

# Fauquier Times

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## Firm: Pipeline would 'kill' planned wetland bank

By Daniel Berti  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

A Fauquier-based environmental consulting firm is asking state and federal officials to suspend a key permit for a new natural gas pipeline slated for Prince William and Fauquier counties because it will run afoul of a client's conservation easement and a pending wetland mitigation bank in Catlett.

The consulting firm, Virginia Waters and Wetlands, says the Transcontinental Gas Pipeline expansion will directly impact a wetland mit-

igation bank in Catlett called Miller Stream Bank Phase II that is pending approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

A conservation easement and restrictive deed on the property, located at 2652 Catlett Road, were recorded with Fauquier County in June 2018.

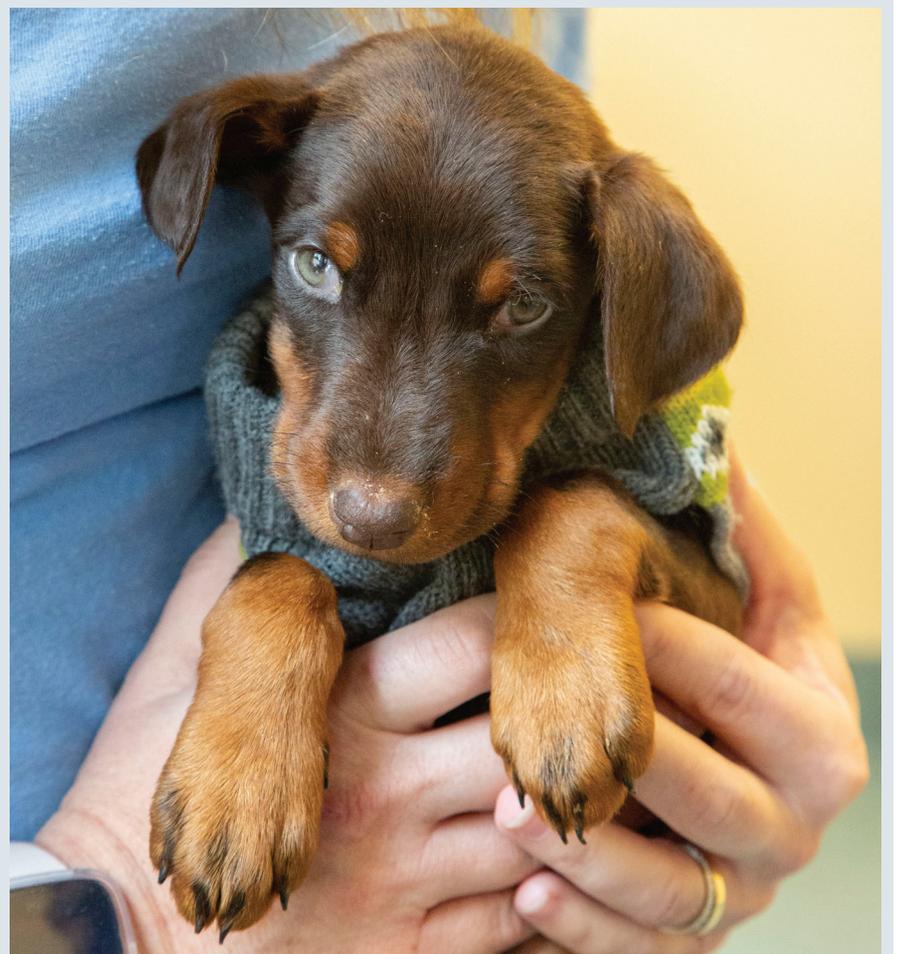
Virginia Waters and Wetlands staff claim the pipeline, under its current design, will directly violate the conservation easement and prevent construction of the wetland mitigation bank altogether. The firm is asking the Federal Energy Regulatory Council, DEQ and USACE suspend Transco's USACE-issued Nationwide Permit 12, which applies to utilities that require stream and wetland crossings.

"From the meeting that was conducted with DEQ and the USACE to discuss this impact of the pipeline, basically, it would kill the bank. The bank would not be able to be built at all and no repair of the stream or neighboring streams on this property would be done," said Allison Austin,

See PIPELINE, page 9



TIMES STAFF PHOTO/COY FERRELL  
Pipeline materials are being stacked at 796 Gaskins Lane in Catlett, near the site of a proposed wetland mitigation bank.



TIMES STAFF PHOTO/ROBIN EARL  
Little Red Bella, a Doberman pinscher puppy who is about 6 weeks old, is making slow progress.

## Police complaint: Two suspects in homicide knew the victim Three suspects still awaiting extradition

By Robin Earl  
TIME STAFF WRITER

New charges could be filed in the Jan. 8 shooting death of Fabian Jorge Sosa, once all of the suspects are extradited to Virginia, Warrenton Police Chief Michael Kochis said.

Two suspects, Antonio Nehemiah Ogburn and Alexander Golden, have been extradited to Warrenton from Detroit, Michigan, Kochis said, and two suspects — Jaden Lawrence Staples of Detroit, Michigan and Terrell

See HOMICIDE, page 8

## Fauquier SPCA caring for animals seized from Canis Maximus kennel

By Robin Earl  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

The thunderous barking of 10 or so adult Doberman pinschers greeted anyone who walked past the outdoor kennels around the back side of the Fauquier SPCA Friday morning. Some of the dogs have the flagpole-straight cropped ears one is used to seeing in the breed. Oth-

ers have ears that are at half-mast, making them look comical – cute rather than intimidating.

Dr. Elaine Lutz of Piedmont Pets Veterinary Care moved from one kennel to another, checking on the dogs.

Inside the Casanova shelter, row after row of kennels are filled with  
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## Firm: Pipeline would ‘kill’ planned wetland bank

**PIPELINE**, from page 1

director of environmental consulting for Virginia Waters and Wetlands.

Williams Partners spokesperson Erica Jones said the company is working with the landowners to reach a mutually agreeable solution for the mitigation bank project.

DEQ Mitigation Specialist Sarah Woodford said the wetlands mitigation bank is pending approval with DEQ and USACE. But she declined to comment on whether the pipeline would impact on the project. Mitigation banks exist to allow developers to purchase credits toward preserving area wetlands as a means of offsetting damage to wetlands or streams in other areas.

Under its current design, the pipeline will run adjacent with the existing Transco Mainline right-of-way for the entirety of its 7.7-mile route, with the exception of a 0.3-mile pull-out where the pipeline will deviate from the existing right-of-way to avoid paralleling a waterbody on the Catlett property.

Virginia Waters and Wetlands says the pull-out goes outside of the pipeline’s existing right-of-way and overlaps their client’s conservation easement for the proposed mitigation bank. Joseph Ivers, the firm’s president, said in a Dec. 17 email to DEQ that the pipeline directly violates the conservation easement and restrictive covenant on the Catlett property.

DEQ, in response to the complaint, said the issue is “a legal matter which

is outside of the authority granted to DEQ for review of federal consistency documents under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act.”

Virginia Waters and Wetlands also claims Transco failed to identify additional wetlands on the Catlett property that will be impacted by the pipeline and raised concerns that additional surface waters of the commonwealth may not be accounted for along the remainder of the pipeline’s route.

The company’s Nationwide Permit 12 allows for permanent impacts to about 2 acres of wetlands along the pipeline route. But Virginia Waters and Wetlands is requesting the permit be suspended because Transco’s permit application is incomplete regarding surface water impacts.

Virginia Waters and Wetlands is requesting DEQ conduct on-site inspections throughout the entire pipeline project, including an on-site jurisdictional review by USACE, to map unpermitted activity within the limits of the pipeline’s disturbance.

DEQ Environmental Impact Review Manager Bettina Rayfield said the agency’s work on the project is complete, however.

FERC approved the Southeastern Trail Expansion’s Environmental Assessment in October. FERC staff concluded that “approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.”



TIMES STAFF PHOTO/COY FERRELL

At 796 Gaskins Lane in Catlett, track hoes are lined up in a staging area, ready to begin work on the Natural gas pipeline slated to go through the area.

A Williams Partners press release announcing the pipeline’s approval said the company aims to have the project completed and in-service by November 2020. Williams Partners says the expansion is designed to minimize impacts to landowners and the environment with nearly all project activities located within Transco’s existing rights of way or property boundaries.

The pipeline will cross 20 waterbodies, including five perennial streams -- Cedar Run, Kettle Run, Owl Run, South Run, and Walnut Branch -- and will impact about two acres of wetlands in Fauquier and Prince William counties, according to FERC’s environmental assessment.

The Prince William Conservation Alliance, Piedmont Environmental Council, Mothers Out Front and the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund have asked state agencies to perform a more comprehensive,

project-specific, state-led environmental review. But DEQ says such a request is beyond its legal authority.

Fauquier County’s Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution in November calling for the suspension of all planning, proposals, surveying, or construction of the Southeastern Trail Expansion project through Fauquier County.

Dels. Lee Carter, D-50th, and Elizabeth Guzman, D-31st, who represent parts of Prince William and Fauquier counties, signed a letter to Gov. Ralph Northam (D) in October, urging him to direct state agencies to reject permits for the Southeastern Trail Expansion project. Northam has so far not responded to the letter.

Food and Water Action, a non-profit environmental organization, submitted a formal petition Jan. 27 demanding a state-led review of the pipeline’s impacts to local waterways affected by its construction.

# AUBURN MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Honor Roll 2019-20 Marking Period 2

### ALL “A” HONOR ROLL

### “A/B” HONOR ROLL

Kendall Abner	Nathan Giandoni	Ashley Reed
Connor Adair	Roger Goodspeed	Mataya Rentzsch
William Arnold	Megan Graham	Ivaniah Reyes-Tolbert
Ashlyn Augustine	Jack Gray	Katja Roux
Molly Baker	Melody Harlan	Mia Santa Ana
Alexander Barton	Mia Heller	Hannah Schoonenberg
Addison Bell	Amanda Holmes	Kayla Shipp
Filicity Bernardo Golez	Nicholas Hopkins	Alaina Shoman
Juliana Best	Taryn Hopkins	Delaney Sirisena
Edward Birkhead	Noah Howard	Mason Siska
Richard Black	Maren Johannesen	Ava SmithChristina
Preston Boggess	Kyla Jones	Sowers
Addison Brown	Abigail Kane-Haspel	Daniel Spagnolo
Oliver Brown	Parker Kelly	Abigail Stone
Mikaela Brunda	Makayla Kestner	Faith Sweeny
Olivia Busby	Alaena King	Katelin Sweeny
Lauren Carpenter	Heidi Kling	Tyler Sylvester
Courtney Childers	Lillian Knisely	Chloe Thiriot
Jackson Craig	Grace Koepke	Leianna Thomas
Maggie Crosland	Lillian Kruchten	Jackson Tishler
Ethan Crummett	Jakob Lamb	Charlotte Torrez
Luke Crummett	Justin Le	Allison Tuite
Ryan Dachowski	Caden McBeth	John Wargo
Matthew Dalkiewicz	Lula McCain	Luke Wargo
Christina Dovell	Cody Min Elizabeth	Marlee Washington
Logan Eldredge	Moller	Jordan White
Erin Fay	Kelsi Navin	Nathan Wiles
Mia Fortune	Ian Nguyen	Jayne Williams
Christian Friedl	Simone Nguyen	Malcolm Wise
Braden Furbee	Jon Olsen	Kristine Wright
Margaret Gardner	Christina Parkin	
Adalyn Garza	Aidan Pickett	
Maria Gaytan	Jaxon Ramage	
Jackson Geozeff	Madelyn Ramage	

Amon Alipio	Madison Davis	Noelle Hopkins	Collin Mcfadden	Mason Scott
Shannon Anderson	Justin Dawns	Rinna Hoskins	Ryan Mcguirk	Nicholas Seifried
Jack Arnold	Caroline De Jesus	Megan House	Mason McIntyre	Patrick Shea
Alexander Ascari	Luke Denomy	Ryder Hrabe	Cody Meyer	Dale Sites
Ronny Astudillo	Adam Diaz Kathryn Drake	Ally Humphries	Sidney Meyer	David Slaughter
Ella Barnaby	Tanner Eaves	Zachary Hunt	Ty Meyer	Aiden Sliffe
Kaylee Bayes	Kathryn Ewald	Lucy Hunter	Ashton Miller	Tess Smiljanich
Aidan Beddingfield	Contessa Falsone	Nicholas Hunter	Jeffrey Mitchem	Christian Smith
Haydynn Bell	Colin Fay	Kelsey Johannesen	Vivian Morehouse	Sophie Smith
Mary Bernard	Keisler Fechner	Alexa Johnson	Rebecca Morgan	Ava Stiglic
Warren Bernard	Caleb Frazier	Keira Johnson	Owen Mullins	Reece Strickland
Carter Bernatzky	Mary Gabeler	Samantha Johnstn	Maisam Nahidian	Noah Stubbs
Nicholas Blakley	Abigail Garner	Conner Jones	Hanna Nanthana	Aaron Sullivan
Adrian Blanco-Alcala	Caelen Garza	Bryce Kadesch	Kaylee Neam	Elsie Sullivan
Peyton Boner	Antonio Genotti	Owen Keathley	Kennedy Nuar	Benjamin Talomie
Kayden Bosley	Julia Gillis Jacob Glick	Lauren Kellum	Tre Pastor	Dominic Tapscott
Carson Bowen	Emily Golder	Halliday Kelly-Maartens	Alexandra Patton	Brendan Taylor
Addison Brewington	Poppy Kennedy	Poppy Kennedy	Madeline Patton	Jeslena Taylor
Marley Bridges	Braedon Goolsby	Alahna King	Benjamin Payne	Jonathan Thiriot
Madeline Brooks	Nichole Gordon	Katherine Lambert	Caleb Pearson	Caleb Thomas
Jonathon Brown	Brooks Graham	Logan Lambert	Jack Pechin	Tyler Tincher
Stephen Brubaker	Hayden Greenawalt	Brandon Layton	Josephine Peterson	Truman Turner
Reagan Burton	Logan Gunn	Anna Legg Braden	Sophia Peterson	Celeste Vannoy
James Cahill	Ashton Gurko	Leitenberger	Alice Pettingill	Anthony Ventresco
Nathan Carter	Emmaliine Haataja	Samantha Low	Claire Pettingill	Guadalupe Villagomez Cortes
Wyatt Carver	Sean Hallett	Mackenzie Lowery	Ava Pillow	Brandon Warmus
Santiago Chavarria Quesada	Addison Haugan	Gloria Malloy	Mikayla Pompell	Ciera Westmoreland
Jackson Colgan	Patrick Haugan	Danielle Manahan	Jorany PonKaliann Pon	Natalie White
Erin Corbin	Tanner Havlu	Massimo Manfra	Brady Powell	Caleb Willis
Hannah Counts	Keaton Helou	Naos Marbach	Alexis Rappach	Beau Wilson
Luke Cowger	Rhett Heppler	Matina Marias	Noah Richards	Alysa Wood
Madelyn Cox	Derek Higginbotham	Mia Martin Sarah Martin	Carly Ritter	Caelan Wright
Allegra Craft	Alayna Hill	Kendall May	Sophia Rodriguez	Skylar Yankey
Brooklyn Crouch	Avery Hillygus	Evelyn Maynard	Case Roeber	Noah Young
Colette Crouch	Amari Hogan	Ivy Mccarthy	Brody Roth	Lauren Zavattieri
Patrick Curry	Jonathan Hohn	Myles Mccarthy	Zachary Roth	Summer Zirkel
Evonne Cusson	Marin Hollingsworth	Aiden Mccormick	Kayla Roux	
Gabriel Davis	Colin Hoover	Lucy Mcewen	Caitlyn Sanders	

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# Fauquier Times

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## School board gets first look at superintendent's 2021 budget plan

County portion of funding would be \$3.8 million more than 2020

By Robin Earl  
TIMES STAFF WRIT



SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS DAVID JECK

Those who attended Monday night's Fauquier County School Board meeting – in person or via livestream video -- got a first look at the superintendent of schools' proposed fiscal year 2021 school

division budget.

If Superintendent David Jeck's budget were to be approved by the school board as is, board members would be asking the county for about \$3.8 million more this year than last. The total budget is about \$7.5 million more than last year, but because of a dip in the composite index (which the state uses to decide how much funding each county will get), Fauquier will likely receive about \$4 million more from the state than last year. Federal funding will decrease by about \$268,000.

In other positive budget news, an energy-savings plan is resulting in solid savings that the school division is using to pay for some school maintenance projects that would otherwise need to be funded out of the operating budget. Jeck said that ramped-up grant applications are also paying dividends.

He added that while neighboring school districts will be experiencing up to 30% increases in health insurance rates, Fauquier County will see a 4% increase, "which is manageable," he said. Jeck explained that the county's Wellness Center, which serves school division and county employees, is helping to keep health insurance claims down. The Wellness Center allows county employees and their families to schedule doctor visits at the clinic, get and

See **SCHOOL BUDGET**, page 5



## David and Patricia Vos dedicated to planting a trillion trees

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VOS FOUNDATION

Patricia Vos boards a helicopter in Madagascar during a tour of Eden Reforestation Projects' initiatives on the island.

By Coy Ferrell  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

"I think this is the most important stuff I've ever done," said David Vos of Delaplane, and that's saying something.

Vos holds a M.S. and a Ph.D.

from MIT and has worked on some of the most important problems in aeronautical engineering over his 30-year career. He holds a variety of patents in his field. He led Google X's Project Wing, developing autonomous delivery drones.

But his current work has nothing to do with futuristic aeronautics. Instead, he is putting his considerable creative energy toward finding a way to plant trees.

See **TREES**, page 4

## Pipeline company is accused of 'bullying' landowners

By Daniel Berti  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

The owners of a Fauquier farm slated for a proposed wetland mitigation bank say representatives of a gas pipeline company are pressuring them to accept an agreement to allow a new pipeline to be built on their property, preventing any future work on the wetland bank.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission gave Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company the go-ahead to begin construction on their 8-mile pipeline expansion in Fauquier and Prince William counties on Jan. 31.

The owners of the Catlett property, Shannon Jensen and Larry Smith, said Transco is pressuring them to accept an agreement or face condemnation proceedings, which would allow the pipeline company to begin construction on the property without the landowners' permission while compensation is decided in court.

"They have no signature. They have no approval from us right now," Jensen said. "I don't think they can do this without evidence that they've made a good faith effort with us, and they haven't."

Wetland mitigation banks exist to allow developers to purchase of credits toward preserving area wetlands as a means of offsetting damage to wetlands or streams in other areas.



TIMES STAFF PHOTO/DANIEL BERTI

A tractor-trailer pulls out of the site where construction on the Transco pipeline is set to begin.

Jensen and Smith said they had hoped to reach an amicable settlement with Transco, but said it was clear the pipeline company is planning to move ahead with construction without reaching an agreement.

"I don't intimidate easily. But I do feel that there is something going on there that shouldn't be going on," Smith said. "It sounds like their tone of voice has more force behind it."

See **PIPELINE**, page 5



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## Pipeline company is accused of ‘bullying’

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Virginia Waters and Wetlands, the environmental consulting firm working with the landowners on the wetland bank, said the pipeline route will overlap three acres of conservation easement on the property needed for construction of the wetland bank, effectively killing the bank.

A conservation easement and restrictive deed on the property, located at 2652 Catlett Road, were recorded with Fauquier County in June 2018.

The bank, called Millers Stream Crossing Phase II, is currently pending approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Virginia Waters and Wetlands began working with the landowners on the proposed wetland bank in January 2018.

Virginia Waters and Wetlands Vice President Andrew Hindman said the bank, if built, would be valued at approximately \$5 million, but that Transco is offering the firm and landowners far less than that – about \$500,000 – for the necessary right-of-way property.

Erica Jones, a spokesperson for Transco’s parent company Williams Partners, said that as of Monday, Feb. 10, Transco was still working with the firm and the landowners to reach an agreement.

Transco Land Representative

Shannon Jensen is one of the landowners at 2652 Catlett Road, Catlett.

TIMES STAFF PHOTO/DANIEL BERTI



Charles Ryan sent a letter to the landowners and the firm on Feb. 4 demanding that the parties stop work on the wetland bank. Ryan said the proposed wetland bank, and the easements related to it, violate the pipeline’s existing right-of-way agreement granted to the company in 1949 and 1969.

Hindman, in a Feb. 6 letter addressed to FERC, called the pipeline company’s actions “blatant bullying.”

“Landowners are being presented with misinformation to pressure agreements for Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company’s new right of way along the Southeastern Trail Project. The landowners are visibly shaken and feel threatened,” Hindman said.

Virginia Waters and Wetlands President Joseph Ivers, in a Feb. 5 letter to FERC, said the pipeline company was attempting to intimidate the firm into signing an agreement.

“Representatives from the Transcontinental Pipeline in Fauquier County were in my office again yesterday intimidating my firm with supposed legal documents and demands for us to take pennies on the dollar or they will take our land, killing our stream and wetland mitigation project,” Ivers said.

Virginia Waters and Wetlands staff said reaching an agreement with Transco at this point was unlikely.

“To me, it raises a lot of questions about, you know, FERC authorized the pipeline and unleashed a private company onto all the landowners along that pipeline without offering a whole lot of support,” Hindman said. “It’s unfair to the landowners.”

FERC approved the pipeline’s Environmental Assessment in October 2019. A Williams Partners press release announcing the pipeline’s federal approval said the company aims to have the project completed and in-service by November 2020.

## First look at superintendent’s 2021 budget plan

SCHOOL BUDGET, from page 1

access wellness coaching – all for free.

Budget priorities outlined by Jeck included school safety, equity and teacher compensation.

The proposed compensation plan is designed to bring school division employee salaries closer to their peers in nearby districts. Under Jeck’s plan, for instance:

- Teachers would get a 3% raise.
- School nurses would be moved to the certified employee compensation scale over two years, Jeck said, “which would put them at 100% of market. This was/is a budget priority for our school board.”
- The minimum wage for the school division would be increased to \$10.50, which would raise salaries for cafeteria monitors, who currently earn an hourly rate lower than that.

According to the plan, all employee compensation would be brought to 90% to 100% of nearby localities, although Jeck pointed out that as Fauquier raises its salaries, so do other school districts.

In his budget presentation to the school board, Jeck addressed questions of equity – like adding a full-time agricultural teacher so that all middle schools have a dedicated full-time instructor. He also outlined some school safety issues – like putting more cameras in the schools and on buses, and more secure entrances. “Our schools were not designed with major security in mind. In the current environment, we need to have secure schools. And that is expensive,” he said.

The board of supervisors will take a critical look at the school division-proposed budget in March and the final budget would be adopted by the school board in early April.



TIMES STAFF PHOTO/ROBIN EARL

Coy Ferrell has recently joined the newsroom at the *Fauquier Times* as a reporter.

## New journalist at the *Times* will report on government, business

Fauquier native Coy Ferrell joined the news reporting staff of the *Fauquier Times* Feb. 3.

Ferrell, 28, was born in Warrenton and grew up close by in Jefferson. He and his wife live in Fauquier County.

Ferrell has been a regular contributing writer and photographer for the *Fauquier Times* since 2018. Previously, Ferrell worked as the marketing director for a winery group in the Shenandoah Valley for several years and he has done work in marketing and communications for several local organizations.

“My real passion is journalism, and I am thrilled to be a part of this team of people committed to producing quality, local reporting,” Ferrell said. “This journalistic institution makes our county a better place.”

Managing Editor Robin Earl said she is thrilled to have Ferrell on

board. “Coy is a smart, careful writer with an ear for the language of news. He’ll be covering county government and business news mostly, but will also be called on to write the public safety and education news and features that our readers are looking for.”

Earl said that Ferrell is an accomplished photographer as well – a major bonus for the print paper as well as website content.

Ferrell replaces James Ivancic, a journalism veteran who retired Jan. 31. Ivancic spent the last few years at the *Times* covering government and business news. “James’ depth of knowledge will be missed,” said Earl. “The relationships he developed as a reporter were invaluable. We are going to try to convince him to do some freelance writing for us, once he gets bored with retirement.”

Ivancic told Earl, “Give me a few weeks to just do nothing.”

## Amended assault weapon bill advances

By Graham Moomaw  
COURTESY OF VIRGINIA MERCURY

A controversial bill to ban future sales of assault weapons in Virginia and outlaw high-capacity magazines and bump stocks passed the House on a 51-48 vote Tuesday.

Instead of criminalizing specific types of rifles, shotguns and pistols altogether, the amended bill makes it illegal to import, purchase, sell, transfer or manufacture an assault firearm, with some exceptions for gifts, guns handed down through family estates and temporary transfers to allow weapon rentals at shooting ranges.

As originally drafted, the bill would have required people who already own assault firearms to register them with the state for a \$50 fee. That provision was struck from the bill, allowing those weapons to be lawfully kept without registration.

“No one has to give up a weapon,” Del. Mark Levine, D-45th, of Alexandria, said at a committee hearing.

The amended bill takes a stricter approach to high-capacity magazines, defined as any magazine that can hold more than 12 rounds.



PHOTO BY CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Thousands of gun rights activists flocked to Richmond on Monday, Jan. 20, to rally in opposition of proposed gun-control laws.

The bill would ban possession of high-capacity magazines and bump stocks, giving owners until Jan. 1, 2021, to destroy such equipment, remove it from the state or surrender it to law enforcement.

The bill would also create new restrictions on silencers, without banning them outright.

To pro-gun groups, the assault weapon bill was the most controversial of the package of eight gun-control bills being pushed by Gov. Ralph Northam and the General Assembly’s new Democratic majorities.

The legislation helped fuel the Second Amendment sanctuary backlash in conservative parts of the state.

# Wetland bank won't halt gas pipeline

## Fauquier farm owners settle with Transco

By Daniel Berti  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

A months-long dispute that pitted a proposed wetlands mitigation bank against an expanded natural gas pipeline is over. The pipeline won, but owners of the Fauquier farm on which the pipeline will be built say the result is a “win, win, win” for all involved.

Shannon Jensen, one of the owners of the Catlett property impacted by the expansion of Transco’s natural gas pipeline, said the company made an offer to settle that works for everyone.

“The settlement will still allow Virginia Waters and Wetlands to undertake other conservation projects on the property and will also

help them to be able to expand their conservation efforts throughout the area,” Jensen said Tuesday, Feb. 18. “I believe this worked out to be a win, win, win for all involved.”

The proposed, 30-acre wetland bank, called the Miller Stream Bank Phase II, would have restored 6,700 linear feet of stream channel and 30 acres of wetlands and associated riparian and upland buffers on the Catlett property. The firm estimated the value of the proposed wetland bank at \$5 million.

Wetland mitigation banks are a system of credits devised to ensure ecological loss to streams and wetlands from new development is compensated for by preserving and restoring wetlands, natural habitats and streams in other areas. Developers purchase credits from mitigation banks as a means of offsetting impacts to wetlands or streams as a result of development.

Prior to the agreement, Virginia Waters and Wetlands Vice President Andrew Hindman likened Transco’s

actions to “bullying.” The firm’s President Joseph Ivers said Transco was attempting to intimidate the firm into accepting “pennies-on-the-dollar” for a deal that would kill the wetland mitigation project.

Now, it appears the parties have reached an agreement. The details of the settlement have not been disclosed, however, because both Virginia Waters and Wetlands and Jensen have signed non-disclosure agreements with Transco.

Prior to coming to an agreement, Virginia Waters and Wetlands and the farm owners said a resolution could be reached if the Transco offered “fair compensation” for the loss of the wetland bank on the property.

Transco spokesperson Erica Jones said the pipeline company is pleased with the agreement.

“Construction is underway on this critical energy infrastructure project,” Jones said.

The new pipeline, part of Transco’s Southeastern Trail Expansion Project, will run alongside Transco’s existing natural gas pipeline in Prince William and Fauquier counties. The expansion includes 8 miles of new 42-inch diameter pipeline as well as upgrades to natural gas compressor stations in Chatham, Scottsville and Manassas.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission gave Transco the go-ahead to begin construction on Jan. 31. The company aims to have the project completed and in service by November.

The pipeline will cross 20 waterbodies, including five perennial streams -- Cedar Run, Kettle Run, Owl Run, South Run, and Walnut Branch -- and will impact about two acres of wetlands in Fauquier and Prince William counties, according to FERC’s environmental assessment. The project will increase the horsepower at a natural gas compressor station in Manassas by 20%.

Transco’s mainline, which is being expanded in Prince William and Fauquier, delivers natural gas along nearly 1,800 miles of pipeline from South Texas and New York City. The Southeastern Trail Expansion is expected to cost \$405 million.

The Southeastern Trail Expansion is one of two pipeline projects planned for Prince William and Fauquier counties. Virginia Natural Gas, a subsidiary of Southern Company Gas, is seeking state approval to construct 9.5 miles of new pipeline in both counties to connect its existing pipeline system to the expanding Transco pipeline system.

Reach Daniel Berti at [dberti@fauquier.com](mailto:dberti@fauquier.com)

## Proceedings in Norwood case remain closed

NORWOOD, from page 1

erty High School in Bealeton.

A written copy of the motion to intervene was delivered to Commonwealth’s Attorney Scott Hook, who said he had not been aware of the request from the Post. A copy was also given to Ryan Ruzik, the public defender who is defending Levi Norwood.

Levi Norwood was escorted in, and the two attorneys conferred.

Ruzik spoke to the judge, asking for the hearing to be kept closed, as is usual when a defendant is younger than 18.

Ruzik said that the proceedings should remain closed to maintain the privacy of the juvenile defendant. “The motion makes mention of a catharsis for the community,” he said, but argued that the case has already appeared extensively

in the press, and that the alleged crime was “not a matter for public consumption.” He added that the shootings did not take place in a public place and were confined to one family.

He further stated that in a small community like Fauquier, keeping the proceedings closed would be necessary in order to protect the pool of jurors from being compromised, and to protect any potential witnesses who are younger than 18.

Hook agreed with the defense attorney, and Cupp concurred. She asked that the court be cleared of anyone not there in an official capacity or as a witness.

Levi Norwood stayed seated next to his attorneys and Josh Norwood remained behind as reporters filed out.

Robin Earl can be reached at [rearl@fauquier.com](mailto:rearl@fauquier.com)

## Man who died from alleged overdose dropped off at Fauquier Hospital

A deceased man -- the victim of a possible overdose -- was dropped off at the Fauquier Hospital Emergency Department about 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 16, Warrenton Police Chief Michael Kochis said in a press release.

The release said that officers were dispatched to the hospital’s emergency department for a report of an overdose. Upon arrival, police found the victim had been dropped off there and pronounced deceased.

The individual who allegedly brought the deceased victim to the hospital was found in a restroom. When police forced entry into the restroom, they found a man with

narcotics and paraphernalia, the release said.

Warrenton police officers arrested Devin Jay Chase, 27, of Herndon; he was charged with possession of a controlled substance and is being held without bond.

Sgt. James Hartman of the Fauquier County Sheriff’s Office said that Warrenton officers and sheriff’s office deputies determined that Chase and the deceased had allegedly been together at the Sheetz in Opal when the victim -- a 27-year-old man from Leesburg -- suffered a probable heroin overdose.

Hartman said that Chase sought directions to the nearest hospital and dropped the victim at the Fauquier Hospital Emergency Department.

According to the release, the investigation is ongoing.

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