

Fauquier Times

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Iron Dog

TIMES STAFF PHOTO/ROBIN EARL

Eric Hummel of the Harrisonburg Police Department handles Vader, who is racing to get to a bad guy. See the story on page 2.

Teen buzz on vaping: It's everywhere

Health risks don't deter young people from Juuling

By Robin Earl
TIME STAFF WRITER

When a group of 45 Fauquier High School students were asked, "Do you see people vaping in school?" the students erupted. They all had something to say.

They were asked for a show of hands on how many had seen students vaping during class, and a half dozen hands shot up.

The students were gathered for Y-Street training on how to be advocates for student health. (Y-Street is a Virginia Foundation that organizes high school volunteers.)

Most of their classmates seemed to be aware of the health risks of vaping, they said, but the warnings were not having an effect. "They're already addicted," one boy said.

Mikey Goltry, a sophomore, opined, "They're too immature. They think that as long as it's not happening to them right now, they don't care."

Another girl said, "Kids are not watching the news. They don't hear about the dangers."

Someone pointed out, "Their parents are buying it for them, so they think it's OK."

Y-Street moderator Mel Oliver said, "It's the same with our friends," speaking of those in their mid-20s, "Our friends Juul it up too."

School board member Brian Gorg (Center District) said at a Sept. 23 work session that he has heard from

See VAPING, page 5

Deleplane Cellars sold for \$5.3 million

New owners plan to continue successful winery business

By James Ivancic
TIMES STAFF PHOTO

Daniel and Katie Gomez liked Delaplane Cellars so much as customers that they now own it.

The couple and two friends, Nicholas Gordon and Thomas Duckenfield, paid the asking price of \$5.3 million to Jim and Betsy Dolphin, who founded Delaplane Cellars in 2007.

The real estate listing "popped up on my Facebook page," said

Daniel Gomez. Roy Meloni of TTR Sotheby's International Realty handled the sale, which was completed within a month after the property was listed.

The price includes the vineyards, winery and tasting room building and a house.

The purchase fulfills an ambition of the partners – all wine lovers -- to get into the business of making and selling wine.

See WINERY, page 3



COURTESY PHOTO

The tasting room at Delaplane Cellars will continue to serve wine-loving customers under the new ownership.

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As vaping illnesses mount, state officials warn of e-cigarettes dangers

By Georgia Geen
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

When cases of lung disease linked to vaping began popping up across the country this summer, the Virginia Poison Center began receiving calls from people who thought they might have become ill from using e-cigarettes.

“Nobody knows why there’s all of a sudden been a cluster,” said Dr. S. Rutherford Rose, director of the Virginia Poison Center.

On Tuesday, Oct. 1, the Virginia Department of Health confirmed the first e-cigarette-related death of a Virginia resident. The VDH also reported that 31 lung injury cases have been confirmed as of Sept. 30 this year.

The Trump administration has moved to ban flavored vapes in response to the spike in lung illnesses, the latest in a series of measures nationwide aimed at curbing e-cigarette use. This summer, a Virginia law went into effect that increased the age to buy cigarettes and other tobacco products from 18 to 21.

Virginia is one of dozens of states with reports of vaping-related illness. Nationwide, officials have linked 805 cases of lung disease and 13 deaths to e-cigarettes.

Vaping often has been cast as a safe alternative to cigarettes. But Rose, who is also a professor at the



COURTESY PHOTO

The Juul is a popular vaping product available at most convenience stores.

VCU School of Medicine, said that because the products are so new, there is a lack of data on the long-term use of vaping. As a result, it’s “premature” to say e-cigarettes are indeed safer, Rose said.

“When these things were touted as a safe alternative to cigarettes, that was really only based on the harmful effects of long-term cigarettes. It really wasn’t a comparison because there wasn’t any data,” Rose said. “There’s certainly no data for long-term use of these products; they haven’t been around long enough.”

Using vapes early on can lead young people to smoke cigarettes in the future, according to a 2015 study.

How prevalent is vaping in Virginia?

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has compiled data on e-cigarette use in 37 states and U.S. territories in 2017. The data showed that:

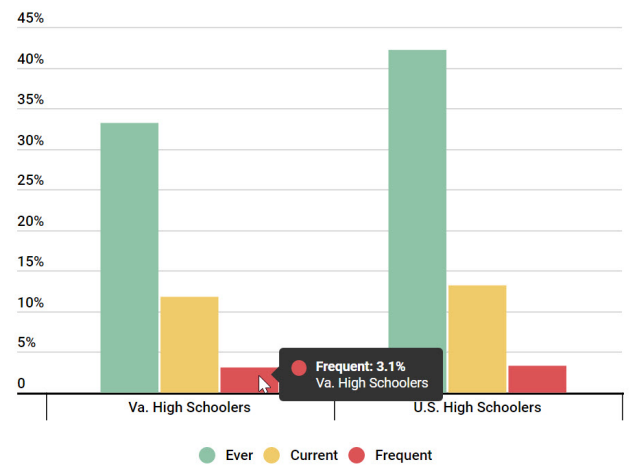
About 33 percent of Virginia high school students had used an electronic cigarette at some point. That compared with about 42 percent of high school students nationwide.

About 12 percent of high schoolers in Virginia were current vape users, just below the national average of 13 percent. (The CDC defines a current user as someone who has vaped at least once during the past 30 days.)

About 3 percent of the state’s high school students vaped frequently. That was on par with the national average. (A frequent user is someone

Vaping among high schoolers

Virginia high school students used e-cigarettes at rates at or below the national average.



Graphic by Georgia Geen of VCU Capital News Service based on 2017 CDC data

who has used e-cigarettes at least 20 days during the past month.)

About 10 percent of Virginia’s young adults (ages 18 to 24) were current e-cigarette users. That also was about the national average.

“If somebody’s a teenager, a young person, you don’t want them to continue doing this for 20, 30 years,” Rose said. “There is an inherent danger, and nobody really knows what that danger is. If you’re young and healthy, why risk it?”

The wide scope of products people are using — some of which contain nicotine or THC, and are purchased at stores or online — makes it more challenging to narrow down an exact cause.

“There are a variety of products out there, people putting a variety of ingredients in those products,” Rose said. “So there’s not a lot of uniformity. There’s some common themes but not to all patients who have developed the problem.”

What is vaping?

Vaping is the inhaling of a vapor created by an electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) or other vaping device. E-cigarettes are battery-powered smoking devices. They have cartridges filled with a liquid that usually contains nicotine, flavorings and chemicals. The liquid is heated into a vapor, which the person inhales.

Some people use e-cigarettes to vape marijuana, THC oil, and other chemicals.

There are different kinds of e-cigarettes, but many people use the Juul. This e-cigarette looks like a flash drive and can be charged in a laptop’s USB port. It makes less smoke than other e-cigarettes. The Juul’s nicotine levels are similar to a cigarette’s, but can vary widely.

Glossary

Atomizer: The atomizer is the part of a vape pen that contains the coil and wick, and these parts heat up to vaporize vape juice.

Battery: Every vape pen has a battery. These batteries vary in terms of the volts they put out and their capacity.

Cartridge: The cartridge of a vape pen is the component that holds the vape

juice. Cartridges vary in capacity.

Coil: The vape coil is the part of a vape pen’s atomizer that vaporizes vape juice.

E-liquid: E-liquid is another term for vape juice. This liquid, which sometimes contains nicotine, is also called E-juice.

Lung hit: A lung hit is a hit of vapor that you take directly into your lungs without holding it in your mouth first.

Mod: A vape mod is a modifiable vape pen. These types of vape pens generally have larger cartridges, more powerful atomizers, and longer-lasting batteries. They are also generally larger than other types of vape pens.

Mouth hit: A mouth hit is a hit of vapor you hold in your mouth before you inhale. You can also blow out a mouth hit without inhaling it.

Pod: A pod is a type of vape pen that has a short, squat, pod-like shape. Pod vapes are usually significantly smaller than other types of vape pens.

Throat hit: Throat hit is a term used by vapers to refer to the way a hit of vapor feels as they inhale it down their throats. People who are used to smoking cigarettes might prefer smoother, gentler throat hits, but expert vapers prefer harsh, intense throat hits.

Vape pen: A vape pen is any type of portable vaporizer that allows you to vaporize vape juice.

Source for glossary: Citizenjournal.net



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Health risks don't deter young people from vaping

VAPING, from page 1

students that they are concerned about the prevalence of vaping in the schools. In a follow-up phone call Oct. 1, he said, "Students are worried that vaping is hurting their friends." In conversations with students last year and more recently, Gorg has learned that vaping seems to be viewed by many students as different from other forms of tobacco consumption, as safer than smoking, for instance.

Because vaping is so easily concealed, there isn't the same fear of getting caught, he continued. "These kids are reaching out to adults, saying, 'Could you help us out with this?'"

Gorg said that Superintendent of Schools David Jeck has been meeting with student groups on vaping, and "his sense is that use is going down."

Vaping's appeal

Daniel Lyster-Mensh, a 21-year-old professional musician and Fauquier High graduate, said that his vaping habit started in January with a 99-cent vape pen from Wawa. Lyster-Mensh was going through a rough time and "needed a little boost."

He said, "I was hanging out with people who were doing it a lot and I would take hits. I was attracted to it. I saw people I looked up to doing it and it made me feel good. It was fun."

He also said that he thought that the nicotine buzz he got from vaping helped him concentrate.

But about three months in, Lyster-Mensh believed it might be harming his health. "I had told my parents I was vaping and they sort of freaked out," he said. "'This is stupid,' I thought, so I threw it away."

But it didn't last. Lyster-Mensh said he was hanging out and making music with a friend. "His brother was vaping a lot. He gave me one he was using. I went ahead and bought a disposable one. I didn't want to commit to a full vape, but I kept on buying the disposable ones."

In June, Lyster-Mensh bought a Juul. "Everyone I knew was doing it. It was a little bit edgy, artistic. Literally everyone my age was vaping, and I told myself it was totally fine. You can go through a pod or two a day and it feels like nothing."

But in August, Lyster-Mensh said, "I started to realize my body was not liking this. I was feeling sick, I had headaches and always seemed to have a cough." Some products were worse than others. "Some made me feel awful, the percentage of nicotine in those was much higher."

It scared him.

Lyster-Mensh doesn't drink or smoke cigarettes or do any drugs. "I know I have an addictive personality, so I stay away from that stuff."

He said he endured what he refers to as vaping withdrawals for about six weeks. "I figured out I had been acting manic. I was annoyed all the time. It was an uncontrollable irritation. My parents were losing their minds at me. And the headaches were horrible."

Lyster-Mensh is relieved to be over the withdrawals. "If I could

Student voices

See pages 10 and 11 for op-ed submissions on vaping from local high school students.

vape without it hurting me, I would, but the way my body is built, it screws me up."

Sometimes Lyster-Mensh misses the friendly vibe he shared with his friends who vape. "It was nice. It was a companionable thing to do. 'Can I hit your Juul, Bro?' It helped me fit in."

These days, Lyster-Mensh tries to convince his friends to give up the habit. "My friends, they're like smokers. They are coughing all the time, serious coughs. Some of them even have respiratory problems. It may be affecting their lungs. I tell them they need to get off it."

Not enough data

Daniel Ferrell, epidemiologist at the Virginia Department of Health, Rappahannock-Rapidan Health District, said that although "vaping is really starting to hit home around here," his department is still collecting data.

He said if someone shows up at a local emergency department or urgent care facility with what looks like pneumonia, severe allergy or other kind of respiratory incident, and if the patient has been vaping, "we look further, we dig more into it."

As of yet, he said, "We haven't identified any one product or been able to prove causality (between vaping and lung illness)."

Ferrell fears that in some ways, vaping could be even worse than smoking. The practice was initially marketed as safer than cigarettes, he said, but the nicotine delivery system allows the person vaping to continue inhaling long after a cigarette would have been discarded.

Ferrell said, "When you smoke a cigarette, your mouth gets dry and has a strong aftertaste, so you don't necessarily want to chain smoke. With a vape, it has a flavor and there's not that nasty taste. Vaping is more socially acceptable and is seen as less obnoxious, so people do it more often and for longer periods."

Levi Rizk, D.O., of Marathon Health (which operates the Fauquier County Employee Wellness Center) agrees that when it comes to the repercussions of vaping, there is still much that is unknown. He said one medical school study found that vaping – much like smoking – makes blood vessels stiffer. Normally, he said, blood vessels dilate and constrict as needed. After vaping, they don't behave as intended. "And that's after only one puff."

He said, "We don't know what the long-term effects will be, but we do know that when cells are exposed to toxins, over time it causes the cells to change their structure. We see that when we study chronic illnesses."

He said, "In my opinion, vaping is guilty until proven innocent."

The decision to quit

Piedmont Pediatrics pediatrician Joshua Jakum, M.D., said that nicotine intake is many times higher with

vaping than with cigarettes. He is also concerned with the heavy metals and other unknown substances that are inhaled along with the vapor. "There are a lot of nasties in a vape pen."

Jakum said the standard of care to help someone quit nicotine – either smoking or vaping – is the administration of Wellbutrin. "It's an anti-anxiety, anti-depression medication that helps with addiction and cravings." He said that it should be used along with counseling or other support services. (See "Vaping resources" box.)

Parents can help their children break free of nicotine addiction "by having open, honest conversations with your kids," said Jakum. "Tell them you are concerned about them and their friends. Do they know anyone who vapes?"

Jakum said that when you have to have a difficult conversation, "it's good to put yourself in a situation where you don't have to make eye contact with your child. Talking in the car is great. It's less confrontational, the conversation has a definite end, and they can't

Raising awareness at the high schools

Kraig Kelican, Fauquier High School principal:

"At Fauquier High School, we thoroughly covered the vaping policy and discipline consequences at our class assemblies, including a presentation from our SRO at the beginning of the school year and at new student orientation. This included the change in the law, making vaping or possession illegal for those under 21.

"We have increased supervision of restrooms during class change and before and after school. Teachers have been educated regarding vaping devices, odors, vapor, specific student behaviors, etc. through a presentation from administrators and the SRO and SSO.

"Additionally, we have developed a school athletic and co-curricular code of conduct that addresses many behaviors and policies related to participation in activities, including vaping violations and the additional consequences given for vaping violations.

"We continue to monitor and process violators and will continue to do so, including notification to the parents and SRO."

Sam Cox, Liberty High School principal:

"Vaping is a serious concern nationwide. We know certain students have access to these devices and would be naive to think they don't use them at or away from school.

"On the first day of school we had our SRO, Master Deputy Chris Meyer, address each class of students about the dangers and consequences of vaping and Juuling.

"We have not seen an increase in usage through disciplinary referrals as of September.

"We are interested in results from the PRIDE survey and what may be revealed in terms of student use and frequency."

Vaping resources

From the Virginia Department of Health

A guide to the dangers of vaping: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/vdhlivewell/vaping/>.

A vaping toolkit: <https://view.joomag.com/youth-tobacco-nicotine-use-toolkit-2019/0141831001561574724?short>

From the American Academy of Pediatrics

A guide for parents: <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/tobacco/Pages/Facts-For-Parents-About-E-Cigarettes-Electronic-Nicotine-Delivery-Systems.aspx>

From the Department of Health and Human Services

Resources for teens: Teen.smokefree.gov

jump out the window to get away! Car rides provide opportunities for short, incremental conversations."

Reach Robin Earl at rearl@fauquier.com

Meaghan Brill, Kettle Run High School principal:

"At the beginning of the school year (during the first full week of school), we met with each class and reviewed our expectations. This dialogue covered vaping. In previous years, we have also set aside a day to educate our staff. We coordinated with our SRO, Cpl. Jeff Tindle, to put the confiscated items "on display" for our staff so they knew what to look for and the most popular types of vapes. This really helped us to curb the behaviors we had previously been seeing. We will likely do this again for our staff this year as we saw a tremendous benefit in raising awareness.

"I also have one student who is working to present his experience with vaping, impacts on one's health, and being caught at school to all of our ninth-grade physical education students while they are in the health portion of the class. We think that his personal account will resonate with our students."

Student-led efforts

Fauquier High guidance counselor Heather Harris said that she took a team of students to a Youth, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project conference in July of 2018 and they returned with a \$250 grant to use toward an anti-vaping project. Harris said, "They bought a video that is shown to the ninth-grade health classes, and they are having flyers made to post in bathroom stalls."

The students also provided some training to the faculty this fall, Harris added. "A lot of adults don't know what to look for. The staff found it very helpful to hear from students."

Harris said that the students shared "hot spots" in the school where vaping happens most often. During class, students blow the vapor into their shirts, she said. "It disappears quickly and doesn't smell like smoke. It just smells like bubble gum or like someone has just put on hand lotion."

A better solution to the vaping crisis: Education

There's nothing like walking into the bathroom and smelling the artificial scent of mangoes. Some may think it's a new air freshener, but others know better. What they are actually smelling is the remains of student vaping.

Vaping is an epidemic taking over the country, especially among teenagers and young adults. As a high school student, I am surrounded by vaping every day. Students inhale e-cigarettes mindlessly, sugar-coating the dangerous reality of vaping.

Vapes are relatively new, and many believe they are harmless. Yet the National Institute of Health says e-cigarettes contain many toxic chemicals, including nickel, chromium, cadmium and carcinogens. Along with this, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 805 lung injury cases and 13 deaths due to vaping as of Oct. 1. Thirteen may seem like a small number, but those were 13 beautiful lives that the world will never get back.

It's horrifying to think that my classmates could fall to this fate. The most disturbing part is they vape without knowledge on how e-cigarettes break down their bodies. We never grew up learning the dangers of vaping as we did smoking. Schools advise students to not vape but never explain why. This results in teenag-



www.AnnamariaWard.com

E-cigarette flavorings and marketing to blame for explosion of teen vaping

Vaping -- what once started as an innocent trend has begun to cause panic throughout the public. E-cigarettes are devices that heat a liquid to a temperature high enough to be inhaled as a form of aerosol; this is referred to as vaping.

The Centers for Disease Control have so far confirmed 13 vaping deaths. So if there's proof that vaping causes damage, then why do people do it?

Vaping was initially developed to help people quit smoking cigarettes, but most students have never touched a cigarette, yet they're getting hooked on vaping. They believe that vaping is safe, when in reality, vaping shouldn't be promoted as a safe thing.

RACHEL SINGLETON



ers carelessly vaping, thinking it's safe.

Along with a lack of knowledge, one of the main reasons teens vape is for social appearance. For teens, vaping is the "next big thing." If you do it, you're automatically cooler, but if you don't, you're a boring goody-two-shoes. Once students pick up the vape, they're hooked by the addictive nicotine and flavorings, and the cycle continues.

We attempt to combat the vaping surge, but in the wrong ways. Beginning in July, Virginia raised the age for purchasing tobacco and nicotine products from 18 to 21. While this policy recognizes the dangers of vaping, it doesn't help. Kids access vapes through older family members, siblings and friends and continue to vape in public and private spaces.

A better solution to stopping student vaping is to educate teenagers on the dangers of e-cigarettes, and how it's not as cool as it seems. If students learned about the harm vaping can cause, and specifically that it can cause death, we would be a lot more hesitant to pick up a vape.

You may look at this issue and say, "This doesn't affect me, why should I care?" However, it does affect you. You never know who will fall next -- your children, your friends, your coworkers -- even you. We need to take this vaping crisis seriously. We can't keep looking at it as a passing trend, because it's not. This is a real issue that is hurting and killing real people.

If you or a family member is currently suffering from drug addiction, visit www.QuitNow.net/Virginia or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

Rachel Singleton is the editor-in-chief of the Falconer student newspaper at Fauquier High School.

AMANDA ARELLANO



It is true that e-cigarettes contain fewer chemicals than are in tobacco smoke, but some types of e-cigarettes contain more nicotine than the conventional cigarette. Others contain THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana.

See **TEEN VAPING**, page 10



In late October 1961, Chief Forest Warden Stanley Mettinger (at left) took a group of boys in Warrenton High School's Keep Virginia Green program into the woods to learn how to build a fire line. Elsewhere, Forester W. C. Vernam was giving another group a class on the growth of trees.

FAUQUIER FLASHBACKS FROM THE FAUQUIER TIMES

**75 Years Ago
October 5, 1944**

Eyewitness to the triumphal entry of **Gen. Charles DeGaulle** into Paris was a Fauquier man, **Capt. Clifford P. Zieger**, who wrote home last week that it was he who piloted the Fighting French commander from his North African headquarters to the liberated French capital. Capt. Zieger, former airline pilot for whom Zieger Field below Warrenton is named, is in the Air Transport Command.

Capt. James H. Herbert of Delaplane has been awarded the air medal for meritorious achievement in aerial combat, according to a release for an Eighth AAF Fighter Station in England, where he is stationed. Capt. Herbert, 26, is a member of a P-51 Mustang group whose long-range fighters are escorting heavy bombers to their targets in Germany.

Rationing and distribution control of all farm machinery except corn pickers have been canceled. This makes it possible for a farmer to purchase machinery anywhere in the U.S. that it can be found.

**50 Years Ago
October 2, 1969**

William E. Clarke, 39, of Warrenton, a delegate to the 1968 state and national Democratic conventions, has announced his candidacy as an independent to succeed the late **Tom Frost** in the House of Delegates. His opposition in the November election will be Republican **F. Preston Pulliam**, Warrenton insurance man, and **Duncan C. Gibb**, Front Royal

attorney appointed by the 28th Virginia Legislative District Democratic Committee to run, after Tom Frost died.

The program last week of the Warrenton Rotary Club was a lunch hour visit with the hounds of the Warrenton Hunt at Ridgelea. After a buffet lunch, the Rotarians heard fellow member and former MFH of the hunt **W. N. Wilbur** describe the joys and hazards of foxhunting. **Huntsman Dick Bywaters** and **Whipper-in Fred Duncan** put the hounds through an impressive drill.

**25 Years Ago
October 5, 1994**

Although his job puts him on call 24 hours a day, **Sgt. Paul Mercer**, Fauquier High School's first community resource officer, says it is "an absolute joy." Every morning before school starts, students crowd into his office for the free doughnuts, pastries and potato chips he buys for them. "It helps me build a rapport with them," he said.

The surprise Disney retreat last Wednesday produced euphoria for some and dismay for others, but it will have a minimal effect on county expectations of development pressure from the east. "I think Prince William County, being where it's located, is going to continue to get development," said Lee District Supervisor **David Mangum**.

The emerging conflict between Islamic fundamentalists and the governments of North Africa was a topic of presentation by former State Department official **Maxwell Harway** at the Fauquier Forum, held Sept. 22.

—Compiled by John T. Toler

E-cigarette flavorings and marketing to blame for explosion of teen vaping

TEEN VAPING, from page 9

Immoral companies want to hook the new generation by promoting e-cigarettes as a habit without consequences. In 2014 they spent \$125 million marketing and advertising, targeting the younger students by placing their ads near schools. In 2018, the number of students vaping doubled from the previous year, stated the AHO.

One of the main reasons students claim to vape is the flavored liquids that are used in them. When one student vapes, multiple students want to try it out. When you have groups of students in a school vaping, the students that aren't vaping begin to feel left out. That's when peer pressure comes in and more students join in. They also use vaping as a way to gain popularity by posting themselves vaping on their social media. At this point, vaping is seen as normal among teens, without any awareness of the consequences.

Students talk about experiencing abnormal symptoms during physical activities or sleeping. They refuse to believe that vaping has anything to do with it, when in reality, it does. Since they aren't informed, they continue to vape.

On July 1, the state of Virginia prohibited sales or distributions of nicotine vapor products to any person under the age of 21. The possession of a nicotine vapor product is also prohibited for any individual under the age of 21.

The question is, will these regulations eliminate vaping in the younger groups? People are using this as a way to make profits. An older adult will buy the vapor products to then sell to teens at a higher price.

Once teenagers become addicted to vaping, they will pay whatever the price is to get what they want. The best way to eliminate vaping is by raising awareness of the true consequences it has to your health.

Amanda Arellano is the sports editor of The Falconer, Fauquier High School's student newspaper.

Galante shines at candidate forum

I attended the candidates forum on Sept. 25 with Democrat Laura Galante and Republican Del. Michael Webert. Both are running for the 18th District House of Delegates seat. They were very different in not only their responses, but their demeanor. Mr. Webert appeared bored throughout the debate while Ms. Galante was clear-eyed, energetic and laser-focused on her ideas.

This was evident when the candidates were asked if they supported the ERA. Ms. Galante responded with one word – “yes!” Mr. Webert meandered around the issue and

quoted party lines that the ERA was dead, and he would be concerned about the effects on women's sports teams and bathrooms.

Of course, the question du jour was proposed gun control. Mr. Webert said that the legislation proposed at Gov. Ralph Northam's session in July wouldn't prevent the murders. He also said legislation coming before him in committee was problematic and that is why he killed it. When pressed by the moderator for how he would make the legislation better, he demurred, and fell back to party lines. “While I support the Second Amendment, my

thoughts are ...”

If the proposed legislation won't work, what are Mr. Webert's thoughts on stopping the mass murders and the carnage? When is he going to not just kill bills, but actually do something to reduce the killing of innocent people?

Mr. Webert was woefully short on ideas. Maybe his eight years in office have jaded him and he is tired, hence the boredom and lack of initiative to come up with the solutions our county needs. My vote on Nov. 5 will be for Laura Galante, and I hope you will consider voting for her as well.

INA C. HALL
Marshall

D.J. Jordan represents 31st District values

We are writing for your support for D.J. Jordan (R), candidate for Virginia House of Delegates from the 31st District. The 31st District includes parts of southern Fauquier and Prince William counties

We each have served as president of the Fauquier County Farm Bureau board, and, while we do not speak for Farm Bureau as an organization, we each as individuals are very enthusiastic about D.J.'s candidacy.

D.J. will be an intelligent and effective common-sense voice in Richmond for measures that favor agriculture, small business, education and the values overwhelmingly held by voters of the 31st District.

In contrast, the incumbent, Del. Elizabeth Guzman (D), comes from the Bernie Sanders wing of the Democrat (sic) Party and is a principal co-sponsor of the agriculture-unfriendly Virginia Green New Deal. She has earned an anti-business “F” rating from the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and supports doubling the minimum wage and repealing Virginia's right-to-work laws.

This election is an opportunity to send a delegate to Richmond who represents the views of the 31st District rather than the excesses and foolish fads of the left wing of the national Democrat (sic) Party. D.I. Jordan is providing that opportunity.

JOHN SCHIED
Warrenton
BEN COOPER
Orlean

Eric Maybach has outstanding work ethic

With the upcoming elections in November, I would like to express my endorsement and my complete confidence in Eric Maybach for commissioner of the revenue for Fauquier County.

I have known Eric his entire life. Along with his outstanding work ethic, he is a man of high integrity and unquestionable moral character. He is not only dedicated to his family, but also to this county.

I will now refer to an article written about Eric by one of his former superiors, Joseph Peterson. Eric has worked as a “regional manager at Gateway One Lending, where he achieved national recognition

for this superior performance and leadership on multiple occasions. Eric managed six teams across five states along the East Coast, overseeing a monthly portfolio of \$16.5 million and \$200 million annually.”

That's quite the endorsement itself. What greater insight into a person and their ability to do a job than from someone with whom they have worked.

There should be no doubt that he can do the job, but also that he is the best person for the job. Please join me in casting your vote for Eric Maybach for commissioner of the revenue on Nov. 5.

JANICE D. FOLEY
Warrenton

Thoughts on climate change

There were good discussions in the Sept. 25 edition of the Fauquier Times about climate change. There are a number of issues that need to be considered when we discuss climate change and possible solutions.

- 1) Solar panels considerations
 - a) Solar panel efficiency aging or loss of efficiency
 - b) Efficiency loss due to debris and dirt covering panel surfaces
 - c) Effect of latitude on efficiency
 - d) Effect on winter vs. summer on efficiency
 - e) DC-AC power converter reliability
 - f) Unsubsidized cost per kWhr of solar panels vs. natural gas fired power plants
 - g) Number of acres needed to power the US with solar panels
 - h) The amount of sunlight reflected back into space and its impact on climate cooling
- 2) Wind turbine considerations
 - a) Unsubsidized cost per kWhr of wind turbines vs. natural gas power plants
 - b) Impact of low frequency noise and vibrations on people, animals and marine life (ocean-based turbines)
 - c) Impact on wind farms and migrating birds reducing wind electricity production
 - d) The number of acres required to power the U.S.
 - e) Perhaps Dominion can provide answers to both wind and solar costs vs. natural gas.
- 3) Real impact of CO2
 - a) Minimum levels of CO2 to sustain life on the planet
 - b) Maximum historic levels of CO2
 - c) Is bio mass increasing or decreasing around the world, based on satellite observations?
 - d) Are temperatures changing based on satellite data?
 - e) Older ground stations have been in existence for nearly a hundred years. They were originally located away from urban areas to minimize localized heating from structures, roads, restricted wind movement and lack of normal vegetation. Basically, cities and urban areas are hot spots and can skew weather data.
- 4) The push to electric vehicles will require enormous quantities of rare earth minerals to make batteries and new electric motors. The U.S. has large deposits of these minerals, but processing them has toxic byproducts and waste, resulting in no production facilities in the U.S.

This is now done in China and building facilities in the U.S. will be very complex, expensive and time consuming. Additionally, nickel and cobalt mining and refining generated large amounts of hazardous materials. Those metals are also used in efficient electric motors.

Clearly climate change is a complex issue, these questions and their answers only scratch the surface of what needs to be openly discussed.

JOHN MAXWELL
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Letters to the Editor

The Fauquier Times welcomes letters to the editor from its readers as a forum for discussion of local public affairs subjects.

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Letters must be signed by the writer. Messages sent via email must say “Letter to the Editor” to distinguish them from other messages not meant for publication. Include address and phone for verification (Not to be published.) Letters are subject to editing for clarity and length. Personal attacks will not be published. Long letters from those with special authority on a current issue may be treated as a guest column (with photo requested). Due to volume, letters cannot be acknowledged. All letters are appreciated. Letters must be received by 5 p.m. Monday to be considered for Wednesday publication.