

The Free Lance-Star

ACC Tournament

12th-seeded Virginia Tech opens against Wake Forest in first round. **SPORTS, PAGE B1**



Misinformation

Deluge of fabricated videos spread online since Iran war began, **PAGE A9**

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

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PUPPY SNUGGLES AND YOGA STRETCHES



SUZANNE CARR ROSSI PHOTOS, THE FREE LANCE-STAR

Clara Henderson, 6, left, and her sister, Quinn Henderson, 12, play with puppies during the 'Puppy Yoga' class held at the Old Dominion Humane Society.

Old Dominion Humane Society hosts many tail-wagging good-time events promoting adoptions and puppy cuddles, such as Puppy Yoga, which was held on Friday night. If you missed this one, you can sign up for another on Sunday, March 15, at Awesome 'Possumz from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The class will start with a beginner-friendly, low-impact yoga class, then follow up with a mingling session with puppies. The cost is \$28 per person, including a gift bag, and 20% of the proceeds will be donated to ODHS. Awesome 'Possumz is located at 211 William Street, and ODHS is located at 3602 Lafayette Boulevard, both in Fredericksburg.



Marisa Churchill, left, and Linsey Delarosa take part in the 'Puppy Yoga' class held at ODHS. Puppies wander around the class and interact with participants while they do their yoga.

Oil jumps, markets fall after Iran names new leader

JON GAMBRELL, JAMEY KEATEN AND SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Oil prices surged and stock markets slid Monday after hard-line Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei was chosen to succeed his late father as Iran's supreme leader. His appointment, and new strikes on regional oil infrastructure, signaled that Iran was digging in 10 days into the war launched by the United States and Israel.

The war choked off major supplies of oil and gas to world markets, led foreigners to flee from business hubs and prompted millions to seek shelter as bombs hit sites including military bases, government buildings, oil and water installations, hotels and at least one school.

Khamenei, a secretive 56-year-old cleric, is only the third supreme leader in the history of the Islamic Republic. He has close ties to the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, which has been firing missiles and drones at Israel and Gulf Arab states since his father, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who ruled since 1989, was killed during the war's opening salvo.

The appointment suggests Tehran is not close to giving up on what it considers a fight for the Islamic theocracy's survival.

Thousands poured into a central square in the capital, Tehran, and other locations in a show of allegiance to the new supreme leader, waving flags and shouting phrases like "Death to America" and "Death to Israel."

"America and Israel: You've failed, and you will drown in the swamp you are stuck in," said

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ALPR

Va won't say which agencies are breaking surveillance laws

LUCA POWELL
Richmond Times-Dispatch

In a report published in January, the Virginia State Crime Commission reported being told by several law enforcement agencies that they were not following new state laws governing footage collected by surveillance cameras.

The cameras, also known as automatic license plate readers, are increasingly used by police and sheriffs to solve crimes. Agencies position them in high-volume roadways where the cameras take pictures of thousands of cars each day, collecting them in databases.

Under the new laws, agencies can't share their databases with other states or federal agencies. But at least nine self-reported that they were still allowing federal agencies continuous access to their databases, and another 20 were still allowing out-of-state agencies that same access, the crime commission said in its report.

The commission won't, however, identify which agencies are violating state law — and it is not required to release records to the public because of a longstanding exemption from public records law. The lawmaker who authored last year's legislation also has declined repeated requests to respond to the findings in the report. Critics of the license plate reader systems say the commission's findings — and the impasse around enforcing the new rules — affirm their longstanding

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

New county board hastens change

Culpeper Supervisors push through policy changes following ouster of county administrator

ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION
Culpeper Star-Exponent

The majority of the board of supervisors continues to push through policy changes following a chaotic week in local government during which the at-will county administrator — a longtime public servant — was ousted.

Meanwhile, residents are increasingly pushing back and defending the old guard.

With all members present, the seven-member elected body representing

Culpeper County met in closed session for over two hours during a hastily called meeting Friday morning. The meeting continued a series of deliberate actions being implemented following a sweep at the polls last November of three new Republican-backed candidates to the board of supervisors.

Those actions started in January with the implementation of a hiring freeze and the withdrawal of an offer of employment for the new deputy county administrator, culminating in last week's firing of county administrator Sam McLearn.

In documents going to the board at the budget work session that never happened on Tuesday, after he was fired, McLearn had highlighted a \$7.2 million budget shortfall and outlined potential tax increases.

The county has \$55 million in its

unreserved savings account — money that, in the past, has been used to cover budget shortfalls to avoid unpopular tax increases. The board anticipates data center revenues to put it back in the positive in the coming years as growth and inflation drive expenses.

Unanimous vote for more changes

The vote was unanimous on Friday to enact more changes related to the county's fiscal position prior to the start of a new fiscal year on July 1. Changes are being implemented under the leadership of an acting county administrator who started in January as the county planning director

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VIEW: Download The Free Lance-Star's mobile app. Point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link.

NEWSVU

Weather

Very warm
High 85 • Low 59
Forecast • B8

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