

ELECTION 2025



Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate, smiles as former President Barack Obama speaks on her behalf Saturday at Old Dominion University. **KENDALL WARNER/THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT**



Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears, the Republican candidate, speaks at a CPAC Latino Rally for Virginia last week in Sterling. **ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY**

FINAL DRIVE ARRIVES

Spanberger, Earle-Sears make closing pushes in Virginia gubernatorial race

By Kate Seltzer
Staff writer

Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate for governor, spent her last week of the campaign on an extended bus tour, bookended with stops in Hampton Roads that culminated in a rally in Norfolk alongside former President Barack Obama. Her opponent, Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears, who has consistently trailed in the polls, was stuck in Richmond. Republican lawmakers and Earle-Sears supporters gath-

ered last week on the steps of the Virginia Capitol. State Sen. Mark Peake, chairman of the state Republican party, took the podium. “We’re here at the invitation of the Democrats in the Senate and the House of Delegates,” he said. “They have us here to get Madame Lieutenant Governor off the campaign trail. And why do they want to get Winsome Earle-Sears off the campaign trail?” “Because she’s winning!” someone yelled. For much of the past week, the lieutenant governor presided



Hashmi



Reid



Jones



Miyares

over the Senate as Democrats, who control both chambers of the General Assembly, called the legislature into session to push forward a constitutional amendment that would allow for mid-decade redistricting if other states did the same. The resolution passed Friday, marking the first step in a contentious path forward on redistricting. “Lieutenant governor, don’t you

worry, I’ll be out on the campaign trail for you for the next four days,” said John Reid, the Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, before introducing Earle-Sears. When Earle-Sears stepped to the podium, she said she was speaking as the lieutenant governor, not as a candidate. But the

Turn to Election, Page 16



757 VOTES

Use a cellphone to scan the QR code or go to **Pilotonline.com/electionguide** or **Dailypress.com/electionguide** to access our 2025 election guide with information about Virginia and Hampton Roads races.



Jennifer Bittner, whose husband is an Army officer, holds 6-year-old daughter Amelia at their home in Pflugerville, Texas. **JACK MYER/AP**

Payday worries taking toll on military families

Troops get paid, but there’s no guarantee checks will continue

By Ben Finley
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government shutdown is exacting a heavy mental toll on the nation’s military families, leaving them not knowing from week to week

whether their paychecks will arrive. Alicia Blevins, whose husband is a Marine, said she’s going to see a therapist in large part because of the grinding uncertainty. “I don’t feel like I have the tools to deal with this,” said Blevins, 33, who lives at Camp Lejeune, a Marine base near North Carolina’s coast. “I don’t want to dump

Turn to Paycheck, Page 16

INSIDE



Hoops hoopla

ODU, UVA previews, and David Teel looks at the challenges ACC and Sun Belt teams face trying to gain an NCAA bid. **Sports**

Rare photo op

Library of Congress acquires William & Mary photographer’s landscape prints for its permanent collection. **Page 4**

Crisis point

Millions of Americans face ACA price hikes and SNAP delays. **Nation & World, Page 6**

MOSTLY SUNNY

High: 67 Low: 54



Details on the back page of news



They’re over 100 and still punch the clock

In Japan, work helps these centenarians stay alive, keep thriving

By Hikari Hida
The New York Times

Japan has about 100,000 people who have lived for a century or more — the most in the world. The frailty that comes with age is creating challenges for Japan, where a record-low birthrate means more retirees and fewer working-age people to support them.

But for some people, reaching 100 is just another milestone in a full life. We met five remarkable centenarians who credited their longevity to eating well, Japan’s affordable health care, exercise and family support. But for these five, there is also something else: their work.

BICYCLE REPAIRMAN

As a 12-year-old, Seiichi Ishii was walking home from school when he came across a “help wanted” sign in the window of a bicycle repair shop in Tokyo. He had always admired the long navy



Seiichi Ishii, 103, a bike repairman, brings his tricycle to get air in the tire at his bike shop in Tokyo. **CHANG W. LEE/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

jumpsuits that bike repairmen wore, and he wanted one himself.

More than 90 years after that start, Ishii is still fixing bikes at his own shop. Although the legs of the jumpsuit are too long for his shrinking body, he goes to bed every night excited about the customers who might show up the next day.

“If I die here, in my workshop, I will be happy,” he said. “I am a working man, and that doesn’t change with age!”

Turn to Clock, Page 12

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