Finding missing $50,000

Justin Jones
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It would take a rare occasion for ABC’s “Good Morning America” to find its way to Lynchburg, Va. But when a Greater Lynchburg Transit Company (GLTC) employee found a missing $50,000 dollars online, the popular morning show took notice and filmed the celebration that later aired on Feb. 17.

For 21 months, Debbie Evans and the 39 members of GLTC’s employee benefit association had been searching for the missing money they were owed when the association dissolved. Evans, who has been employed at GLTC for nearly six years, found the money on the Virginia Department of the Treasury’s Unclaimed Property Program’s website. With the certificate of deposit The GLTC recently found—missing $50,000.

Film event gives back to charity

Kayla Gourley
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Liberty University’s National Broadcast Society (NBS) created a film competition, called Forty-Eight, to raise money for four local charities and hosted a Black Tie Event on Feb. 24, where the films were judged.

Seven groups of three to five students had just 48 hours to create a promotional film for one of four charities: Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics Virginia, CauseLife and Interfaith Outreach Association.

Alicia Whitecavage, founder and project manager of Forty-Eight, said she put on her New Year’s Resolution list that she wanted to be more involved with the community, and she actually put her written words into action.

“I just thought that as students, we have projects for class and we do them to get a grade, and that’s well and good, but there’s something more,” Whitecavage said. “I wanted to take skills learned at Liberty and really do something for the community, like this event.”

Plunging for special needs

Lynchburg raises money for Special Olympics Virginia by braving icy waters

Kate Powley
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Students and faculty of Liberty University, and members of the Lynchburg community, took a plunge into frigid waters for a good cause. This year’s Hill City Polar Plunge Festival at Camp Hydaway on Feb. 25 raised $22,388—twice the amount that they were expecting.

“I was really happy with the results,” senior and Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) member Haley Collins said.

Liberty’s PRSSA members helped to promote this year’s Special Olympics Virginia Polar Plunge event.

FREEZING — Temperatures were in the low 40s.

Although the plunge was the highlight of the festival, games, a costume contest, a concert and enough food to feed the frenzies kept onlookers and plungers occupied throughout the day. Prizes were awarded in the categories of top individual fundraiser and team competition, according to the Polar Plunge’s website.

Special Olympics Virginia is a program that serves more than 10,000 athletes and train children and adult athletes with intellectual disabilities for free thanks to volunteering, donations and events such as the Polar Plunge, according to their website.

Hill City’s Polar Plunge is a small part of a larger Polar Plunge for the Special Olympics. According to the Polar Plunge’s website, one third of the Special Olympics Virginia’s annual operating budget was met. The goal for the Polar Plunge was $1 million and $1.12 million was raised.

See PLUNGE, A6

INSIDE THE CHAMPION

Today: Sunny 60/43 Tomorrow: T. Storms 67/46

Volume 29 • Issue 16

tomorrow: 67/46

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Libertychampion.com
Bringing Christian values into focus

Welcoming Liberty families

Valleys—Students learn how to become champions through involvement in the political process.

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Valleys—Students learn how to become champions through involvement in the political process.
Liberty's gymnastics team prepares for Nationals.

February 28, 2012 NEWS

Liberty gymnasts soar through air

Melanie Oelrich
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Flipping, flopping and flying through the air, Liberty’s co-ed gymnastics club team is gearing up to win. Consisting of nine competing gymnasts and led by Coach Mariah Dailey, the team started only three years ago.

Since the very beginning the team has been to Nationals every year. The first year they traveled, the team came back with one all-around finalist. The very next year, they came back with one all-around finalist and three vault finalists. Senior Rachel Steele, who aided in starting the team, spoke about how much they have grown since the startup year.

“When we started the first year, we had a pretty small team. We took five members to Nationals in Texas. Since then, we’ve gotten a new coach and acquired a few new teammates,” Steele said.

David Tighe, a senior from Boise, Idaho, talked about the big changes within the last couple of years, from facilities and team down to skill improvement.

“Since the 2010-11 season, we’ve seen our team go from practicing in a local gymnastics club to having its own facility. New members have joined from our own backyard (Liberty’s student population) from new freshmen to transfer students. Our skill level continues to increase as the team establishes itself,” Tighe said.

Tighe has been involved in competitive gymnastics for 17 years. He currently holds the title of team captain for this season. He recalls his favorite event to compete in between the six men’s events (Pommel Horse, Floor Exercise, Parallel Bars, High-bar and Vault) as either High-bar or the Floor exercise.

“High-bar is nothing but fun. It’s like being on a roller coaster, except if you let go of the rail, there’s nothing to hold you in, and it’s all up to you. It’s also probably the closest you can get to the feeling of controlled flight,” Tighe said.

On Feb. 11, the team traveled up to James Madison University to compete against big-name schools such as William and Mary, JMU, Miami of Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia Tech and UVA. The women’s team placed 2nd overall.

Training takes place 3-4 days a week, with a few members training up to five times a week. Each training session usually includes strength training, basic movements-handstands, flips, tight body drills and routines.

Most of the competition for the Liberty team comes from the other club teams at schools such as Penn State, Texas and MIT.

When asked why they chose gymnastics, both seniors Steele and Tighe mentioned how the importance of teamwork and discipline play a role in everyday life. Tighe also talked about how the book of Ecclesiastes relates to reaping the benefits of hard work.

“God has used the sport to teach me how to find ‘satisfaction in my toil,’” Tighe said.

“Someone told me that sports can be seen as another metaphor for life, and life is a metaphor for heaven. For me, gymnastics has done, and continues to do, just that.”

The Liberty gymnastics team will head to Nationals this year in Salt Lake City April 19 to 21.

OELRICH is a news reporter.
Since protests against tyranny began 11 months ago, more than 5,000 Syrians have been killed by government forces.

OPINION
Syrian government rules by fear

Since protests against tyranny began 11 months ago, more than 5,000 Syrians have been killed by government forces. According to a CNN article, journalist Marie Colvin, a veteran reporter with the British daily The Sunday Times, was killed by a mortar shell, and the United Nations has documented the use of chemical weapons by government forces.

Syria is yet to have its day of reckoning with its civilians. As reported by the United Nations, an estimated 1,800 people have been killed in Syria so far this year, according to the UN observer mission to Syria. The government has denied all allegations of human rights abuses and has accused the opposition of being backed by terrorists and foreign powers.

The Syrian government has used force and brutality to suppress opposition movements, arresting and torturing protesters. The UN Security Council has imposed sanctions on Syria in an attempt to halt the violence.

However, the Syrian government has continued to escalate its attacks, with reports of chemical weapons use and arbitrary arrests. The international community has been divided in its response, with some countries calling for sanctions and others urging a diplomatic solution.

In May, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a resolution calling for an independent international investigation into human rights abuses in Syria. The resolution received 22 votes in favor, with 14 against and 18 abstentions.

The Syrian government has denied the use of chemical weapons and has accused the international community of engaging in a campaign of lies. The situation remains tense, with reports of continued violence and human rights abuses.

The United States and other countries have increased their support for the Syrian opposition, providing military aid and training to rebel forces. The European Union has imposed sanctions on Syrian officials and entreprises.

Secretary of State John Kerry has called for a political transition in Syria, but the Syrian government has refused to engage in meaningful negotiations. The international community is divided in its approach, with some calling for a military intervention and others urging a diplomatic solution.

The situation in Syria remains critical, with thousands of civilians trapped in besieged areas and facing starvation and disease. The international community must continue to work towards a peaceful resolution to the conflict, while also providing humanitarian aid to those in need.

**Note:** The information above is based on the text provided and does not include any new updates or developments since the last reported date of May 2021.
Gan's Upper Peninsula, before landing at Aeronautics Students compete in Air Race Classic

Second team.

Liberty's competitor comes from different student pilot Esther Dil and Melton Merlon — both training to become airline pilots — will be paired up, while G3T and recent mechanical school graduate Lindsey Gray and helicopter student Naomi Satterfield make up the second team.

"I'm from Papua New Guinea, and we have less than 10 female pilots flying in our country, so I'm not unheard of," Dil said. "I'm going to be the first New Guinean to fill such a role, and she intends to eventually return to Papua New Guinea to fly. Gray and Satterfield are all aiming to become missionary aviators. Satterfield is looking at Nepal, and Morris and Gray are both considering South Africa."

"I would like to go into missions, specifically helicopter search and rescue, as a platform ministry in closed countries," Morris said. "I love mountain climbing, and I have a heart for Alpinists and guides in places that encounter people from all over, and if we go across the country, so we're going to encounter people from all over and if we conduct ourselves in a manner that glori-ifies the Lord — I think it will bring up inspiration and people will look to them as an example.""

In last year's race, Morris was able to do just that. "After we flew through one of the airports, I got an email from one of the girls who wrote in her air report saying I told Michael I wrote there was something different about our team, and then I read your bio, and I know it was your faith in Christ," Morris said. "It was really neat to get to hear him say and be able to talk to him about that.""

The Air Race Classic costs a total of $50,000 for the two teams, which they are currently raising. Aircraft rentals, fuel, and food and hotel costs are all included in the total. The race will run from June 19 to 22, with precision preparation activities beginning June 16.

ADAMS is the web editor.

Jubilee Center featured on Oprah Winfrey network

Cheryl Jamison cjamison@liberty.edu

The Jubilee Family Development Center in Lynchburg recently received national recognition in Richmond, where Executive Director Sheldon Anderson was acknowledged as an "Everyday Hero" on the Oprah Winfrey Show.

Wilder said that the Center "lighted a spark" in her life, and "I'm really proud of the work that we were doing," Wilder said.

Wilder said that the Jubilee Center "gave me the opportunity to pursue my passion," and she added, "I have a heart for Alpinists and guides in places that encounter people from all over, and if we go across the country, so we're going to encounter people from all over and if we conduct ourselves in a manner that glori-ifies the Lord — I think it will bring up inspiration and people will look to them as an example.""

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which was the most in the plunge's history. Liberty University was the first university in Virginia in 2001.

“It was great to see the support and the enthusiasm,” Tweed said. “He used to see all the vendors and the Lynchburg community come out together to support the Special Olympics,” Collins said.

Junior Dana Tweed was a registered plunger who raised money and helped to get donations and find more plungers. “I have a special needs brother back home who participates in the Polar Plunge and Special Olympics,” Tweed said. “I love getting as involved as I can.”

POWLEY is a news reporter.
Hockey enters Nationals No. 5
Handy and co. are well-poised for a deep run
Jay Sir
ysir@liberty.edu

It’s been two years since Liberty University last went to the ACHA National Tournament. Last season, Liberty narrowly missed a chance to compete in the tournament they’ve been regulars in, but this year, the Liberty men’s Division I hockey team is coming back to the national scene much improved.

“We didn’t play as many top-caliber teams two years ago as we did this year, so we feel pretty good that we’re going in battle mode,” head coach Kurt Handy said. “We’ve played a lot of the top teams during the regular season this year and a lot of them ended up being tight games. Those experiences are really going to help us with our match-up in the National Tournament. We’ve had some good runs with the guys we have, we’re confident with the coaching staff and we’re confident that if we play our games in the way we have been playing, we’re going to be fine.”

The Flames head into the tournament with a 27-8 record after testing their mettle in the season with the likes of No. 1 Penn State and No. 3 University of Delaware. They will have to win four games in win the tournament and the competition gets tougher every season.

“This year’s tournament is more open than it’s ever been. I think there are probably eight teams that have a really good chance of winning, and I would say that if we play our games the way we have been playing, we’re going to be fine.” Handy said. “On any given night, any team can win if they’re keen.”

Seniors Victorious
With teammates’ help, the seniors finish with a win
Derrick Battle
dbattle2@liberty.edu

It was huge, bigger than monumental,” said coach Dale Layer. “That was the best defense effort I’ve seen all season. It took a lot of heart. Head coach Dale Layer said. “That was the best defense effort I’ve seen all season. We definitely have progressed to the point that it’s a force.”

Life on the outside
With 931 left on the first half, John Caleb Sanders hit his second straight three for Liberty to take a 13-10 lead. From that point forward, the Flames never relinquished that lead. The Flames were 7-17 from beyond the arc.

John Caleb Sanders hit two more threes in the second half and finished with 14 points. Sanders also hit two threes in the second half with one coming with 1:40 left in the game, which gave the Flames a 43-41 lead.

“It was huge, bigger than monument,” Layer said.

RECOGNITION — Jesse Sanders (left) and Avery Warley (right) were two of six seniors who were recognized Saturday for their contribution to Flames sports.

FLAMES scoreboard
- Baseball vs. Radford 6-3 (W)
- Softball vs. Siena 10-1 (W)
- Women’s Tennis at Coastal Carolina 7-0 (L)
- Track: Big South Indoor Championshio
- Swimming: Coastal Collegiate Championshio
- Association: Men’s 1st Place Women’s 1st Place

FYI
- The men’s Big South Tournament started Feb. 28 in Asheville, N.C. Liberty plays Charleston Southern Feb. 28.

See M. Basketball, B2
See W. Basketball, B2

See ACHA, B4

SPORTS FEBRUARY 28, 2012

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See W. Basketball, B2

See ACHA, B4
From one brother to another

After playing together for 12 years, Jesse and John Caleb Sanders have formed a dangerous backcourt duo

Derek Bunde
class=“author”>

They have scored 1,306 points together in Liberty, which places them third in Big South history among siblings. This season, the Sanders brothers scored 117 points against Charleston Southern in the regular season and 115 against Campbell in the Big South tournament.

In the first half, John Caleb Sanders finished with 20 points, 12 rebounds and three blocks. Burrus continued to dominate in the second half, scoring nine more points, adding three blocks and four rebounds to his total. For the night, Burrus finished with 20 points, 12 rebounds and six blocks.

Auston started kicking inside,” John Caleb Sanders said. “He had 20 points and in the first half he had 11 points,” so they started packing in on him which gave us some open looks on the outside.”

A still-folding defense

The Campbell Camels only shot 29 percent from the field, and none of their starters scored more than nine points. Their best scorer was Trevor Nunn, who had 11 points.

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BROTHELY LOVE - Jesse and John Caleb Sanders have played two years alongside each other as Liberty Flames.

Jesse Sanders wasn’t emotional. “It’s not that big of a deal to me,” John Caleb Sanders said. “I’ve been his brother for so long, I don’t think about it too much.”

The last home game of the season was a huge moment for the Sanders brothers. In his last game, John Caleb Sanders scored 20 points while playing with his right hand, which is his dominant hand. He finished with 20 points, 12 rebounds and six blocks.

“I think we should have gotten a lot, getting to the NCAA tournament is one thing, but to have a team that can do that is going to be the best thing,” Jesse Sanders said.

BATTLE is the assistant sports editor.

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Men's lacrosse wins home opener

Michael Robertson and Zack Haley provided key hits in victories Saturday and Sunday afternoon. The Flames defeated Florida Gulf Coast University 11-10 in the second game of the doubleheader on Saturday afternoon. The Flames scored four straight goals to break the scoreless tie in the fourth inning with a pair of doubles from Michael Robertson and Tyler Cox. "They said that he stayed middle away, so I just kept missing middle away and was able to get a double out of that," Robertson said.

According to Eckelberger, the turning point in the game was getting out of a situation with nine players. "I didn't think that we came out to be better next time. We should've had a little better energy. There's a lot of room for improvement after this. When you lose a game, it's hard to say you contrib- uted, because obviously it wasn't enough. We gave thanks to God regardless of the situation." "We had a big hit, goals from a team," captain Michael Robertson said. "We just didn't get the timely hits we did last week." After Saturday, the Flames stand at 7-1, while Siena moves to 6-2 this season. Siena College, taking the first leg of the doubleheader was not as fortunate for the Flames as the first leg of the series. The Flames capped off their weekend with a 4-2 afternoon victory against the Saints. Flames captain Zack Haley scored two RIBs off three hits in the game. LEASURE and PEARSON are sports reporters.

Flames victorious in weekend series

Michael Robertson and Zack Haley provided key hits in victories Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

The Flames were able to contain the tempo throughout the game. They pushed the tempo on counter attack and slowed it down when playing in the offensive zone, keeping the ball moving and waiting for holes to open up in the defense.

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ACHA continued from B1

plating their game. Anytime you’re going into a tournament like this, it’s a great privilege to be going and it shows the amount of work each player put in to get to that point.

Since their last appearance in the national tournament, the Flames–Warrior 11 players on the roster who have not seen the playoffs.

“I want us to have a team that’s just as good in position, and I think we’re a lot more solid in some areas than we were back then,” Handley said. “We have a young team this year, and every year is different.” The 2012 ACHA National Tournament will be a single elimination tournament. The Liberty Flames will face Adrian College for the first match, and the winner will move on to play a game with another contender for a spot in the semifinals. All teams will then be seeded, and the semifinals will face each other for a chance to compete for the championship, which will be played Tuesday, March 6.

Chris Males, a Liberty senior, started coaching youth rec basketball last year. He had been with ACHA also, a Liberty senior, felt a call to minister to kids by challenging them to do things they never thought they could. It’s not an internship, CSER or a class project. It’s more than that.

“For every kid you can talk to, you are who God says you are, and if no one tells them that, they won’t believe it,” Chris said. Basketball provides the opportunity for Chris and Kelly to show Christ, not just share Him. “We pray before practice and games, and we take our game MVP to McDonalds and we have the opportunity to share with them that way,” Chris said.

The mentorship and their investment in Chris, Kelly, and a Liberty grad student, has slowly refined some of the rougher edges of the team.

“They’re a lot less selfish,” Chris said. “They understand teamwork. We’d be in a huddle at the end of the game at the beginning of the season, and they’d be mad that they didn’t score. Now they’re high fiving each other like, ‘Yeah, man, you got four steals, and it’s good to see them encouraging each other,”’ Chris said.

The team believing in themselves is just a byproduct of a learned example, demonstrated by Chris.

“I show that through defending them in a game or looking out for their best interests,” Chris said. “I’m not after winning, but to have fun and to grow leaders.”

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**Students journey to jumps**

Justin Berry  
*liberty.champion.edu*

The Liberty Mountain Snowflex Center (LMSC) began its second Trials 2 Rails experience, Journey to the Jumps, Feb. 21, offering students an opportunity to expand their skills in skiing or snowboarding.

Students took to the slopes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. to participate in the initial tryout sessions for Journey to the Jumps. The tryout sessions were open to any Liberty University student who wanted to learn more about skiing or snowboarding, while learning to execute jumps.

"I’m really excited that we are able to give students who have never skied or snowboarded before an opportunity to learn a lifetime sport," Director of LMSC Ski School, Brent Blakely, said.

In order to be a part of the program, students had to attend at least one of the tryout sessions so that the instructors and coaching staff could meet the participants and observe their skill level.

The tryouts the first week were conducted at the beginner slope to allow the instructors and coaching staff to determine the participants’ skill level.

Kara Shelden Jennings 
*Student Activities*

"I skied my whole life, but have never really tried the jumps," sophomore Mark Landis said. "I figured I would give them a shot, if they are going to train me, I would just take the opportunity and run with it."

The coaching staff at the LMSC made their selections Thursday evening to who would be advancing to the next round starting the following week. Each student that the coaching staff thought had enough skill or willingness to take on the challenge of the intimidating jumps would then be allowed to take part in a more intensive training program.

No longer on the beginner slopes, students would be able to work on improving their skills and learning to be more comfortable with the jumps, pushing themselves to the limit.

One of the perks of advancing into the next round of Journey to the Jumps is an opportunity to compete in the annual Dew Games on April 28 at the Snowflex Center. Students still get to compete for $10,000 in cash prizes, including gear and equipment.

Because some of the jumps are intense and could be dangerous, the LMSC staff urged students to start with the basics and build from there, moving at their own pace and following the instruction they were given.

The staff at Snowflex hopes to record and photograph the entire event to document each participant’s accomplishments and growth over the course of the next few months. For more information on Snowflex or Journey to the Jumps, call 582-1359.

BECK is a feature reporter.
Chad in thirty jeans, Vocke in T-shirts and slacks, students anticipating an evening of competitive musicianship filled the Tilley Student Center Friday, Feb. 24, for Student Activities’ Battle of the Bands.

Five bands representing several musical genres took turns performing selections of winning the evening’s grand prize, a $1,200 gift card to Musicianfriend.com. Each band was required to perform two songs, one original and one cover. Students voted for their favorite acts, and the two bands tallying the most votes proceeded to the second and final round of the event.

Regardless of winning or losing, it’s just really fun to be able to play the music that we chose,” Justin Smith, electric guitarist for Spencer York, said. York and his accompanying band played his original “Kindred.” Adalia, on the other hand, performed a cover song combining The Police and Adele’s “Rumour Has It.”

The event was highlighted by Adalia’s cover of the Beatles’ “Hey Jude” before breaking into a rambunctious rendition of Jet’s hit song “Are You Gonna Be My Girl?” Guitarist/singer Luke Thompson captured the audience’s attention throughout the House Dynamic’s center performance, walking into the crowd while playing guitar, then throwing his guitar at the end of the set.

Adalia, an alternative rock band whose name means “God is my refuge” in Hebrew, according to guitarist John Chapman, connected with the audience as well, encouraging them to sing along during their band’s cover of Coldplay’s “Viva La Vida.”

“It was amazing.” Gammell said in reference to the audience’s response, which kind of made us nervous, but all the bands were really good. We were just really lucky to play with all the bands. All of them were really good and positive.”

“I wasn’t really expecting to have the crowd get up into it,” Gammell, Adalia’s bassist, said. “I was just thinking of the band that feels cool. There were some people that were really close friends of ours that were up front, singing the songs and everything. It’s worth more to the hands on stage people than anyone else.”

After the bands – Chasing the Horizon, Spencer York, Smoke and Mirrors, The House Dynamic, and Adalia – performed their songs, students voted on the Student Activities Facebook page for their favorite performances. The top two bands receiving the most votes – Adalia and Chasing the Horizon – proceeded to the final round of the competition.

“Regardless of winning or losing, it’s just really fun to be able to play the music that we chose,” Justin Smith, electric guitarist for Spencer York, said. York and his accompanying band played his original “Kindred.” Adalia, an alternative rock band whose name means “God is my refuge” in Hebrew, according to guitarist John Chapman, connected with the audience as well, encouraging them to sing along during their cover of Coldplay’s “Viva La Vida.”

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