

# Richmond Times-Dispatch

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## SHOOSMITH LANDFILL

# Ex-owners indicted, listed as fugitives

If convicted, felony could bring 10 years in prison

**ERIC KOLENICH AND SEAN JONES**  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Two men who previously owned the troubled Shoosmith Landfill in Chesterfield County have been indicted, according to court records.

Fred Gerald Nichols and Paul Lawrence



**VIEW:** Read more coverage about Shoosmith Landfill from *The Times-Dispatch*. Point your cellphone camera at the QR code and click the link. **NEWSVU**

McGee have been charged with unlawfully abandoning a waste facility, a class 4 felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison, according to court records.

Chesterfield's courts website lists the two

men as fugitives.

The Shoosmith Landfill was neglected for years, officials said, and is in need of \$173 million worth of work to prevent wastewater from leaking into Swift Creek and close the landfill. The company belonging to McGee and Nichols, VWS Holdco, has declared Chapter 7 bankruptcy, which occurs when a business liquidates. The two did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment.

Authorities also charged the pair with two counts each of dumping industrial waste into state waters, which is a misdemeanor. A representative for the Chesterfield commonwealth's attorney said the case is being handled by the Office of the Attorney General. Though typically not involved in criminal prosecutions, the Attorney General is permitted to pursue charges related

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## THE BRIGHT SIDE

# CHEERS TO 100 YEARS



ALLYSE PULLIAM, TIMES-DISPATCH

Jackie Smith, 99, and Ruth Carter, 104 celebrate at Springs Recreation Center during Thursday's event honoring 17 centenarians. The two reunited for the first time in decades, as both had attended Barton Heights Baptist Church as children.

## Henrico County hosts big birthday party for 17 centenarians

**GWYNDOLYN MILES**  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

About 50 Henrico County residents gathered on Thursday for a birthday party honoring 17 centenarians.

The centenarians and their loved ones were welcomed Thursday afternoon to the Springs Recreation Center on Lee Avenue for the event.

Organizers served guests a late lunch while they heard from county keynote speakers. Afterward, each centenarian was recognized by name and given a certificate. Each centenarian also was given a brief biography of their lives and

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interests, followed by words of advice for the younger generation.

That advice included phrases like “all things in moderation, except for the love of friends and family” and “stay active, stay learning and stay connected.”

One centenarian said that the secret to a long and happy

life was to “never miss a happy hour.”

After the meal and presentation, the centenarians gathered outside for a group photo, then mingled among themselves.

“I want to take a moment to acknowledge the villagers around today's honorees,” said the Rev. Roscoe D. Cooper III, a member of the Henrico Board of Supervisors.

Cooper went on to thank the family members, friends, neighbors and caregivers who supported the honorees at Thursday's event.

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## RICHMOND FED CHIEF

# Barkin says time to focus on inflation

It, not employment, is economy's ‘problem child’

**MICHAEL MARTZ**  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

WASHINGTON — Three months ago, Tom Barkin saw gasoline prices were coming down and the effects of tariffs subsiding.

Three months later, “it didn't seem to have lasted,” said Barkin, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and a member of the Federal Reserve Board committee that adjusts interest rates to either stimulate the U.S. economy or slow down inflation.



Barkin

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## STATE FAIR OF VIRGINIA

# Future of Va. farming takes center stage

Deep-fried fun meets deep agricultural roots

**CHELSEA JACKSON**  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

If you're only headed to the State Fair of Virginia for the rides and fried food, you're missing out.

There's a whole other side of the fair happening beyond the midway where Virginia students are testing their knowledge of crops, animals, forestry and agriculture.

For Savannah Jones, 18, that side of the fair has been a big part of her life since sixth grade.



Jones

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Trump-Xi summit begins in Washington

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## Weather

Warmer  
**High:** 72  
**Low:** 54  
**Forecast:** A12

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