

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** New Va. open carry gun law delayed for 1 year. **A5**

**HS BASEBALL:** JF's McLaughlin and Gilleland receive All-State honors. **B1**

# The News & Advance

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## LYNCHBURG CITY SCHOOLS



MATTHEW PERSCHALL PHOTOS, THE NEWS & ADVANCE

People make connections at the various booths during the LCS Community Partner Forum at Heritage High School in Lynchburg on Tuesday.

## 'Building a stronger future'

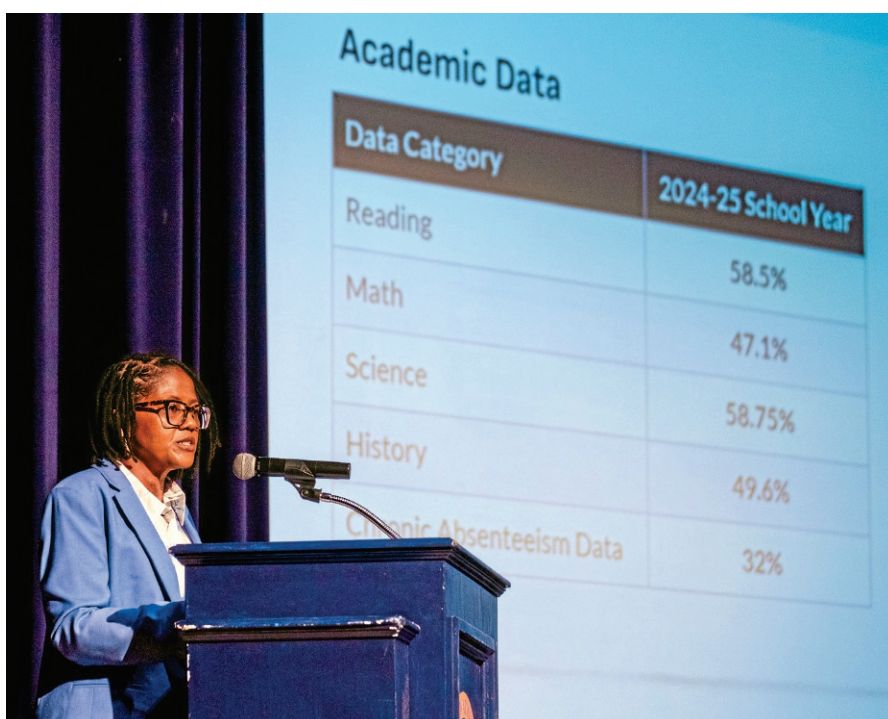
Community organizations, businesses, volunteers talk division needs amid forum

**MADI KIRKMAN**  
The News & Advance

More than 100 local businesses, community organizations and interested volunteers gathered at Heritage High School on Tuesday morning for the Lynchburg City Schools Community Partner Forum.

The event connected schools in the division with individuals and organizations interested in supporting them, and LCS Superintendent Kristy Somerville-Midgette said she hoped everyone would leave with a better understanding of LCS students' needs and meaningful ways to become involved.

"Today's forum is about bringing all of our community supporters together," Somerville-Midgette said at the event. "It's about reconnecting with those who have faithfully supported our students



Superintendent Kristy Somerville-Midgette speaks during the LCS Community Partner Forum at Heritage High School in Lynchburg on Tuesday.

Please see **FORUM**, Page A3

## Data shared with board on grades 3-8

Patterns reveal high rates of chronic absenteeism as achievement gaps remain

**MADI KIRKMAN**  
The News & Advance

In Lynchburg City Schools, students in grades three through eight

are experiencing high levels of chronic absenteeism, while performance disparities persist across racial and economic lines, according to data from the division.

The data, shared by LCS Deputy Superintendent Jennifer Davis at a school board work session earlier this month, revealed that the majority of third- through eighth-grade students in the division are economically disadvantaged.

From 2020 through 2025, the data also indicated high levels of chronic absenteeism among students in third through eighth grade. Additionally, it revealed achievement gaps between economically disadvantaged and non-economically disadvantaged students, as well as between Black and white students.

Please see **DATA**, Page A3

## IMMIGRATION

# Trump's directive spurned by court

Justices move to strike down president's bid to put an end to birthright citizenship in US

**ANDREW CHUNG**  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected President Donald Trump's attempt to restrict birthright citizenship in the United States — a right long woven into the fabric of American society — scuttling one of his top priorities in his crackdown on immigration.

In a 6-3 ruling authored by conservative Chief Justice John Roberts, the justices decided that Trump's directive violated language in the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment that confers citizenship to those born in the United States who are "subject to the jurisdiction thereof."

They upheld a lower court's decision that blocked Trump's executive order that directed U.S. agencies not to recognize the citizenship of children born in the United States if neither parent is an American citizen or legal permanent resident, also called a "green card" holder.

Please see **BIRTHRIGHT**, Page A5

## VIRGINIA

# Hundreds of new laws are slated to take effect today

**DAVE RESS**  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

RICHMOND — Hundreds of new laws take effect July 1, though some of the biggest measures from the General Assembly session — a minimum wage increase, paid family medical leave or legal sales of marijuana — don't take effect until next year or the year after.

But while some new laws — the discounted water and sewer fees for the Town of Hurt, for instance — have a narrow focus, others could mean changes in many Virginians' daily lives.

Please see **LAWS**, Page A5

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**High: 97 Low: 70**  
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