

VIRGINIA'S NEWS LEADER FOR 175 YEARS

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Saturday, July 11, 2026

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VIRGINIA



KARA GILDEA, TIMES-DISPATCH

Rivergoers navigate the Belle Isle rapids to find a place to sit along the James River on July 3. Low river levels are exposing more rocks to hop along. And with rainfall several inches below normal, almost all of the state is officially under a drought warning.

Drought isn't over yet

Central Va. rainfall now at emergency status, DEQ says

DAVE RESS
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Recent rains haven't ended Virginia's drought, the worst since 1941. With rainfall several inches below normal, almost all of the state is officially under a drought

warning, which means the onset of a major drought is imminent, the Department of Environmental Quality's latest drought map shows. Water utilities in the Richmond region said the voluntary water conservation measures they've asked residents to adopt remain in effect. "Recent rain helps keep us at voluntary conservation measures and away from mandatory measures," said Rhonda Johnson,

spokesperson for the Richmond Department of Public Utilities. "We will remain in voluntary (measures) while carefully watching," she said. The James River — where Richmond and Henrico County draw their water — levels at the Westham gauge measured at 3.4 feet, down from 3.68 feet two weeks ago, the U.S. Geological Survey reported. Reservoirs generally are in fairly good shape across the

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state, except in Southside Virginia and Hampton Roads, the DEQ drought map shows.

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VA. PRIMARIES

DOJ will monitor 2 localities

Fairfax and Prince William counties included in effort

ANNA BRYSON
Richmond Times-Dispatch

The U.S. Department of Justice announced this week that it is sending election monitors to six states, including Virginia, to monitor voting during the upcoming congressional primaries. In a video posted to social media this week, the DOJ's assistant attorney general for the Civil Rights Division, Harmeet Dhillon, said the department is sending election monitors to places "where there may have been some problems in recent elections." Election monitors will be in Fairfax County and

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AIRPORT

RIC plans for \$880M expansion

\$252M will combine security checkpoints into 14-lane facility

SEAN JONES
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Airport officials say the investments are designed to accommodate steady long-term growth, while also positioning the airport for periods of faster expansion. On paper, Richmond International plans for passenger growth of about 2% to 3% annually, Bell said. But officials believe the airport could experience "break-through years" that push passenger traffic to new levels as the region grows and additional non-stop destinations come online.

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NEW KENT COUNTY

Leaders to reject data center district

1,800-acre zone was set for intersection of Route 33, Route 30

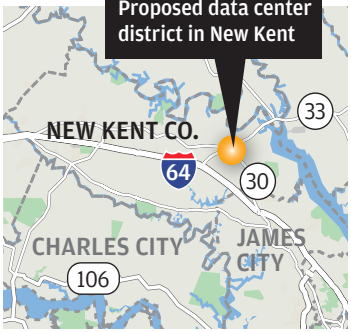
ERIC KOLENICH
Richmond Times-Dispatch

The board of supervisors in New Kent County is prepared to reject a proposal that would create a technology district designed to house data centers.

"I don't think anybody on the board wants to see that go forward," said John Moyer, a member of the board. During a town hall Thursday night, two more members of the board expressed opposition to the district, giving the board enough votes to deny the proposal. One member of the board, Amy Pearson, asked county staff to draft an ordinance that would

require any data center proposal to undergo a public vote and earn a conditional use permit. As the data center industry has zeroed in on the Richmond area in the past two years, New Kent, a county on the periphery, is at a crossroads for how it will proceed. Earlier this year, New Kent staff proposed designating

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Trump says he won't sign housing bill

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