

ON TOP OF THE VALLEY

THE NEWS VIRGINIAN

'Back to the Future' musical coming to Richmond with Va. native as Marty McFly

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College football chaos will linger beyond title game

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Tuesday, January 20, 2026

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CONGRESS

Virginia wilderness under threat

Kaine and McClellan push back against Trump proposal to rescind environmental regulations

DAVE RESS
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Virginians need to push back against President Donald Trump's proposal to rescind one of the most important regulations protecting

wilderness areas, the state's Democratic delegation to Washington says.

But even as the Trump administration started the regulatory process to do away with the

25-year-old "roadless rule" that designates areas within national forests that can't be exploited for timber, minerals or oil, Sens. Tim Kaine and Sen. Mark Warner have moved measures that would add nearly 100,000 acres to the George Washington National Forest's protected areas — this time, backed by federal law and not just a regulation.

Those bills won unanimous, bipartisan support in the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, in a vote four months after the Trump administration announced its intention to rescind the roadless rule.

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A DISTINGUISHED DOZEN



CAL CARY, THE DAILY PROGRESS

Former Daily Progress sports editor John Shifflett poses for a photo in The Daily Progress newsroom on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2026.

Ever the team player, John Shifflett captured more than just sports scores

JANE DUNLAP SATHE
The Daily Progress

At the start of his sportswriting career, a teenage John Shifflett stopped taking notes for a high school soccer story for the Greene County Record when asked to suit up and play. The award-winning sports editor, sportswriter and page designer has been pitching in wherever needed ever since.

Shifflett's commitment to teamwork and his community never changed, even when technology, readers' tastes and industry advances constantly did. On one occasion, The Daily Progress' sports editor was signing off on finished sports pages from an airport waiting area at 6 a.m. Seattle time.

During a Christmas shopping trip on Dec. 11, 2022, a string of University of Virginia football announcements kept him wrapping up more than presents. Shifflett edited two stories about UVa football commitments from a parking space outside Five Below in Short Pump; later that evening, he stopped outside Walmart in Zion Crossroads to edit a story about offensive line coach Garrett

A Distinguished Dozen

Every year since 1995, The Daily Progress has honored 12 Central Virginians who have given of themselves and to their community. They are movers and shakers, history-makers and everyday heroes — they are a Distinguished Dozen. This is the fifth of this year's 12 honorees.

Tujague leaving UVa for a new position at North Carolina State University.

"After COVID, as a rule, I always had my laptop with me," Shifflett told The Daily Progress. "I just kept it with me at all times. At airports. At McDonald's. I was editing a story at my brother's wedding reception."

Shifflett, a lifelong team player who served as sports editor at The Daily Progress for 15 years until financial strain forced the newspaper's parent company to eliminate his

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INAUGURATION DAY

Madam gov.'s ten commandments

Spanberger is the governor now. Here's her first set of executive orders.

DAVE RESS
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Two hours and 49 minutes after taking her oath of office, a fast-moving Gov. Abigail Spanberger launched her four-year term with 10 executive orders, including sweeping directives to tackle the big bills and economic challenges Virginians face.

In what's become a Virginia tradition of new governors using executive orders to set a Day One direction for their administrations, Spanberger signaled a focus on housing, health care, education and addressing the impact of federal spending, public services and job cuts.

"Today, we are responding to the moment. We are setting the tone for what Virginians can expect over the next four years: pragmatic leadership focused on lowering costs and delivering results," Spanberger said. "My administration is getting to work on Day One to address the top-of-mind challenges facing families."

"These executive orders represent just the beginning, first steps that we are taking to make a more affordable Virginia, a safer Virginia and more

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Youngkin: 'I don't know what's next'

DAVE RESS
Richmond Times-Dispatch

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.

Youngkin urges Democrats not to make any big changes in last address

He's listening for other things.

"I went and visited the Office of Vital Records," the outgoing Republican governor said. "You go into the warehouse over there, and it's like going on that

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James Finkelstein and Judith Wilde: Scott Beardsley could become a seven-figure problem for UVa

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