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VIRGINIA'S NEWS LEADER

Richmond Times-Dispatch

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Morrissey, Urban One founder no longer allies

Senator, mom of CEO Liggins at odds over location of casino



Hughes

BY C. SUAREZ ROJAS
Richmond Times-Dispatch

When it comes to whether a casino should be built in Richmond or Petersburg, one of the nation's most influential media tycoons in the center of the debate envisions a political battle on a biblical scale in front of her.

Though they were once allies in promoting a casino in Richmond, Urban One founder and chairperson Cathy Hughes and Sen. Joe Morrissey, D-Richmond, are now at odds as the state senator has pivoted toward pushing the Virginia General Assembly to let Petersburg choose whether it wants a casino instead.

"I hope you all understand that Joe Morrissey is a very shrewd politician," Hughes said in a community meeting in Richmond earlier this month. "Very

CASINO, Page A13

TOWN IS 'MOVING FORWARD'



SHABAN ATHUMAN/TIMES-DISPATCH

An aerial view from Friday shows the area at Prince Street and Water Lane in Tappahannock that was burned out in the July 15 fire.

Tappahannock rallies after blaze

'It's how life is in a rural area. You look out for each other,' says volunteer firefighter, 51

BY BILL LOHMANN
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Late on the morning of July 15, Joey Reinhardt was at his desk at Barbour Printing, the Tappahannock

company his family has owned for decades, when he received an alert on his phone: a fire in progress.

As a volunteer firefighter with the Tappahannock-Essex Volunteer Fire De-



WATCH: See the aftermath of the fire in Tappahannock on July 15. Point your smartphone camera at the QR code, and then tap the link.

partment since he was 18, Reinhardt, now 51, has learned to take such star-

ting notifications in stride. Most of the time, though, the fire being reported is not across the street.

With a sense of urgency, Reinhardt hustled out of his office door and raced across Prince Street — "Oh, yeah, it was a run," he said — to make sure people in

TAPPAHANNOCK, Page A13

Youngkin's overhaul seeks to ease regulatory burdens

BY DAVE RESS
AND CHARLOTTE RENE WOODS
Richmond Times-Dispatch

For at least 70 years, Virginia politicians have accepted the notion that some issues are better handled by state agencies than by the courts or the General

Assembly — and they've been arguing ever since about exactly how much.

Now, Gov. Glenn Youngkin aims to have a tool to meet his goal of cutting the state's regulatory requirements by 25%. It is the goal of the first major overhaul in more than 25 years of the

way Virginia governors review new regulations and revisions to existing ones.

It's a target that's not new — the General Assembly in 2018 launched a pilot program to do just that, to test the waters for a general cutback. It passed unanimously.

The sponsor, Del. Michael Webert, R-Fauquier, calling the 2018 bill one of his favorite pieces of legislation to have worked on, said support for easing regulatory burdens has support from both sides of the partisan divide.

REGULATIONS, Page A11



TIMES-DISPATCH

"I'm convinced that the more information you present to the public, the better the regulations you get."

Andrew Wheeler, director of the newly formed Office of Regulatory Management in the governor's office

In Nation & World | Ukraine strikes key bridge as heavy Russian shelling batters east | Page B1

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QUEEN ELIZABETH II

1926-2022



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reflecting on her legacy after seven decades on the throne

PAGE A6

Record-breaking reign

Queen Elizabeth II, U.K.'s longest-serving monarch, dies at 96.

The new king

After a lifetime of preparation, Charles takes the throne.

PAGE A7

Va. is for royalty

Late British monarch a presence in Virginia during its highs and lows.

One to remember

RTD photographers recall the queen's visit to the state Capitol.

PAGE A8

'End of an era'

Richmonders reflect on the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

More photos

See more photographs of the queen during her 70 years in power.



WATCH:

The owner of Penny Lane Pub in downtown Richmond talks about Queen Elizabeth. Point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link.



READ:

See text from Queen Elizabeth II's 2007 speech to legislators. Point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link.

Queen Elizabeth II, shown leaving Buckingham Palace in 2007, was Britain's longest-reigning monarch and a rock of stability. She was not born to be queen. Her father's older brother was destined for the throne, but he abdicated in 1936, and Elizabeth's father, George VI, became king.

In Nation & World | Blinken on U.S. support for Ukraine: 'As long as it takes' | Page A12

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DANIEL SANGJIB MIN/TIMES-DISPATCH

“I can’t talk to him,” Lakesha Woodson said as she visited the site where her ex-boyfriend shot her and killed himself. **“So I feel like this is my only way to try to close this chapter. Hopefully this will stop the flashbacks or stop the nightmares. Hopefully, this is a fear I can overcome.”**

‘I thought I was safe’

Richmond survivor of domestic violence shares her story in hopes it will save others

Story by ALI ROCKETT • Photos by DANIEL SANGJIB MIN • Richmond Times-Dispatch

After she was shot, Lakesha Woodson couldn’t move. She couldn’t hear. Her ears were ringing from the gun that had been pointed at her head. She didn’t know where the bullets struck her. But she thought she’d been shot. Maybe the head, she remembers thinking, as she lay face down on the floor of a cigarette shop in Richmond’s



WATCH: See a video of Lakesha Woodson’s long recovery journey. Point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link.

South Side. She thought that would be a safe place to meet him. She thought she was safe. Two days earlier, she’d signed a lease on a new apart-

ment. One he didn’t know about. They’d been evicted from an apartment they’d shared. She had stopped working — because he was not only threatening her, but her children — so bills weren’t paid. Woodson considered it a blessing, the eviction. A way out. “I just knew that I was safe. I thought I was safe,” she said looking back.

SURVIVOR, Page A12



Woodson gets an X-ray of her left knee at VCU Medical Center Orthopaedic Surgery. On rainy days, she’s often bedridden.

VEC resuming collection of its overpayments, seeking \$859M

During COVID, it erred as it tried to pay quickly

BY MICHAEL MARTZ
 Richmond Times-Dispatch

The Virginia Employment Commission is resuming collection of its nearly \$860 million in overpayments of unemployment insurance benefits to hundreds of thousands of people who lost their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic, with help from Attorney General Jason Miyares and outside collection agencies.

The VEC made the announcement Friday,

after the expiration of temporary protections that the General Assembly had adopted to protect people who were overpaid benefits through no fault of their own or any intention to defraud the unemployment system. The agency said it is trying to collect more than \$859 million in overpayments it made in 366,308 cases since the pandemic began in March 2020, forcing more than 400,000 Virginians out of work and unleashing almost 2 million requests for unemployment benefits.

Those overpayments
VEC, Page A4



SHABAN ATHUMAN/TIMES-DISPATCH

Delivery is “a huge part of the business,” says Ahmed Khodeir, co-owner of Valentino’s Italian Pizzeria.

Local restaurants, delivery services feel strain of gas prices

BY MADYSON FITZGERALD
 Richmond Times-Dispatch

Inside Valentino’s Italian Pizzeria, a low-key parlor-style restaurant in downtown Richmond at 223 E. Grace St., Ahmed Khodeir was mopping the floor recently as the clock hit 11 a.m. — opening time. Khodeir, who owns the shop with his wife, was preparing for the lunch rush.

Recently, however, the store had been making fewer deliveries. Ever since Russia invaded Ukraine — and gas began creeping toward a national average of \$5 per gallon — delivery wasn’t the same, he said.

“A lot of them [drivers] decided just not to do the job or to find another job,” Khodeir said.

Aside from the
DELIVERY, Page A8

In Nation & World | A look at Supreme Court’s ‘revolutionary’ term, landmark rulings | Page B1

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