

Sports: Leesburg parent organizes rally to reinstate fall high school sports, B1

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

CULPEPER OBSERVES 9/11, HONORS VIRUS-FIGHTERS



Culpeper observed Patriot Day with moments of silence and prayer, honoring those who died 19 years ago on Sept. 11, while also praying for those who have lost lives in the battle against a deadly virus, fought valiantly by first responders and front-line workers since it entered our midst more than six months ago.

UPPER LEFT: Those attending a Sept. 11 prayer service stand socially distanced and wearing masks while listening to speakers and musical performers on Friday outside the Culpeper Medical Center; UPPER RIGHT: Pastor Erick Kalenga sings during a prayer gathering he organized Friday with His Village Church to honor those who were killed on 9/11 19 years ago and recognize today's first responders.

SEE FULL STORY ON A8



CENTER LEFT: Hospital President Donna Staton addresses those assembled Friday to pray for medical and emergency workers during the coronavirus pandemic; CENTER RIGHT: A Culpeper County High band student prepares to play Taps for a 9/11 ceremony at the school; ABOVE: R.E. Deane, Culpeper Volunteer Fire Dept. chaplain and a 61-year firefighter brought out his 1923 fire truck in honor of first responders who were killed on Sept. 11, 2001; LOWER LEFT: Culpeper Mayor Mike Olinger speaks at a prayer service by the hospital.

High court tosses redistricting challenge

BY MEL LEONOR

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

The Supreme Court of Virginia has rejected a challenge to the wording of a ballot question tied to a proposed constitutional amendment on redistricting.

The lawsuit alleged that the question is "misleading" and "inaccurate," and written in a way that leaves voters in the dark about the key effects of the amendment on the state's redistricting process. It

asked the Supreme Court of Virginia to compel state election officials to correct it.

In a decision, the state's high court found that the duty of elections officials "is limited to ensuring the ballot question, in the form decided by the General Assembly, appears on the upcoming general election ballot."

Citing state law, the court found Wednesday that the Department of

See **REDISTRICT**, Page A8

Albemarle Confederate statue comes down

BY ALLISON WRABEL

THE DAILY PROGRESS

After nearly two hours of drilling, lifting and adjusting, the "At Ready" Confederate statue in front of the Albemarle County Circuit Courthouse was taken down to the sounds of cheers Saturday morning.

More than 100 people gathered to watch the statue removal, including current and former elected officials, local activists and community members.

The removal comes



ERIN EGDERTON/THE DAILY PROGRESS
A statue of an unnamed Confederate soldier is removed Saturday outside in downtown Charlottesville.

after years of the county seeking to gain control from the state of the monument, and after the violent Unite the Right

See **STATUE**, Page A4

» **HOMETOWN LIVING:** Promise Land in Charles County works as both a farm and an outreach center. C1



» **The times they are a-changin':** University of Virginia changes culture, grounds to seek racial equity. A5

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Rink

From Page A1

more breweries and more restaurants to cater to families moving here—zero for the kids. You can't do that and be oh, well we want the kids to not be in trouble or do drugs, but you don't got nothing for them to do."

Rink owners: Losing money, can't reopen

Dominion Skating Center Owner Tommy Hoffman and his wife, Joyce, made the difficult decision about a month ago to sell the 25,000-square-feet facility that was built in 1977. They cannot open back up due to continued spread of COVID-19. Yet the place is costing them thousands per month closed.

"We just hate it," said Joyce of putting it up for sale. "Because the children won't have nowhere to go unless somebody reopens it. I think it's pitiful because they don't have anything else to do out here."

Ironically, the skating rink had its best month ever in February under their ownership, attracting some 700 customers. It turned a profit before it was forced to close, Tommy Hoffman said. Then they had to toss considerable food product from the snack bar as the shutdown stretched on and on, another unrecoverable loss. There's been no break on insurance or taxes, either.

"We had so many pizzas— everything was here and nothing to do with it. It went out of date," Tommy Hoffman said. "I'm not a business person, but I'm good at math and I knew enough to know something was going wrong."

Reopening the place under a still-restricted business environment is not an option, he added, especially while COVID-19 remains an active in the community.

"As long as this stuff's out here, I'm not going to open. I don't want to be the one, come back say, well the skating rink, that's where my kid got it and brought it home to grandma now grandma's going to hell or heaven," Hoffman said. "I don't want to be the one responsible for spreading this virus. Nobody knows where it's going or how long it's going to last."

A trip back in time

The substantial selling price is estimated fair market value for the property that sits on 5.25 acres in town with Main Street frontage and mountain views of the Blue Ridge at the back, Thornton said. It includes a two-bedroom patio home at the rear, a partially-renovated three-bedroom, two bath room apartment above the rink and various outbuildings.

The rink looks as it did in the spring, frozen in time, and similar to its appearance 20 years ago. All of the games still light up, the rental skates sit silent on shelves behind the counter, foosball hums to life when plugged in, stuffed toys fill the claw machine and the wooden skate floor gleams under large speakers ready to blast music again. The property is turn-key and could probably open up



Dominion Skating Center at 1550 N. Main St. in the town of Culpeper was recently put on the market for \$1.95 million. RE/MAX brokers Philip and Kelly Thornton are listing agents.

after a few days of hard work, Thornton said.

"It's a trip back in time ... It's a neat property," he said. "It would be great to see it stay as a rink. It would be great to see maybe the town come in, consider doing something like they did at Rockwater Park."

The town built the park with a splash pad and obstacle course on a hill next to a Safeway in recent years after purchasing the land that was slated for a housing development. Thornton said commercial real estate has "completely rolled over" during the period of COVID-19.

Recreation-based businesses like a roller rink face continued restrictions and have been especially hard hit, he said, mentioning the recent closure of Mountain Run Bowling Center.

"The economics don't work under the governor's virus plan," the local broker-owner said. "When the bowling alley was able to reopen, they did, but the public didn't come out and even under a partial reopening, they couldn't financially survive. Something here."

When only 50 people are allowed in at a time and it cost \$5 to skate, a day's worth of business could generate \$500 best case scenario in two four-hour shifts, Thornton said. It falls short of covering payroll, the cost of inventory and other business expenses.

"It's a classic example of can't afford to be closed, but sure as heck can't afford to be open. You lose more money being open than you did staying closed," he said. "It's sad to see what the virus has done locally to small business so this is a very tough time to bring a property to market, especially one that's close to \$2 million. But for the right person or people I think it's a wonderful opportunity."

Save the rink, make it better

Miles envisions making major improvements at the skating rink where he came of age while his mother worked at the former juvenile correctional center in Mitchens. A board member of the Culpeper Youth mentorship program, he previously held various fund-raisers and themed events (Throwback Skate Night) at the rink that attracted big crowds.

If Miles ran the place, he'd keep it open seven days a week, offer after-school tutoring and start a Boys & Girls Club. He'd add laser tag, basketball tournaments outside and a gaming room where kids could interact while, yes, playing video games.

"Let them come here, be around other kids. Because a lot of them are socially awkward—they can't talk in public," Miles said.

He spent his elementary school years in Alexandria where each school was its own recreation center that took kids in for free when classes let out, he said.

"It was people at the rec center's job to make sure that first half hour to an hour that we got our homework done, we got help, we got tutored and then we got to play basketball and video games and stuff. There's nothing like that here," Miles said, adding he's on the board of Culpeper Youth because he cares about kids. "Those kids grow up to care about the other kids."

Emotionally invested in the property and the prospect of bringing it back to life, Miles said he's a business person, too, and is looking to the community for support. He said he could raise the money to buy the rink, but fears it may be scooped up for some other use before that's possible.

"I'm looking at local people who have a lot of money, a local philanthropist that will match something for something," he said.

Finally, a community center in Culpeper?

In recent weeks and months, local philanthropist Joe Daniel of Jefferson Home Builders has engaged in various email debates with local leaders about the presence of names, monuments, statues and flags honoring the Confederacy. He has offered to pay for removing the soldier statue from the courthouse grounds and supported removing the battle flag from Lenn Park.

Daniel has repeatedly challenged town and county leaders for their alternate stance on the issue. One such exchange involved Culpeper Town Councilman Keith Brown, who mentioned to Daniel that the roller rink was for sale.

"You could really help out the youth and homeless with the \$1.9 million purchase," he wrote in an email. "I can support that as well as the entire community. These changes you are fighting for have no real impact on daily lives. Let's team up on my proposal."

Daniel, who owns the townhouse development next to the skating rink, responded he would match every dollar Brown put up for purchase of the large facility to turn it into a Boys & Girls Club or something similar. He listed his many contributions through the years to making Culpeper a better place, including the community college that bears Daniel's name.

"Join me in 'fighting' for a youth center. That is something worth fighting for to help people improve their lives!" Daniel wrote to Brown.

In an email to the Star-Exponent Friday night, Brown said saving the rink and making it a community center would a phenomenal opportunity for local youth. He supported a private entity taking on the project without financial support from local government.

"A local community or recreation center is a great boost to the local economy. Not only does it provide jobs, both in the building and running of the facility, but it also gives the community opportunities to make money through sports tournaments and conventions," Brown said.

It would also provide a healthy and safe place for youth and would increase physical fitness, he added. A recreation center also promotes community involvement and relationship building: "I look forward to helping the cause any way I can," he said. The councilman challenged Daniel "to step up and assist in locating investors that can make this rare opportunity reality."

More support for youth center at rink

Culpeper County Board of Supervisors Chairman Gary Deal has long been an advocate for providing healthy activity options for local youth. He led the initiative two years ago to bring a YMCA to Culpeper and build it on county-owned land not far from the roller rink on Route 229.

But voters rejected the \$13.1 million recreation referendum at the polls when misinformation spread that using county funds to build the project would raise taxes. County administration said at the time that would not be necessary because of the county's excellent bond rating and ability to borrow money cheaply due to a healthy level of reserves.

There has been no move-

ment forward since on a community center in Culpeper. The county had been accepting donations from citizens for it as part of an option on tax bills, but that option was recently removed.

"I'm not sure we're in the business or mindset of going forward with that," Deal said at the August Rules Committee meeting where the tax bill contribution item was discussed.

Added County Administrator John Egerston, "We abandoned that (in 2018)."

Deal agreed, saying, "I'm not sure it's feasible to ask the community to build it if we don't have a plan in place to build it—unfortunately, in my opinion."

Deal has not given up on some sort of community center, however. In an email Friday in which he stated he was not speaking on behalf of the board, Deal said he would personally like to see the roller rink stay open and improved with a focus on loyalty.

"I lobbied Mr. Miles and Mr. Daniel weeks ago advising the location was ideal to maintain the rink and transition the facility into a Boys & Girls Club or Community Center," he said.

Deal added taxpayer funding through a public private partnership for the initiative was a tough ask during a pandemic due to unknown revenue and ultimately because of the failed YMCA referendum.

"Private funding, private contributions, and private ownership would be non-political and less convoluted," he said. "However, I was the instigator and advocate of the Community Center for the kids and it never hurts to entertain ideas and proposals when potential private contributions are on the table."

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540/825-4315

Statue

From Page A1

white-supremacist rally in Charlottesville in 2017.

Ned Gallaway, chairman of the Albemarle Board of Supervisors, said the overwhelming sentiment of area residents was that the courthouse property should "be welcoming, inclusive and a place for justice for all."

"As our predecessors did, we, too, with purposeful intentions, choose to create a new point in our county's history, and choose to redefine this place of significance to represent the values of all members of our community," Gallaway said.

The statue, two cannons and a pile of cannonballs were removed by early afternoon Saturday. They were taken by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, which was selected by the board on Tuesday. The foundation will put the statue and its accessories on one of its Civil War battlefields.

Foundation officials did not respond to multiple requests for interviews over the last week.

The statue has stood outside the Albemarle County Courthouse for 111 years.

Members of Saturday's crowd in Charlottesville all wore masks amid the coronavirus pandemic. Some wore blue Union Civil War caps.

"This is a magnificent moment," said local community organizer Don Gathers. "Much of the racial tension, strife and protest we're seeing across the country emanates from right here in Charlottesville. But now we're moving the needle in a positive way."

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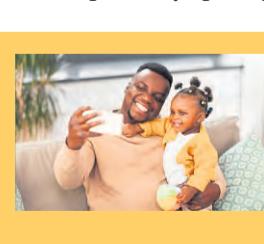
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Monday-Friday 9:30am to 6pm; Saturday 9am to 5pm

Sports: NCAA board supports name, image and likeness compensation, B1

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THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020

Third COVID-19 death reported in Culpeper County

BY ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION

CULPEPER STAR-EXPONENT

A third Culpeper County resident, a man in his 70s, has died from the novel coronavirus.

The Virginia Department of Health reported the death Wednesday at its COVID-19 web site that is updated daily. The first death in Culpeper County, a woman in her 80s, was

reported late last month.

The death of an 80-year-old Culpeper man from the contagious illness was reported Monday. Another two men in their 80s from Fauquier have also succumbed to COVID-19.

The Rappahannock Rapidan Health District reports 282 positive cases of the novel coronavirus as of Wednesday with 129

in Culpeper, 109 in Fauquier, 14 in Madison, 27 in Orange and 3 in Rappahannock. The day-to-day district increase was seven cases.

Statewide as of Wednesday, there were 14,961 people who tested positive for COVID-19, 2,259 in the hospital and 522 deaths—30 more deaths than on Tuesday, according to VDH.

Fairfax County, the state's most populous locality with more than 1.1 million people, has the most cases with 3,448 and 124 deaths.

Fairfax County is the top location where Culpeper County residents commute. According to Virginia Employment Commission, 2,334 people commute from Culpeper to

Fairfax on a daily basis. The number of those Culpeper residents now working from home is unknown.

Gov. Ralph Northam said in his COVID-19 briefing Wednesday that Virginia is ready to safely resume dental and elective surgeries as of this Friday.

Virginia hospitals have 5,000 available beds and adequate PPE and ventila-

tors, the governor said, due to people adhering to social distancing.

Over the next few days, VDH will start reporting COVID-19 statistics by zip code, according to officials.

In a post Wednesday, RRHD Health Director Dr. Wade Kartchner reiterated the need for people who are sick to stay home.

See DEATH, Page A6

VIRGINIA 30-DAY FUND: Lifeline for Culpeper small businesses

BY ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION
CULPEPER STAR-EXPONENT

Several small businesses in Culpeper recently received a needed, immediate financial boost from a fellow Virginia business owner concerned about helping his colleagues through the COVID-19 crisis.

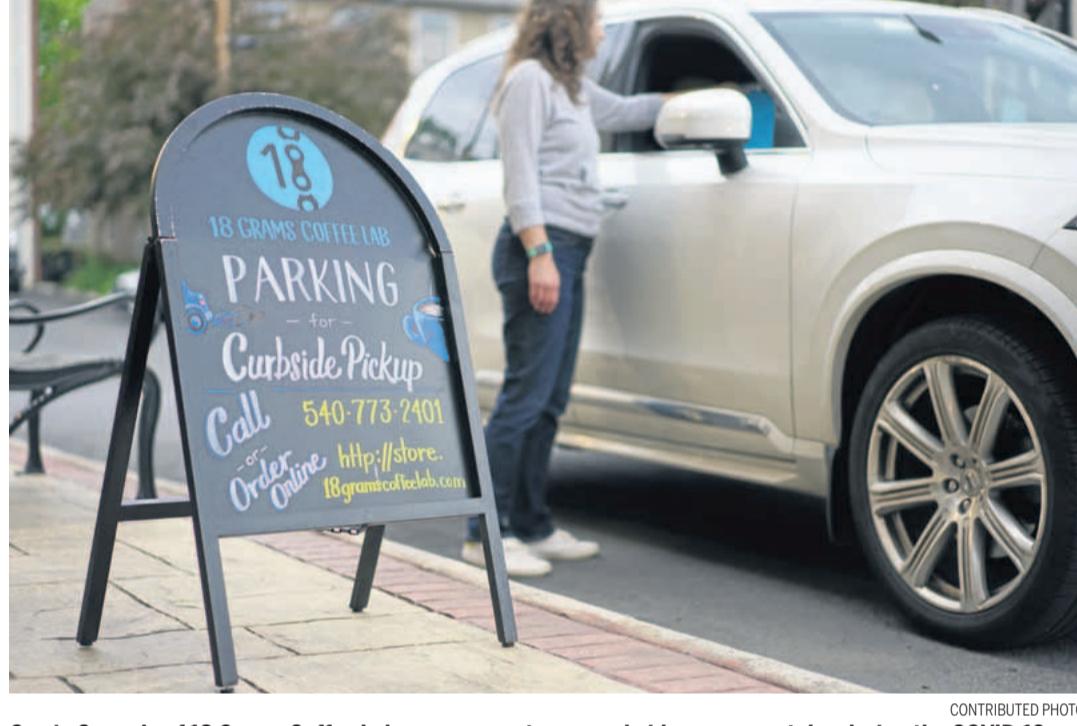
Technology entrepreneur Pete Snyder, of Charlottesville, co-founded the Virginia 30-Day Fund two months ago with his wife, Burson, to save jobs and provide hope in a time of illness, death and drastic economic stress due to public health restrictions.

Since forming, the privately-backed Fund has awarded forgivable loans, swiftly granted, of up to \$3,000 to 111 small businesses and counting across Virginia.

"We're at war—a health and economic war," Snyder said in a phone conversation Wednesday. "It's an economic war on Main Street."

A self-described "serial entrepreneur," he said half of small businesses only have two weeks' worth of cash on hand should something—like a global pandemic—go wrong.

"Most businesses will die," Snyder said, adding the 30-Day Fund aims to "Get them through this death valley."



Carrie Coppola of 18 Grams Coffee Lab serves a customer curbside on a recent day during the COVID-19 crisis that has shut down in-store restaurant service as well as their bike shop. 18 Grams received a grant from the Virginia 30-Day Fund that will help them stay open through at least the end of May.

Come out stronger

Culpeper business owner Shawn Moss, of the popular eatery Shawn's Smokehouse BBQ, was appreciative to receive a grant through the program. Restaurants have been among the hardest hit by COVID-19 since the state ordered dining rooms closed more than a month ago to contain

spread of the virus.

Moss divided the \$3,000 he received from the Virginia 30-day Fund among his three restaurants—in Culpeper, Fredericksburg and Warrenton—to cover basic monthly expenses.

"We are holding up," he said in a phone conversation on Wednesday. "Sales are down at least 50

percent, but we are still doing curbside pickup and delivery."

Moss marveled at how supportive his Culpeper community has been. He mentioned a neighbor who walked across the street to give him an \$800 check as pre-payment on meals for local

See 30 DAY FUND, Page A6

'Historic investment' sought for internet access

Pandemic shines bright spotlight' on unequal access to web

BY CLINT SCHEMMER
CULPEPER STAR-EXPONENT

As the spread of the coronavirus has turned Americans' lives upside down, it has shone "a bright spotlight," lawmakers say, on the disparities between those with broadband access and those without.

In response, a group of U.S. House members has rallied to push Congress to make a "historic investment" in high-speed internet in response to the nation's COVID-19 crisis.

Virginia Democrat and Dis-

trict 7 Rep. Abigail Spanberger worked with an Illinois Republican and a Democrat from the U.S. Virgin Islands to call for both chambers to include large-scale federal funding for broadband in Capitol Hill's widely anticipated infrastructure package to help distressed communities and ease the nation's economic recession.

Spanberger and Reps. Rodney Davis (R-IL) and Stacey E. Plaskett (D-USVI) drafted a letter, which was then signed by another 73 House members, urging the "Big Four"—House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Minority Leader Chuck

Schumer—urging the House and Senate to ensure that Americans have access to broadband from coast to coast.

"The economic mobility and access to the modern economy of Americans should not be determined by their ZIP code," the lawmakers wrote.

"By making a historic investment in our nation's e-connectivity, Congress would not only stimulate the economy through new construction and associated jobs but would unleash economic and entrepreneurial opportunities across all of America by giving those in the most remote areas access to the same tools for e-commerce as those in the largest cities," they said.

Next relief package

They called for action in the next coronavirus-related stimulus package to be produced by Congress.

The COVID-19 crisis sharply demonstrates the nation's need for more access to two-way health services, greater opportunity for people to work from home, and fewer barriers to remote learning for students, Spanberger said Wednesday in a Culpeper Star-Exponent interview.

The 7th District representative noted that some skeptics have asked, "Why should we pay for people to watch Netflix?"

But lack of access to broadband is "a huge issue," she said.

See ACCESS, Page A5

INSIDE



WHOSE DESIGN WILL WIN?

» Students compete to have art displayed on downtown piano, A2

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SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2020

SANITIZER SHORTAGE SPURS ADAPTATION



Belmont Farms Master Distiller Chuck Miller is now using his old copper still to make hand sanitizer, like hundreds of other distillers across the county as demand has skyrocketed for anything that will kill the COVID-19 virus.

Moonshiners put still to work for crisis

BY ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION
CULPEPER STAR-EXPONENT

Belmont Farms Distillery of Culpeper County is doing a brisk business selling hand sanitizer made on site, shifting production from the moonshine it's famous for during a season of global pandemic that is forcing all to adapt.

"We are making a lot of it," said master distiller Chuck Miller, who owns and operates Belmont Farms with wife, Jeanette.

"I thought maybe by now it would be calming down," Miller said on Friday. "The phone is constantly ringing. We're going to help save the world—get rid of the virus."

The federal government said he

could use the World Health Organization hand sanitizer recipe, so Miller is, and created a special product line to do so. The liquid is 75 percent alcohol or 150 proof.

"You wouldn't want to drink that," he said.

The highest proof moonshine produced from ethanol made from corn grown at Belmont, for comparison, is 110 proof—the Virginia Lightening and Tim Smith's Climax, Miller said.

CBD and aloe vera infuse one holistic type of hand sanitizer the distiller said they can't keep on the shelves.

"This is our special hand sanitizer made of course ethanol and other things needed to make antiseptic hand sanitizer," said Chuck

Miller. "What's so great about this is the aloe vera smooths your skin from the ethanol and the CBD cures what ails you so this is the one to get. It's selling out as quickly as I can make it," he said. "I'm going to make another batch."

When he can, the moonshiner said he hopes to start making moonshine again. It's still for sale in the gift shop though all on-site tastings and special events are cancelled.

First responders get half off Belmont Farms hand sanitizers which the distiller has made donations of to a local firehouse. The product comes in 6-ounce, 8-ounce, 10-ounce, gallon and

See SANITIZER, Page A5

Miller. "What's so great about this is the aloe vera smooths your skin from the ethanol and the CBD cures what ails you so this is the one to get. It's selling out as quickly as I can make it," he said. "I'm going to make another batch."

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See SANITIZER, Page A5

Northam outlines plan for reopening the state

BY MEL LEONOR, BRIDGET BALCH AND PAUL WHELAN
RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

Virginia will begin to lift public restrictions once the percent of positive tests per day and hospitalizations show sustained decline over 14 consecutive days, state officials said Friday.

The guidelines are part of the state's plan for

emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, outlined by Gov. Ralph Northam amid calls for a return to normalcy by some in the business community and the GOP.

Northam said that while the spread of COVID-19 in Virginia is slowing down, cases are continuing to grow, meaning that the

See PHASE ONE, Page A2



Virginia Governor Ralph Northam answers a reporter's question during his press briefing in Richmond on Friday, April 24.

Tests available exceed demand

LOCAL COVID-19 TESTING CRITERIA RIGID, LIMITING TESTS GIVEN

BY ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION
CULPEPER STAR-EXPONENT

Capacity currently exceeds demand for COVID-19 testing in the Rappahannock-Rapidan Health District, according to a spokeswoman for the public health department covering Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock counties.

Potential patients must know where to go for the test, however, or visit a doctor who will direct them to the right place. Also those who undergo a test must meet certain health criteria in order to get one, at most sites.

Culpeper resident Margery Barton met that criteria in recently being tested—twice—at MedExpress Culpeper, an experience she said was not pleasant,

See TESTING, Page A8



JOHN LACKEY
Lee Fox, a member of the Commemorative Air Force's Capital Wing, organized a 'COVID Flight' flyover in Fredericksburg.

Wingmen offer work for donations

CULPEPER-BASED CAPITAL WING PRESENTS GIVING OPPORTUNITY

BY CLINT SCHEMNER
CULPEPER STAR-EXPONENT

Members of the Commemorative Air Force's Capital Wing, based in Culpeper, are offering a unique donation program for residents of the mid-Atlantic states.

Called "BarterDon," it's a way for aviation-minded in-

dividuals to support these flying history buffs and for the Capital Wing to give back to its communities.

With airshows cancelled across the nation due to the coronavirus pandemic, the all-volunteer wing is receiving no revenue. Normally, its historic aircraft would be appearing and flying at "warbird" shows.

"Capital Wing members have volunteered their time See CAPITAL WING, Page A8

Va. doctors are trying to find COVID-19 treatment

BY BRIDGET BALCH
RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

For the doctors treating the hundreds of patients who are hospitalized for COVID-19 in Virginia, there's no playbook. The disease that has spread rapidly across the world—killing hundreds in the state and more than 200,000 worldwide—has

no known treatment, so COVID-19 has presented a unique challenge to the doctors faced with saving lives against a mostly-unknown enemy.

But, in an effort to discover treatments, medical researchers in the state have dropped everything to ramp up experimental clinical trials that many be

See TREATMENT, Page A2

» **LIVING:** In this week's Hometown Living, historic sites are giving would-be visitors a new way to explore the past without leaving the house. C1



» **GRADUATION SPEECH:** Grads won't get the ceremony they were expecting, but Kaine aims to give them a stage. A2

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SUNDAY TV B7
MONDAY TV BB
SPORTS B1



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Mother's Day is May 10

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LOVING THOSE ON THE FRONT LINES



The Culpeper Police Department, Culpeper Media Network and Mayor Michael Olinger collaborated Thursday night to light blue the Culpeper Reel LOVEWorks in honor of all the front-line heroes battling the coronavirus pandemic.

Sanitizer

From Page A1

five-gallon containers and is available for pickup on site 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

"Come to the gift shop and we'll take care of you. We have alcohol for your hands and to drink," Miller said.

Smith, whose Climax is made on site at the Culpeper County distillery, noted of the shift in production, "Because the coronavirus came out, there was a big demand for it so we flipped the thing over a little bit, started making moonshine and hand sanitizer."

Belmont Farms is using its old copper still to manufacture the stuff crucial to stemming the spread of COVID-19, said Jeannette Miller. It's a trend being seen nationwide as distilleries respond to a novel demand.

"Chuck made hand sani-

tizer because there was an urgent need for it and the federal government said we could make it with our spirits," Jeanette said in an email. "We can make the hand sanitizer until the end of the year."

The establishment, in business since 1988, opened for the 2020 season on April 9, but the pandemic has certainly had an impact, she said.

"I had six different events scheduled for this year. We have already missed some and don't know for sure when we can have gatherings here with large crowds," she said.

Chuck Miller said they are open though and can stay open as long as they are making the hand sanitizer: "We're essential," he said.

An estimated 750 distilleries nationwide are producing hand sanitizer in these times, according to the Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S. Last month, the council launched an online portal of distillers helping

to solve the national hand sanitizer shortage.

"The nation's distilled spirits industry is mobilizing to aid our communities, hospitals and first responders during this time of crisis," said Chris Swonger, President and CEO of the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, in a statement. "This is not only the right thing to do for their communities, but it also allows some of these craft distilleries to keep their stills going, maintain their employees and stay afloat during this crisis."

The portal is acting as a conduit between distilled spirits manufacturers, related industry suppliers and distribution channels. It will also connect distillers wanting to make hand sanitizer with those who can provide key ingredients, supplies such as bottles and labels, and companies that can help distribute sanitizer.

abrophy@starexponent.com
540/825-4315

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Tree trimming this week on South East Street

The Town of Culpeper Light & Power Department is scheduled to perform emergency tree removal on South East Street from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. starting on Monday, April 27, weather permitting.

Removing dead tree limbs creating a falling safety issue will be the focus of the operation in old town Culpeper. A safety workzone will require temporary closure of the South East Street corridor from Asher Street to Chandler Street. Advanced warning signs along with a detour will be displayed in this area assisting with the traffic flow through the work area, according to a light & power news release.

Motorists should expect delays, are encouraged to take alternate routes and to pay attention to changing work zone conditions. For information, contact 540/825-8165.

FamilyFest: Yoga Night on Facebook Live

St. Anne's-Belfield School of Charlottesville will host a virtual installment of FamilyFest: Yoga Night at 5:30 p.m. this Tuesday, April 28.

School teacher and yoga instructor Leah Montgomery will walk participants through a free, short session designed for individuals and families on Facebook Live at the St. Anne's-Belfield School

page. No experience necessary. All are welcome.

Fauquier Health physicians, patients using telemedicine

Fauquier Health physician clinics have implemented telemedicine capabilities following unprecedented expansion of such services under the Trump administration, according to a health system news release.

For patients who meet certain criteria, Fauquier Health providers are working around the clock to offer services by phone or video conferencing.

Dr. Brian DeCastro with Fauquier Health Urology said the practice has successfully conducted several such visits.

We have to get creative in these unique times. Telehealth is an excellent way to keep providing the care that is needed for the patients. It keeps the providers and patients from unnecessary exposure to COVID-19," he said in a statement. "In the end it can also help patients stay away from unnecessary hospital and emergency room visits. We are currently offering same day visits."

Telehealth is also becoming an integral part for internal medicine and family practice.

"This technology will allow our older patients, who are at higher risk, to have virtual house calls without needing transportation," said Dr. Joseph David with Piedmont Internal Medicine. "For our patients who are commuting, it will

allow them to have care without having to lose time from work. Once we work through the growing pains we will wonder how we managed without it."

Patients should call their doctor's office to set up a telehealth appointment. Then he or she would call back at the scheduled time, get "checked in" by a nurse or office manager and transferred to the provider for the call or two-way video.

Patients who are concerned they may be experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 are encouraged to consider telemedicine appointments to help further reduce the spread of the respiratory virus, according to Fauquier Health. Leveraging telemedicine also conserves personal protective equipment and other clinical resources needed when treating a patient with suspected COVID-19 in a clinic or hospital setting.

GET LISTED

Submitting announcements, news and upcoming events

Have an item you want to include on the community page? Keep it to 50 words for calendar; 100 for news and submit by 5 p.m. Tuesday

Email: news@starexponent.com or events@StarExponent.com

Fax: 540/825-0778,

Attn: Events

Mail or in person:

Attn: Events

Culpeper Star-Exponent
122 W. Spencer Street,
Culpeper, VA 22701

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1776 Little Fork Preservation Foundation
A Little Heart Aging Together
Allegro Community Music School
Alzheimer's Association Central and Western Virginia Chapter
Arc of North Central VA
Be the Change Foundation
Belle Meade Montessori School
Benevolence United BiPolar Aware
Blue and Red Santa Project
Blue Ridge Ballers
Blue Ridge Chorale of Culpeper
Bluemont Concert Series
Books On the Bus
Boys & Girls Club of Madison
Boys & Girls Clubs of Fauquier
Brandy Station Foundation
Brandy Station Volunteer Fire Department
Brighter Communities Bull Run Mountains Conservancy
Bwell Today for Tomorrow
Career Partners Inc Carried to Full Term
CASA Children's Intervention Services
Castleton Community Volunteer Fire Company
Castleton Festival
Chapman - Beverley Mill Christ-Centered Addiction Restoration Services
Citizens for Fauquier County Clifton Institute Come As You Are
Community Music School of the Piedmont
Community Touch Cornerstone Cares
Covenant Christian Academy Crisis Pregnancy Center of Prince William County
Culpeper Air Fest Foundation Culpeper Band Boosters
Culpeper Baptist Child Development Center
Culpeper Christian School
Culpeper County Humane Society
Culpeper Felines & Friends Culpeper Fiesta
Culpeper Housing and Shelter Services
Culpeper Literacy Council Culpeper Recreation Foundation.
Culpeper Renaissance Culpeper Soccer Club
Culpeper Winter Heat Shelter Culpeper Young Life
Culpeper Young Life
disability Resource Center DOGS-East
Earth Village Education Empowering Culpeper USDA Food Distribution
Experience Old Town Warrenton Families4Fauquier Family Futures

Fauquier CADRE
Fauquier Community Action Committee
Fauquier Community Band
Fauquier Community Child Care
Fauquier Community Food Bank & Thrift Store
Fauquier Community Theatre
Fauquier Cops For Children
Fauquier County 4-H
Fauquier Education Farm
Fauquier Excellence in Education
Fauquier Family Shelter Services
Fauquier FISH
Fauquier Free Clinic
Fauquier Habitat for Humanity
Fauquier Heritage & Preservation Foundation
Fauquier High School Band

Friends of The Rappahannock County Library
Friends of the Warrenton Cemetery
Front Royal Christian School
Furnish a Home Again
George Washington Carver Agriculture Research Center
Girls on the Run Piedmont
Goose Creek Association
Greater Piedmont Trauma Informed Community Network
Green Bow Foundation
Habitat for Humanity of Culpeper County
Headwaters
Healthy Culpeper
Healthy Culpeper After School Arts Program
Hearthstone School
Hero's Bridge

Literacy Council of Madison County
Little Fork Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company
Living Sky Foundation
Madison Choral Society
Madison Community Cats
Madison County Education Foundation, Inc.
Madison County Library
Madison County Lions Club
Madison Free Clinic
Madison Learning Center
Marshall Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department
McShin Foundation
Mental Health Association of Fauquier
MESA
Middleburg Humane Foundation
Mosby Heritage Area

Northern Piedmont Community Foundation
Northern VA 4-H Educational & Conference Center
Operation First Response Pathways
Paws For Seniors
People for Pets Foundation
People Helping People of Fauquier County
People Inc. of Virginia
Piedmont Area Soap Box Derby Foundation
Piedmont Community Resources United to Stop Heroin
Piedmont Dispute Resolution Center
Piedmont Environmental Council
Piedmont Symphony Orchestra

Rappahannock County Farm Tour
Rappahannock County Garden Club
Rappahannock County High School Band Boosters
Rappahannock County Lions Club Foundation
Rappahannock County Park Foundation
Rappahannock Culpeper Baseball
Rappahannock Food Pantry
Rappahannock Historical Society
Rappahannock League for Environmental Protection
Rappahannock Rapidan Community Services
RappCats
RappFLOW
Relay For Life of Rappahannock County
Resurrection Dignity RideFauquier Rural Madison
Salvation Army of the VA Piedmont
SCORE Central Virginia Scrabble School Preservation Foundation
Semper K9 Assistance Dogs
Services To Abused Families Sex, Drugs & God
Shenandoah National Park Trust Single Mothers United Skyline Community Action Partnership Smart Beginnings Rappahannock Area Souls In Harmony Special Olympics Virginia Special Olympics Virginia Area 27 Sperryville Volunteer Rescue Squad
Spiritual Care Support Ministries SpiritWorks Foundation St. Michael's Academy StreamSweepers Support Hoover Ridge Taj Global Understanding The Arts & Culture Center in Culpeper The Child Care & Learning Center The Cold War Museum The Fauquier Hospital Auxiliary The Free Clinic of Culpeper The Gloria Faye Dingus Music Alliance Toys For Tots Verdun Adventure Bound Virginia STEM Virginia Working Landscapes Voltran Wakefield Country Day School Warrenton Antiquarian Society Warrenton Chorale Warrenton Pregnancy Center Washington Area Animal Adoption Group Washington Volunteer Fire and Rescue Windmore Foundation for the Arts WPRZ / Praise Communications Young Life Fauquier County

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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Fauquier History Museum at the Old Jail
Fauquier SPCA
Fauquier Sports Foundation
Fauquier Youth Livestock Advisory Council
Finley's Green Leap Forward
Foothills Forum For The Cats' Sake
Forgotten Felines of Culpeper
Fresta Valley Christian School
Friends of Sky Meadows State Park
Friends of the Culpeper County Library
Friends of the Fauquier Library
Friends of the Rappahannock

Highland School
Hope's Legacy Equine Rescue
Hospice of the Piedmont
Hospice Support
John Jackson Piedmont Blues Festival
Just Ask Trafficking Prevention Foundation
Kid Pan Alley
Land Trust of Virginia Law Explorers
Leadership Fauquier
Learning Starts Early
Legal Aid Works
LFCC Educational Foundation

Association Mountain Laurel Montessori School
Mountain Vista Governor's School Foundation
Mountainside Montessori
Museum of Culpeper History
Museum of Hounds and Hunting North America
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Capital Lyme Disease Association
National Multiple Sclerosis Society - Central VA
Native Wildlife Rescue, Inc
Nirvana Ridge Ferret Rescue

Piedmont United Way
Pregnancy Centers of Central Virginia
Rainbow Therapeutic Riding Center
Rapp at Home
Rapp Center for Education
Rapp Nature Camp
Rappahannock Animal Welfare League
Rappahannock Association for Arts and Community
Rappahannock Benevolent Fund, Inc.
Rappahannock Citizens for Community Empowerment
Rappahannock County 4-H/VTF

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