

VMFA exhibition

Show an elegy to horrific past of slavery, set in present. **A5**

High school volleyball

Altavista returns to state title game for 1st time in a decade. **B1**



ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

UN SUSPENDS DELIVERY OF AID

The communications blackout in Gaza Strip hindering coordination. **A7**

The News & Advance

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PRAYERS FOR PEACE



PAIGE DINGLER PHOTOS, THE NEWS & ADVANCE

Liberty University students and faculty prayed for Israel during a vigil held at the Montview building on Wednesday in Lynchburg.

The Israel-Hamas war, now in its sixth week, was triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7 attack in southern Israel, in which the militants killed more than 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted some 240 men, women and children, according to The Associated Press.



MATTS CREEK BLAZE

Air quality alert is in effect for 3 counties

Bedford, Amherst and Nelson under code red from 5K-acre-plus fire

JUSTIN FAULCONER
The News & Advance

Bedford, Amherst and Nelson counties are under a code red air quality alert from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality as a result of the Matts Creek wildfire near Big Island that has grown to more than 5,100 acres in the past six days.

The alert means active children and adults should limit or reschedule outdoor activities until conditions improve and people unusually sensitive to air pollution, especially with heart or lung disease, including asthma, should avoid strenuous activities until the situation gets better.

The alert also means if you must go outside, take breaks and do less intense activities; those with asthma should follow their action plan and keep quick-relief medicine handy; and being indoors with an HVAC system running is the safest place to be.

The wildfire has consumed 5,148 acres and containment remains at 2%, with the blaze primarily within the James River Face Wilderness of the Jefferson National Forest where motorized

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■ MORE INSIDE: *Quaker Run Fire in Madison County now completely contained.* **Page A2**

VIRGINIA 151

Nelson County residents get an update on corridor study

Speeding is top public concern amid increase in crashes on stretch

RODNEY ROBINSON JR.
The News & Advance

The Virginia 151 corridor has been a growing concern for residents in Nelson County for some time.

Residents recently were given an update on a study of the corridor and an opportunity to voice concerns to representatives of the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Please see **STUDY**, Page A3

VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Legislators face tough questions on data centers

Energy, tax breaks and environmental impact some of the challenges

MICHAEL MARTZ
Richmond Times-Dispatch

TYSONS CORNER — Virginia legislators face tough questions about the fast-growing data center industry, including the power supply and transmission network necessary to serve it, state and local tax breaks that have nurtured it, and its effects on the environment and surrounding communities.

While the General Assembly's watchdog agency prepares to launch a study of data cen-

ter incentives and challenges, a work group led by Dominion Energy and facilitated by former State Corporation Commission Judge Judy Jagdmann is looking at ways to improve local and state permitting processes for electric transmission and generation, and ensure adequate sources of power for the energy-intensive centers. The stakeholder group includes Virginia's electric cooperatives and a representative of Gov. Glenn Youngkin.

The energy challenge is made more urgent by the Virginia Clean Economy Act, with its goal of 100% carbon-free emissions from power generation by

Please see **QUESTIONS**, Page A3



FACEBOOK, PROVIDED

Facebook, whose company name is now Meta, built this data center at White Oak Technology Park in eastern Henrico County.

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Weather
Sunny skies, mild
High 70 • Low 29
FORECAST • B8

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