

CULPEPER STAR-EXPONENT

DOGS OF THE WEEK: Ollie & Helena are up for adoption at the animal shelter



COMMUNITY, A3



State police conduct grid search in Fauquier in missing child, murder cold case

LOCAL, A4

Saturday, February 28, 2026

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7TH DISTRICT

Veteran running for Congress

Doug Ollivant of Kelly's Ford got in race to beat Vindman, now running in 1st



Ollivant

Virginia's 7th District in the U.S. House even as the district could be changing shape again.

Republican Douglas Ollivant is seeking the congressional office based on his perception of the current state of affairs.

"We're definitely in a period of crisis," he said in a Feb. 12 sit-down interview at The Raven's Nest on East Davis Street, asked why he is running for office for the first time.

"The economy isn't working for a lot of people. We're deeply in debt, lots of systems don't seem to be working and I thought we need better leadership in Washington."

The districts could be a'changin

Ollivant said he is not impressed with incumbent Rep. Eugene Vindman, D-7th.

A fellow Army veteran who also spent time in Iraq, Vindman is serving his first term in the U.S. House representing a district with

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FORMER CULPEPER CHEESE CO. SPACE

CRAFT PIZZA PLACE PLANNED



ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION, CULPEPER STAR-EXPONENT

Devin Bozkaya is a former chef at the Inn at Little Washington opening a new eatery on Main Street in Culpeper.

Inn at Little Washington chef opening Olive & Stone on Main Street

ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION
Culpeper Star-Exponent

A seasoned executive chef and veteran of the Inn at Little Washington in Rappahannock County is opening a Mediterranean-inspired pizzeria and pantry on Main Street in Culpeper.

Devin Bozkaya with his wife is slated to open "Olive & Stone: Craft Pizza and Mediterranean Pantry" in May in the former Culpeper Cheese Company at 306 S. Main St. The circa 1960s brick building in between town hall and the 4Cs Restaurant is newly painted white while retaining its distinctive look.

In a street interview on Tuesday in front of the upcoming restaurant, Bozkaya said they would offer counter style service "focusing on Italian style crust pizza chef crafted." The new place will retain the tasting room

set-up by Culpeper Cheese owner Jeffrey Mitchell offered with various meats, cheeses and other goodies in refrigerated cases.

"We have a display case, different cheeses, meats and when we say Mediterranean pantry think about pantry items you would find from Spain, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Mediterranean France, some Moroccan items," Bozkaya said. "When it comes to cheeses, you can find a lot locally, but no one locally makes olive oil or different cured olives."

The chef asked about his background said it is quite extensive.

"But the biggest thing here is I've been with Patrick O'Connell at the Inn at Little Washington for some time, opened Paddy O's and then gone around on some other gigs," Bozkaya said, including Blue Rock

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Town Council promotes 2A resolution reauthorization

Council reasserts support for guns, challenges voting date amid Dems' control in Richmond

ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION
Culpeper Star-Exponent

Republicans on Town Council are pushing to enact symbolic resolutions stating their support for the Second Amendment and against Democrat-led congressional redistricting maps heading to voters.

The Culpeper Town Council Personnel & Ordinance Committee on Tuesday recommended re-adoption of a 2020 town resolution affirming members' oath of office to uphold the U.S. Constitution—especially the part about owning guns. The action, like clockwork whenever Democrats have control in Richmond, pushes back on proposed bills that might "infringe" on 2A rights.

Councilman Joe Short, an Army veteran, revived the issue for 2026, providing a printed list of more than two dozen gun control measures in the current General Assembly he feels target the Second Amendment.

"I'm seeing a lot of that activity now in Richmond," he said, calling for the town to reaffirm the 2020 resolution, before Short was on Town Council. "It sends a good message to Richmond that we're consistent. Personally, as an NRA instructor and someone who's had experience with a violent encounter this is very important to me."

Councilman Mike Olinger commented he 100% agrees with Short.

Committee Chairwoman Jamie Dyke was on council in 2020 and voted against the 2A resolution, along with councilwoman, the late Meaghan Taylor.

Dyke said there are a ton of gun-related proposals coming out of Richmond. Some are overreach, she said, while others may make it safer for kids and protect the rights of domestic violence survivors. She said the 2A resolution does not represent everybody.

"If we need to say something, it should represent multiple views in the community. We can do better," Dyke added. "It goes too far and disenfranchises too many people...to say we disagree with all 20-plus (bills) is not representative of the majority of the people."

To say the town is concerned about all the proposals would be remiss, she said.

"We fully support the 2nd amendment and legislation that protects

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Check out church briefs on today's Faith & Values **PAGE A2**

Weather
Mostly sunny; warmer
High 68 • Low 35
Forecast • A8

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