

Claudia Vasquez growing beautiful blooms, purpose at Azalea Field Flowers, PAGE A5



Sailor with NOVA family ties is aviation machinist's mate aboard Air Station Fallon, PAGE A3

Thursday, August 6, 2026

WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

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7TH DISTRICT US HOUSE

# Ollivant wins Republican nomination

Culpeper veteran will face Vindman in November



Ollivant

**ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION**  
Culpeper Star-Exponent

Culpeper County's Doug Ollivant, of Kelly's Ford, has been selected Republican nominee in November's election for Virginia's 7th Congressional District.

"Thank you," Ollivant said in

a statement Tuesday night. "We have been at this for over a year and the support we have gotten from every part of the community has been incredible. I got into this race because I looked around at my neighbors — veterans, small business owners, families working hard and still

falling behind — and it was clear Virginia isn't working for a lot of them. Washington has spent a decade making promises it can't keep and sending the bill home. That ends when we send someone who has actually managed hard problems under pressure."

**Overwhelming support**  
The Iraq War Army veteran

and defense consultant won Tuesday's primary election with 57% of the vote over two contenders — Woodbridge entrepreneur Philip Harding and Franklin County pastor Rick Smithers.

Harding received 31% of the vote and Smithers 13% of over

Please see **OLLIVANT**, Page A4

## LOCAL HISTORY

# DETERMINATION AND HARD WORK



ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION, CULPEPER STAR-EXPONENT

Representatives from Mount Olive Baptist Church (from left), the Rev. Dr. Tracey Dawkins Holley, Deaconess Barbara Dixon and ministry coordinator Leslie Conway, attended Tuesday's board of supervisors meeting in support of a county resolution celebrating the Culpeper congregation's 155th anniversary. A public celebration and banquet for the historic church will be held Saturday at Daniel Technology Center.

## Mount Olive Baptist Church celebrating 155 years with Saturday banquet

### CULPEPER STAR-EXPONENT

A historic congregation founded by formerly enslaved individuals is celebrating a milestone anniversary with a public banquet this weekend.

Mount Olive Baptist Church, located at 8412 White Shop Road in Culpeper, marks its 155th anniversary with a resolution of acknowledgment adopted by the Board of Supervisors at its meeting on Tuesday.

The Rev. Dr. Tracey Dawkins Holley, the church's first-ever female pastor, was in attendance with two other members.

Part of the Wayland Blue Ridge Baptist Association, Mount Olive's 155th anniversary celebration will be held at 4 p.m. on Aug. 8 at Germanna Community College in Culpeper.

According to church history, a group of formerly enslaved people banded together

in 1871 to organize a church in Culpeper where they could worship.

"With determination and hard work, they succeeded in building a small structure located in the hollow near the church's current cemetery on Old Mill Road. The members were so thankful for their own place of worship that they named the church, Thankful Baptist Church," according to Mount Olive history.

The first pastor was the Rev. Tan Carpenter, who served for nearly 20 years. Under the second pastor, Rev. Wanza Tibbs, a larger structure was built, and the church was renamed Olivet Baptist Church. The Rev. W.J. Madden was the third pastor. An addition was added in the 1950s, and in 1966, land was cleared for a new building

Please see **MOUNT OLIVE**, Page A4

# Board presses pause on joining jail authority

Issue punted to working group for next four months

### ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION

Culpeper Star-Exponent

"Slow down," the sheriff said this week on the long-discussed topic of the future of local corrections. What it will cost the taxpayer remains unknown.

The board of supervisors listened to the sheriff, yet again deferring a decision and instead voting to form a working group to study the way forward for Culpeper County with its large criminal caseload and too-tiny jail.

Sheriff Tim Chilton disagreed with an analysis developed by new Acting County Administrator Shane McCrum, saying the costs he presented were "skewed." Chilton mentioned a comparative jail project in Henry County cited in the analysis. There, they installed a \$1 million gym and expensive pods, the sheriff said.

"Those costs can be driven way down," Chilton said. "They built a Taj Mahal. We're not asking for a Taj Mahal. We're not for asking anything honestly.

"Slow down and do exactly what (Chairman Tom Underwood) wants and that's getting the correct information the correct way...A lot of the information in the report is incorrect," Chilton said.

He added the acting administrator "did a great job, but a lot of this stuff he just doesn't know. He's not in this business. You got to ask the folks who are in this business. There's a lot more to the story here when it comes to building a facility. I just don't think we're there, anywhere close to that yet."

Chilton expressed additional concern about taking local cops off the street to transport inmates to Orange. He said there was no rush to join the authority or to do anything.

"We're making it right now," the sheriff said.

### Recap: the latest analysis

According to McCrum's analysis, current jail costs in Culpeper are \$200 per inmate, including local jail costs and the cost of housing a large number of inmates in the Orange jail. The total jail budget is just less than \$9 million, he said, with 30% reimbursement from the state.

Building a new jail would cost over \$186 million, including interest over 25

Please see **JAIL**, Page A4

Homes for Our Troops builds house for wounded Marine in Spotsy, PAGE A6

**Weather**  
A stray afternoon t-storm  
**High: 92 Low: 71**  
**Forecast: A8**

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| SPORTS      | B1     | COMMUNITY | A3 |
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