

# CULPEPER STAR-EXPONENT

Local teens partner with 4H, Carver kitchen to make healthy food for hungry

LOCAL, A2



Cailin Rendell re-writes record books for Eastern View softball

SPORTS, B6

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

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## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

# Power, solar, new hires on agenda

Meaty topics today, tonight for county government officials

ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION  
Culpeper Star-Exponent

County government has a lot on the table this month. Amid a continued hiring freeze

that isn't really, the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors is proposing to unfreeze four positions and formalize a so-called "Executive Leadership Team," part of continuing changes to the county government management structure being led by a Republican majority.

The board at this month's meeting will also weigh in on the controversial ValleyLink high-voltage transmission

line that would end in Richardsville and decide on Strata Solar's conditional use permit request for a utility scale solar project and substation on timber tracts in Stevensburg.

### Executive leadership team, county attorney

Several discussion items on the agenda for the Tuesday, April 7

regular board meeting address the board's new direction the board chairman says is rooted in efficiency and transparency.

"The Board will discuss the formation of the Executive Leadership Team and the authority of the Clerk to the Board," according to the agenda item.

Please see **AGENDA**, Page A4

# APRIL FLOWERS

Spring beauty in downtown Culpeper

ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION PHOTOS  
Culpeper Star-Exponent

As sure as the season, spring flowers abound in downtown Culpeper.



**VIEW:** April flowers abound in downtown Culpeper. Check out the online gallery.

## REDISTRICTING REFERENDUM

# Excitement, dread over new maps

Virginia could be next to redraw its congressional lines

BY OLIVIA DIAZ  
Associated Press/Report for America

LOUISA — Michael Shull never imagined that a Democrat from the wealthy suburbs of Washington would represent his community in Congress. His corner of Virginia, with its sprawling farms and winding country roads, has been electing Republicans for more than three decades.

Then came an unusual nationwide redistricting battle, with Democrats and Republicans redrawing congressional lines to boost their chances in November's midterm elections. Virginia could be next as voters consider a new map that would pair conservative rural areas with liberal suburbs, diluting Republicans' electoral clout.

"Politicians should be elected to be their people's voice," said Shull, a Republican member of Augusta County's board of supervisors. "Not their party's voice."

The vote on the constitutional amendment is on April 21, and early balloting has begun. If voters pass the referendum and it survives a court challenge, Shull's area within the county would be split between the 7th and 9th Congressional Districts. While the 9th District would be the state's lone Republican stronghold, the 7th District would resemble a lobster with the long tail beginning in Democrat-dominated Arlington and two claws reaching south into rural communities.

Congressional districts are usually redrawn once a decade, but President Donald Trump started a chain reaction last year by encouraging Texas Republicans to devise a new map to help the party in November.

After a cascade of redistricting efforts, Republicans believe they can win a combined nine more U.S. House seats in Texas, Missouri, North Carolina and Ohio, while Democrats think they can win a total of six more seats in California and Utah.

Virginia could give Democrats an extra four seats — enough to overturn the GOP's slim majority, at least as things stand now.

"It's about making sure that we fight back to what Trump's done," said U.S. Rep. Don Beyer, D-Va., He said the party needs to persuade voters that the referendum is "not about embracing gerrymandering."

Please see **MAPS**, Page A4

Liana Weast and Jaxson Norrod are in this week's Academic Spotlight **COMMUNITY, A3**

**Weather**  
Breezy with sunshine  
**High 57 • Low 26**  
**Forecast • A6**

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