**NELSON COUNTY:** Board waives sewer connection fees for Roseland apartments. A4 COLLEGE FOOTBALL: Watson looks to be ready in case Hokies turn to him. 81



Monday, August 25, 2025

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### Trump considers sending troops to Baltimore

Expands cities targeted Maryland's governor to join him Wes Moore, a Democrat who critifor possible National Guard deployment

JONATHAN J. COOPER AND LEAH **ASKARINAM** 

The Associated Press

Donald Trump threatened Sunday to expand his military deployments to more Democratic-led cities, responding to an offer by more in a spat with Maryland Gov.

in a tour of Baltimore by saying cized Trump's unprecedented flex he might instead "send in the 'troops?'

Last week, Trump said he was considering Chicago and New York for troop deployments similar to what he has unleashed on streets. the nation's capital, where thou-WASHINGTON – President sands of National Guard and federal law enforcement officers are a rather nasty and provocative patrolling the streets.

Trump made the threat to Balti-

of federal power aimed at combating crime and homelessness in Washington. Moore last week invited Trump to visit his state to discuss public safety and walk the

In a Truth Social post on Sunday, Trump said Moore asked "in tone," and then raised the specter of repeating the National Guard deployment he made in Los An- in nearby DC, and quickly clean up

geles over the objections of Cal- the Crime." ifornia's Democratic governor, Gavin Newsom.

"Wes Moore's record on Crime is a very bad one, unless he fudges his figures on crime like many of the other 'Blue States' are doing," Trump wrote, as he cited a pejorative nickname he uses frequently for the California governor. "But if Wes Moore needs help, like Gavin Newscum did in L.A., I will send in the 'troops,' which is being done

Moore said he invited Trump to Maryland "because he seems to enjoy living in this blissful ignorance" about improving crime rates in Baltimore.

"The president is spending all of his time talking about me," Moore said on CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday. "I'm spending my time talking about the people I serve." After surging National Guard

Please see TROOPS, Page A4

#### TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



**PAIGE DINGLER PHOTOS, THE NEWS & ADVANCE** 

seating and bar area at Pleasant Vista wedding venue on Fridav. Aug. 22

# Elementary school flipped into event space

Couple prepares to open new event venue in Amherst

RACHAEL SMITH The News & Advance

When Pleasant View Elementary closed its doors, many in Amherst County worried the historic building might sit vacant, deteriorating into disre-

Instead, the former school is being transformed into Pleas-

event venue that honors the past place full of activity. After it sat was part of the draw. while creating new opportuni- vacant for a little over a year, we ties for the community.

Jenna and Ron Fisher, who both came from the health care field, and say they are very service oriented, have been working on opening the event venue since February 2024.

"I grew up in Pleasant View, which is where the school was located and my whole family went to that school," Jenna said. "When the county made the decision to close it, that was really hard for the community. It had ant Vista on Dancing Creek, an always been a cornerstone, a decades ago, the location itself

the property adjoins their family farm. Eventually, she and Ron decided to take on the project themselves.

"We talked to my sisters and parents, and in February of 2024 we closed on the school," Jenna

For Ron, who moved to Virginia from Iowa more than three

"I just really loved the mounbegan to ask what we could do tains and the beauty of western Amherst County. When we had Jenna's parents purchased the a chance to take over the school school eight years ago because and undertake this project, we jumped right on it," he said.

Before committing, the couple hired a consultant from Texas to evaluate the property. With more than 33,000 square feet of space, the old school presented countless possibilities.

"It really seemed like what western Amherst County was

Please see VENUE, Page A3

## Why Gilbert resigned as US attorney

Spent less than two months as the top prosecutor for Western District of Va.

LAURENCE HAMMACK The Roanoke Times

On his first day as U.S. attorney for the Western District of Virginia, Todd Gilbert was asked the White House had in mind. about his plans for the job.

July 14 interview, saying he had did not publicly explain the rea-

no immediate plans for change in an office that appeared to be running smoothly.

That, apparently, was not what

Gilbert, who was nominated "My main priority is not to by President Donald Trump, remess up a good thing," Gilbert signed on Wednesday. The fortold The Roanoke Times in a mer Republican state lawmaker ney Zachary Lee.

son for his unusual and unex- ing U.S. attorney until Gilbert's pected departure, which came appointment, at which time he less than two months after he was appointed by U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi. He did not return calls and texts this week.

But according to a person with knowledge of what happened, Gilbert had a falling out with officials in the Trump administration over his second-in-command, First Assistant U.S. Attor-

Lee had been serving as act-

resumed his previous duties. Lee also was first assistant U.S. attorney under Chris Kavanaugh, the former U.S. attorney who was nominated by then-President Joe Biden.

Concerned about what they believed to be Lee's connections to the former Democratic administration, Trump officials

Please see GILBERT, Page A4

### **Supervisors** deny solar operation just north of town

JUSTIN FAULCONER The News & Advance

AMHERST - A special exemption permit request to allow a five-megawatt utility-scale solar operation on a property about two miles north of the town of Amherst on U.S. 29 received denial from the Amherst County Board of Supervisors on

a 4-1 vote last week. OneEnergy Development LLC, the applicant, sought to place about 12,000 solar panels on fixed-tilt tracking structures on land zoned agricultural residential, A-1, on roughly 20 acres on a 73-acre property owned by Buffalo Ridge Airsports, LLC. The top of the proposed panels would be no taller than 14 feet and the project named Hyssop Solar would interconnect to Appalachian Power Company's existing distribution lines.

Natalie Young, project manager, said existing forest surrounded the proposed site that was hopeful to start providing renewable energy in late 2026.

"The power this project will produce is equivalent to the needs of approximately 1,200 average Virginia homes," Young said. "The natural screening really made it appealing to us as a way to minimize impacts on the neighbors."

The parcel is currently used as a hang-gliding runway and that use would continue if the solar operation had been approved. Tyler Creasy, the county's director of community development, said single-family homes on U.S. 29 are northwest of the site, vacant wooded land adjoins it to the south and east, the Buffalo River is the property line to the south and Riversedge Lane, a private road off Boxwood Farm Road, is located southwest of the proposed solar panels.

Young said the planned property is located east of U.S. 29 Business, which is in compliance with the county's comprehensive plan for growth and develop-

Creasy said has concerns of the line of sight from several properties and about effects on the river. However, he said those concerns should be alleviated after the project's con-

Please see SOLAR, Page A3



● For video of the Hyssop Solar project presentation in Amherst point your smartphone at the QR code, then tap the link.

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Inside

Classifieds В7 Comics

Lottery A2 Obituaries B5 A8 Opinion Business Crossword Nation/World A7