

DANVILLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

'A TRIBUTE TO JOHN WILLIAMS'

Presenting highlights from 'Star Wars,' 'Raiders of the Lost Ark March: Indiana Jones,' 'Jurassic Park' and the 'Superman March' on Saturday.

SCENE, B5



BOYS BASKETBALL
GW OPENING
STATE TOURNEY
FRIDAY VS.
LOUDOUN CO.
 » SPORTS, B1

TOP TAKEAWAYS FROM
 SUPER TUESDAY
 » INSIDE, A4

Danville Register & Bee

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DANVILLE

Casino finalists pitch to leaders

Firm representatives make presentation to officials on bringing gambling facility

By John R. Crane
 jcrane@registerbee.com

Danville officials have been meeting with casino company representatives in closed sessions this week, the Danville Register & Bee has learned.

The meetings, the city mayor confirmed, have included presentations from four casino company finalists who had responded to a request for proposals issued by the city Dec. 2 to bring a gambling facility here.

"There was a lot of interest in coming here to Danville," Mayor Alonzo Jones said Wednesday.

The presentations included proposed locations for a casino, Jones added. He would not say where in the city the companies wanted to open one.

The request did not include off-track or pari-mutuel wagering facilities, which is a separate issue dealing primarily with horse racing and slot-like

historical horse racing machines. In a November referendum, Danville residents voted to allow such facilities to operate here, primarily in response to the New Kent County-based Colonial Downs expressing an interest in opening one in the city.

Jones said he could not reveal which companies made presentations to Danville City Council during the closed sessions, held on both Monday and Tuesday.

Officials at Danville Regional Airport told the Danville Register & Bee on Wednesday representatives from

SEE CASINO | A8

'IT'S HORRIFIC'

Witnesses: After gunfire, car crashes through sign; 2 found dead of gunshot wounds, baby boy unharmed



A deputy with the Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office holds a baby boy who was retrieved unharmed from a vehicle where two deceased adults were found with gunshot wounds Wednesday afternoon on West Gretna Road.

By Caleb Ayers
 cayers@registerbee.com

GRETNA

The infant boy grasped a small piece of vibrant yellow crime scene tape. He was removed unharmed from a vehicle where two adults had died from gunshot wounds less than an hour earlier Wednesday afternoon.

The two people were pronounced dead at the scene in front of a Gretna residence along West Gretna Road, authorities reported. Pittsylvania County Sheriff Mike Taylor had not yet identified them and would not say whether they are looking for suspects or suspect a murder-suicide.

"We won't release other facts of

SEE GRETNA | A5

Police: Man found shot in front yard 'not a random act'

By Quashon Avent
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The woman with braids and black nursing scrubs drove a gray sedan up to a police SUV blocking part of Summit Road sometime around mid-morning Wednesday. She walked up to the patrol officer seated inside and moments later was escorted to a group of five officers who seconds earlier had hovered around the crime scene up the road.

The officers spoke softly to her, a look of concern on their faces. That's when she began to yell.

"Oh my God! Oh my God!" she

screamed, while sobbing into her hands.

Officers patted her back and continued to speak with her as she leaned back against the front bumper of a nearby pickup truck. Minutes later, two other sedans pulled up next to the woman's car. The people inside quickly got out their vehicles and hurried over to the woman and surrounding officers. They later were confirmed to be family of a man who had been shot to death.

Two hours earlier, at 6:40 a.m., emergency medical personnel had

SEE DANVILLE | A5

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54
 36 Cooler today; a little rain in the evening. A8



Annie's Mailbox.....	B6	Lottery.....	A2	Scene.....	B5
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Horoscope.....	B7	Opinion.....	A6	Your Community.....	A2

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"Richmond is no longer the Capital of the Confederacy ..."

— Levar Stoney, Richmond mayor

GOV. NORTHAM TO PURSUE REMOVAL OF LEE STATUE

INSIDE | A4



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COVID-19

Up to 2,000 tests to be given

Free drive-thru operations are planned for Friday in Danville and Saturday in Chatham

By Caleb Ayers
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As of Wednesday, there have been 2,243 testing encounters in Pittsylvania County and Danville. Of the 35 health districts across the state, that is the fewest number of tests.

But that is projected to change after this weekend as a free drive-thru testing site will be set up in Danville on Friday and in

Chatham on Saturday. Each of these sites is slated to have as many as 1,000 tests administered through nasal swabs on a first-come first-serve basis, allowing the number of tests in the Dan River Region to nearly double.

"It's a statistical sample, which will help inform the epidemiological picture of the prevalence of illness in the community," said Pittsylvania-Danville Health

Director Dr. Scott Spillmann. "It will help us understand the overall prevalence, which can influence how we proceed as VDH and as our community together."

The tests will be administered and processed by Raleigh, North Carolina-based Mako Medical, a testing contractor that has already worked in other areas of the commonwealth. Mako representatives did not return requests for comment.

Mako will report the test results to the central Virginia Department of Health office in

Dan River Region testing

» Drive-thru testing will be available from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday at Bonner Middle School, 300 Apollo Ave., Danville; and the same timeframe Saturday at Chatham Middle School, 11650 U.S. 29, Chatham.

reported, and for everyone to be contacted.

Spillmann said everyone, whether or not they show symptoms, should consider getting tested, since people who don't show symptoms can carry the virus.

"We don't want people to get disappointed, but we would love for every single one of those tests to get used," he said.

As of Wednesday, there are 58 total cases of COVID-19 in Danville and 45 in Pittsylvania

SEE TESTS | A5

DANVILLE

Caesars' aspiration for casino advances

Picking preferred provider, next steps are review by lottery board, referendum

By John R. Crane
jcrane@registerbee.com

The thought of a casino in Schoolfield causes excitement for resident Evelyn Lowe, who worked at Dan River Inc. and has lived in the neighborhood for about 50 years.

"I'm all for it," Lowe, 75, said Wednesday afternoon.

Though many Danville residents do not have the money to spend on gambling, people from surrounding areas "will be coming here in buses," she said. Besides, she added, the project would mean more jobs.

But another Schoolfield resident, 74-year-old Richard Chandler, is not so supportive of the idea.

"I don't approve of it," said the Schoolfield resident who's lived in the neighborhood for more than 40 years. "It shouldn't be here. I just think it's going to cause more problems than it's worth."

Danville City Council passed a resolution Tuesday night officially selecting Caesars Entertainment as the city's preferred casino provider. Whether the company brings a gambling resort to Danville depends on the outcome of a referendum among city voters in November.

Council voted 8-0 — which was held remotely via Zoom — to pass a resolution to choose Caesars from among four finalists. Councilman Madison Whittle was absent due to

SEE CASINO | A3

Restaurant resurgence

Danville-area eateries to welcome customers eager for indoor dining starting Friday



PHOTOS BY PARKER COTTON/REGISTER & BEE

Guests take advantage of Mucho Taqueria's patio Wednesday. Starting Friday, the restaurant will offer indoor seating at 50% capacity as well.



The interior of Crema & Vine currently is set up for to-go orders, but customers will be allowed to dine inside starting Friday.

By Parker Cotton
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When the coronavirus pandemic first hit and forced restaurants, coffeeshops, breweries and all other sorts of eateries to close doors to the public, Steve DelGiorno slowly saw the lounge area of Crema & Vine, which he owns, become something of a cluttered office space for him and his wife and daughter.

Looking at the tables and couches covered with papers and notebooks on Wednesday afternoon, DelGiorno joked the area would have to be cleaned so he can "give it back" for when customers are allowed to re-enter eating establishments starting Friday.

SEE EATERIES | A4



90 Partly sunny; a t-storm this afternoon. B6



Annie's Mailbox.....	B4	Lottery.....	A2	Puzzle.....	B5
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Comics.....	B5	Obituaries.....	A4	Sports.....	B1
Horoscope.....	B5	Opinion.....	A6	TV Listings.....	B4

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ONLINE DOG TRAINING

Trainers, owners and dogs finding positives in online behavior classes

» NATION & STATE | A3



MOUNTAIN VALLEY
NATURAL GAS PIPELINE'S 'UPHILL CLIMB' GETS A LITTLE BIT EASIER

» LOCAL & STATE | A2

RYDERS CUP POSTPONED UNTIL 2021; PRESIDENTS CUP PUSHED BACK | B1

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Study: Many parking spots unused



JOHN R. CRANE/REGISTER & BEE

Danville is trying to find a way to make better use of parking spaces downtown and increase their availability. A recently released study found a large portion of parking spaces, most of them unavailable to the public, go unused.

Public-private partnerships recommended to make available spaces more accessible

By John R. Crane
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There are about 7,000 parking spaces in downtown Danville, but slightly more than half are privately owned and only about a third are available to the public, according to a study.

The city can meet parking demand downtown by opening up more spaces to the public instead of building more, said Iain Banks, senior associate with Nelson Nygaard in Washington, D.C. Nelson Nygaard is

a transportation planning firm headquartered in San Francisco.

One way to increase the parking-space supply for drivers is to form public-private partnerships to make those spaces accessible to the public, according to the study. Another means is more and better signs to let people know where available parking spaces are.

"As the River District continues to grow, there's going to be the need for people to know where those underutilized spaces are," Banks told the

Danville Register & Bee before a public information meeting on the study in the Pepsi Building on Craghead Street on Wednesday.

The city hired the firm in September and the final report was initially presented to Danville City Council during its work session Tuesday night. The contract with the firm was \$99,868.

The purpose of the study was to provide more up-to-date information — following a 2013 study — reflecting more recent trends, said Danville Interim Economic Development Director Corrie Bobe.

SEE PARKING | A4

DANVILLE

Documents show threat made after deadly attack

Provide details in stabbing that ultimately ended with death of 27-year-old man

By Parker Cotton
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A woman charged in the deadly stabbing of her boyfriend in mid-June is suspected of sending a threatening text message shortly afterward to a person who witnessed the event, court documents show.

"Your sister is next," read a text message from Shannon Renee Price after Christopher France was stabbed in the arm during the early morning hours of June 13, according to a search warrant filed in Danville Circuit Court.

Police responding to a 911 call found France lying in the street and bleeding at 768 Melville Ave. at 1 a.m.

The search warrant did not name the witness and Danville police spokesman



Price

SEE ATTACK | A4

WEDNESDAYS AT THE DANVILLE MARKET



CALEB AYERS/REGISTER & BEE

Most clad in masks, customers trickled into the parking lot outside the Danville Community Market, where several vendors were selling produce, baked goods and other products. The crowds came early in the afternoon, said market manager Kenny Porizo, which resulted in several vendors selling out of products and leaving early. ABOVE: A customer fills a bag with produce at the Danville Farmer's Market on Wednesday afternoon. After opening the indoor market inside the Danville Community Market with conditions in May, the Wednesday market reopened last week. See more photos and video online at GoDanRiver.com.

'A hot mess': COVID-19 cases surging as delays hit testing sites

Long lines at sites, then waiting a week for results frustrates Americans

By Christopher Weber and Sophia Tulp
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — For two weeks, Rachael Jones has stayed home, going without a paycheck while waiting and waiting for the results of a COVID-19 test from a pharmacy near Philadelphia.

"I'm just so disappointed. I just don't know how — with the resources and the people we have and the money we have — we can't get this right," she said.

Four months, 3 million confirmed infections and more than 130,000 deaths into the coronavirus outbreak in the U.S., Americans confronted with a re-

surgence of the scourge are facing long lines at testing sites in the summer heat or are getting turned away. Others are going a week or more without receiving a diagnosis.

Some sites are running out of kits, while labs are reporting shortages of materials and workers to process the swabs.

Some frustrated Americans are left to wonder why the U.S. can't seem to get its act together, especially after it was given fair warning as the virus wreaked havoc in China and then Italy, Spain and New York.

"It's a hot mess," said 47-year-old Jennifer Hudson, of Tucson, Arizona. "The fact that we're relying on companies and we don't have a national response

More inside

» President Donald Trump threatens to hold back federal money if school districts don't bring students back in the fall. **A5**

to this, it's ridiculous. ... It's keeping people who need tests from getting tests."

SEE VIRUS | A5



88 Partly sunny; partly cloudy tonight. **B6**



Annie's Mailbox..... B4 Lottery..... A2 Puzzle..... B5
Classifieds..... B6 Money & Markets..... B3 Region & State..... A2, 3
Comics..... B5 Obituaries..... A4 Sports..... B1
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