CULPEPER STAR*EXPONENT

After fleeing Afghanistan, a group of refugees returns to international competition





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Tuesday, October 28, 2025

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IT OUTAGE

Employees lauded for calm under pressure

ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION Culpeper Star-Exponent

The county recently recognized dozens of employees for demonstrating "extraordinary resolve" tine IT upgrade took down the 911 system for three days in June.

Months later as Culpeper County rework IT functions, the board of all the names. supervisors issued a proclama-

and commendation of exemplary service during the "catastrophic failure."

Throughout the incident, nuand professionalism when a rou- merous individuals and teams also until it's not and then...people are county's 911 system, calls were reunder sustained pressure and without regard to personal convenience, continues to rebuild systems and according to the resolution listing

"We lost our IT structure — that

tion in September in recognition caved in," said Board Chairman Da- names from county administration, vid Durr.

> The incident highlighted several points, he added.

"Technology is a great thing, demonstrated adaptability—often the really important things in this routed through the Fauquier Sheriff's world, and we are blessed with a great team that came together," Durr said. "It was a disaster that out of the neighboring facility. was handled very, very well."

The resolution lists dozens of

the sheriff's office, emergency management, IT, E911 dispatchers and environmental services. During the several-day out that took out the Office, through an existing agreement, and local dispatchers worked

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NEW HOUSING CONSTRUCTION RAMPS UP



ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION, CULPEPER STAR-EXPONENT

Construction is ongoing in the 268-unit Three Oaks housing development for people 55 and older, on former farmland just outside of the Town of Culpeper on Nalles Mill Road.

BY MOLLY MANNING

VCU Capital News Service

RICHMOND — The Virginia real estate market still reflects the impacts of the homebuying boom five years ago, as a result of many working from home and all-time low mortgage rates.

Interest rates and mortgages remain at post-pandemic highs as homeowners show reluctance to sell and first-time home buyers struggle to cope as prices soar due to limited

Ownership still out of reach for many post-pandemic construction of new homes in metro areas.

National housing markets are currently "buyer's markets," set to favor homebuyers, according to Redfin. Ideally this is the time to buy a home, but few Virginians can afford to at current prices.

Areas closer to urban cores in Virginia are receiving many offers, implying that they still represent seller's markets, according to

Please see HOUSING, Page A2

LASSO ACT

Vindman cosponsors bill for western wild horses and burros

Measure would test drones by BLM to corral animals for population control

ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION Culpeper Star-Exponent

U.S. Rep. Eugene Vindman, D-7th, is proposing a bill with a Florida Republican to use drones for less invasive rounding up of wild horses and burros on federal lands. The LASSO Act was announced on day 24 of the government shutdown.

The Leveraging Aerial Systems for Stewardship Operations Act, introduced with Rep. Vern Buchanan, proposes use of unmanned aerial systems "for the humane roundup and management" of the animals, "saving people time and money," according to release Friday from Vindman's office.

The overarching issue of corralling wild horses has long been an issue.

In June, Arizona Rep. Juan Ciscomani and Rep. Dina Titus of Nevada, cochairs of the Congressional Wild Horse Caucus, were joined by Rep. Steve Cohen of Tennessee in introducing the Wild Horse and Burro Protection Act of 2025.

That bill seeks to eliminate the use of helicopters in rounding up wild horses and burros and requires a study into alternative methods including using traditional cowboys. Some in the industry agree drones is another lower-stress alternative.

"Each year, thousands of wild horses and burros are chased by helicopters, separated from their families, and confined in harsh holding facilities,"

Please see LASSO, Page A2

Derby, Vesuna in this week's Academic Spotlight. PAGE A3

Weather Mainly cloudy and breezy High 59 • Low 42

FORECAST • A6

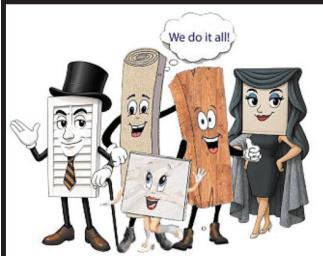
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