

BEDFORD: Vietnam War monument dedication is slated for Nov. 22. **A2**

LIBERTY FOOTBALL: Flames' rushing attack comes together after bye. **B1**

The News & Advance

Monday, November 3, 2025 WHERE **YOUR STORY** LIVES newsadvance.com • \$3

HEALTH CARE INSURANCE

Virginians face coverage woes

Many might not afford premiums rising to an average of roughly 21%

MICHAEL MARTZ
Richmond Times-Dispatch

RICHMOND — The only thing that Susan Swan, Lucas Fritz and Melissa Greenfield know for sure about their health care insurance next year is that their current pol-

icies won't exist on Jan. 1. Swan, of Midlothian, and Fritz and Greenfield, both from Richmond, currently have health coverage under policies issued by Aetna on Virginia's affordable care insurance marketplace. Aetna, now owned by CVS Health Corp., is pulling out of that market in Virginia and the rest of the United States after this year. But even if they find another comparable policy on Virginia's

insurance exchange, they might not be able to afford monthly premiums that are rising by an average of nearly 21% — unless Congress extends enhanced federal subsidies that are scheduled to expire on Dec. 31. "At this rate right now, I probably will not have health insurance," said Greenfield, a self-employed small-business owner. She said she and her husband pay about \$500 a month with the enhanced



Warner

discussion that Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., led on Friday. Warner and Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., are

subsidies. Swan, Fritz and Greenfield were among eight Virginians who shared their stories and concerns about health care coverage in an online roundtable

among Senate Democrats who have refused to back a Republican short-term funding bill to reopen the shuttered federal government unless the deal includes a plan for extending the premium enhanced tax credits. "We've got to get the government reopened, but we've also got to recognize that the health care cliff is real," Warner said.

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



PAIGE DINGLER, THE NEWS & ADVANCE

Laney Armenti, owner of LaneyKickz, is shown in her store Oct. 21 in downtown Lynchburg.

FROM SIDE HUSTLE TO BUSTLE

Local sneaker shop LaneyKickz grew from effort to afford college into downtown storefront

PAIGE STUREK
The News & Advance

For Delaney "Laney" Armenti, selling sneakers started out as a hustle to fund college necessities. By doing so, she discovered a market and demand, and her dream of opening a store began to take shape. Armenti opened the Laney-Kickz storefront at 1107 Church St. on Oct. 4 after building the business from the ground up. The 24-year-old business owner dedicates herself to satisfactory customer service as she helps new and experienced sneaker-heads find the next pair of shoes

to add to their collection. Laney-Kickz sells used and new sneakers of all rarities as well as other vintage finds. LaneyKickz is open from noon to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, noon to 8:30 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Saturday. **The hustle that started it all** When Armenti, a 2020 graduate of Heritage High School and E.C. Glass High School's dentistry program, went on to pursue a degree in performing

arts at Sweet Briar College, she quickly became aware of the financial stress higher education required. As a first-generation college student, Armenti made many sacrifices. For example, Armenti said she had to give up something incredibly valuable so she could purchase a MacBook. "I sold my entire sneaker collection, which for every sneaker-head, that's the worst thing you could do," she said. "By doing that, I learned there was a market and demand in selling new and used shoes." Armenti said she began selling

her sneakers by reaching out to the local sneaker community, which allowed her to gauge what she considered good customer service. "When I had bad customer service, I remembered how that made me feel. When I went on to conduct my own business with the next person, I wanted to make sure I was delivering good customer service," she said. Shortly after, Armenti began using social media to continue selling. She said her Instagram following count grew

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GOV'T SHUTDOWN

Stalemate is dragging along into sixth week

Trump urging GOP to revise US Senate rule and end the filibuster

MARY CLARE JALONICK
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans and Democrats remained at a stalemate on the government shutdown over the weekend as it headed into its sixth week, with food aid potentially delayed or suspended for millions of Americans and President Donald Trump pushing GOP leaders to change Senate rules to end it. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said Sunday that Trump has spoken to Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., and House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., as he has publicly and repeatedly pushed for an end to the Senate filibuster. But Republicans have strongly rejected Trump's calls since his first term, arguing that the rule requiring 60 votes to overcome any objections in the Senate is vital to the institution and has allowed them to stop Democratic policies when they are in the minority. Leavitt said Sunday that the Democrats are "crazed people" who haven't shown any signs of budging. "That's why President Trump has said Republicans need to get tough, they need to get smart, and they need to use this option to get rid of the filibuster, to

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PAIGE DINGLER, THE NEWS & ADVANCE

People tour Flora Apartments in Bedford on Oct. 22.

BEDFORD

Project 'rose from the ashes'

Officials laud finished transformation of site into Flora Apartments

JUSTIN FAULCONER
The News & Advance

BEDFORD — Bedford Town Council praised the recent completion of The Flora Apartments, a 60-unit apartment complex in the former Bedford Middle School that was renovated into market-rate apartments.

Waukeshaw Development, Inc., the company that transformed the former school that closed eight years ago, held a ribbon-cutting and tours of the building on Oct. 22. Vice Mayor Darryl Updike said after years of discussions in council chambers and anticipation, as the project took longer than expected, the "ends justified the means" in the final product. "They did a wonderful job with those apartments," Updike said

during council's Oct. 28 meeting. He said he was impressed with how Waukeshaw Development was able to reuse the space that was once the auditorium. Mayor C.G. Stanley also was highly impressed with the one- and two-bedroom apartments on Longwood Avenue that boast scenic views of Bedford and the Peaks of Otter. The renovation suffered a major setback in January 2020 when

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