



ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION/CULPEPER STAR-EXPONENT

Local parent Lisa Haynes shows up just in time on Monday morning to bring a forgotten lunchbox for her daughter, Scarlett, a fourth grader at Emerald Hill Elementary School. At right on the first day of school is Scarlett's friend, Hannah Batchelor, also in fourth grade.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

TODAY

First day back

For Fauquier and Rappahannock County Public Schools.

Winston National

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at HITS Commonwealth Park, along Zachary Taylor Highway in Culpeper County. Hunter and jumper show competition in the heart of Virginia's horse country. Free parking and free admission Wednesday through Sunday.

Parking Authority special meeting

8:30 a.m. in the Economic Development Center, 803 S. Main St.

Culpeper Democratic Committee hours

9 a.m. to noon every Wednesday at 206 Main Street, Suite 302. The public and members are welcome to stop in for up-to-date information, campaign materials, activities participation, and membership forms. Original artwork by local artists is also for sale.

Silver Citizens Club

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays at the Culpeper County Library. 540/645-7189.

Culpeper Hospital Farmer's Market

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays outside the main entrance of the hospital on Sunset Lane featuring produce and goods from local vendors. The market will run every week through October 30. For information or to become a vendor, contact FarmersMarket@CulpeperHospital.com.

Manna Ministry

Offers free lunch for anyone 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the Culpeper Presbyterian Fellowship Hall, 215 S. Main St. 540/825-8616.

Lego Club

4:45 p.m. at Culpeper Library for children old enough not to put Legos in their mouth. Children younger than 5 must be with an adult. Sign up in advance to come build with the library's Legos.

Culpeper Chess Club

6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Culpeper County Library. All ages and skill levels welcome. 540/727-0695 or culpeperchessclub@hotmail.com.

Planning Commission meeting

7 p.m. in the county boardroom, 302 N. Main St.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Water System Study community meeting

The town of Culpeper will host a public meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 20 in the Community Room at the Culpeper Police Department, 740 Old Brandy Rd. The purpose of this meeting is to provide an update on the independent town water system study and receive comments from the public related to town water service, according to a town news release.

Town Council commissioned an independent study of the public water system in response to an August 2018 petition signed by Town water customers. Following a competitive request for proposal process, Council awarded the water system study to Hazen and Sawyer on March 12, 2019.

Hazen and Sawyer representatives will be present to provide an update on the study and receive comments from the public regarding the Town's water system and services. The water system study is expected to be completed this fall with the findings shared with the public in future meetings.

Vintage Hitchcock: A Live Radio Play

Spies, murder, suspense, love and other trademarks of legendary film director Alfred Hitchcock will come to life this weekend in a "Live Radio Play" being presented by the Stageworks Theatre Program of Windmore Foundation for the Arts.

The first two performances will be at 7 p.m. this Saturday, Aug. 17 and Sunday, August 18 at the Jewell Tone Music Black Box, 201A N. Main St. in the town of Culpeper. The play will be presented again at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 24 and Sunday, Aug. 25 at Prince Michel Winery in Leon in the Barrel Room, which is handicap accessible.

The cost of each performance is \$15 per person. Tickets for the Prince Michel event can be purchased



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Culpeper County High School principal Daniel Soderholm said while greeting students on the first day of school that he encourages students and staff to strive to be better every day.

at Windmorefoundation.org and there is a link on Windmore's site to purchase tickets for the Jewell Tone venue. Refreshments will be available at both sites.

A Live Radio Play is a triple feature, complete with vintage commercials, that recreates a daring train chase, a serial killer's ominous presence, and a devastating explosion through the magic of live sound effects and musical underscoring.

Inspired Floral Design

The Culpeper Garden Club will offer a program "Inspired Floral Design" at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 15 at Culpeper United Methodist Church on Oaklawn Drive.

Each member will bring an arrangement that is inspired by a favorite picture of a greeting card, photo or painting. There are no rules and no judgment. Refreshments will be served at 1:45 p.m. For information about the club, contact 540/937-3545.

Free hip hop step class

Join exercise instructors Heather Boggess and Sharon Steele for a free, fun-filled Hip Hop Step class taking place 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. this Friday, Aug. 16 at Powell Wellness Center, 1005 Golf Dr. in the town of Culpeper.

The community is welcome to attend. Reg-

ister by contacting PWC fitness manager Patrice Barklund at 540/445-5395 or pbarklund@culpeperwellness.org.

Analyzing genealogy records

Culpeper County Library genealogist Kathy Derby will host another free seminar on genealogy records 10 to 11:30 a.m. this Saturday, Aug. 17 at the library.

Finding a record about your ancestor is just the beginning. Records and the information they contain should be analyzed with a critical eye. This process of questioning, comparing and reasoning will result in getting more evidence from each source. Derby is past director of the Culpeper Family History Center and holds a bachelor's degree in family history from Brigham Young University.

The classes will also be held the same time on Sept. 21. Call the library at 540/825-8691 to sign up.

Beekeeping event

Meet the Beekeepers of Northern Shenandoah at a special buzzworthy event happening 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. this Saturday, Aug. 17 at Sky Meadows State Park in Delaplane, Fauquier County.

Witness a honey extraction, learn about beekeeping, honeybees and the art of

apiculture and support beekeeping by purchasing local honey from club members. Also, stop by the Log Cabin and enjoy a honey treat cooked over the hearth with a park ranger or volunteer. Park admission is \$10 per car. See <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/park-event-info?id=SK190008-00> for information.

USDA food distribution

Empowering Culpeper will be distributing free food commodities from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, with support from local businesses, from 9 to 11 a.m. this Saturday, Aug. 17 at Culpeper United Methodist Church, 1233 Oaklawn Dr. in the town of Culpeper.

Food is distributed based on income and household size. The Culpeper Connector provides transportation to and from the church.

GET LISTED

Have an item you want to include on the community page? Keep it to 50 words for calendar; 100 for news and submit by 5 p.m. Tuesday
Email: Events@StarExponent.com
Mail or in person: Attn: Events
 Culpeper Star-Exponent
 122 W. Spencer Street,
 Culpeper, VA 22701

Scooter use to be studied on Virginia Tech campus

BY ROBBY KORTH
 THE ROANOKE TIMES

A fleet of 300 electric scooters will be rolled out on Virginia Tech's campus next month through a study by the university's Transportation Institute.

E-scooters from Ford Motor Company subsidiary Spin will be usable on Virginia Tech's campus starting at 7 a.m. until a half-hour after sunset, and will be removed at night and in advance of "high-traffic events" like football game weekends, graduation and during inclement weather. Their movement will be restricted to campus by a geofence that will cause them to slow to a stop when they leave Tech.

While increasingly popular across the country, scooters have been controversial, too, drawing complaints that they litter city sidewalks and are unsafe for users and pedestrians alike.

The scooters will be dockless, however. University policy will require users to park them either near bike racks or in other designated areas. Spin's phone app will prevent users from leaving the scooters just anywhere they want around campus.

The scooters will be treated similarly to bicycles, according to the university policy. People can use them

on all roads, paths, grass and sidewalks, "with the exception of times when there is heavy pedestrian traffic on sidewalks and pathways." During those times, riders are supposed to dismount their scooters and walk. Scooters are barred from use in parking garages or buildings.

The Spin scooters will be on campus and ready to use Sept. 3, the date the company will host a kick-off and safety event. The scooters will cost \$1 to unlock and 15 cents per minute while in use, according to a company spokeswoman. The company is already operating in more than 50 college campuses and cities.

Safety will be one facet of the Tech research, according to Mike Mollenhauer, director of VTTI's Center for Technology Implementation and chief investigator for the study.

Tech researchers will review footage from cameras on the front of 50 scooters as well as footage from up to 20 fixed cameras in public places around campus. The effort is to capture footage of human-scooter interactions.

The study "allows us to ride along with the rider and encounter what they encounter," Mollenhauer said.

The study period is slated to last 18 months, with scoot-



PHOTO COURTESY VIRGINIA TECH TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE. MARY BETH KEGLEY

Student Josh Murray demonstrates the Spin e-scooter on campus earlier this summer.

ers operational for a year.

"The resulting data will be used to assess impacts on safety, nuisance, and mobility, identify unique countermeasures to problems associated with e-scooter deployments where possible, and generate deployment requirements and guidelines for future open competition," according to a summary of the study published on the Transportation Research Board's website.

The \$467,126 study is being funded by the Safety Through Disruption National UTC, a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation's University Transportation Centers program, as well as by matching funds from Spin.

"We believe academic research is desperately needed in the micromobility space, and it has the potential to inform operations practices, hardware updates, and infrastructure improvements for years to come," Ted Sweeney, senior manager of Spin's Campus and Safety Policy, said in an email.

VT Parking and Transportation Director Jeri Baker said she's excited to have the study and a measured approach to researching scooter usage on campus.

ABC tops \$1 billion in sales

BY MICHAEL MARTZ

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

Virginia is cashing in a \$1 billion bet on its 85-year-old state liquor monopoly.

The Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Authority, conceived four years ago as a way to make an old government bureaucracy run like a modern business, surpassed \$1 billion in retail sales in the year that ended June 30 and generated almost a half-billion dollars for the state budget.

"Customers aren't necessarily drinking more," Travis Hill, chief executive officer of the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority, said in an announcement of the financial results on Tuesday. "They're buying more premium products that have a higher per bottle price tag. Additionally, they're choosing distilled spirits over other products."

The top brand, by the way, is Tito's Handmade vodka, which grew from \$33.5 million to \$42.1 million in sales.

The billion-dollar milestone was the target for then-Gov. Terry McAuliffe, who had ordered a fresh look at the old Virginia ABC Department after his predecessor, Gov. Bob McDonnell, failed in 2011 to privatize the liquor monopoly the state has held since the end of Prohibition in 1934.

With the same aim, the 2015 General Assembly adopted legislation to turn the venerable state agency into a semi-independent authority, governed like a corpora-

tion with a CEO and a part-time board of directors, and allow it to keep some of the money it generates each year for the state to modernize its outdated operations.

"My ask to the General Assembly in 2015 was reinvestment in the business they decided to keep ownership of, and they've done that," said Hill, 41, who became chief operating officer under the old ABC structure in October, 2014, and the first CEO of the authority officially established last year.

"These are all things that are absolutely essential to a retail organization," said Hill, citing new systems for financial management, licensing, online sales and retail transactions at about 400 ABC stores across the state.

The creation of an authority set the stage for ABC to buy its own information technology services outside of state government, as well as follow its own rules for overseeing 4,000 full and part-time employees and purchasing goods and services.

In less than two years, ABC also expects to have a new home, with construction to begin this fall on corporate offices and a modern warehouse in Hanover County that will serve as the distribution hub for retail stores in communities across the state.

The impending move also will open up its coveted 21-acre property on Hermitage Road in Richmond for

potential redevelopment as a baseball stadium for the Richmond Flying Squirrels and Virginia Commonwealth University, but only after ABC is assured of no interruption in the warehouse operations on which its robust retail sales depend.

"We're not going to put ourselves in a situation where we have to move from this facility until we're ready," Hill said.

The boom in sales, which grew by 7.1 percent last year at retail stores and 6.3 percent at restaurants, arose amid an expansion of stores and operating hours on Sundays, once forbidden entirely in Virginia.

ABC added seven stores—it now directly operates 380—while remodeling eight and moving four to better markets. Sunday sales rose by 7.4 percent last year and generated \$79 million for the state.

This year legislators moved to allow for earlier Sunday hours, beginning July 1. The earlier hours were part of a legislative compromise this year that compensated ABC for the estimated loss of about \$800,000 a year from increasing the sale commission to 20 percent for Virginia distillers that operate 36 state stores on their premises.

ABC has moved up Sunday opening hours selectively, targeting primarily urban and tourist-oriented areas such as Virginia Beach, Hill said in an interview.