

CULPEPER STAR-EXPONENT

Little Fork Episcopal Church unveiling Interpretive & Recreational Trail

FAITH & VALUES, A2



Low on PTO? Join the Gen Z travelers taking international 'microtrips'

LIVELY

Saturday, April 25, 2026

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OP LIVE

TikToker gets time served

Tucker Hughes led Culpeper police on wild chase last fall

ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION
Culpeper Star-Exponent

An Afton man who was driving under the influence

when he ran from Culpeper law enforcement last October while livestreaming himself on TikTok received a sentence of time served – more than six months – at sentencing Thursday in circuit court.

Tucker Alexander Hughes, 43, pleaded guilty to felony eluding, felony possession of

a Schedule I or II controlled substance and DUI drugs, first offense. The plea deal with the commonwealth places him on supervised probation for two years and five years of good behavior, along with regular drug testing and program engagement, a \$1,000 fine, waiver of his 4th Amendment

Right to search or seizure and 100 hours of community service.

“He indicated he was going to the Embassy and thought there were people coming to kill him. A white powdery substance in a clear knotted up baggie was



Hughes

Please see TIME, Page A5

MAD CATS

KITTEN RESCUE HAS VITAL COMMUNITY MISSION



ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION PHOTOS, CULPEPER STAR-EXPONENT

Laurie Counts, Director of MADison Community Cats, has been hand feeding “Mouse” who weighs in at half-at-pound at seven weeks.

ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION
Culpeper Star-Exponent

The MAD Cats kitten room overflows with cuteness, kindness and tiny felines still too small and young to find their forever homes, all under the watchful care of some devoted cat people.

Operating since 2018 as MADison Community Cats, the all-volunteer organization is passionate about serving the community and domestic cats in the region. All cats deserve to lead full lives, according to their homepage.

The local nonprofit hopes the community thinks so too and will support their efforts as part of Give Piedmont Local on May 12.

Early giving starts Tuesday, April 28. For a grassroots group, MAD Cats is mighty, helping to facilitate over 7,000 spay or neuters in the past eight years. Last year

Please see MAD CATS, Page A5



Cats are definitely spoiled by the local nonprofit, MAD Cats, aka Madison Community Cats, started in 2018 and serving the Culpeper-area.

Culpeper victim advocate is a gun violence survivor

Macy Fleischer recognized by county and state

ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION
Culpeper Star-Exponent

An advocate for Culpeper crime victims who is a strong and brave survivor of gun violence is one of Virginia's Unsung Heroes.

Culpeper Victim Witness Program Assistant Director Macy Fleischer was in Richmond Thursday to accept the award from Attorney General Jay Jones as part of National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Remarks described Fleischer as “a compassionate and resilient advocate whose personal experience as a survivor has shaped her extraordinary commitment to helping others.”

Voices for victims of crime

The 9th Annual Unsung Heroes Awards Ceremony recognized the work performed by extraordinary individuals to offer support and be a voice for victims of crime.

Since its inception in 2017, The Unsung Heroes Awards have honored over 100 individuals, and one service dog, for their exemplary service to those throughout the Commonwealth, according to a release from Jones' office.

Other locals presented Unsung Heroes awards included Amy Cassandra, Senior Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney in Fauquier County, Captain Benjamin Childers, Victims' Legal Counsel, United States Marine Corps and Dawn Delacruz, Director, Madison County Victim/Witness Program.

Devoted to her work, a constant at court hearings

Fleischer is known to the court community as a steadfast and calm presence for victims and witnesses of crimes and is a familiar face at court hearings, sitting alongside local families.

On Wednesday, she received the Victim Advocacy Award during the Annual Crime Victim Rights Week luncheon at The Refinery on West Culpeper Street.

Her husband, parents and grandmother proudly sat front row as she was honored for work by Director Mark Nowacki.

Allied professionals representing that team from the sheriff's office, town police, state police, commonwealth's attorney's office, clerk's office, SAFE, the faith community and local government all showed up for the annual lunch sponsored by Team Jordan and food by Deli'licious.

“It takes an entire team to make a difference in survivors' lives,” he said in opening remarks.

Antioch Baptist Church of Madison Pastor Frank Lewis prayed over the

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Kalahari Resorts and Conventions slated to open this fall in Spotsylvania right off I-95 STATE, A4

Weather
Cloudy; a few showers
High 72 • Low 49
Forecast • A8

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