

New eatery now open

Gunny's Tavern in Forest offers a little something for everyone. **A2**

US allows wall project

Biden administration waives 26 federal laws for construction. **A7**



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

AN EXAMPLE OF DETERMINATION

After completing cancer treatments, Smith returns full-time at Appomattox. **B1**

The News & Advance

Thursday, October 5, 2023

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(UN) BANNED BOOKS



PAIGE DINGLER PHOTOS, THE NEWS & ADVANCE

For Banned Book week, the Maier Museum staff, volunteers and student club FRAME members at Randolph College's Lipscomb Library, came together to assemble one-page art books from the Quarantine Public Library to be displayed at the Maier Museum during the upcoming 112th Annual Exhibition. They also worked to create an accordion folded book featuring blackout poetry to celebrate banned books.

The Lipscomb Library will also have an exhibition of banned books and an exhibition of books as art on display through Dec. 15.

ABOVE, BOTTOM RIGHT: Students put together collages and blackout poetry during the Book Making Bonanza at Randolph College on Wednesday. TOP RIGHT: A collaborative accordion of collages is shown. BELOW: Renee Enzor makes a blackout poetry page.



CONGRESS

McCarthy's ouster leaves the House adrift

Divided Republicans line up for chance at gavel; vacancy threatening to stall chamber

FARNOUSH AMIRI AND STEPHEN GROVES
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The stunning removal of Kevin McCarthy as speaker has left the House adrift as Republicans struggle to bring order to their fractured majority and begin the difficult and potentially prolonged process of uniting around a new leader.

The House convened briefly Wednesday and then went into recess, with North Carolina Rep. Patrick McHenry, the caretaker speaker pro tempore, serving in the job with very little power for the foreseeable future. Other Republicans left Washington, awaiting the next



MARK SCHIEFELBEIN, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Speaker of the House pro tempore Rep. Patrick McHenry, R-N.C., leaves the speaker's office to go to the floor of the House on Capitol Hill on Wednesday in Washington.

steps. The House will try to elect a speaker as soon as next week. The timing is no-



McCarthy

where near certain as Republicans line up for their chance at the gavel amid the bitter divisions that sparked the chaos.

The House majority leader, Rep. Steve Scalise, R-La., is in line for the post, but he faced an immediate challenge from Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, the Judiciary Committee chairman and a favorite of conservatives, who quickly announced his own candidacy. Others are expected to emerge.

McCarthy, who has yet to weigh in on who should be his successor, said Wednesday that he's good friends with both men.

He added that "both would do great

Please see **SPEAKER**, Page A5

LYNCHBURG CITY SCHOOLS

Board goes over factors that affected closure vote

Leadership meets to address questions, representatives of consultant firms also speak

EMMA MARTIN
The News & Advance

In the wake of a major vote to close or convert two Hill City elementary schools, leadership with Lynchburg City Schools talked about the factors behind the decision and next steps.

At the start of Tuesday's special-called Lynchburg City School Board meeting, city schools attorney Hope Townes provided some background on the board's legal authority to close schools.

Citing Virginia Code, Townes explained that while a governing body can make a recommendation about the adoption of a plan, the "ultimate responsibility" for school supervision, and consolidation, rests with the school board.

On Sept. 19, the board narrowly voted in favor of a scenario that involves the future closure of Sandusky Elementary School and closure or repurpose — likely to a pre-K facility — of T.C. Miller Elementary School for Innovation.

T.C. Miller parents and community members have been a regular presence at school board meetings since the board's finance and facilities' committee recommended closure of their school, and Dearington Elementary School for Innovation, to the full board in late August.

Please see **SCHOOLS**, Page A3

NELSON CIRCUIT COURT

Suit filed against ex-congressman, 3 co-defendants

Group is accusing Riggelman and publishers of defamation over insurrection statements

JUSTIN FAULCONER
The News & Advance

A corporation that provides security and protective services at grassroots events has filed a defamation lawsuit against former 5th District Rep. Denver Riggelman and three co-defendants in connection with statements published about the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

The complaint filed in December in Nelson Circuit Court on behalf of plaintiff 1st Amendment Praetorian (IAP) against Riggelman, a county resident and businessman who served a two-year stint in Congress that ended three days before the Jan. 6 storming of the Capitol. Hearst Magazine Media, Inc.; Henry Holt & Company, Inc.; and MacMillan PubGroup, LLC also are listed as co-defendants.



Riggelman

Please see **LAWSUIT**, Page A5

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Partly sunny, nice
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FORECAST • B8

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Mark your calendar
Check out upcoming events in the Lynchburg area. **LOCAL & STATE, A2**

College football
UVa, Virginia Tech face tests in their season openers. **SPORTS, B1**



CAPITOL RIOT
PROUD BOYS SENTENCED
Two receive lengthy prison terms; one defiantly declares 'Trump won!' **NATION, A7**

The News & Advance

Saturday, September 2, 2023

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WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

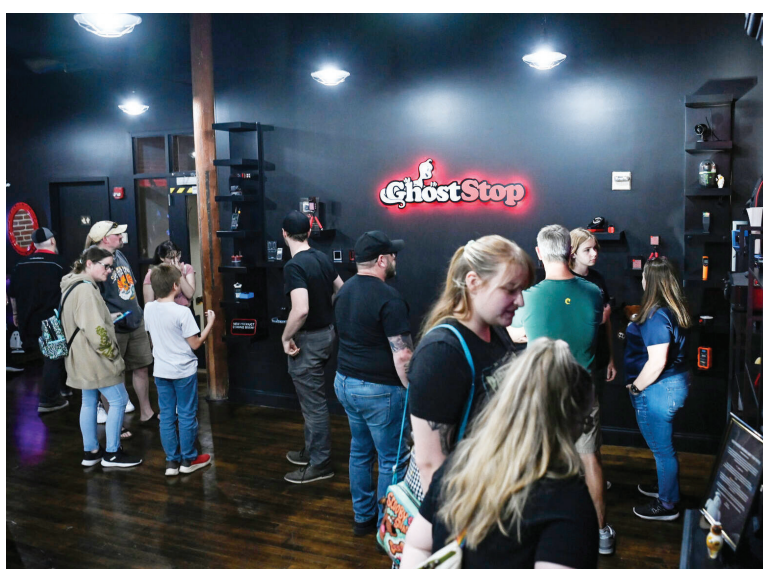


PAIGE DINGLER PHOTOS, THE NEWS & ADVANCE

A remake of the Ghostbusters car is parked outside of Ghost Stop on Friday in downtown Lynchburg.

GhostStop, a resource for paranormal investigators, opened its doors in downtown Lynchburg at 918 Commerce St. on Friday. Founded by Shawn Porter, GhostStop is a provider of ghost hunting equipment, including ghost boxes, kits, lasers, lights and cameras.

Beyond hosting GhostStop's storefront and manufacturing facilities, Ghost HQ will provide investigators with access to investigative spaces, training, meeting rooms, evidence review collaboration and research offices.



People gather for the opening of Ghost Stop on Friday.

EDUCATION | 2023 RESULTS

VDOE postpones release of state's SOL assessments

Preliminary data show student achievement is stagnant since 2022

ANNA BRYSON
Richmond Times-Dispatch

RICHMOND — Preliminary results from annual state accountability tests show that Virginia students' academic achievement has remained largely stagnant since the previous school year.

The Virginia Department of Education has delayed releasing the test scores, despite its original tentative plans to release the scores on Aug. 17. This will be the first time in at least 19 years that the state education department publishes the results after August.

The Standards of Learning assessments are given in the spring of each school year to measure student achievement for various subjects in grades 3 through 8.

Last year's test scores, compared to the 2021 results, saw major improvements, but this year's test scores show relatively little change.

BY THE NUMBERS

Preliminary 2023 results from annual Standards of Learning assessments:

- Across all grade levels, **73%** of Virginia students passed the **reading** exam, the same rate as last year.
- **Writing** results remained stagnant from 2022 to 2023, with **65%** of students statewide passing both years.
- **Mathematics** and **science** saw slight increases, with this year's mathematics pass rate at **69%** and the science pass rate at **67%**.
- **History** and **social sciences** scores fell by 1 percentage point to a **65%** pass rate this year.

Across all grade levels statewide, there is no change in overall reading and writing scores, a slight dip in history scores, and meager improvement in science and math compared with last year's results. Student groups

Please see **SOL**, Page A3

NURSING HOMES

Staffing requirements proposed

Biden administration draws criticism from industry and activists

MATT SEDENSKY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The federal government will, for the first time, dictate staffing levels at nursing homes, the Biden administration said Friday, responding to systemic problems bared by mass COVID-19 deaths.

While such regulation has been sought for decades by al-

lies of older adults and those with disabilities, the proposed threshold is far lower than many advocates had hoped. It also immediately drew ire from the nursing home industry, which said it amounted to a mandate that couldn't be met.

With criticism expected, a promise made with fanfare in President Joe Biden's 2022 State of the Union speech had its details revealed as many Americans turned away from the news for a holiday weekend.

"We are working to make sure no nursing home can sacrifice

the safety of their residents just to add some dollars to their bottom line," the president said in a USA Today opinion piece.

The American Health Care Association, which lobbies for care facilities, called the proposal "unfathomable," saying it will worsen existing problems and cost homes billions of dollars.

"We hope to convince the administration to never finalize this rule as it is unfounded, unfunded, and unrealistic," said AHCA's president, Mark

Please see **STAFFING**, Page A5

CAMPBELL COUNTY

Gladys woman sentenced in '20 death of 3-year-old

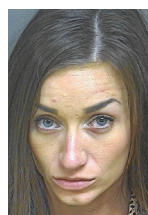
Will serve 20 years for second-degree murder

RODNEY ROBINSON JR.
The News & Advance

A Gladys woman will serve 20 years in prison in connection with the September 2020 death of her boyfriend's 3-year-old son in Campbell County.

Megan Marie Paris, 33, pleaded no contest in February to second-degree murder and on Thursday, she received the maximum sentence — 40 years total with 20 years suspended, with credit for time served.

Law enforcement began investigating on Sept. 16, 2020, after the 3-year-old boy's father called



Paris

McAndrews said during a previous hearing.

The victim, Ian Berger, was airlifted to Roanoke Memorial Hospital for severe head injuries and died two days later; Paris was the child's caregiver that day, McAndrews said during a previous hearing.

Please see **PARIS**, Page A3

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Crime and courts

Felony charges against Fariss certified to grand jury. LOCAL, A2

High school sports

All-Area girls soccer team and player of the year. SPORTS, B1



US POLITICS

ABORTION STILL A KEY VOTING ISSUE

Defeat of Ohio measure could provide a roadmap for elections in 2024. NATION, A7

The News & Advance

Thursday, August 10, 2023

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TRUMP INDICTMENT | CAPITOL RIOT

Search warrant was issued for account

Documents: Judge levied \$350K fine on Twitter for missing deadline to give data to prosecutors

ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
The Associated Press

Special counsel Jack Smith's team obtained a search warrant in January for records related to former President Donald Trump's Twitter account, and a judge levied a \$350,000 fine on the company for missing the deadline to comply, according to court docu-

ments released Wednesday.

The new details were included in a ruling from the federal appeals court in Washington over a legal battle surrounding the warrant that has played out under seal for months. The court rejected Twitter's claim it should not have been held in contempt or sanctioned. Smith's team repeatedly men-



Trump

tioned Trump's tweets in an indictment unsealed last week that charges the former president with conspiring to subvert the will of voters and cling to power after he lost the 2020 election to Democrat Joe Biden.

Trump, a Republican, has pleaded not guilty to charges in-

cluding conspiracy to defraud the United States and obstruction of Congress' certification of Biden's win. He posted on his Truth Social platform on Wednesday that the Justice Department "secretly attacked" his Twitter account, and he characterized the investigation as an attempt to "infringe" on his bid to reclaim the White House in 2024.

It's unclear what information Smith may have sought from Trump's account. Possibilities in-

clude data about when and where the posts were written, their engagement and the identities of other accounts that reposted Trump's content.

The search warrant underscores the breadth of the investigation and the lengths Smith has gone to in obtaining evidence to build his case. In a recent signal that Smith's investigation is continuing, former New York Police

Please see **WARRANT**, Page A5

LCS MASTER PLAN

Leaders work on future of facilities

Strong support shown by bodies to rezone for close-to-home option

BRYSON GORDON
The News & Advance

With scenarios in hand for the future of facilities for Lynchburg City Schools, leaders from the city and school division rolled up their sleeves Tuesday night to begin working on the master plan that will shape the next generation of school buildings in the Hill City.

Tuesday's meeting at the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance took on a workshop theme for most of the evening, as the two bodies split into breakout groups to discuss the proposals in each of the four scenarios put forth by the school division last month.

Please see **MEETING**, Page A3

WATCH: For video of the joint meeting between city and school division officials, point your smartphone at the QR code, then tap the link. [NEWSVU](#)

ALLEY-OOP



PAIGE DINGLER PHOTOS, THE NEWS & ADVANCE



With summer drawing to a close for students across the Lynchburg area, many took to their skateboards to enjoy the sunny August afternoon.

ABOVE: Austin Gilmore does a front side air in the bowl at the Downtown Skate Park on Tuesday. LEFT: Gilmore skates in the bowl. FAR LEFT: People watch skaters in the bowl at the skate park.



THE (CHARLOTTESVILLE) DAILY PROGRESS FILE

In this 2016 file photo, Republican Tom Garrett kisses his wife, Flanna Sheridan, as they celebrate a win in Virginia's 5th Congressional District over Democrat Jane Dittmar.

VIRGINIA POLITICS

Ex-congressman tangled in bitter divorce

Amid comeback, wife accuses Garrett of abuse, suicide attempts, talk of killing his chief of staff

JASON ARMESTO
The (Charlottesville) Daily Progress

CHARLOTTESVILLE — At the same time ex-Congressman Tom Garrett has been mounting a political comeback, he and his wife, Flanna Sheridan, have been embroiled in bitter divorce proceedings, with court filings claiming the Republican strangled Sheridan, attempted suicide

and thought of ways to kill his chief of staff.

In a 2019 complaint filed by Garrett, his counsel wrote that Sheridan abandoned him "without just cause or provocation."

A counterclaim by Sheridan's counsel includes a long list of allegations against her husband, including that he "is guilty of both physical and emotional abuse."

Garrett, who won the GOP nomination and will almost certainly be elected to the heavily Republican 56th District's seat in the Virginia House of Delegates this fall, has denied nearly all the claims.

More than 1,000 pages organized into five thick folders at the Louisa County Courthouse document the ugly allegations.

The Republican nominee's counsel has submitted a motion

Please see **GARRETT**, Page A5

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