“We have pretty much no restrictions,” Albers said. “We say if you have no doctor, have no insurance, have no money to buy medication, then you are welcome to come and use our services.”

There are a number of students who don’t have any insurance and who come to the clinic. Albers explained.

“I feel so relieved to know that there was somewhere I could finally go,” Giraldo said.

Giraldo has been battling with eye issues for the past two weeks and, before hearing about the clinic, had no other outlet in which to seek help.

“We are considering possibly getting a van that is clinic equipped and having a few sites around Lynchburg. That would allow us to reach the community,” Albers said.

Although there has not been any sort of plan to deal with the over-spending. He went on to say GLTC will reconsider when they can look into reducing fuel costs and travel, cutting down on training costs and hours and talking with ‘appropriate officials’ to see what can be done.

The Liberty service will continue as usual for the remainder of the semester.

BOLLINGER is the news editor
COMMENCEMENT— Graduates celebrate both their accomplishments and bright futures.

KEATON BELLS (keaton @ liberty.edu)

For most, the commencement ceremony is the highlight of the academic year. As seniors across the nation prepare to cross the stage and receive their diplomas, they will reflect on their time at Liberty University, considering the impact of teachers, mentors, and friends who have guided them through their college years.

The road to graduation is a remarkable journey for students, their families, and institutions alike. It is a time of anticipation, challenge, and personal growth. As seniors prepare to make the transition from student to alumnus, they confront the reality of leaving behind the familiar environment of campus life.

Graduation anticipation

KATE BELL, kate @ liberty.edu

Three months from now, short of a few short months that will mark the commencement stage and bring on the great unknown.

Some seniors are counting down the days until graduation. Others are too busy with genuine classes to notice the final tumbleweed of February, meaning or no spring has been departed.

The remainder of the graduating class is changing their plans in the moment their tassels are turned. Liberty has meant something to each of us in our four years. The school has not, as we took or what degree we pursued. Liberty has meant so much to each of us, and we will miss it greatly.

As we move on to the next chapter of our lives, we plan to pursue our dreams, whether it be in education, business, or the arts. We have learned the time has come for us as a class to turn our tassels and take the next step in our lives.

Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail.

— Emerson

Opinion

February 22, 2011

The following guest editorial is an example of putting the practicality of the following article into practice. Enjoy the rest of your life at Liberty University.

The cost of claiming Christianity

JONATHON GONZALES (jgonzales @ liberty.edu)

Editor's note — The following guest editorial is an example of putting the practicality of the following article into practice. Enjoy the rest of your life at Liberty University.

Imagine it is a Monday night and you have just finished eating dinner with your family. You are cleaning up after the meal and getting ready to settle in for the night. Suddenly you hear your doorbell ring. You answer and look at each other and simultaneously ask, "Are you expecting anyone?"

They reply to one another with a resounding yes on their lips and you open the door to find a family in your front yard. You and dad rush to answer the door and find the family standing on the doorstep of your home, rang the door bell and tied a single package on the doorstep. As he brings it into the living room, the package expands and reveals a car.

That's exactly what happened to a Christian family in Florida on January 30th of this year. Attackers planted a bomb with patrol units and barricades and found the family in their home.

Percussion of this nature happens all over the world and here in America. Senior meekness has told us to worry about answering the door and being flanked with a bomb or being brutally brute to death because of our faith. Percussion is almost unheard of but just because you don't know of it, doesn't mean it doesn't happen. When percussion becomes known, we become ashamed against it again. Remember that you may be a secondary, you are made to react.

Ever since I was a little boy, my family has preached over and over again that I should be a peace or evil or something of that nature.

In recent years, my heart has become more hardened for impressed Christin followers. As I am preparing to graduate, I know that the Lord has called me to stand up for the people's who are being abused and tortured around the world.

I am going to take a stand for Christin around the world who are in the same situation that they are no longer they turn a blind eye! I have done so for the needs of the persecuted church. I am a servant trying to live my life as God has called me to be Christ (Eph 4:11). The call is dear fight for what is right. Stand for those who are hurting and always fight for them.

I am willing to take time to be on the side of those who want to fight for the persecuted church. I am always for the International Christian Concern coming to our country so we can learn how to fight for the injustices of the world.

In order to find out more about the different types of persecution that are going on around the world, visit the website: www.persecution.org to understand what you can do to act out against this.

GONZALES is a contributing opinion writer.
Reducing national debt is a serious concern. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) released a report saying the US is "in a serious situation" to reduce national deficits. The IMF warned that a loss of US credibility could start a catastrophic series of events. According to a Washington Post article in January, Fox News ran an article on the President's efforts to reduce the national debt. The website quoted former Republican Senator Alan Simpson, who is on the President's panel for reducing the national debt. Simpson claims that Obama calls for a five-year discretionary spending freeze will save "peanuts." Simpson's solution is to cut the "big four" to make a difference. These four constitute the majority of the federal budget. So the obvious solution to the mounting national debt is to cut into the big four: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and defense. Without cutting these four, efforts to reduce the debt will amount to "a sparrow's belch in the midst of a typhoon," Simpson said.

Reducing the debt is a great concern, and Simpson is correct that America must cut into the "big four" to make a difference. These four constitute the majority of the federal budget. So the obvious solution to the mounting national debt is to cut into the big four: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and defense.

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The goal will be to force every fire company to work on their weekend, Kirsten Wilson said.

After leaving work, she arrived to the Lynchburg Inn. Members of the community’s realtor, according to Kirsten Wilson.

Around 2:45 a.m. Kirsten Wilson heard about the fire in her own home, in Lynchburg, Kirsten Wilson said.

The evacuees received an e-mail from Simms stating that’s when the fire was so close to our house," Kirsten Wilson said.

“The goal will be to force everyone to use the tunnel or walk a day’s worth of transportation, according to Tom Martin.

“The city also has $300,000 set aside for placing walkways beside Rock Castle Creek, which flows along Wards Road, Payne said. Lynchburg’s Capital Improvement Plan also calls for an additional $700,000 for the trail system, Martin said. Liberty officials want the trail, designed for pedestrians and bicyclists, to pay for the fencing and additional improvements, Martin recently met with Walmart and Sam’s Club officials, receiving support for the bridge and trail proposals.

If a vehicular tunnel was located underneath the railroad tracks and pedestrian bridge with elevator and stairs on the Liberty side and a ramp into Wards Road during the four-day weekend, Payne said to the Liberty Champion.

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The Wilsons received a call about the fire line put in place around our home, Ferguson said over the past few days, special weather statements and red flag warnings have been issued in the area due to high risks of fire danger.

Other areas of Virginia were also affected over the weekend, includ­ing Shenandoah Valley which reported over 100 acres of scorched land. More than 100 wildfires are reported to have started the state.

By the numbers
Liberty and Lynchburg officials surveyed students in December to gauge interest in a pedestrian bridge over Wards Road. Here are some of the responses:

If a vehicular tunnel was located underneath the railroad tracks and pedestrian bridge with elevator and stairs on the Liberty side and a ramp into Wards Road during the four-day weekend, Payne said to the Liberty Champion.

Since school began in late August, how many times have you crossed Wards Road by walking or by riding a bicycle from campus? One to five times - 39 %
- Five to ten times - 23 %
- Ten to 20 times - 13 %
- More than 20 times - 15 %

How often do you ride the bike to visit Wards Road businesses or restaurants?
- Never - 81 %
- Seldom - 14 %
- Sometimes - 4 %
- Often - 1 %
- Always - 14 %

Would you say that bus service from campus to Wards Road is:
- Not adequate - 58 %
- Adequate - 31 %
- Convenient - 10 %
Student serves country on submarine

OMAR ADAMS
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In the U.S. Navy, a group of men serve their country beneath the ocean, the "Silent Service" defending freedom. This is the story of Parkersburg, W.Va.-raised Heath Rogers, a machinist's mate on USS Buffalo (SSN 715) out of Pearl Harbor. As a machinist mate, Rogers worked to ensure the submarine's systems, including carbon dioxide scrubbers, functioned properly.

"I joined the Navy because I wanted to be a submariner," Rogers said. "I was a nerd, into computers and electronics. But I have always wanted to travel, so the Navy gave me a chance to do that. It was a herd of whales that swam by us," he said. "That was pretty cool.""When we were doing it, there was a lot of danger. The ship would dive, and we might not see the bottom," Rogers said. "We would be in the dark for a break. The men jumped off the boat and swam in the open water. It was rough out there."

"We performed classified missions "vital to national security." Roughly a year after joining the Navy last June, Rogers was asked what the submarine dive on for a break. The men jumped off the boat and swam in the open water. It was rough out there."

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The Buffalo crew would go on tours to Japan, the Philippines, and Rogers' favorites South Korea and Australia. The Buffalo was equipped with a Dry Deck Shelter (DDS) - an air tight pod capable of deploying Navy SEALs, turns while submerged. Performing classified operations in an inherently hazardous environment, submariners are under constant stress. "Of all the branches of men in the forces, there is none which shows more devotion and faces greater perils than the submariners," Sir Winston Churchill once said.

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Persecution leads to perseverance
A martyr’s widow encourages women to embrace calling

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Debate Team sweeping the competition

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The TEAM — The Liberty University Debate Team held the top spot in three ranking organizations at the end of last semester.

Hancock demolition begins
Changes continue as Liberty proceeds towards founder's deadline

TAYLOR OVERHULTZ
theoverhultz@gmail.com

BREAK DOWN — Liberty sets the stage for a new welcome center. Construction on the new building is projected to begin March 1 in order meet the fall deadline.

Hancock demolition begins
Changes continue as Liberty proceeds towards founder's deadline

TAYLOR OVERHULTZ
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Debate Team sweeping the competition

TREY SMITH
tsmith2@liberty.edu

The TEAM — The Liberty University Debate Team held the top spot in three ranking organizations at the end of last semester.

According to Hall, the team has placed in the top three in qualifying positions at the district tournament. "While Liberty not only placed fourth place in qualifying positions but also made it to the debaters' rounds," Hall said. "The team held practice debates and will prepare for tournaments."

"We will let two teams debate against one another," Hall said. "We will either let them finish the debate completely or do a step-by-step go debate, in which we stop and fix things needed."

The team also takes feedback on speeches received from tournaments and practices so they do not repeat the same mistakes. "We share everything we know and do more research, and our coaches delegate research assignments to each member," Brittanie Hedrick said.

Hedrick was on a debate team at her high school before transferring to Liberty. "Joining the debate team was one of the best decisions I have made," Hedrick said.

The team is comprised of 14 members, according to Hall. "We are a really diverse team with different backgrounds and we are all Liberty students," Hall said.

The team has won several tournaments and has even placed at nationals. "We had a wonderful experience this weekend," Hall said. "With the next closest school finishing with a combined record of 14-10, the debate team consists of many different power teams. To prepare for tournaments, the team holds practice debates.

"We will let two teams debate against one another," Hall said. "We would have had to add too much to the existing building to get what we wanted. It didn't make sense economically."

The decision to tear down the building was finalized on Jan. 1, 2011. "Demolition is a lengthy process," Hedrick said. "I think a lot of people thought we would let us implosion or explosions, but that was not workable."

Complete demolition of the building will take approximately two weeks, including the removal of all debris. "(Demolition) isn't that dramatic," Hedrick said. "We will work our way across the building not tearing down the sections."

The goal is to begin construction of the welcome center in March to maximize completion by Homecoming Weekend in the fall, a goal set by founder Jerry Hancock.

"Next fall is the deadline," Hedrick said. "The demolition is isn't done by the 40th year celebration, and it will be done."

The offices that once housed in Hancock have been moved to the Minerva Hall of the Williams Student Union temporarily. A new training room has been constructed near the Thomas Judge Track Center to replace the space in Hancock, according to Tod Wetmore, assistant athletic director for communications.

"Overhultz is in the editor in chief

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Debate Team sweeping the competition

TREY SMITH
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The TEAM — The Liberty University Debate Team held the top spot in three ranking organizations at the end of last semester.
A tale of two halves

KATHERINE LACAZE
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Men's Lacrosse back at Liberty

GABRIEL FOWLER
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Flyer LAX — Freshman attacker Chris Armstrong and freshman midfielder Travis Briggs are just two strong components of the 23-man men's lacrosse roster.
NBA All-Star Weekend
Los Angeles saw a basketball filled, star-filled weekend with the NBA All-Star Weekend in town. The free competitions on Saturday were the 3-point contest, the Hair Styling Stars contest and the much-anticipated dunk contest.

According to ESPN.com, the 3-point competition was won by James Jones of the Miami Heat, who squeezed out the win in the final round over Paul Pierce and Ray Allen, both of the Boston Celtics. Golden State's Stephen Curry was the all-star competition, only missing one pass in the final round. The Hair Styling Stars Contest, where NBA All-Star force with NBA All-Stars and legends was won by Team Texas over Team Atlanta.

The highlight of the night was Blake Griffin's dunk in the dunk contest, where his most memorable dunk was jumping over a car. With dunks like John McGlynn's two-handed dunk and several others, the dunk contest was one of the most memorable events in NBA has seen seven years.

College Basketball
Decision 1 men's basketball has seen several surprising events in the last number of weeks. Just one week after No. 1 Ohio State suffered a surprising upset in the NCAA tournament, No. 4 Pittsburgh struggled in its game against Wisconsin, No. 3 Texas went down Saturday night in the final round over Texas Tech, and No. 1 Syracuse went down Saturday in its game against No. 4 Pittsburgh in its game against Nebraska, 70-67.

No. 1 Ohio State lost its 21-game winning streak, its last time the NHL lost games in a season. "The last time the NHL lost games in a season, 'Tlie last time the NHL lost games in a season," said a senior NBA All-Star.

NASCAR
It was a record breaking Sunday with the running of the Daytona 500. Rollercoaster Tony Stewart became the youngest man to win the race at 20, with his birthday just the day before the race. Byme recorded no points for the race because he declined the team would be recorded points in the lower Nationwide series and not the Sprint Cup series. Carl Edwards took the points lead with his second place finish in the Sprint Cup series. Carl Edwards took the points lead with his second place finish in the Sprint Cup series. Edwards also set a record for the fastest lap of the race. The race was also record breaking in several other facets. According to the New York Times, there were 74 lead changes, 22 different leaders and 16 cautions. The race marked the 10th anniversary of the death of the late Dale Earnhardt Sr.

SPORTS
BRIEFS
KELLY MARVEL
instructor/Liberty University

NBA All-Star Weekend

LEADER OF THE PACK — Tyler Bream, one of the two team captains, has high hopes for the Flames baseball team's 2011 season.

BASEBALL continued from BI

The "family" has expanded this year. After nine players left last season, the team has acquired 15 new players to create the 35-player roster. According to Toman, they have meshed well and have playmakers that are stepping up.

Toman said that there have also been some changes in the NCAA rules in an effort to shorten games and increase safety. One rule requires manufacturers to develop new aluminum bats that are not as heavy, which will lead to less home runs in college baseball.

"They were worried about games being too high scoring and too long," Toman said. "To adapt to this change, the team has been working on small game" according to Toman. This includes things like bunting, stealing and hitting and running.

"It seems like we've got a bunch of guys that are strong," Toman said. "They want to have a lot of fun but until you start playing the games, you can't know what kind of character your team is going to take on. Right now they're loose, having fun, they work hard. They're good kids."

Along with Bream and Evans, senior pitcher Mark Swanson and senior outfielder and catcher Jeff Jefferson were named captains. Liberty lost three and won one in its week-end series at Mercer University and travels to Jacksonville, Fla, on Feb. 23 for a four-game series against North Florida.

* LACAZ is a sports writer.
February 22, 2011

SPORTS

MEN'S LACROSSE

continued from B1

"This is Liberty's first year back with men's lacrosse, and the team has a rookie year mentality," McQuillan said.

"After a couple games they should grow out of the excuse of it being their first year," McQuillan said.

The Flames played their first home match on Feb. 12, defeating Coastal Carolina, 9-8. The team defeated UNC Charlotte, 13-12 Saturday and looks to take on the University of Richmond March 2 in Richmond.

♦ FOWLER is a sports writer.

Upcoming Schedule

AWAY — March 2 at University of Richmond
HOME — March 10 vs. Aquinas at 7 p.m.
HOME — March 26 vs. Davidson at 7 p.m.
AWAY — March 30 at Southern Virginia
AWAY — April 9 at Appalachian State
HOME — April 15 vs. Elon at 6 p.m.

♦ All home games will be played on the lacrosse intramural field on Campus East.

FOWLER is a sports writer.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

continued from B1

Over the next 10 minutes, the nation's second-leading point guard (7.5 assists per game before Saturday) Scott Machado broke down Liberty's defense. En route to picking up three assists, Machado found the Gael's leading scorer, 6'7" freshman Mike Glover for an easy layup, Sean Armand for a 3-pointer and set up Rodriguez for a dunk, ballooning the Gaels' lead to 13.

"They had us on our heels and they were the aggressor," Layer said.

The Gaels closed out the first half with a 22-4 point extortion in the last six and a half minutes.

Machado already had six assists on the night and Rodriguez was already in double digits.

"They had us on our heels and they were the aggressor," Layer said. "At the half, the stat sheet was the knoll that ragged the grade.

The Gaels tallied eight back-breaking 3-pointers in the first half while Liberty's one.

Iona registered 25 rebounds to Liberty's nine, allowing them to put up 17 second-chance points to Liberty's none.

"(We) can't give a good team that many extra possessions," Coach Layer said, "They made us pay for each one of them.'' The second half played out much like movie "Hometown Legend." The movie where a team set up a blackboard that read "0-0" at halftime to inspire players to play one good half of football. They won the half but lost the game. So was the scenario Saturday in the Vines Center.

"They came out ready to play, and we were flat," Minaya said. "They took it to us and by the time we started fighting, it was a little too late.''

The Flames fought hard, played distinctly improved basketball but still came up well short.

John Brown almost single-handedly turned around Liberty's rebounding woes, snagging nine boards in the second-half— the most of any player in the half.

Smarter shots and more effective paint-work resulted in 55 percent shooting—a positive nod in light of lethargic 31 percent shooting the first half.

Gordon had a double digit second half and the Flames bench outscored the Gaels second-string 12-4.

But the gap created by the languid first half was too much.

At the final buzzer, Liberty escorted Iona 19-31 in the second half, but the scoreboard still showed the 20-point loss.

The loss drops the Flames to 19-10 overall and boosts Iona to 18-10.

The Flames continue conference play Feb. 24 at Westloop.

NO GLORY ROAD — Junior guard Jesse Sanders had to collect his 13 points the hard way Saturday against Iona, driving to a tightly defended basket.

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NO GLORY ROAD — Junior guard Jesse Sanders had to collect his 13 points the hard way Saturday against Iona, driving to a tightly defended basket.

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Jenna Vanden Brook

Missions uses sports to reach the world

PLAY BALL — As students browsed the halls of DeMoss Hall last week during Missions Emphasis Week, sports organizations Push the Rock and Score International recruited sports-loving students.

Push the Rock

Eric Thuma, assistant to the missions director for Push the Rock, experienced the joy of devoting his life to spreading the gospel as a missionary. "I've been a missionary for 14 years," Thuma said. "I've been a missionary since I was 15 years old."

Thuma recalled a group of three young men that he and a friend bumped into on a street corner in Costa Rica. "They were probably mostly there to watch the game," Thuma said. "So we just got to know them and we invited them to come to church."

At the end of the service, the pastor invited people to the front of the sanctuary if they were ready to accept Christ into their lives. "The young man made his way to the front of the church," Thuma said. "He invited the kids."

Thuma's advice for students interested in missions is, "Go do it." "You never know how to do it until you try," Thuma said. "And once you give up doing it, you'll never know how to do it." Thuma's insight for students is, "Get involved in missions."

Score International

Score International has also been using sports to connect to people in other countries. "Score International began as a short-term athletic missions organization, playing sports with people around the world," Thuma said. "We have coaches wanting to use their skills and their teams to further God's kingdom."

Owen, the director of Enlistment and Enrichment for Score International in 1984, "What happens is, they have to go back to family but most of them don't have family to go back to or they wouldn't have been orphans to begin with," Marvin said. "And so, they have to go back to family, but most of them don't have family to go back to or they wouldn't have been orphans to begin with."

The teams working in the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica build and operate transitional homes where young men and women can live and receive an education and acquire job training so they can make a living and a difference in the world.

Thuma's mission is, "I want to be a missionary."

Thuma's advice for students interested in missions is, "Get involved in missions."

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Gymnastics recap

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Rachel Lynn Steele
- Beam 1st, Floor 1st, Uneven Bars 3rd, All-Around 2nd

Jill Anna Wipperman
- Vault 2nd, Floor 2nd, All-Around 4th

Steve Richard Lucia
- Floor 1st, Vault 2nd, High Bar 3rd

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The Civil War: The Musical

Tiffany Edwards

Decades and generations collided on Liberty's Tower Theatre stage as the ideals and viewpoints that were experienced during the Civil War are still experienced throughout the world today, such as slavery, cultural relations and families being torn apart by war.

"What we've done with the show is that we are retelling the Civil War to events beyond the Civil War, such as the Civil Rights movement. There are many contemporary images that relate back to the historical images of the Civil War," Nelson said.

The play's concert-like appearance is reinforced by its organization. The play's actors are only credited as "ensemble," and costumes were created by the actors from their own wardrobes. Nelson encouraged his students to create costumes that made them feel more connected to the characters they played. A live orchestra performs on stage during the concert, while the actors act out their scenes around them. "There is no constructed scenery for the play," Nelson said. "The set is a huge screen over the stage. The play is meant to have a more personal and emotional appeal for the audience than the plays that have a traditional story line and cast."

"The role I have in 'The Civil War' is more about how I would be affected if I had to go through these events, instead of portraying a specific character," actor Caleb Hughes said. "I would like to challenge (the audience) to really put themselves into the emotions and events that are experienced by the characters in this play."

"The Civil War: The Musical" will have performances through Saturday, Feb. 26. For ticket information, visit the Liberty Theatre Arts website, which can be found through the Liberty splash page.

♦ Edwards is the feature editor.
Simple faith in action: Megan Chapman

Alumna reflects on her conflict with the ACLU

CRYSTAL A. HEAVNER
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Megan Chapman has seen enough strength, power and work through ordinary people like herself, grow in her faith and strengthen her resolve to serve.

When there was a middle school, Chapman has been interested in religious freedom and political process, but five years ago, something happened to her that changed her dreams. This young girl from Russell County, Ky., wasimensional attention when she stood up against the American Civil Liberty Union (ACLU) to uphold her constitutional rights.

During her senior year of high school, Chapman was elected to be the chaplain of her class. The most important part of her decision to serve as chaplain was on the Russell County High School tradition of leading prayer at graduation.

As graduation approached, rumors began circulating around that the ACLU was forbidding the graduation prayer. Chapman approached her school counselors but they advised her to help in any way she could. The school official was declared.

Today morning, the day of Chapman’s graduation, the official declaration was made in the form of a restraining order. The majority of the senior class met with Chapman and her most trusted friends and asked her to find a way to overcome the order and maintain the traditional graduation ceremony.

The girls set a plan in motion to hide out copies of the prayer so when that prayer reached the platform, the entire student body could publicly stand and make known their stance on religious freedom and freedom of conscience.

“I think that it was the ACLU just didn’t bother me. I never thought it was a big deal because I had this simple faith. Of the Lord’s gonna take care of it, which is the truth,” Chapman said.

About an hour before Chapman returned to her high school for the graduation ceremony, Mat Staver, dean of Liberty’s School of Law, went to the graduation and announced a restraining order to stop the ceremony. The majority of the seniors decided to pray regardless.

“I didn’t pray in the stand because I had my problems, but I did pray,” Chapman said.

Chapman received a full scholarship to Liberty for her efforts.

“Do not miss Bliss: A Fine Wedding Fair”

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Something old, something new and something completely unique is coming to Lynchburg’s downtown.

Hill City Bride, a fresh blog for Lynchburg brides to be, is hosting the first “Bliss: A Fine Wedding Fair” Saturday, Feb. 19, a bridal market designed to be educational and entertaining.

“I want it to be a fun upscale experience for customers,” Lynchburg photographer Jennifer Price said. “I want everyone who comes to feel pampered, relaxed and wanted (everyone who comes) to want (everyone who comes) to have an upscale experience for themselves.”

Do not miss Bliss: A Fine Wedding Fair

“Bliss: A Fine Wedding Fair” will take place a 2 p.m.-6 p.m. at Depot Grill in downtown Lynchburg.

“We’re going to take care of your business and provide beverages throughout the event,” Price said.

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5K Trail Race challenges students, community

Runners and walkers of all experience levels participate

RACHEL SMITH
rsmith8@liberty.edu

The 3.1-mile race was held on the Liberty Mountain trail system Saturday morning. The competition started and ended at the Snowflake facility with various awards given to many of the participants. Students Assistant hosted the race and awarded the top three female and male runners with trophies for their participation. Additionally, the top male and female runners overall, as well as the male and female masters, received customized trophies with engraved plaques.

"I first started running on these trails when I was a student," said Patrick Spencer. "At the time, I had been running since my high school days. The trails at Liberty are challenging, and I love being able to run with them," said student Assistant Patrick Spencer. The Student Activities department has held various trail series and races since its inception. The race has been open to anyone who wants to participate, and students get a discount on their entry fee.

The department is currently working to increase participation in outdoor events. The Student Activities office is located on the second floor of the Student Life Center. For more information e-mail the Student Activities office at studentactivities@liberty.edu or call at 434-582-2651.

The Lynchburg Hillcites are currently accepting applications for the following 2011 game day staff positions.

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For more information visit Hill City Bride or e-mail the Commuter Office at commuteroffice@liberty.edu.

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Walking into the Schilling Center Wednesday night, students and guests were greeted with a meting pot of aromas as they walked in line surrounded by decorations and signs depicting fun facts about different countries. Even Uncle Sam was there to greet the American participants so they did not go into culture shock. On the other side of a large canvas that separated guests from their international cuisine table adorned flags of different nations and music in various languages permeated the room.

During Missions Emphasis Week (MEW), Taste of the Nations is always a welcome tradition among students and guests, according to senior April Hagan. "This is the social event of the year because it combines food, fellowship and cultures," Hagan said.

Every year, the Office of International Student Services (OISS) hosts the event and provides the funds for several of Liberty's international students to get together and create culturally diverse dishes for home countries for other students to sample. An assortment of 14 dishes were made from home countries so that the money could be refunded to the OISS.

Countries represented this year included Korea, Burkino Faso, South Africa, Thailand and Germany. Many students return to Taste of the Nations every year not only to experience the food, but to take part in a different culture. Senior Jen Ping is one of many students who has returned to Taste of Nations every year. "I'm very into world cultures, and I love food," Ping said.

According to Dominy, the fact that students were sitting in groups and just talking to one another was very much like what they would be doing in India. "They have amazing food here, but you have so much more," Dominy said. "There is ample opportunity for you to be a light in that area.

The event officially opened with Pioneers mobilization coordinator Paul King introducing Dominy. Dominy greeted the crowd with a traditional Indian phrase "Namaste" and then spoke about her time in India and her personal experiences. "I was in India for three years working with Calcutta street children," Dominy said.

Dominy shared about her work in a slum of India working with children during the day.

"When you were sophomore in high school and thinking about Taste of the Nations, you were not thinking, "I want to do this in India,"" Dominy said. "I didn't even realize I would want to go."

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