

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

WWWV

THIRD QUARTER 2019

CRIME

PUBLIC SAFETY

TRANSPORTATION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HEALTH

POLITICS

7-18-19 6a, 7a, 8a

30sec Community

yesterday afternoon

Powerful hit and miss storms came through our area ~~last night~~. Businesses out in Crozet had to shut down early, power outages in Greene County continue to be an issue this morning with over 650 customers of Rappahanock Electrical Co-Op still without power this morning.

Homes downtown got a taste too. A tree toppled onto a power line in the 500 block of St. George Avenue, and more than 3,000 Dominion Energy customers lost power.

Clean up and restoration still happening in ~~some areas~~ this morning.

7-19-19 6a, 7a, 8a
50sec Crime

Reacting to spiking marijuana arrests in the 2018 Virginia State Police Crime Report, Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring says the numbers show the Commonwealth moving backwards while other states move forward toward marijuana policy reform. Herring notes marijuana arrests in Virginia triple that of 1999... and the just under 29,000 2018 arrests up 3.5-percent over 2017. Approximately 52% of those arrested in 2018 were under the age of 24, and marijuana arrests accounted for 59-percent of all drug arrests in Virginia.

According to the release, In the last decade the number of first time marijuana convictions in Virginia has risen 53%, from 6,533 in 2008 to 10,000 in 2017. Arrests for marijuana possession have increased about 220%, from around 9,000 in 1999 to nearly 29,000 in 2018. The cost of marijuana criminal enforcement is estimated to exceed \$81-million each year.

Herring is quoted as saying, " It makes absolutely no sense. Marijuana arrests are now at their highest level in at least two decades and maybe ever, meaning that even more Virginians, especially young people and people of color, are being saddled with criminal records that can drastically affect their lives. Now is the time to put a stop to this costly, unfair, and ineffective approach, and to pursue a better, smarter, fairer course."

7/23/19 6a, 7a, 8a
30 sec Health

The Louisa County Water Authority is urging people in the Zion Crossroads area to conserve because of discolored water. Apparently, the high demand for water during the high heat led to a pump over-use issue.

That caused some sediment to enter the well-system. The county says the water is safe, and crews are working to flush the lines.

If you experience brown-colored water, call the authority. Do not run the hot water to avoid getting sediment in your hot water tank.

7-25-19 6a, 7a, 8a
30sec Crime

Charlottesville Police are investigating the latest vandalism of the Lee statue. The sun rose yesterday morning revealing someone had tagged the statue on its large concrete base with an explicative about President Trump — and some of the fencing was knocked down.

City Parks and Rec was dispatched to clean off the graffiti and police were notified. Anyone who knows or saw anything is urged to call Charlottesville Police.

7-26-19 6a, 2a, 8a

40sec Community

The Salvation Army calls the effort "Christmas in July", and the sign-up for holiday kettle tenders has begun. The shifts start the day-after-Thanksgiving all the way up to Christmas Eve.

Christmas in July also is an effort by the Salvation Army collecting school supplies. They get as many supplies as they can, then turn those over to the schools for distribution. Counselors and teachers know the need more than any Salvation Army staff does. Great Harvest is a drop-off location — and they have a treat available for someone who does so. Or you can drop by the Salvation Army at 207 Ridge Street or the Thrift Store on Cherry Avenue.

To find information, and to sign up for one or more kettle shifts, there's a link in the local news section at 3WV.COM.

8-6-19 Ga, La, Ga
40311 Crime

An Albemarle County Circuit Court judge sentenced Cardian Omar Eubanks to life in prison plus 8 years for the first degree murder of Amanda Bates on March 24, 2018. After a trial by jury that concluded on March 5, 2019, an Albemarle jury recommended a life sentence for first degree murder plus 8 years for use of a firearm in commission of a felony and felon in possession of a firearm charges.

The jury heard evidence that Eubanks murdered Ms. Bates while she was seated in the driver's seat of her vehicle at her residence on Richmond Road last year. The Commonwealth presented evidence that Ms. Bates had ended her relationship with Eubanks and he had moved out of their residence a month prior. At jury sentencing, the jury heard from friends and family members of Ms. Bates, who described the impact of this crime on Ms. Bates's family and the larger community.

8-12-19 6a, 7a, 8a
30sec Health

A state prison in our region didn't allow weekend visitation thanks to confirmed cases of scabies. The Buckingham Correctional Center near Dillwyn is telling the inmates' families and friends to stay away because scabies is a highly contagious disease.

The Department of Corrections says it's working with the Virginia Department of Health on treatment and containment.

8-12-19 6a, 2a, 6a

40sec Community

There are considerably fewer streets closed the second weekend in August 2019 than the last couple of years, however, they will remain closed through today's work day.

The 2nd and 4th Street cut-throughs closing on the Downtown Mall coincidence with Fridays After Five. Those cut-throughs — along with streets on three sides of Market Street Park — will remain closed through 11 pm tonight.

Market Street will remain open, but East Jefferson, 1st, and 2nd streets will close around the park periphery. Drivers, residents, and business owners and customers will need to adjust routes through the downtown area through 11 tonight.

8-14-19 6a, 7a, 8a
Culpeper Health

The state game department has scheduled a public meeting in Culpeper about the county's first confirmation ever of chronic wasting disease in its deer population. The state has placed Culpeper — along with Madison and Orange counties — in what's called a Disease Management Area after the disease was detected in a deer carcass found in February. The meeting the evening of August 28th in the Culpeper Board of Supervisors room will be a place where you can learn more information about the designation — and ask questions.

This incurable disease, found in deer, elk, and moose in North America, is a slow and progressive neurologic disease that ultimately results in death of the animal.

The full release that includes the meeting time, place, information about the DMA designation, and the disease itself follows:

8-16-19 6a, 7a, 8a
355cc Education

Two former William Monroe High School booster club officers have been indicted by a Greene County grand jury of obtaining money under false pretenses.

Details are scant — but Doug Whitemarsh, the former club president and husband of Superintendent Andrea Whitemarsh — faces two counts... and Karen McAuliffe, the former treasurer, faces six counts.

The current club leadership has released a statement that you can find at 3WV.COM

8-19-19 6a, 7a, 8a
30sec Local Economy

A restaurant in Albemarle County will cease operations on August 24th. Rocksalt Charlottesville has posted a message on its Facebook page saying it will close its operation on Bond Street in the Shops at Stonefield.

Rocksalt's message thanks its customers for the past five years of patronage. Travinia, a restaurant that's within walking distance of Rocksalt, recently shuttered its doors.

9-5-19 6a, 7a, 8a
32112 Community

The Albemarle Supervisors issued a proclamation Wednesday that celebrates the 275th anniversary of the county's creation. They note the colonial General Assembly formed Albemarle in 1744 from the western parts of Goochland County, and the onetime territory of the Monacan Tribal Nation.

The supervisors also highlight the importance of railroads in the county's early history, and major events including the 1819 founding of the University of Virginia in 1819, and the creation of the Shenandoah National Park in 1935.

9-5-19 6a, 7a, 8a
30 sec Crime

The mother of the late Heather Heyer has filed a \$ 12 million wrongful death lawsuit against James Alex Fields, Jr. Susan Bro filed a lawsuit last Friday in Charlottesville Circuit Court.

She is asking for \$10 million in contemporary damages and \$ 2 million in punitive damages from the man who's been convicted of murdering her daughter. The "Richmond Times-Dispatch" quotes Bro as saying she wants to make certain that Fields never profits from selling the rights to his story or publishing a memoir about the events of two years ago.

The 22-year-old Fields has also been sued by people who were hit by his Dodge Challenger on August 12th, 2017.

9/6/19 6, 2, 5a
45cc Environment

The RSWA has set its fall collection dates for household and commercial hazardous waste — and bulky waste amnesty days. The dates are at the Ivy Materials Utilization Center on Dick Woods Road and are for Charlottesville, Scottsville, and Albemarle County residents. This special collection is a great opportunity to rid homes of hazardous waste, like pesticides and cleaners, as well as household bulky waste items like refrigerators, mattresses, broken furniture, and tires.

Collections days are Friday, September 27 and Saturday, September 28 from 9am-to-2pm. This service is free to Scottsville, Albemarle, and Charlottesville residents — and available to Nelson County residents who receive a voucher from the Nelson County government.

More details on that and a link to all the info you need about the program at 3WV.COM

9-9-19 6a, 2a, 8a
405m Community

With the anniversary of the attacks on September 11th 2001 happening later this week, the North Garden Volunteer Fire Company hosted a service partnership with Covesville Baptist Church on the Sunday before. This allowed people the opportunity who may be working to come and pay tribute.

Firefighters opened their station to the public for a special service led by Pastor Burton Corley from Covesville Baptist Church.

University of Virginia cadets were there too to start it off by raising the colors and the singing of the national anthem.

This is the second year of the service and the pastor says they hope to have it for many more years.

Of course the day itself is Wednesday of this week with more tributes and remembrances to come.

9-9-19 6a, 7a, 8a Crime
30512

A 67-year-old man faces multiple charges following an incident on Taylor Road in Louisa County. The Louisa Sheriff's Office says there was a call at around 2 a.m. Thursday about a male victim at the University of Virginia Emergency Room who contends he had been shot in the stomach. Investigators interviewed the victim, who identified 57-year-old Thomas Eugene Johnson of Louisa as his assailant.

Johnson is accused of unlawful shooting, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and reckless handling of a firearm. He is being held without bond and will appear in court on Tuesday.

9/10/19 6a, 1a, 5a
30sec Environment

Virginia is hosting a free fishing weekend to make up for some bad weather in June.

The Department of Game & Inland Fisheries has scheduled two free fishing days Sept. 28-29 in conjunction with National Hunting and Fishing Day. Inclement weather during free fishing days in June prompted the department to add additional days.

Anyone can fish free in public fresh waters around the state without having to buy a fishing license. A license is still required to fish in marine areas or saltwater portions of tidal waters.

On Sept. 28, the department's staff will be on hand to offer demonstrations, tackle boxes and loaner gear at various locations, including Dorey Park in Henrico County, Burke Lake in Fairfax County and Mount Trashmore Park in Virginia Beach.

9/11/19 6a, 7a, 8a
40sec Education

The University of Virginia fell from 25th to 28th in the ranking of the best college and universities in the nation — public and private — and fell for the first time in 28 years from the top-3 public universities. But UVa did not fall far. They're 4th behind UCLA, UC-Berkeley, and the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Hoo Nation is still ranked the 2nd-"best value" among public colleges and universities in the nation. However, the University has a long way to go in one of new President Jim Ryan's goals — enrolling and graduating low-income students. The publication — for the first time — ranked top performers in "social mobility" and UVa was 328th among public and private schools in the nation.

You can go to 3WV.COM for more on that and a link to the full report to access all the 2020 U.S. News & World Report college and university rankings.

9-13-19 6a, 7a, 8a
35 sec Education

The Albemarle schools have a bigger overcrowding problem than they were expecting this semester. Roz Schmitt, the chief operating officer for the county schools, says she has elementary schools with a lot more kids than forecast. Cale leads the list and the runner up is Stone-Robinson.

~~Schmitt and other~~ county officials are deploying more trailers to schools than they were expecting. ~~She has also~~ proposed a renovation of the school division's central office. ~~Schmitt~~ ^{She} described it Thursday night as a "rat maze." It occupies the entire third floor of the main County Office Building on McIntire Road, which was the city's old Lane High School. The structure is nearly 80 years old.

9/23/19 6a, 7a, 8a
40sec Health

The state health department says they have 16 confirmed cases of severe lung illnesses in Virginia associated with vaping — along with 7 more possible — and are now urging people not to use e-cigarette products. Of these 23 cases, the patients have ranged in age from 18 to 38. The case number is expected to rise as investigations continue.

Nationally, the CDC is reporting 530 confirmed or probable cases of lung illness from 38 states and 1 U.S. territory. While 7 deaths have been confirmed due to vaping in other states... right now, there are none in Virginia.

Those using products are urged to monitor their symptoms and immediately seek medical help if they experience cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and fever.

Go to 3WV.COM in the local news section for the entire release from the Virginia Department of Health.

9/26/19 6a, 7a, 8a
355cc Community

Yesterday was the first day 1st St. S and 2nd St. SW in downtown Charlottesville switched directions.

2nd St. SW's one way has been switched to go north towards the downtown mall.

1st St. S was also reversed to point south away from the Downtown Mall.

~~Charlottesville Communications Director~~, ^{Again} Brian Wheeler, said this is part of a six-month pilot and said the city is open for any feedback throughout these next six months.

This all in response to a request to add a free trolley stop on South St at Midway Manor and the change in one ways allow the trolley to come down South Street and then cut across the Downtown Mall via 2nd.

9/26/19

6a, 7a, 8a

25 sec

Local Economy

The city is in the process of notifying some 10,700 of current and former utility billing customers of someone hacking into a limited amount of their personable identifiable information. Charlottesville Communications Director Brian Wheeler says it happened via a single employee's email account. Wheeler says, at any time, the city has about 25,000 water and natural gas customers.

He says the city is not aware, at this time, of any misuse of the information. Out of an abundance of caution, the city is notifying all affected parties.

The entire city press release is ~~below~~:

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News

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