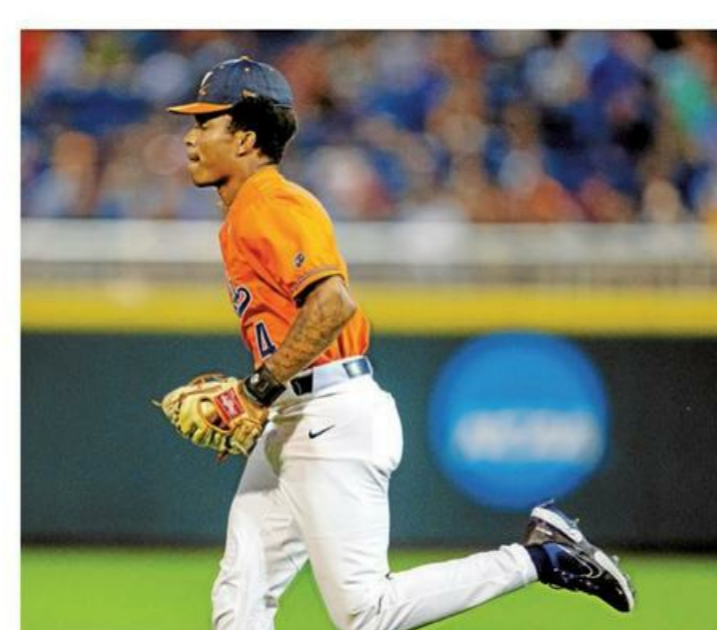


The Daily Progress

Another local solar farm has been denied permitting
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How Woolfolk's decision will affect UVA's sports teams
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Tuesday, July 18, 2023

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UVA

MIDSUMMERS IS ANYTHING BUT 'MID'



CAL CARY, THE DAILY PROGRESS

Left, Amir Devine falls off the goal post in the Madison Bowl during the Midsummers celebration on Saturday, July 15, 2023.

Students tackle rain, BORGs, each other over a weekend of festivities

HALEY SANDLOW
The Daily Progress

Drive south down Rugby Road on any given Saturday during the school year and you may be greeted with the usual sights on Madison Bowl across from University of Virginia Grounds: sunbathing students, a pickup game of soccer, fraternity brothers playing spikeball. If you're up early enough on Saturday you might even catch the

women's rugby team before they start practice. They'll form a line on one end of the field and walk slowly across with their heads down, scanning for broken glass left the night before.

Madison Bowl looked rather different this Saturday amid this year's Midsummers festivities, an unofficial UVA tradition the weekend between academic summer sessions. Students in bathing suits were

carrying gallons of mixed alcohol across the grass, climbing the field's goal post and quite literally flying through the air on a makeshift Slip 'N Slide.

The best protection from broken glass was a pair of close-toed shoes, squelching with rain, mud and someone's spilled beer.

"It's just a fun reunion," Akon

Please see MIDSUMMERS, Page A3

BUSINESS

'Bulls--t' or embezzling: Sigora faces legal trouble

Lawsuit filed against solar company's founder, ex-CEO

JASON ARMESTO
The Daily Progress

A promising Charlottesville solar company that was once earning millions of dollars a year has since developed a reputation for shoddy work, ghosting customers and owing money to contractors.

One Sigora employee who left the company last year posed this question to The Daily Progress: "Where did that money go?"

The founder of the company, Andy Bindea, appears to believe much of it was embezzled or stolen.

A lawsuit filed in May claims that Bindea told employees, people in the solar industry and even U.S. Sen. Mark Warner that three former Sigora

Please see LAWSUIT, Page A3

RENOVATIONS

Synagogue sports new roof, hosts musical act

Beth Israel's roof was 100 years old in some places

JANE DUNLAP SATHE
The Daily Progress

Audience members settling into their seats in Congregation Beth Israel's O'Mansky Hall last Wednesday evening were able to savor a blend of old and new musical traditions performed by San Francisco Yiddish Combo. The new roof they saw on the way in represented a similar connection of past and future.

While they were at the festive event, visitors had the chance to notice more than comfortable new seat cushions and freshly painted walls. They were able to see the results of a painstaking

Please see KLEZMER, Page A9

HOUSING

City's largest subsidized complex sees changes

Former Friendship Court residences get a facelift and some new faces

HAWES SPENCER
The Daily Progress

As it prepares to unveil its first new units in 45 years,

Charlottesville's largest federally subsidized housing complex has taken a new name amid the ongoing redevelopment that will nearly triple its population.

What was originally known as Garrett Square and then Friendship Court is now Kindledwood, and new neighbors

Please see KINLEWOOD, Page A3



CAL CARY, THE DAILY PROGRESS

To the left are the older Kindledwood residences, formerly known as Friendship Court, with the new Kindledwood residences to the right on Thursday, July 13, 2023.

Levy Opera House annex to fall for new courts complex A9

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College baseball: Virginia eyes strong finish PAGE B1

The Daily Progress

Thursday, May 18, 2023

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AUGUSTA COUNTY

Amazon opens new distribution center

E-commerce titan cuts the ribbon at its new Fishersville distribution center

BEN CRAFT
The News Virginian

In August of 2021, the Augusta County Board of Supervisors approved a rezoning for building a 1 million-square-foot warehouse in Fishersville.

Over the next few months, res-

idents wondered what company would build there in what Augusta County Administrator Tim Fitzgerald joked Wednesday morning was the “worst kept secret in town.” Gov. Glenn Youngkin ultimately revealed in February 2022 the plans for an Amazon fulfillment center at 32 Trader Road.

On Wednesday afternoon, county officials and Amazon representatives officially celebrated the center’s launch with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

“It’s a great day in Augusta

County,” Fitzgerald said.

The center — which officially opened on April 30 — is primarily responsible for picking, packing and shipping larger items such as furniture or outdoor equipment to customers.

The opening of the Fishersville operation comes at a time when Amazon has made more headlines for scaling back its real estate footprint than growing it. The e-commerce titan invested heavily in industrial space when demand was soaring at the peak

of the pandemic before taking its foot off the pedal in the waning years of the global health crisis.

Amazon grew its warehouse footprint by roughly 125 million square feet in 2020 and added another 137 million square feet in 2021, according to logistics consulting firm MWPVL. Last year, the e-commerce titan grew its footprint by just 52 million square feet.

The Fishersville operation took about 18 months to get from approval to opening day, which Fitz-

gerald noted included setbacks such as a potential tornado going directly through the site.

“There has been much excitement and build-up of anticipation for this moment,” Fitzgerald said. “The truth of it is that I don’t think Augusta County has seen such a fast, efficient and smooth construction operation the likes of Amazon in this county.”

Fishersville’s location joins 10 other Amazon fulfillment centers

Please see **AMAZON**, Page A8

BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW



TURF WAR

A frat house wants to install synthetic grass on its lawn. The BAR isn't fully on board.

CAL CARY PHOTOS, THE DAILY PROGRESS

Garrett Smith stands on the synthetic turf installed six years ago by the private pool near his house on Wednesday, May 17, 2023.

HAWES SPENCER

While it might seem strange to call plastic grass a “growing” trend, installations of modern versions of AstroTurf appear to be sprouting in Charlottesville. However, after a lengthy debate earlier this week before the city’s Board of Architectural Review, some turf advocates wonder if the BAR has seen the new materials.

“It’s growing by leaps and bounds, and I think people would be surprised as to how far it’s come,” landscape architect Scott Price told The Daily Progress. “It’s not your grandma’s AstroTurf.”

After the natural grass playing surface at America’s first domed

stadium died in 1966, the Astro-dome forever associated itself with a branded product from Monsanto. Unlike the low-pile nylon that first graced that Houston facility and countless miniature golf courses, today’s lawn turfs are good enough for Albemarle wineries, which favor the product to avoid mud in high-traffic areas, Price said.

As further testimony to modern sods, Price told a tale of a wintertime installation he designed for one customer’s backyard. Price said the turf was so realistic that it fooled the grounds crew when they returned to the property in the



Members of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity at the University of Virginia walk outside the house where they are requesting to have artificial turf put in on the ground on Wednesday, May 17, 2023.

Please see **UVA**, Page A8

CRIME & COURTS

Gun charge gets ex-UVA dining hall worker banned from Grounds

Isaiah Anderson was arrested for allegedly flashing gun during fight

SYDNEY SHULER

The Charlottesville teen who was arrested and charged with flashing a weapon in a University of Virginia dining hall earlier this year received a deferred disposition ruling from an Albemarle General District Court judge on Tuesday morning.

Isaiah Anderson was released from Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail on Tuesday after posting bail.

The 19-year-old Anderson was released on recognizance that he must not trespass on UVA Grounds, must only travel to probation- and work-related locations or meetings with his lawyer, and must report to Offender Aid & Restoration with Jefferson Area Community Corrections within 24 hours of his release.

The court initially granted Anderson a \$5,000 bond after his arrest in February but revoked the bond after he arrived more than an hour late for a court appearance last month.

Anderson, who has been in jail



Anderson

Please see **ANDERSON**, Page A8



Purvelo’s flagship location is at 1000 W. Main St. in Charlottesville.

SPIN CITY

Local cycling studio names first franchisee

Maxine Clifford takes a slice of the brand she’s helped to build

SYDNEY SHULER

University of Virginia alumna Maxine Clifford is taking ownership of the Purvelo cycling studio flagship location in Charlottesville, a year after the company announced it was franchising the business.

Clifford, who graduated from UVA in 2019, started working at the studio as an intern when she was just 19 years old. Since then, she has opened and managed a



Clifford

new Purvelo in Athens, Georgia, and led the Charlottesville location as general manager.

After managing two locations in the past four years, Clifford

said she was “ready to take the professional step forward.”

“I’m so grateful to be able to grow Purvelo and further invest in Charlottesville, building meaningful relationships in the community I have grown to love and further developing the team I care for deeply,” she said. “Since

I was 19, I’ve interned, taught, managed, moved states to open a location and moved back to Charlottesville to run the flagship studio. I still love teaching and riding in Purvelo classes just as much as I did at 19, and I am grateful I still get to do that.”

Atlantic Research Group Chief Technology Officer Hunter Walker will join Clifford as co-owner of the studio.

“I’m pleased to step into a co-ownership role at Purvelo here in Charlottesville,” said Walker, who is also a UVA alum. “The enthusiasm for fitness in

Please see **CYCLING**, Page A8

UVA alumna, ‘Face the Nation’ host Margaret Brennan returns to C’ville

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The Daily Progress

Friday, October 27, 2023

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A FIERY END

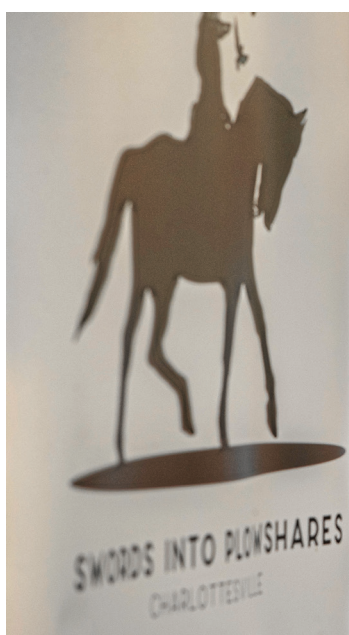
LEE DEFEATED (AGAIN)



ÉZÉ AMOS

A foundry worker uses a plasma torch to cut the head of Charlottesville's bronze monument of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee in preparation for melting the statue on Oct. 21, 2023.

Iconic and infamous monument to Confederacy melted



CAL CARY, THE DAILY PROGRESS

Andrea Douglas, executive director of the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, speaks at a press conference outside the Charlottesville courthouse where the cultural center announced that the statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee it acquired from the city has been melted on Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023.

JASON ARMESTO
The Daily Progress

Charlottesville's monument of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee is no more.

"We come together this afternoon as a community to announce definitively that racist symbols don't belong in our parks or in our city," Andrea Douglas, executive director of the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, the statue's owner, told a crowd of some 30 people on Thursday afternoon outside of the Charlottesville courthouse.

She spoke of the deadly 2017 Unite the Right rally-turned-riot, the city's long racist past and the Black community members, past and present, who fought back.

"We honor their belief that Charlottesville could become a place where democratic ideals and imaginings would flourish. I'm proud to announce today we have fulfilled our promise to the city and to our supporters to melt Charlottesville's statue of Robert E. Lee," she said.

Since it acquired the bronze equestrian statue in 2021, the Jefferson School's

Please see **STATUE**, Page A2

COURT

Police: 'He just kept driving on the rims'

A tire-less, cross-county chase lands Gordonsville man in even more trouble

HAWES SPENCER
The Daily Progress

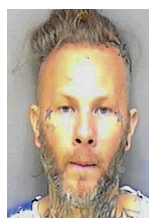
A Gordonsville man with a lengthy record remains jailed without bail since his late September arrest after an automobile pursuit that ended when the tires came off his car.

Adam Ryan Martin, 38, was arrested on Sept. 29 and charged with two offenses in Albemarle County, obstructing justice and assaulting an officer, in addition to three drug offenses and one eluding charge from

Augusta County, where the chase began.

"It started in Augusta and ended in Albemarle," Lt. Leslie Schneider of the Augusta County Sheriff's Office told The Daily Progress. "They put out the spike strips, and his tires deflated, and he just kept driving on the rims."

Martin's latest trouble began in the early morning hours of Sept. 29 on the Shenandoah Valley side of Afton Mountain. An Augusta County sheriff's deputy on routine patrol around U.S. 250 reportedly spotted a black Infiniti that had been the subject of multiple pursuits by several law



Martin

enforcement agencies including Virginia State Police, according to the Augusta County Sheriff's Office.

A check of the license plates found that the registration belonged to another vehicle, and shortly after 3:30 a.m. the deputy began a pursuit, according to the sheriff's narrative.

As the chase moved to Interstate 64 heading east into Albemarle County, Albemarle police then pitched in by deploying spike strips, according to the narrative.

"The suspect vehicle continued to drive on Dudley Mountain Road in Albemarle County at reduced speeds, and losing several tires," according to the sheriff's office.

Eventually, the narrative continued, the driver lost control and crashed down an

embankment at the intersection of Dudley Mountain Road and Red Hill Road and fled on foot.

"Once the deputy got within an arm reach of the male suspect, the male suspect turned on the deputy in a fighting stance," according to the narrative. "There was a physical altercation between Martin and an Augusta County Sheriff's Deputy while taking him into custody."

That was Deputy M. Stutes who was trying to put handcuffs on Martin, according to the Albemarle County General District Court file.

"Martin had resisted by flight and had pushed me down into water and continued

Please see **PURSUIT**, Page A2