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# The Progress-Index

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## The dos and don'ts at new casino in Petersburg



Live Casino Virginia in Petersburg on Jan. 15. KRISTI K. HIGGINS/PROGRESS-INDEX.COM

## Police investigate attempted armed robbery

### Public asked to help locate the suspect

**Kristi K. Higgins**  
Petersburg Progress-Index  
USA TODAY NETWORK

An attempted armed robbery took place in Prince George around 10:30 p.m. Jan. 20, according to the Prince George County Police Department.

Police are seeking the public's assistance to locate the suspect.

Police say the suspect approached the victim, seated in her vehicle on Blue Jay Street in the Pine Ridge community, opened her car door, displayed a handgun, and demanded her belongings, according to a news release. The victim pulled her door shut and quickly drove away safely. No injuries were reported and no property was taken.

Investigators are requesting that Pine Ridge residents check their home security cameras for any suspicious activity between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. on the night of the incident. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Prince George County Police Department at 804-733-2773 or Crime Solvers at 804-733-2777.

*Kristi K. Higgins aka The Social Butterfly, an award-winning columnist, is the trending topics and food Q&A reporter at The Progress-Index voted the 2022 Tri-Cities Best of the Best Social Media Personality. Have a news tip on local trends or businesses? Contact Kristi (she, her) at khiggins@progress-index.com, follow @KHiggins\_PI on X and @socialbutterflykristi on Instagram.*

### Note to readers

Due to the fast-changing winter storm, you may experience delivery changes of your printed newspaper – including early delivery of the Sunday paper, or delayed delivery of some editions until road conditions are safe. Visit us online for the latest updates on the storm's impact on our community.

## Live! Casino Virginia's 'tent casino' opened Thursday

**Kristi K. Higgins**  
Petersburg Progress-Index  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Live! Casino Virginia's "tent casino" in Petersburg opens to the public at 5 p.m. Jan. 22. The region's first, full-scale casino is ready to entertain locals and

tourists 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

The temporary gaming facility offers 75,000 square feet of gaming space, over 900 state-of-the-art slots, Luckies Kitchen, a bar, over 30 live action table games, 1,000 free parking spaces and more.

The permanent Live! Casino & Hotel Virginia is slated to open near the end of 2027. Until then, casino-goers may pop in by themselves or with friends, family, neighbors or coworkers to make memories and, hopefully, their

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## Bill to put VMI under the umbrella of VSU

**Bill Atkinson**  
Petersburg Progress-Index  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Virginia Beach delegate introduced legislation that would dissolve the board of visitors at Virginia Military Institute and transfer governance of the Lexington school to Virginia State University two and a half hours away in Petersburg.

House Bill 1374 would keep VMI as a separate college from VSU. However, it would be "under the supervision, man-

agement, and control of the board of visitors of Virginia State University," the bill states.

The move is the latest in a series of political struggles involving the current VMI board, state Senate Democrats and former Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin. Last year, Democrats blocked two of Youngkin's appointees to the VMI Board of Visitors claiming they catered to the generally conservative alumni donors instead of what they claimed were "true values" of the 186-year-old school.

Shortly after assuming office last weekend, Virginia's current governor, Democrat Abigail Spanberger, reshuffled the boards of VMI and two other schools, the University of Virginia and George Mason University, removing Youngkin appointees. One of the new selections for the VMI board was former Gov. Ralph Northam, a VMI grad.

**Sponsor: Legislation is 'about governance'**

The bill's sponsor, Democratic Del.

Michael Feggans, said in a statement released by his office that his legislation is more structural than punitive.

"This legislation is about governance and the General Assembly's responsibility to ensure that public institutions are overseen in a manner that reflects stability, accountability, and sound judgment," he said. "The bill restructures Virginia Military Institute's governance by placing it under the oversight of the Virginia State University

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