

The Free Lance-Star

Cavalier motivation

Fueled by losses, UVa football ready to spring into action on Monday. **SPORTS, PAGE B1**



Under pressure

Sinus headache prevention, causes and fixes. **HEALTH, PAGE C1**



Sunday, March 15, 2026

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Bearded vibes in the 'Burg

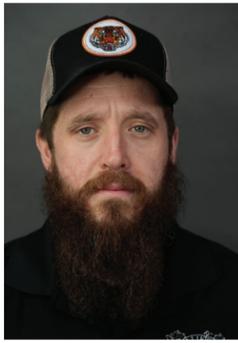
SUZANNE CARR ROSSI PHOTOS, THE FREE LANCE-STAR

Jessica Jones won the 'Whiskerina' category.

Gary Warren from Richmond, Va. won first place in the 'Full Beard 6 inches + over' at Shan Man's Beard Wisdom beard competition held at Billiken's Smokehouse while celebrating St. Patrick's Day.



St. Patrick's Day weekend is off to a hairy start with a 'Best Beard Contest' at Billiken's Smokehouse. Categories covered moustaches to creative and everything in between, including a category for women/kids. Proceeds will benefit the Patowomeck Indian Tribe.



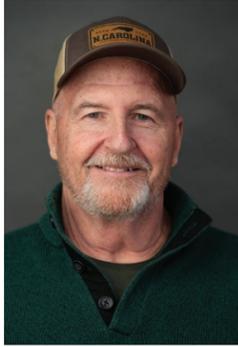
Bobby Suffel won the 'Best Full Beard 2-6 inches' category.



Jason Voelkl won the 'Best Business Beard' category.



Nathan Wilson won 'Best Moustache' at Shan Man's beard competition.



Chris Moss won the 'Partial Beard' category.

Battle over special ed sparks AG

Senator: Rollback of the Office of Civil Rights is a huge problem

ANNA BRYSON
Richmond Times-Dispatch

When Wendy Little attended her older son's preschool graduation ceremony in Chesterfield County, she thought the whole thing was a bit silly and over-the-top. A whole graduation ceremony for finishing preschool? But now, 14 years later, the photo of her son Eryn in his little cap and gown is one of her most cherished memories. It might be the only graduation he ever gets. Eryn is now 18 years old, but he hasn't passed his 8th-grade Standards of Learning exams.

He's "very capable," his mother says, and always dreamed of going to college. Eryn lives with Autism Spectrum Disorder, emotional disability and a physical health impairment.

He hasn't attended school since 2022 because of a series of disputes between his mother and the Chesterfield County school system over Eryn's special education plan.

Wendy Little admits she's desperate. She's spent "everything she had" on attorney's fees fighting for her son's right to an education. As the disputes with the school system dragged on over the years, Eryn stayed at home and became more reclusive.

"He's left without an eighth-grade education right now," Wendy Little said. "He literally has no future."

Please see **SPECIAL ED**, Page A3

Spotsylvania wary of proposed power line

The Joshua Falls to Yeat project may impact only a small portion of the county

SCOTT SHENK
The Free Lance-Star

While a proposed electrical transmission line may impact only a small portion of western Spotsylvania County, the Board of Supervisors still expressed angst about the roughly 115-mile, 765-kilovolt line. At Tuesday's meeting, the

board considered adding a letter opposing the proposal to the consent agenda. The board decided to rework the letter and vote on it later.

But that didn't stop the supervisors from talking about the proposal and its potential impacts on the county.

At this point, the Joshua Falls to Yeat proposal includes two possible route corridors, one of which includes "corridor variation" options.

The project's preliminary routes could run through as

Please see **POWERLINE**, Page A3

States explore post-penny rounding rules

HANNAH FINGERHUT
Associated Press

Months after the last of the United States' 1-cent coins were pressed, some states are beginning to offer their own 2 cents on the penny problem by setting rounding guidance for

cash purchases.

President Donald Trump announced early last year an end to penny production, saying it was wasteful. It cost 3.7 cents to make each 1-cent coin in 2024, according to the U.S. Mint. The move led to a shortage

of pennies in cash registers last summer, forcing consumers and businesses to confront a penniless future in which making exact change would be difficult.

The Treasury Department has said it will continue circulating the roughly 114 billion pennies

that exist for "as long as possible." Pennies must still be accepted as payment.

One solution to the penny problem is rounding to the nearest nickel, using a practice

Please see **PENNIES**, Page A3



Bills to deal with penniless cash transactions have passed both chambers and await the governor's signature in Arizona, Florida, Oregon, Tennessee, Virginia and Washington. Some states are proposing to allow businesses to round cash purchases, while others consider requiring it.

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VIEW: Love funnies? Subscribers can find more comics, puzzles and columns at go.fredericksburg.com/comics.

Weather
Breezy this afternoon
High 62 • Low 54
Forecast • B6

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