

# Fauquier Times



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November 15, 2023

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VIRGINIA PRESS ASSOCIATION: BEST SMALL NEWSPAPER IN VIRGINIA 2017-2022



## A vibrant welcome home

TIMES STAFF PHOTO/VINCENT SALES

"You Are Home," a mural created by artist Taylor Boyd, a Fauquier County native, graces the side of the Britches Great Outdoors building in downtown Warrenton.

### Fauquier artist Taylor Boyd completes town's latest mural

By **Aimée O'Grady**  
BYLINE ATTRIBUTE

Earlier this month, artist Taylor Boyd celebrated the first anniversary of her Fifth Street art studio. But despite her short tenure, Boyd has already made an indelible mark on Old Town Warrenton.

Less than six months after signing her lease, Boyd, 36, a Fauquier County native, was asked by Experience Old Town Warrenton to paint the

town's next mural, which was planned for the Britches Great Outdoors building at Culpeper and Main streets.

"I had never done such a large-scale project but was up for the challenge," she said.

Board members of the local merchants' group gave Boyd some direction with suggestions such as Blue Ridge mountains, nature and landscape.

See **MURAL**, page 2



Artist Taylor Boyd at her Warrenton studio.

PHOTO BY COY FERRELL

### Negotiations stall on Warrenton's purchase of horse show grounds

By **Peter Cary**  
PIEDMONT JOURNALISM FOUNDATION

Negotiations have broken down on a deal that would have the Town of Warrenton buy the property used for the Warrenton Horse Show for a public park. The talks, which have been going on for nearly 18 months, are stuck on the issue of how or whether the town would guarantee that the historic property would be preserved as horse show grounds "in perpetuity," according to participants on both sides.

In a statement sent to the town council on Sept. 12, the Warrenton

See **SHOW GROUNDS**, page 10



PHOTO BY BETSY BURKE PARKER

The Warrenton Horse Show Association has owned the horse show grounds since 1900. Warrenton has been negotiating to purchase the 9.5 acres on East Shirley Avenue for 18 months, but talks have stalled.

### Fauquier school board nixes state's extra 2% teacher raises

School division can't afford the pay bump, officials say

By **Anya Sczerzenie**  
FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF WRITER

The delayed state budget approved in September included funding for an extra 2% pay raise for Virginia's teachers that was supposed to kick in on Jan. 1. But Fauquier County teachers won't receive the extra pay boost because the school division can't afford it.

That's according to Prashant Shrestha, Fauquier County Public Schools' assistant superintendent of business and planning, who told the

Fauquier County School Board Monday, Nov. 13 that the extra state money will need to go toward other needs.

The school division has a budget deficit of around \$1.8 million alone in the area of transportation and operations, Shrestha said. The school division also faces a lack of funds to pay for school building and school bus maintenance, employee health insurance and special education.

Shrestha said that many of the county's school buildings and school buses are old, with 40% of their buses more than 15 years old and with more than 200,000 miles on them.

See **RAISES**, page 4

Data Stream to cease county subsidized internet service Nov. 27, page 3



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# Fauquier Times



**SPORTS:** Liberty's Leach to sign with Denver Broncos; soccer, softball, signing news.  
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PHOTO BY DOUGLAS LEES

## GOLD CUP KISSES

Mystic Strike, the 14-year-old winner of Saturday's Virginia Gold Cup at Great Meadow, accepts congratulations from his trainer, Todd McKenna, after his upset victory. **Story on page 19.**



State Sen. Bryce Reeves talks with Jamie Hinkle, chair of the Fauquier County chapter of Moms for Liberty, outside Grace Miller Elementary School in Catlett.

TIMES STAFF PHOTO/CHER MUZYK

## Reeves wins GOP nod for the 28th District state Senate race

By Cher Muzyk

FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF WRITER

State Sen. Bryce Reeves easily fended off a challenge from retired teacher Mike Allers, Sr. in Saturday's firehouse primary to pick a Republican nominee in the race for the 28th District state Senate seat.

See **REEVES**, page 4

## Fauquier County schools unveil regulation on 'sexually explicit' materials

By Jill Palermo

FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF WRITER

Fauquier County schools will take steps to identify any library books or classroom instructional materials that contain "sexually explicit" content and will inform students, parents and guardians about such materials under a new regulation revealed for the first time during the Monday, May 8 school board meeting.

The new regulation requires teachers to inform parents and guardians of any sexually explicit materials planned to be used in their classrooms at least 30 days before such instruction occurs and to offer relevant, alternative assignments to students whose parents opt their kids out.

The new rules also require school libraries to identify any materials on their shelves that contain sexually explicit content and to publish a list of such books and materials on their schools' website by July 1.

See **REGULATION**, page 2

The Front Porch prevails in zoning dispute, page 3



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# Fauquier Times

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## HATS OFF TO THE GRADUATES

Fauquier's nearly 1,000 high school seniors celebrate after 4 challenging years. Stories, pictures on pages 6-7.

### Sheriff: Woman, 2 teens charged in vandalism of historic Black church

By Jill Palermo

FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF WRITER

A 19-year-old Marshall woman and two teens were charged over the weekend in connection with the burglary and vandalism of the First Ashville Baptist Church, a historic African American church about 3 miles west of Marshall.

Both the white stucco church, built in 1899, and an adjacent schoolhouse, which served area African American children from about 1910 until about the mid-1960s, were damaged in the incident. Areas inside the church were spray-painted with black and

See **VANDALISM**, page 2



COURTESY

First Ashville Baptist Church members, from left, Paula Walton, Brittany Walton, Diane Lewis, Jean Davis and Michael Lewis.

### Former Fauquier sheriff resigns from Va. public safety cabinet post

Staff Reports

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced the resignation Monday of Robert P. Mosier as his secretary of public safety and homeland security. Mosier, a former Fauquier County sheriff, will be replaced in the cabinet-level role by Terrance C. Cole, who spent 22 years with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

The move comes about two weeks after Youngkin (R) announced his Executive Order 26, aimed at "crushing the fentanyl epidemic" and "strengthening Virginia's interdiction and enforcement response to the fentanyl crisis."

In a May 22 news release, Youn-



Robert P. Mosier

gkin praised Mosier for his commitment "to reduce violent crime and fight the dangerous influx of illicit drugs such as fentanyl." Mosier's final day on the job will be June 1.

See **MOSIER**, page 5

**SPORTS:** Kettle Run baseball, girls lacrosse, boys lacrosse post big wins. **PAGES 13, 14, 15, 16, 17**



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