

The Daily Progress

Sessions:
Art and history unite in Kori Price's photography

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Hoos gear up to meet Duke for second time in 21 days

PAGE B1

COURT

Out of court, back on the air



Thomas

Conservative radio voice Joe Thomas relishes suit's end

HAWES SPENCER
The Daily Progress

It had the makings of a Charlottesville media slugfest

like CBS19 versus 29News or C-ville versus the Hook, but this one included courtroom drama. Last year, the parent company of radio station WCHV sued former star conservative voice Joe Thomas after firing him when he started a new Staunton-based station, but after losing its lawyer, the company recently dropped the suit.

"I would have liked a day in court to actually have it resolved because I believe it wasn't brought justly," Thomas told The Daily Progress. "But I'm going to take the dismissal as the dismissal, and I'm not going to look at a

victory in the mouth."

The Oct. 3 dismissal capped a 16-month legal odyssey that began when Monticello Media LLC filed suit on May 31, 2024. The company claimed that the now-62-year-old radio host violated his noncompete clause

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BUSINESS

POWERING AI, PROTECTING THE CLIMATE



ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION, CULPEPER STAR EXPONENT

Dominion power lines bisect the Stevensburg countryside in Culpeper County and will feed the Amazon data center being built nearby.

Virginia caught in national crossfire over data center development

MICHAEL MARTZ
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Four data center buildings stand in a row along state Route 55 on the eastern edge of Haymarket, a late 18th-century town now in the expanding center of 21st-century digital technology.

Village Place Technology Park — totaling more than 1 million square feet of space for storing and processing data — looks finished, but it still lacks the electricity it needs to run because the utility infrastructure to deliver the power isn't there yet.

"We call them 'zombie data centers,'" said Julie Bolthouse, director of land use at Piedmont Environmental Council, a leading critic of the data center industry in North-

ern Virginia. "They're built, but inoperable. They're just waiting to come to life."

Electricity is the most essential ingredient of life for data centers. Generating and delivering power to them has become the biggest challenge for an industry poised for unprecedented growth to meet the demands of artificial intelligence and other technologies central to the region's — and the nation's — economic future.

Their growing demand for electricity also represents an obstacle to state efforts to limit the emission of greenhouse gases from power production that environmentalists say threatens the world's climate.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Friends, not fans

Atlanta Rhythm Section's fans remain helplessly (or is it hopelessly?) devoted to classic rock 'superband'

JANE DUNLAP SATHE
The Daily Progress

Performing in a band as successful as Atlanta Rhythm Section has its own undeniable appeal, but it's always the music — and the breathtaking experiences it can bring — that stays at the heart of life behind a microphone.

"Being a musician is a peculiar thing," lead singer Rodney Justo told The Daily Progress. "Sometimes you jump at the chance to make less money."

Justo earned more while playing in bands near his home in Tampa, Florida, than he did as a member of the Candyemen. But seriously, how was he going to pass up the chance to share stages with Roy Orbison?

"Roy Orbison was absolutely as sweet as could be. He was a great guy," Justo said. "He didn't cuss much. He wouldn't cuss in front of girls. He was a good, sweet man."

But even 60 years ago, \$50 per show didn't go very far. "We got \$50 a night and had to pay for our own rooms," Justo said.

When Buddy Buie decided to assemble an all-star house band for Studio One, the destination recording studio he was founding in Doraville, Georgia, in 1970, the respected producer, songwriter and manager managed to lure Justo away from the lucrative Tampa-area music scene he'd joined after his time with the "Pretty Woman" hit-maker.

Two fellow Candyemen alumni, keyboardist Dean Daughtry and drummer Robert Nix, came with Justo to join



Justo

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DAILY PROGRESS STAFF
Today's total: \$3,419.74.
Running total: \$5,603.49.
Goal: \$260,000.
To reach goal: \$254,396.51.

Please see **SANTA**, Page A7

William Walker: Youngkin filled UVa's board with artificial aristocrats. Spanberger must not. **PAGE A5**

Weather
Some sun, then clouds
High 51 • Low 23
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