

# CULPEPER STAR★EXPONENT

Hanover County cattle farmers adapt: open wedding venue, meat company

STATE, A2



5 tips — and dishes — for incorporating healthier choices in your meals

LIVELY

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

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## Kaine talks healthcare

Medicaid, ACA tax credits, housing, recovery all topics at roundtable

ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION  
Culpeper Star-Exponent

“Health issues will be the driver this year in Congress,” U.S. Sen. Tim

Kaine, D-Virginia, stated during a roundtable meeting Thursday in Culpeper.

And it was a topic for serious discussion among leaders from the PATH and Culpeper Wellness Foundation, Encompass Community Supports, Rappahannock Goodwill, Culpeper Human Services and the Free Clinic, all concerned about more loss of coverage for the un and under-insured.

They gathered with hospital officials in the boardroom at UVA Health Culpeper Medical Center Jan. 22 for a more than hour-long discussion with Kaine on the topic of healthcare and people’s ability to access it, especially in rural America.

It was Kaine’s third stop around Virginia last week during a congressional recess to hear from constituents about issues impacting

them most.

“I want to hear the ones you’re grappling with, back in D.C.,” he said, referencing stops in Hampton Roads and the Shenandoah Valley.

The extension of enhanced premium tax credits under the Affordable Care Act, health savings account expansions and Medicaid are top of the list, Kaine said.

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### WINTER STORM FERN

# SNOW, ICE ARRIVES AS EXPECTED



CONTRIBUTED

Josh Bauer pulls his son on a sled up a snow-covered East Davis Street Sunday during Winter Storm Fern.

## Schools, government closes, crashes mount in cold weather event

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Culpeper got snowed in Sunday with the rest of the East Coast as the first major winter storm, called Fern, moved in from the south, ending days of anticipation and closing schools for the next two days.

The system dropped 4-6 inches of snow and ice on top of that, more in some places, overnight Saturday and throughout the day Sunday. A Cold Weather Advisory remains in effect through Tuesday with wind chill values below zero.

While VDOT crews are hard at work plowing, many back roads remain snow-covered and packed with ice due to

the frigid temperatures. Crews remained in 24-hour operations working to improve travel conditions across the Culpeper District, according to a Monday morning update that reported interstates and primary routes in minor condition.

The focus for Monday: snow removal and treatment efforts on secondary routes as conditions allow. VDOT noted the extremely cold temperatures may limit visible improvement in some areas. Snow and ice can remain packed on roadways longer when temperatures stay below freezing, even as crews continue operations.

An emergency shelter opened Saturday

night at Culpeper County Volunteer Rescue Squad Co. 11 at 1121 N. Main St., across from the Piedmont Warming Shelter at St. Luke Lutheran Church.

The Warming Shelter is full, reported Culpeper Human Services Director Lisa Peacock on Sunday morning, housing 31 overnight with a few in overflow areas. The site will remain open through the storm with New Beginnings Outreach Center staff on scene as well helping guests. The outreach center, on South Main Street, closed Friday to shift focus to the warming shelter.

Please see **WEATHER**, Page A4

Imaan Ali and Eden Boss are this week’s Academic Spotlight

COMMUNITY, A3

### Weather

Mostly sunny and cold  
**High 31 • Low -2**  
**Forecast • A6**

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