

INFLUENZA: VDH reports 1st child death in Va. of the 2025-26 flu season. **A3**

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL: Raiders receive state championship rings. **B1**

The News & Advance

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VIRGINIA BAPTIST HOSPITAL



THE NEWS & ADVANCE ARCHIVE
Virginia Baptist Hospital was designed in 1921 by Stanhope Johnson, who continued to design additions to it for thirty years. His plans included the park-like landscaping of the front lawn, which remains to this day.

What’s next for historic site?

Neighbors of campus review Centra’s plans to move out, offer ideas for future use

MARK HAND
The News & Advance

Centra Health held an open house on Thursday to give neighbors an opportunity to review its plans for Virginia Baptist Hospital on Rivermont Avenue and to offer ideas for possible future uses of the campus.

Over the next three years, Centra plans to move many of the services now offered at Virginia Baptist Hospital to other locations across Lynchburg, including its Simon Run campus and Lynchburg General Hospital. Centra owns and operates the buildings on the Virginia Baptist Hospital campus.

For example, the baby delivery unit at Virginia Baptist Hospital, where generations of Lynchburg residents have been born, is scheduled to move to a new tower under construction at Lynchburg General Hospital.

“As Centra looks for the next use of Virginia Baptist Hospital, we wanted to bring in the neighbors, we wanted to include the community in that dialogue,” Denise Woernle, vice president of communications, marketing and community relations for Centra, told reporters at Thursday’s open house.

The open house was attended by about



MARK HAND, THE NEWS & ADVANCE
Neighbors who attended an open house at Virginia Baptist Hospital on Thursday learn about Centra Health’s plans for the 29-acre campus.

50 people, including neighbors and invited guests.

“This is a very special place for our community,” Woernle said. “It’s where the babies have been born for generations, and a lot of care has been given

here to people in our community. We really want them to be a part of helping to discover what that next use is for the hospital.”

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Disc golf world events set to return

Lynchburg and Bedford Co. selected as hosts for 2028; finalized dates are pending

JUSTIN FAULCONER
The News & Advance

Following a strong showing in 2024, the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) again has selected the City of Lynchburg and Bedford County to host one of the sport’s most prestigious competitions: the 2028 PDGA World Championships.

In addition, the region has been awarded the 2028 PDGA Masters Disc

Golf World Championships, with dates for both competitions to be finalized, Bedford County announced Friday in a news release.

Both championships will be held at Bedford County’s New London Tech Disc Golf Course and Ivy Hill Golf Club in Forest. Designed by world champion disc golfer Paul McBeth, the New London course close to U.S. 460 in Forest is internationally recognized and ranks No. 15 in the world, and No. 1 in Virginia on the widely used UDisc app, according to the release.

“Being selected once again to host the PDGA World Championships is a tremendous honor for Bedford County,”

Nicole Johnson, director of tourism for Bedford County, said in a statement. “Events of this caliber allow us to showcase not only our exceptional disc golf courses, but also the memorable experiences our community offers, including local businesses, restaurants, accommodations, cultural attractions and the scenic beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains.”

The return of the premier events further cements the region’s reputation as a leading disc golf destination while building on the momentum of the 2024 PDGA Professional World Championships, which drew more than 12,500

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VIRGINIA

Youngkin looks back over past four years

Talks about his philosophy on state gov’t, helping people be ‘empowered to make change’

DAVE RESS
Richmond Times-Dispatch

RICHMOND — Thinking back over the past four years, Gov. Glenn Youngkin likes to remember his visits to state agency offices and what he’s seen and heard there.

But it’s not just things like the once-unimaginable six minutes on average wait at the Department of Motor Vehicles, or that the state has now seen \$157 billion in new private investment and nearly 270,000 jobs the state’s economic development team has successively wooed.

He’s listening for other things.

“I went and visited the Office of Vital Records ... you go into the warehouse over there, and it’s like going on that scene at the end of Indiana Jones and the “Raiders of the Lost Ark,” with just massive aisles of paper,” he said.

“The team that runs the Office of Vital Records,” he said, “started out the meeting saying, Governor, these are the objectives that we set. Here’s how we’ve measured them, and here’s how we’ve done,”



Youngkin

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LYNCHBURG

Man’s family calls for city to release bodycam footage

38-year-old died while being treated at hospital following tasing deployment by police

MARK HAND
The News & Advance

The family of a Lynchburg man who died after getting tased by police is seeking to compel the city of Lynchburg to release police officers’ body camera footage of the Dec. 24 incident.

Orlando Harding, 38, was pronounced dead on Dec. 30 while being treated at Lynchburg General Hospital, less than a week after the tasing incident in the 500 block of 5th Street, according to police.

Harding’s family wanted an opportunity to view the body camera footage before his funeral, which is scheduled for Saturday, according to lawyers hired by the family.

As of Friday afternoon, the family had not been granted permission to view the footage, Amos Jones of Amos Jones Law Firm in Washington, D.C., one of the family’s lawyers, told The News & Advance.

On Thursday morning, the lawyers delivered a letter to Lynchburg City Attorney Matthew Freedman, demanding the city release the footage for viewing or face a lawsuit from the family in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia.

“The family’s statutory rights are clear.

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