ON TOP OF THE VALLEY

THE NEWS VIRGINIAN

Virginia guard Sam Lewis overcame early mistakes on career night in win at Md

PAGE B1





Winter Wander, and its 1M Christmas lights, returns to Boar's Head this month

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'SEARCH FOR A NEW HOME'



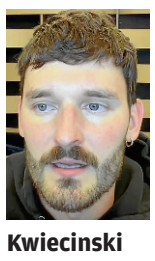
100X HOSPITALITY

Valley of the Seven Stars is an annual electronic music festival held at Lockn' and Oak Ridge farms in Nelson County.

Seven Stars music fest to leave Nelson County

HALEY SANDLOW
The Daily Progress

The Valley of the Seven Stars, a three-day electronic and dance music festival that has attracted 20,000-plus people every year for the past two years to the rolling hills of Nelson County, does not plan to return next year.



Kwiecinski

It wasn't pushback from neighbors or officials over noise pollution or traffic congestion. No, it was festival founder Grant Kwiecinski's purported discovery that the festival's venue, Oak Ridge Farm, was previously a working plantation that employed slave labor. Purported because Oak Ridge makes no secret of its past and openly details its history as a plantation in multiple places, online and on site.

But Kwiecinski, who goes by the stage name DJ GRiZ, claims he only learned about Oak Ridge's former function in late October, two weeks before this year's festival, which ran from Oct. 9 through 11.

"Seven stars will not return to Oak Ridge Farm," Kwiecinski said in a video posted to his social media channels on Oct. 29. "We are taking an intentional hiatus to search for a new home."

It's unclear when or if the festival — which has been a boon to Nelson County tourism since it was founded in 2025 — will return from said hiatus. But if it's not at Oak Ridge, then it won't be in Nelson County, according to the property's owner Reagan Thompson.

"Currently, there's not another venue that could accommodate 20,000 people," Thompson told The Daily Progress. "That would be a huge loss."

Oak Ridge's history dates back to a 1750 land grant to two Bristol merchants, John Marmer and Walter King. The land was seized during the American Revolution and later acquired by Col. William Cabell. Cabell left the plantation to his son-in-law Robert Rives, and the land stayed

Please see **MUSIC,** Page A3

CRIME

'Sugar daddy' robbery leads to indictment

Stafford County grand jury has indicted Maryland man Isaiah Jordan

KEITH EPPS
The Free Lance-Star

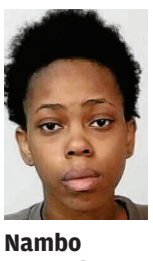
A man accused of conspiring with a young woman to rob her "sugar daddy" earlier this year has been indicted by a Stafford County grand jury.

Isaiah Marque Jordan, a 24-year-old resident of Indian Head, Maryland, is charged with carjacking, robbery, burglary and using a firearm in the commission of a felony. He is being held in the Rappahannock Regional Jail.

Court records show the charges stem from a Jan. 3 incident in which four people, two armed with rifles and two with handguns, broke into an apartment in the 3800 block of Richmond Highway-U.S. 1. They demanded specific items from the resident, including his car keys and two clothing items, both containing $2,000 in cash. They also threatened to kidnap the man's girlfriend, Mary Nambo Ronombo, but did not.



Jordan



Nambo Renombo

After leaving the apartment, the robbers left in the victim's car, which was recovered in Washington about 90 minutes later.

During interviews with the victim and Nambo Ronombo, Stafford detectives learned that the main speaker among the group of robbers demanded very specific items. He also knew the exact locations of the cash, police wrote, something that only

Please see **ROBBERY,** Page A2

COURT

Augusta homebuilder found guilty after taking $600k for unfinished work

BRAD ZINN
The News Leader

An Augusta County businesswoman who charged two clients more than $600,000 to build houses that were never completed has been convicted of two felony charges.

Last Tuesday, Augusta County Circuit Court Judge Shannon Sherrill found Amy Jo Argenbright, 46, guilty of two counts of construction fraud.

A two-day bench trial was held Oct. 20 and 21, but the judge said he needed additional time to sift through the evidence. Following the guilty verdicts, sentencing was set for next year.

Argenbright, of A & Co, was involved in stalled construction projects for two new houses, evidence showed. Augusta County Assistant Commonwealth's

Please see **HOMEBUILDER,** Page A2

COURT

Charges dropped against man accused of harassing Staunton prosecutor

BRAD ZINN
The News Leader

A man accused of harassing Staunton Commonwealth's Attorney John Baber saw charges that he violated two protective orders go by the wayside earlier this month in general district court.

In June, Baber obtained a personal protective order against Aaron Barmer, a 49-year-old resident of Staunton, after alleging a monthslong pattern of unwanted contact.

According to court filings, Barmer repeatedly approached the prosecutor at a public meeting, outside his office, on downtown streets and a community event. Baber said the interactions escalated to the point he feared for his family's safety.

Barmer was charged with two counts

Please see **CHARGES,** Page A2

Kalahari's $900 million indoor water park resort opens in Spotsylvania

PAGE A4

Weather
Plenty of sunshine
High: 60 **Low:** 30
Forecast: A6

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Calendar	A4	Sports	B1
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