

The Free Lance-Star

A Cyclone reset

Eastern View flushes last season, builds new identity for 2026. **SPORTS, PAGE B1**



Web rankings

Every Spider-movie from best to worst. **MOVIES, PAGE C2**



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The **BrightSide**



Clerk of the Circuit Court Jeff Small sips the first milkshake served at the grand re-opening of Goolrick's in downtown Fredericksburg. Mayor Kerry Devine, left, also attended the event.



The dining area of Goolrick's bustles with customers and staff during the area landmark's grand re-opening.

GOOLRICK'S IS BACK



PETER CIEHLKA PHOTOS, THE FREE LANCE-STAR

Server Sowyn Arendt whips up milkshakes during the grand re-opening of Goolrick's in Fredericksburg on Friday, Aug. 7. Known as the oldest continuously operating soda fountain in the United States, the business opened following a four-year renovation by Jarrell Properties, Inc. The soda fountain still operates, as does counter and table service of its original menu items.

The Bright Side highlights uplifting moments across our community. Visit our website to read more and share your ideas.
The Bright Side: Where good news lives.



What had been a retail area selling products for various ailments now carries Goolrick-related merchandise.



A long line remains after the doors of Goolrick's reopened for the first time in four years at the corner of Caroline and George Streets in downtown Fredericksburg on Friday.

Cybercrime losses surge amid scams

Scammers cost older Virginians \$220 million in 2025 as officials seek fixes

DAVID VELAZQUEZ
The Daily Progress

The amount of money Orange County residents are losing at the hands of cybercriminals is “amazing,” according to sheriff’s deputy Ron Kesner.

“I was at a lady’s house who was being victimized in real time,” he recalled on Wednesday.

The woman’s bank had called Kesner. She wanted to withdraw \$50,000 for what had been flagged as a scam.

“She won’t listen to us,” he said the bank told him.

This particular scam stood out to Kesner — a deputy with more than four decades of law enforcement experience.

“The predatory scammer called her while I was there, and if I didn’t know what I knew, I wouldn’t believe he was [a scammer] either,” he said. “These scams are so sophisticated that they are starting to get a younger population. ... But for the most part, it’s the elderly.”

Kesner has been the sheriff’s office Triad coordinator since 2019. Triad is a partnership between Virginia law enforcement, senior service providers and senior citizens which aims to reduce the criminal victimization of the elderly.

Those above the age of 60 have reported increasingly high losses at the hands of cybercriminals and scammers.

“In the past six years, I’ve probably recovered about \$2 million,” Kesner said. “Nothing compares to what we’ve lost.”

In 2025 alone, Virginia residents over 60 reported more than \$220.94 million in losses, according to a report by the FBI-run Internet Crime Complaint Center, or IC3. It was just \$106.5 million in 2024.

Not considering age, a report from the Consumer Federation of America pegs online scams and crime losses at more than \$3.3 billion for Virginians in 2025.

Kesner was just one of roughly a dozen who participated in a Wednesday morning roundtable at Piedmont Virginia Community College just south of Charlottesville organized by Virginia Attorney General Jay Jones.

Please see **CYBERCRIME**, Page A3

Fatal crash leaves school mourning

Teenager dies, four Orange County High students and driver seriously injured

ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION
Culpeper Star-Exponent

Orange County High School students, staff and law enforcement gathered around the flagpole to pray before class Friday morning following a fatal two-vehicle crash involving students Thursday afternoon on Virginia Route 20 near Locust Grove on only the second day of the new academic year.

Virginia State Police is

investigating the Aug. 6 wreck that occurred at about 3:07 p.m. on Route 20 in Orange County near Rows Mill Road, according to a release Friday morning, near Locust Grove.

A 2016 Volkswagen Jetta was traveling northbound on Route 20 when it crossed the centerline and struck a 2016 Ford F-150, according to State Police.

The driver of the Jetta was a female juvenile who died at the scene. She was a former Orange County High School student, school officials said Friday afternoon. Four passengers in the Jetta were also minors and were taken to area hospitals for serious injuries, police said.

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We are ‘givers, not takers’

Owner says Comfort Keepers maintains personal touch amid quick growth

PILAR DAVIS
The Free Lance-Star

Amber Cisneros spent 25 years in finance in California before following her heart and moving

across the country to buy a Comfort Keepers home care center in Fredericksburg. Comfort Keepers are healthcare centers that provide in-home care to senior citizens and adults who need assistance with daily activities.

The corporate office of Comfort Keepers was selling off branches of the centers around the country. The Fredericksburg center had been struggling for a couple of years before Cisneros took the

reins in 2024. Cisneros says she liked the idea of honoring her grandmother, who raised her, by moving to a state named after her. Now, just two years later, the business has more than doubled. A feat for which Cisneros credits her staff.

“I didn’t grow this business; our caregivers grew this business because of the way that they love

Please see **COMFORT**, Page A3



PILAR DAVIS, THE FREE LANCE-STAR

Amber Cisneros stands in the front office of Comfort Keepers in Fredericksburg. A franchise senior healthcare center that she has doubled the business for in the first 2 years of owning the location.

VIEW: Looking for something to do this weekend? Check out our events calendar online. **FREDERICKSBURG.COM NEWSVU**

Weather
Thunderstorm
High: 93 **Low:** 72
Forecast: B6

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