

Subject: Re: Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VA-GOV-22-0508)
Date: Friday, July 8, 2022 at 4:50:51 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: FOIA Office, Governor's
To: AO Records
Attachments: AO Records responsive documents 7.8.22.zip

EXTERNAL SENDER

In further response to your FOIA request of May 24, 2022, attached please find our first rolling response. Duplicates have not been separately provided and some personal contact information has been redacted.

Denise Burch

On Tue, Jul 5, 2022 at 3:38 PM FOIA Office, Governor's <foia@governor.virginia.gov> wrote:

Thank you for your follow up email. We are reviewing approximately 700 - 1,000 documents currently although others may be identified.

Our first rolling production should be provided to you by Friday, July 8th.

On Tue, Jul 5, 2022 at 1:21 PM AO Records <records@americanoversight.org> wrote:

Hello,

I wanted to follow up on the below. Thanks!

Rachel

From: AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2022 12:17 PM
To: FOIA Office, Governor's <foia@governor.virginia.gov>
Subject: Re: Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VA-GOV-22-0508)

Thanks. Do you have an estimate of the volume of potentially responsive records? Additionally, is it possible to provide an estimate on when we might receive the first part of the rolling production?

Rachel

From: FOIA Office, Governor's <foia@governor.virginia.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2022 2:39 PM
To: AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Subject: Re: Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VA-GOV-22-0508)

EXTERNAL SENDER

We are in the process now of printing documents. We will need to review all documents to determine whether they are responsive or exempt. As a result, we do not anticipate that the process will be completed in less than the 5 and 7 days provided in the statute, but we will begin providing them on a rolling basis.

Denise Burch

On Fri, Jun 24, 2022 at 11:41 AM AO Records <records@americanoversight.org> wrote:

Wonderful! Is it possible for you to provide an estimate on when the production will be provided?

Thanks,
Rachel

From: FOIA Office, Governor's <foia@governor.virginia.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2022 10:24 AM
To: AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Subject: Re: Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VA-GOV-22-0508)

EXTERNAL SENDER

Good morning,

Yes, we did in fact receive the check.

Thank you.

On Fri, Jun 24, 2022 at 10:04 AM AO Records <records@americanoversight.org> wrote:

Hello,

I just wanted to check in to see if you have any update on whether the check was received?
Thanks!

Rachel

From: FOIA Office, Governor's <foia@governor.virginia.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2022 3:05 PM
To: AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Subject: Re: Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VA-GOV-22-0508)

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thank you for your email. We have not yet received your check.

Denise Burch

On Fri, Jun 17, 2022 at 11:17 AM AO Records <records@americanoversight.org> wrote:

Dear Ms. Burch,

I attempted to call your office a little while ago but was unable to reach you. I was hoping to get a confirmation that you have received the check for this request? If so, please let me know if you have a date by which the production can be expected. Thanks!

Rachel Baron

Rachel Baron (she/her)
Legal Fellow*
American Oversight
rachel.baron@americanoversight.org
202-897-2465

*Admitted only in New York; DC practice pursuant to Rule 49(c)(8), supervised by members of the DC Bar at American Oversight.

From: FOIA Office, Governor's <foia@governor.virginia.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 9, 2022 3:34 PM
To: AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Subject: Re: Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VA-GOV-22-0508)

EXTERNAL SENDER

In further response to your FOIA request of May 24, 2022, Section 2.2-3704.H. provides: "In any case where a public body determines in advance that charges for producing the requested records are likely to exceed \$200, the public body may, before continuing to process the request, require the requester to pay a deposit not to exceed the amount of the advance determination." In your case, the advance determination is \$738.88. This includes the expense of reviewing documents for responsiveness and potential exemptions.

If you desire us to proceed with your request, please remit a check made payable to the Treasurer of Virginia, and mail it to my attention at 1111 E. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

Denise Burch

On Tue, May 31, 2022 at 1:38 PM FOIA Office, Governor's <foia@governor.virginia.gov> wrote:
Thank you for your FOIA request of May 24, 2022, at 10:23 am.

Based upon our ongoing inquiries, we find it necessary to invoke the seven day provision of Section 2.2-3704B4.

Denise Burch

On Tue, May 24, 2022 at 10:23 AM AO Records <records@americanoversight.org> wrote:

Dear FOIA Officer:

Please find attached a request for records under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

Sincerely,

--

Marwah Adhoob, on behalf of Karl Frisch

Pronouns: she/her

Paralegal

American Oversight

records@americanoversight.org

www.americanoversight.org | @weareoversight

VFOIA: VA-GOV-22-0508



Moran, Matt <matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov>

CLIPS ROUNDUP 3/13

1 message

Stevens, Austin

To: Austin Stevens

Bcc: matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov

Sun, Mar 13, 2022 at 8:25 AM

Governor Mentions**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS:** Legislation cracks down on catalytic converter thefts, heads to Gov. Youngkin's desk

The Virginia General Assembly approved legislation Saturday to toughen the penalty for stealing catalytic converters. The emission control devices have become popular targets for thieves to cut out of a vehicle's exhaust system. Thefts have increased across the country over the last two years as prices for the precious metals they contain have skyrocketed.

WHSV: Virginia lawmakers adjourn regular session with state budget unfinished (By John Hood)

Over the last two months lawmakers in Virginia's General Assembly have put in hours of work, going through hundreds of bills, and passing new legislation but on its final day of session leaders were unable to pass the state's budget for the next two years.

WDBJ: General Assembly adjourns without approving state budget (By Joe Dashiell)

The regular session of the Virginia General Assembly came to an end on Saturday, but the work will continue. Lawmakers leave Richmond without completing their most important task, approving a new two-year spending plan.

THE WASHINGTON POST: Virginia General Assembly adjourns with job unfinished (By Laura Vozzella and Gregory S. Schneider)

The General Assembly wrapped up its 60-day session Saturday without an agreement on the two-year state budget or dozens of other bills, kicking all of that legislation down the road for a special session. The budget impasse reflects the new political reality in Virginia's divided Capitol, where Republicans regained the House and Executive Mansion after two years in the political wilderness and Democrats who control the Senate have found ways to flex their limited power.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: General Assembly adjourns, but the state budget is still pending (By Mel Leonor)

Virginia legislators closed out their 60-day regular session Saturday without approving the state's budget, teeing up a special session in the coming weeks to finish their work. Budget negotiators remained at loggerheads over a package of planned tax cuts, namely, a proposed elimination of the state's grocery tax and an increase of the state's standard deduction on the individual income tax.

ROYAL EXAMINER: Governor Glenn Youngkin statement on the General Assembly's adjournment

On March 12, 2022, Governor Glenn Youngkin offered the following statement on the General Assembly's adjournment: "I'm encouraged with the recent progress on the budget and I'm grateful to the members on both sides of the aisle for their efforts. We need to finalize tax relief, lab schools, and other bipartisan priorities including investing in education, funding law enforcement, and addressing our behavioral health crisis, among others. As I said last week, it could take time to get the budget right. I'd ask that the negotiators work quickly. Virginians are ready and together we can deliver for them all," said Governor Youngkin.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: With budget work unfinished, Virginia lawmakers go home, will return (By Sarah Rankin)

Virginia's divided part-time Legislature, unable to reach an agreement on a budget, opted to adjourn Saturday and reconvene later at the call of the governor to finish the year's work. Both chambers agreed to a resolution Saturday that allows the budget bills and a wide range of other measures that were still being negotiated to be carried over to a special session.

WLRN: Democratic governor who lifted mask mandate early explains why it was the right move (By Tamara Keith)

A Virginia Beach legislator who previously tried to get a Portsmouth lawmaker recalled led an effort this week to kill one of that state senator's bills, which would have reformed Portsmouth's rules on recalling elected officials. The bill, introduced by Sen. Louise Lucas and supported by Del. Don Scott — both Portsmouth Democrats— received bipartisan support in the Senate and was approved with a 14-7 vote by a House committee earlier this month.

CNN: 'They got what they ordered, right?': Democrats search for a midterm message at party gatherings (By Eric Bradner)

In the Virginia governor's race last year, Democrats tried to cast Republican Glenn Youngkin as a version of Trump with what Biden called "a smile and a fleece vest" -- but Youngkin won anyway.

THE WASHINGTON POST: Democrats take aim at Iowa as they seek to change their nominating system (By Dan Balz)

It was only four months ago, after Republican Glenn Youngkin defeated Democrat Terry McAuliffe in the Virginia governor's race, that Democrats were lamenting their terrible showing among rural White voters, a phenomenon that worsened after Donald Trump was elected in 2016. Many Democrats were asking then: How can the party win back those voters?

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: 30 reasons why the Virginia General Assembly session mattered

Virginia legislators adjourned on Saturday leaving plenty of unfinished business for an upcoming special session. For instance, lawmakers still must resolve a state budget that hinges on the extent of tax cuts, as well as funding formulas for lab schools and construction of a potential stadium for the NFL's Washington Commanders.

Local Stories

WSLS: Winter weather leads to widespread power outages across Central, Southwest Virginia (By Lindsey Kennett)

Thousands will start their Sunday in the dark. Appalachian Power reports more than 2,000 customers without service as of 5:45 a.m. Sunday. There are pockets of outages all across Southwest and Central Virginia including areas in Roanoke City/County and near the North Carolina border.

WTVR: People in these Virginia localities should continue to wear masks, CDC advises

There is more good news for many Virginians. There are even more localities in the Commonwealth where healthy people can safely take a break from wearing masks, according to the latest weekly update from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

THE ROANOKE TIMES: 'Resilient' Virginia Tech Hokies are now 'forever champions' (By Mark Berman)

After losing to Miami on a halfcourt heave at the buzzer on Jan. 26, the Virginia Tech men's basketball team was in the ACC cellar with a 2-7 league record. Those Hokies are now ACC champions — for the first time in the program's history.

National Stories

THE HILL: Iran says it fired missiles near US consulate in Iraq (By Rachel Scully)

Iran on Sunday claimed responsibility for several missile strikes near the U.S. consulate complex in the northern Iraqi city of Irbil, saying that the attack was retaliation for an Israeli strike in Syria that killed two members of the Iran Revolutionary Guard.

NEW YORK TIMES: Ukraine War Ushers In 'New Era' for U.S. Abroad (By Michael Crowley and Edward Wong)

The war in Ukraine has prompted the biggest rethinking of American foreign policy since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, infusing the United States with a new sense of mission and changing its strategic calculus with allies and adversaries alike. The Russian invasion has bonded America to Europe more tightly than at any time since the Cold War and deepened U.S. ties with Asian allies, while forcing a reassessment of rivals like China, Iran and Venezuela.

THE HILL: Democrats divided over proposal to suspend federal gas tax (By Alexander Bolton)

A proposal to suspend the federal gas tax is gaining political momentum among Senate Democrats who are worried that high gas prices will hurt them in the midterm election.



Moran, Matt <matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov>

CLIPS ROUNDUP 5/3

1 message

Stevens, Austin
To: Austin Stevens

Tue, May 3, 2022 at 7:19 AM

Governor Mentions

WRIC: Gov. Youngkin visits vandalized Henrico mosque, condemns violence (By Jackie DeFusco)

Governor Glenn Youngkin paid a visit to a recently vandalized mosque on an important Muslim holiday. There, Youngkin condemned the acts of violence and committed to a partnership. Youngkin's tour comes as the West End Islamic Center in Glen Allen celebrates Eid, which marks the end of a 30-day fast. It follows two reports of vandalism at the center in less than one year.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Thousands visit Richmond-area mosques for Eid, including Gov. Glenn Youngkin (By Chris Suarez)

Youngkin said he was encouraged to see the development of the mosque and the community's response to the incident. He also said that his administration would seek to support them by condemning the incident.

WTVR: Gov. Youngkin visits West End Islamic Center hit by vandalism (By Cameron Thompson)

Governor Glenn Youngkin visited a Henrico Islamic Center that has been the target of vandals twice in the last sixth months. The visit also fell on the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr. The holiday marks the end of Ramadan.

WWBT: Gov. Youngkin visits West End Islamic Center following recent vandalism of prayer space (By Desiree Montilla)

Governor Glenn Youngkin met with several leaders from the West End Islamic Center on Monday afternoon to tour the facility following the center's recent cases of vandalism. Around two weeks ago, members of the West End Islamic Center found around \$2,500 worth of damage done to the prayer room during the holy month of Ramadan.

VPM: Youngkin's education secretary says her goal is preparing students for jobs (By Ben Paviour)

Virginia's top education official says the state is "resting on our laurels" when it comes to educating public school students. In a forum hosted by a conservative think tank last month, Secretary of Education Aimee Guidera said her top goal is preparing students for the job market.

THE CENTER SQUARE: Youngkin ceremonially signed Virginia Literacy Act (By Tyler Arnold)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin ceremonially signed the bipartisan Virginia Literacy Act, which is meant to improve literacy development in the education system, with a focus on early childhood literacy.

PATCH: Ryan Zimmerman Day Proclaimed By Virginia Gov. Youngkin (By Mark Hand)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin proclaimed Saturday as Ryan Zimmerman Day as the University of Virginia retired the former Cavalier and Washington Nationals baseball player's No. 11 in Charlottesville.

WRC: U-Va. Retires Ryan Zimmerman's No. 11 as Gov. Youngkin Issues Proclamation (By Matt Weyrich)

April 30, 2022 will be forever distinguished in the Commonwealth of Virginia as Ryan Zimmerman Day, Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced Saturday as Zimmerman's alma mater, the University of Virginia, held a pregame ceremony to retire the former infielder's jersey number.

WWBT: Virginia lawmakers react to report suggesting Supreme Court will overturn abortion rights

After multiple reports that the United States Supreme Court will overturn abortion rights, Virginia lawmakers are starting to weigh in on the decision. Roe v. Wade, which established a woman's right to an abortion, was passed in 1973.

Hundreds of abandoned boats across the Commonwealth are putting a strain on marina owners' pockets while putting wildlife at risk. Life at sea becomes rocky when owners abandon their boats.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Virginia lottery board issues 1st casino license

The Virginia Lottery Board recently granted a license for the state's first casino, which developers intend to open in Bristol in 2024. WJHL-TV reports the \$400 million project is expected to include a 300-room hotel, five restaurants, four bars or lounges and a concert venue.

National News

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Election 2022: Voters to decide Ohio's heated Senate primary (By Jill Colvin and Julie Carr Smyth)

Ohio Republicans will vote Tuesday in one of the most contentious and closely watched Senate primaries in the U.S., deciding a race that is an early referendum on former President Donald Trump's hold on the GOP as the midterm primary season kicks into high gear. Author and venture capitalist JD Vance is well positioned in the Republican race to replace retiring Sen. Rob Portman after receiving Trump's late-stage support, capping a bitter and expensive contest that, at one point, saw two candidates nearly come to blows on a debate stage.

POLITICO: Supreme Court has voted to overturn abortion rights, draft opinion shows (By Josh Gerstein and Alexander Ward)

The Supreme Court has voted to strike down the landmark Roe v. Wade decision, according to an initial draft majority opinion written by Justice Samuel Alito circulated inside the court and obtained by POLITICO. The draft opinion is a full-throated, unflinching repudiation of the 1973 decision which guaranteed federal constitutional protections of abortion rights and a subsequent 1992 decision – Planned Parenthood v. Casey – that largely maintained the right. "Roe was egregiously wrong from the start," Alito writes.

CNN: More evacuations take place as New Mexico wildfires spread rapidly and state faces critical fire threat (By Elizabeth Wolfe)

Quickly spreading wildfires in New Mexico drove new evacuations Monday as much of the state is expected to be under a critical fire threat Tuesday. Shifting winds expanded the Calf Canyon and Hermits Peak fires that are burning in the northeast part of the state, according to InciWeb, a centralized source for wildfire information. The fires' expansion prompted new evacuation orders along the blazes' edges Monday and forced the relocation of nearly 200 patients from a psychiatric hospital.

THE NEW YORK TIMES: Supreme Court Rules Against Boston in Case on Christian Flag (By Adam Liptak)

The Supreme Court unanimously ruled on Monday that the City of Boston had violated the First Amendment when it refused to let a private group raise a Christian flag in front of its City Hall.

CNN: Putin may soon officially declare war on Ukraine, US and Western officials say (By Natasha Bertrand, Katie Bo Lillis, Jennifer Hansler, Alex Marquardt and Brad Lendon)

Russian President Vladimir Putin could formally declare war on Ukraine as soon as May 9, a move that would enable the full mobilization of Russia's reserve forces as invasion efforts continue to falter, US and Western officials believe. May 9, known as "Victory Day" inside of Russia, commemorates the country's defeat of the Nazis in 1945. Western officials have long believed that Putin would leverage the symbolic significance and propaganda value of that day to announce either a military achievement in Ukraine, a major escalation of hostilities -- or both.

VA Conservative

THE ROANOKE STAR: Roanoke Region Gets Tourism Financial Boosts From Richmond

In a May 2 Press Release, the Youngkin administration announced 259 tourism programs across the Old Dominion will get public-private marketing funds to help boost the state's crucial tourism industry.

THE REPUBLICAN STANDARD: Inside Day 2 Of RPV, Youngkin Excited About GOP Future (By Eric Burk)

Attendees at the Republican Party of Virginia (RPV) Advance heard speeches from two GOP governors who are talked about as potential presidential or vice presidential candidates. Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin gave the luncheon address on Saturday, and South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem gave a dinner speech that was part self-introduction, part exhortation to RPV insiders.

BEARING DRIFT: Local Tourism Programs to Receive Public-Private Marketing Funds to Bolster Economic Recovery

To kick off National Travel and Tourism Week, Governor Glenn Youngkin announced today that more than \$2.7 million in matching grant and reimbursable sponsorship funds will be awarded to 259 local and regional tourism programs as part of the Virginia Tourism Corporation's (VTC) Marketing Leverage Program (MLP) and Regional Marketing Program (RMP).

THE REPUBLICAN STANDARD: Youngkin Celebrates Correctional Officers' Week (By Austin Hamblen)

Governor Glenn Youngkin has proclaimed May 1 through May 7 to be Correctional Officers' Week in Virginia, a time to honor the men and women who serve on the front line of Virginia's prisons. In a press release, Harold Clarke, Director of the Virginia Department of Corrections, expressed his support for the action, saying he was grateful that the corrections officers were receiving recognition for the services they provide beyond just supervising inmates:

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Austin Stevens
Press Assistant



Moran, Matt <matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov>

CLIPS ROUNDUP 4/16

1 message

Stevens, Austin <
 To: Austin Stevens <
 Bcc: matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov

Sat, Apr 16, 2022 at 8:28 AM

Governor Mentions

WNCN: Virginia governor orders flags at half-staff for 15th anniversary of Virginia Tech massacre (By Kayla Morton)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin ordered flags across Virginia to be lowered to half-staff on Saturday in honor of the 15th anniversary of the Virginia Tech massacre. Thirty-two people were killed, and 17 more were injured, when a Hokie student began shooting on Virginia Tech's campus on April 16, 2007.

WFXR: Youngkin orders flags at half-staff, Kaine shares remarks for 15th anniversary of Virginia Tech mass shooting (By Colleen Guerry)

On Saturday — exactly 15 years after one of America's deadliest mass shootings — Gov. Glenn Youngkin has ordered flags to be lowered across the Commonwealth in honor of the 32 people who lost their lives and the 17 who were injured when a student opened fire on the Virginia Tech campus on April 16, 2007.

WDBJ: Youngkin orders flags flown at half-staff in honor of Virginia Tech shooting victims (By Justin Geary)

Governor Glenn Youngkin announced Friday he will order flags to be flown at half-staff from sunrise April 16 until sunset in memory of the Virginia Tech shooting in 2007 which left 32 people dead, according to Youngkin's team. Saturday marks the 15th anniversary of the shooting.

WCAV: Flags to be lowered in honor of Virginia Tech shooting victims

Flags across Virginia will fly at half-staff on Saturday to honor the lives lost 15 years ago at Virginia Tech. Governor Glenn Youngkin announced on Friday that the flags of the United States and the Commonwealth would be lowered on all state and local buildings and grounds.

WRIC: Why will flags be at half-staff on Saturday? (By Tannock Blair)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced Friday that all flags of the United States of America and the Commonwealth of Virginia will be flown at half-mast on all state and local buildings and grounds throughout the state. The Governor's order is intended to show respect and memory for the 15th Anniversary of the Virginia Tech shooting which took the lives of 32 people.

WWBT: Governor announces additional key administrators

Gov. Glenn Youngkin appointed 26 individuals in key administration positions on Friday listed below.

WRIC: Youngkin gives 2 initial Parole Board picks new jobs (By Dean Mirshahi)

Two of Gov. Glenn Youngkin's initial Virginia Parole Board picks have new jobs within the administration after having their appointments to the board rejected by Senate Democrats. Gov. Youngkin appointed Cheryl Nici-O'Connell and Carmen Williams to the Parole Board days after taking office in January.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Youngkin names former delegate to lead criminal justice agency (By Michael Martz)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin has named a former Republican delegate to lead Virginia's criminal justice services agency, and made the acting state health commissioner a permanent appointment to oversee the state public health system. Youngkin also has picked a new chief information officer to lead the Virginia Information Technologies Agency after his first choice left after less than a month on the job.

THE WASHINGTON TIMES: Virginia governor's ban on teaching 'divisive concepts' sparks battle over race-based U.S. history (By Sean Salai)

AUGUSTA FREE PRESS: Area 2 Farms innovative ag facility creating 30 new jobs in Arlington County

Area 2 Farms will operate a new organic, indoor farm and retail farm store in Arlington County. In addition to growing and selling fresh produce, the company's plans include the production of value-added products featuring items grown at Area 2 Farms.

WHSV: VSP launching "Op Safe Passage" to deter human trafficking

In partnership with U.S. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and the Virginia Trucking Association, the Virginia State Police will be conducting Operation Safe Passage, a high-visibility, human trafficking prevention and public outreach initiative. The operation begins Monday, April 18, 2022, and continues through Wednesday, April 20, 2022. Virginia State Police Motor Carrier Safety Troopers will be positioned at various truck stops, motor carrier service centers and rest areas across the Commonwealth to engage with drivers and to distribute educational materials to raise awareness about human trafficking.

WDBJ: Virginia unemployment rate fell to 3% in March (By Justin Geary)

Governor Glenn Youngkin announced Friday that Virginia's unemployment rate fell to 3% after a 0.2% decrease in March, according to Youngkin's team. Youngkin's team says the labor force increased by 19,532 to 4,311,629, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 4,922 to 131,101 while the number of employed residents rose by 24,454 to 4,180,528.

AUGUSTA FREE PRESS: Virginia adds 2,700 jobs as unemployment rate drops to 3.0 percent in March

The Virginia unemployment rate dropped 0.2 percentage points to 3.0 percent in March, while total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 2,700 jobs. The Commonwealth's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.0 percent is 1.5 percentage points below the rate from a year ago.

WDBJ: Patrick County's old hospital building has new owner (By Leanna Scachetti)

Patrick County's old hospital building now has a new owner and a chance at a hospital once again. According to court records, a Chicago based company named Foresight HS Property Holdings - Blue Ridge, LLC bought the property this month.

THE CENTER SQUARE: Virginia's Youngkin signs 700 bills that cover health care, police and taxes (By Tyler Arnold)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed about 700 bills impacting the economy, health care policy, law enforcement policies, taxes and various other issues. Each bill had some level of bipartisan support, needing approval from the Republican-controlled House of Delegates and the Democratic-controlled Senate.

WTOP: Youngkin vetoes bill related to I-95 winter traffic disaster (By Nick Iannelli)

Among 26 bills vetoed by Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin this week was one addressing the January traffic disaster on Interstate 95 that left hundreds of drivers stranded, some for more than 24 hours. The bill was aimed at preventing a repeat of the icy gridlock on I-95 that was caused by an intense winter storm.

WDBJ: Governor's vetoes likely to stand, when lawmakers return to Richmond (By Joe Dashiell)

State lawmakers will return to Richmond a week from Wednesday to act on Governor Youngkin's vetoes. So, what are the chances they will vote to override?

WTKR: New Virginia law would require larger businesses to post information on seizure aid (By Eris Gee)

A new law is set to go into effect in Virginia that will call for businesses to display information about seizure first aid. On July 1, 2022, The Department of Labor and Industry are expecting employers to physically post this information for businesses with 25 or more employees.

THE WASHINGTON POST: Youngkin proposes new crimes for pot possession, changes to CBD retail (By Kariana Elwood)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) has proposed increasing the penalty for personal possession of more than two ounces of marijuana in Virginia, less than a year after it became the first state in the South to legalize recreational use. Youngkin's

amendment would also limit what hemp products can be sold — a change that some CBD sellers saw as a victory compared to the more restrictive bill that came to his desk.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Former Virginia Parole Board members get new Youngkin administration jobs (By Sarah Rankin)

Two of the Virginia Parole Board members whose appointments were blocked by Senate Democrats earlier this year have found new jobs in Gov. Glenn Youngkin's administration. Carmen Williams and Cheryl Nici-O'Connell will serve as policy advisors, Williams in the Department of Juvenile Justice and Nici-O'Connell in the Department of Corrections. Their appointments were included in more than two dozen Youngkin's office rolled out Friday afternoon.

THE NEWS VIRGINIAN: Youngkin Budget Amendments Would Delay Augusta County Courthouse Referendum, Add Costs (By Bob Stuart)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin has drastically amended General Assembly legislation authorizing a November referendum on the move of the Augusta County Courthouse, delaying the referendum until 2023. The Youngkin amendments call for two sets of plans by two architects selected by a judge, and having the plans made available two months before a referendum. Another Youngkin amendment to the legislation passed in March would delay the referendum until at least November 2023.

THE WASHINGTON POST: VMI alumni push to reverse diversity reforms, invoking critical race theory (By Ian Shapira)

Conservative Virginia Military Institute alumni are using a petition drive and a lawsuit to challenge diversity, equity and inclusion efforts at the nation's oldest state-supported military college, ignoring the priorities of VMI's first Black superintendent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Kansas governor nixes bills on trans athletes, parents' role (By John Hanna)

Republicans across the U.S. also have seen parental control in public schools as a potent issue since Republican Glenn Youngkin won the Virginia governor's race last year after raising it.

STATE SCOOP: Virginia Gov. Youngkin names transportation IT chief as CIO (By Colin Wood)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin on Friday named commonwealth transportation IT chief Robert "Bob" Osmond as statewide chief information officer.

WTTG: Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin facing lawsuit from media organizations after denying FOIA requests (By Katie Barlow)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin is facing a lawsuit over refusing to provide records related to the tip line he set up in his first few weeks in office soliciting information about what is being taught in schools.

BUZZFEED: The Right's Political Strategy Against LGBTQ People Is Just Repackaging Anger About Masks And Critical Race Theory (By David Mack)

Tim Miller, a gay man who served as communications director for Jeb Bush's 2016 presidential bid before quitting the Republican party in 2020, said his old colleagues on the right were energized and inspired by Glenn Youngkin's successful bid for the Virginia governorship last year on a campaign that emphasized parental sway over schools and curriculum.

SALON: There are no moderate Republicans: Greg Abbott, Glenn Youngkin and GOP self-immolation (By Sophia Tesfaye)

For another example, consider Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, who this week vetoed dozens of bills passed in bipartisan fashion — including a three-year statute of limitations on the collection of medical debt — purely as revenge on Democrats in the state legislature. Youngkin, who ran as an approximate moderate and kept his distance from Trump, is now recommending increased criminal penalties for marijuana possession after pledging during his campaign to not roll back marijuana legalization in the commonwealth.

BLUE VIRGINIA: With His Trumpist Appointment to Head Up the Commonwealth Commission on Higher Education, Youngkin Continues His Assault on Virginia Public Education

Meet Glenn Youngkin's latest horrible appointment, this time as Chairman of the Commonwealth Commission on Higher Education (see below). In short, this guy co-founded the hard-right "Heritage Foundation," is a huge Trump cultist, a climate science denier/minimizer, the proverbial "whole nine yards."

Local News

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Campaign fields narrow as money gushes into congressional races (By Michael Martz)

https://mail.google.com/mail/b/AHuVXTpBb0orvLv6DRrhDd3VCqT_igCeSQrvchIMyZEV27j5JLru/u/0/?ik=7b350117c0&view=pt&search=all&permthid=... 3/4

Rep. Abigail Spanberger, D-7th, knows she's one of the top targets in the country for Republicans who want to seize control of Congress in the midterm elections, but she's well-financed for the challenge. Spanberger, seeking her third term in Congress but her first in a newly configured district that no longer includes the Richmond suburbs, has raised more than \$4.2 million, including more than \$1.1 million in the last quarter, ending March 31.

WTOP: 1 wounded in shooting at a Prince William Co. high school (By Abigail Constantino)

One person has been wounded and hospitalized in a shooting in Prince William County, Virginia. It happened at a carnival located at Gar-Field High School in Woodbridge Friday night.

WRIC: State Police Bomb Squad investigates live bomb in Virginia Goodwill donation (By Cassidy Hammond)

A Virginia State Police investigation required the help of their Bomb Squad division Friday afternoon. Suffolk Fire and Rescue was called to the 6500 block of Hampton Roads Parkway around 1 p.m. on report of a grenade being found near the Goodwill.

WTVR: This new Virginia law helps maintain Black cemeteries: 'It's past due' (By Maggi Marshall)

In Richmond and across Virginia, many historically Black cemeteries haven't been taken care of over the last decades. Many, like the Evergreen Cemetery in Richmond, are overgrown and unrecognizable.

WRIC: 20-year-old Virginia native 'missing in action' Korean War soldier laid to rest over 70 years later (By Cassidy Hammond)

The over 70-year-old remains of a U.S. soldier killed during the Korean War will soon finally be put to rest. Virginia native, Army Sgt. Elwood M. Truslow, will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery April 22.

National News

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: 5,000 under evacuation orders as New Mexico wildfire rages (By Susan Montoya Bryan)

Douglas Siddens' mother was among those who made it out with just the clothes on her back when a deadly, wind-fueled wildfire ripped through a mountain community in southern New Mexico. The RV park where she lived was reduced to "metal frame rails and steel wheels," said Siddens, who managed the site

AXIOS: Trump endorses JD Vance in Ohio Senate race (By Erin Doherty)

Former President Trump on Friday endorsed Republican JD Vance in Ohio's Senate primary.

THE HILL: Bidens report \$610K in income, Harris and husband report \$1.65M (By Brett Samuels and Alex Gangitano)

President Biden and first lady Jill Biden made a combined income of \$610,702 last year while Vice President Harris and her husband made more than \$1.65 million, according to documents published by the White House on Friday based on the couples' 2021 tax returns.

VA Conservative

BACON'S REBELLION: NOW They Sue (By Kerry Dougherty)

They're so dang proud of themselves. My former employer, The Virginian-Pilot, is so delighted with itself for joining with other corporate news outlets to sue Gov. Glenn Youngkin that they've Tweeted about it six times and even put it on the front page for the ever-dwindling number of people who still subscribe.

BACON'S REBELLION: More on Vetoes (By Dick Hall-Sizemore)

At least one reader has requested that I post a list of all the bills that Governor Youngkin vetoed, along with summaries of the bills and the Governor's explanation for his veto. Such a list is at the end of this post.

--
Austin Stevens
Press Assistant



Moran, Matt <matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov>

CLIPS ROUNDUP 4/21

1 message

Stevens, Aust:
 To: Austin Stev
 Bcc: matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov

Thu, Apr 21, 2022 at 7:06 AM

Governor Mentions

WWBT: 'We want to make real change': Adam's Law signed by Gov. Youngkin (By Desiree Montilla)

Among the hundreds of bills Governor Glenn Youngkin signed into law, one aims to expand hazing education and training on college campuses. Last week, Governor Youngkin signed "Adam's Law," a piece of legislation named in memory of Adam Oakes, who died from alcohol poisoning after accepting a bid to join the Delta Chi chapter at Virginia Commonwealth University in Feb. 2021.

AUGUSTA FREE PRESS: Google pledges \$250K to Virginia computer science education

Google announced on Tuesday a \$250,000 grant to Virginia's computer science advocacy and service provider, CodeVA, which will help develop a network of Computer Science Lab Schools, provide computer science professional development opportunities for computer science teachers and expand computer science resources for Virginia's students and workers looking to re-skill for the knowledge economy.

VIRGINIA MERCURY: Youngkin wants to further loosen hiring requirements for health district directors (By Kate Masters)

An amendment sought by Gov. Glenn Youngkin would significantly loosen criteria on who could lead local health departments, giving the state's commissioner of health broad authority to appoint anyone they deemed qualified. The proposed changes to legislation passed by the General Assembly have raised eyebrows among some local health officials amid concerns over waning trust in public health agencies and, in some cases, efforts to oust leaders elsewhere over early lockdown measures and other COVID-19 precautions.

POLITICO: Youngkin prepares to wade into national politics (By Alex Isenstadt)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin is preparing to take a step into national politics by launching a pair of new political groups ahead of the midterm election. Youngkin's new operation will allow him to wade into gubernatorial races across the country on behalf of GOP candidates.

FOX NEWS: MSNBC's Nicolle Wallace compares DeSantis, Youngkin education bills to Russian soldiers raping children (By Lindsay Kornick)

"Deadline: White House" host Nicolle Wallace wholeheartedly condemned the recent education bills passed by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin as "dehumanization" tactics on Wednesday. During her MSNBC show, she spoke with Bulwark writer Tim Miller on recent efforts by Republicans DeSantis and Youngkin to pass parental rights in education bills in their states.

NATIONAL REVIEW: MSNBC's Nicolle Wallace Compares DeSantis, Youngkin Parental Choice Bills to 'Russian War Tactics' (By Caroline Downey)

MSNBC host Nicolle Wallace, reacting to the fury in Florida over the recently codified Parental Rights in Education bill prohibiting sexuality instruction for kindergartners through third graders, compared such legislation to "Russian war tactics" of "dehumanization." Referring to the Republican governors who've spearheaded these measures, namely Glenn Youngkin and Ron DeSantis, Wallace lamented how effective their rhetoric and "politics of 'parental choice,'" she said using scare quotes, have been at winning the ideological issue.

MEDIAITE: Nicolle Wallace Accuses GOP of 'Dehumanizing' Political Opponents: That's How 'Russians Get the Soldiers to Rape Children' (By Kipp Jones)

MSNBC's Nicolle Wallace invoked Russian troops who "rape children" Wednesday while slamming GOP culture war tactics. On Deadline: White House, the host ripped Republicans who have governed on platforms which offer parents a

https://mail.google.com/mail/b/AHuVXTpBb0orvLv6DRrhDd3VCqT_igCeSQrvchIMyZE27j5JLru/u/0/?ik=7b350117c0&view=pt&search=all&permthid=... 1/5

VA-GOV-22-0508-A-000012

choice regarding what is in their children's curriculum.

NEWSBUSTERS: MSNBC: DeSantis, Youngkin Just Like Russians Who 'Rape Children' in Ukraine (By Nicholas Fondacaro)

MSNBC host Nicolle Wallace proved just how unhinged she was on Wednesday's Deadline: White House when she whined about Republicans supposedly using the "tactic of war" known as "dehumanization" in pursuing parental rights legislation. And to get the point across, she viciously declared that Republican Governors Ron DeSantis (FL) and Glenn Youngkin (VA) are just like the Russian invaders of Ukraine who "rape children."

DAILY CALLER: Nicolle Wallace Compares DeSantis, Youngkin To Russian Soldiers Raping Kids (By Nicole Silverio)

MSNBC's Nicolle Wallace compared Republican Govs. Ron DeSantis of Florida and Glenn Youngkin of Virginia to Russian soldiers raping kids during a Wednesday segment of "Deadline: White House."

THE WASHINGTON POST: Gas Tax Holiday Concludes In Maryland As Virginia Debates Its Own (By Laura Vozzella and Erin Cox)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin tipped his hat to the state next door as his plan for a gas tax holiday advanced in Richmond, but his bill faces stiffer opposition than what Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan pulled off on his side of the Potomac. As Maryland's 30-day gas tax reprieve wrapped up, Youngkin compared his five-month plan for easing pain at the pump to the one Hogan delivered.

SHORE DAILY NEWS: House Committee Advances Youngkin's Proposed 3 Month Gas Tax Moratorium

Governor Glenn Youngkin today praised delegates in the House Finance Committee for their important procedural vote to move his gas tax proposal to the House Appropriations Committee, following testimony from everyday Virginians about the impact of rising prices on their budgets.

WSET: Virginia lawmakers divided over who would actually benefit from gas tax holiday (By Claire Galt)

On Tuesday, the Virginia House of Delegates Finance Committee approved a bill that would suspend the \$0.26 per gallon gasoline tax from May 1 to July 31. If a gas tax holiday is passed, the hope is that savings to distributors will filter down to station owners and then consumers when they fill up.

MARYLAND MATTERS: Even after 30 months, MDOT says 'Beltway Accord' remains a work in progress (By Bruce DePuyt)

In late 2019, Maryland Gov. Lawrence J. Hogan Jr. (R) and then-Virginia Gov. Ralph S. Northam (D) announced a \$1 billion agreement to rebuild the American Legion Bridge. Appearing with little notice at a transportation forum in Washington, D.C., the two men signed a placard with the words "Capital Beltway," as news cameras rolled and photographers captured the moment.

THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: 'Who is my representative?' Goldman asks in bid to force House elections (By Michael Martz)

The attorney general included an affidavit by Commissioner of Elections Susan Beals, recently appointed by Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin, that noted Goldman is registered to vote at his residence on Grove Avenue. His residence previously sat in the 68th but now lies in the new 78th. She did not address whether or not he voted in the last election.

HENRICO CITIZEN: Virginia State Police conducting anti-trafficking operation

Virginia State Police officials this month have been conducting a new program designed to fight human trafficking. "Operation Safe Passage" is a high-visibility, human trafficking prevention and public outreach initiative created in partnership with U.S. Homeland Security Investigations and the Virginia Trucking Association.

WSLS: Where does recreational marijuana stand in Virginia? (By Lindsey Kennett)

On Wednesday, recreational marijuana advocates joined together in Roanoke for the first-ever Cannabis Family Reunion, an expo featuring vendors, informational talks, and medical cannabis resources. It was organized by Clarissa Clarke, the founder of Bodhi Lounge, a new legal private cannabis lounge.

WVTF: The sponsor of solitary confinement study is ok with governor's amendment (By Michael Pope)

Lawmakers will return to Richmond next week to consider several amendments from the governor to legislation from the General Assembly. One of those amendments alters a bill aimed at limiting the use of solitary confinement in Virginia prisons.

WTTG: Gas tax holiday bill clears Virginia House committee (By Maureen Umeh)

Drivers in the Commonwealth could soon see some relief at the pump. The House Finance Committee has approved a bill that would eliminate the gas tax in Virginia for three months starting in May.

WDVM: Youngkin proposal to suspend gas tax moves forward after Republicans reject alternative plan from Democrats (By Dean Mirshahi)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin's proposal to suspend Virginia's gas tax for three months cleared a hurdle Tuesday in a contentious meeting where Republicans rejected Democrats' push for direct payments as an alternative. The Republican-controlled Virginia House Finance Committee voted to move a Youngkin-backed bill that proposes to suspend the state's gas tax of 26 cents a gallon for three months forward to the chamber's Appropriations Committee.

THE CENTER SQUARE: Virginia House committee advances gas tax suspension bill (By Tyler Arnold)

Republican-backed legislation that would suspend Virginia's tax on gasoline for three months advanced through its first House committee, but will likely face pushback from Senate Democrats if it ultimately passes the House of Delegates. House Bill 6001, sponsored by Del. Tara Durant, R-Stafford, passed the Republican-controlled Committee on Finance on a voice vote. It will now be considered by the Appropriations Committee.

WJLA: Va. senator questions Youngkin's competency as gas tax holiday enters budget negotiations (By Nick Minock)

Now that Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's 90-day gas tax holiday has passed the House Finance Committee, it is now in state budget negotiations, which is exactly where he wants it to be. "I'm hopeful they will move fast," Youngkin said in Reston on Tuesday. "The reality is it is time. It's time to cut taxes. It's time to get moving. Virginians have waited long enough. So, I'm hopeful as a part of all of this movement this week we are getting closer and closer to our Senate leadership and House leadership meeting minds on a budget and sending it to me to sign."

AUGUSTA FREE PRESS: Virginia faith leaders release open letter denouncing war in Ukraine

Previously, the group has welcomed First Lady Jill Biden, Anthony Fauci, M.D., U.S. senators, and both current-Gov. Youngkin and former-Gov. Northam.

VPM: Department of Education hands over record after Reporters Committee files lawsuit (By Ben Paviour)

The Virginia Department of Education handed over a file on Tuesday related to Gov. Glenn Youngkin's first executive orders. State officials had previously blocked the file from public release. The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press filed a lawsuit earlier this month on behalf of a VPM News reporter who sought a record that VDOE claimed was exempt from public release.

WTKR: News 3 obtains Youngkin documents on executive orders after joining other media outlets in lawsuit over public records access (By Zak Dahlheimer)

News 3 strives to fight for you and what you need to know every day. This includes suing for access of public records.

MSNBC: The fight to see Youngkin's 'snitch' line responses is just getting started (By Ja'han Jones)

Last week, I covered Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's ongoing effort to hide submissions sent to the "tip line" his office created for parents seeking to snitch on educators who teach "divisive concepts" in school. As a refresher: The Republican governor's team is blocking Freedom of Information Act requests from several media outlets — including NBCUniversal, which owns MSNBC — that want to report on the so-called tips his office received.

THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Schapiro: Va. higher ed readies for lowdown from Youngkin (By Jeff E. Schapiro)

A little-noticed legal opinion by Republican Attorney General Jason Miyares that targets historically Black institutions, but might also apply to religious schools, argues it's legally OK to pump more public money into private four-year colleges. Glenn Youngkin, the Republican governor, packs a panel created nearly two decades ago to reduce partisanship in the oversight of higher education with identifiable partisans, among them the founder of an influential conservative think tank that attacks campus liberalism.

THE WASHINGTON TIMES: The pathetic 'top 10' slate of Democrats for 2024 (By Joseph Curl)

The list of candidates likely to vie for the Republican presidential nomination in 2024 reads like a who's who of power politics: former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, hotshot Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Tim

Scott of South Carolina, former Vice President Mike Pence, former U.N. ambassador Nikki Haley, superstar Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida, and of course, a guy named Donald Trump.

VIRGINIA MERCURY: What new Virginia laws reveal about how the natural gas industry sees its future (By Ivy Main)

Natural gas is having a moment. The war in Ukraine spotlighted Europe's heavy reliance on Russian gas and the challenge of replacing it with new supplies from elsewhere. Suddenly the Biden administration, after talking so much about the need to get off fossil fuels, wants to expand oil and gas production and boost exports of liquified natural gas.

THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: John S. Edwards and Patrick A. Hope column: Removing the tobacco surcharge would lower health care costs (By John S. Edwards and Patrick A. Hope)

Virginia's Joint Commission on Health Care initiated a study in 2021 on the affordability of health insurance in the individual market. The high cost of health insurance is a great concern to many families in the commonwealth.

PATCH: Balance of Power (By Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum)

Virginians have never gotten along well with what they consider "excessive executive power." Even as residents of a Royal Colony, they railed against King George III for a number of ills real and imagined about which he bore the blame even if fault more accurately could be laid at the feet of members of Parliament.

THE DAILY PROGRESS: Editorial: Now, governor backs slumlords over tenants

First, Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin vetoed two new laws that protected medical patients from overly aggressive medical debt collectors. Now, we discover that he also vetoed a law that cracks down on slumlords.

BLUE VIRGINIA: Happy 4/20 Virginia, Governor Youngkin and Republicans Continue to Try and Criminalize Weed

This past week, Governor Youngkin broke yet another promise to Virginians and is now attempting to roll back cannabis legalization by reinstating criminal penalties. Governor Youngkin has proposed a penalty for personal possession of more than two ounces of marijuana and limits to the sale of hemp and CBD products.

Local News

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: State board that reviews jail deaths met Wednesday without any public notice (By Patrick Wilson)

Members of a state board that reviews all jail deaths met Wednesday without giving public notice or posting the meeting on the agency's website – violations of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. A Board of Local and Regional Jails committee meeting was listed for 9 a.m. Thursday on two separate state websites.

NBC NEWS: 2 sailors assigned to USS George Washington die by suicide a day apart (By Melissa Chan)

At least two of the three Navy shipmates found dead in Virginia in less than a week died by suicide, including a 23-year-old newlywed who "never showed his pain," family members and officials said Wednesday. Retail Services Specialist 3rd Class Mika'il Rayshawn Sharp died by suicide off-base in Portsmouth on April 9, said his mother, Natalie Jefferson.

WVTF: AG Miyares uses new law to help an innocent Virginian (By Michael Pope)

Virginia's attorney general is using a new law to help free an innocent man from prison. Until recently, defendants serving prison sentences had to be very careful when they tried to prove their innocence to a court.

WTOP: Arlington parents call for increased teacher pay, smaller class sizes in next year's budget (By Scott Gelman)

A group of parents in Arlington, Virginia, is urging the county's board to allot additional funding to its school system in the next fiscal year's budget. The group Arlington Parents for Education said in a letter to the board this week that more money should be provided so that class sizes can be smaller, teacher pay can be competitive with surrounding school districts and student mental health and learning loss can be addressed.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Rotary Club of Richmond pledges funds to Ukraine aid

The Rotary Club of Richmond is donating \$75,000 for the global disaster relief organization ShelterBox USA and its response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and is launching a public campaign with a goal of doubling the amount.

National News

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: U.S. Capitol briefly evacuated over plane carrying Army parachute team for Nationals game (By Michael Balsamo and Zeke Miller)

The U.S. Capitol was briefly evacuated Wednesday evening after police identified an aircraft that they said posed "a probable threat" — but the plane was actually carrying members of the U.S. Army Golden Knights, who then parachuted into Nationals Park for a pregame demonstration. The alert from the U.S. Capitol Police sent congressional staffers fleeing from the Capitol and legislative building around 6:30 p.m.

VIRGINIA MERCURY: CDC concludes a mask mandate is still needed for travelers, clearing way for court battle (By Jacob Fischler)

The Biden administration will fight a court decision for the authority to mandate masks on airplanes, trains and other public transit, following a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendation Wednesday night that a mandate was still needed. The CDC said in a statement that the mandate keeps transportation safer for immunocompromised people and the greater public.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Many say Biden not tough enough on Russia: AP-NORC poll (By Nomaan Merchant and Hannah Fingerhut)

Many Americans still question whether President Joe Biden is showing enough strength in response to Russia's war against Ukraine, even as most approve of steps the U.S. is already taking and few want U.S. troops to get involved in the conflict. A poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows 54% of Americans think Biden has been "not tough enough" in his response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

NBC NEWS: Biden administration seeks to expand access to treatment amid opioid epidemic (By Zoë Richards)

The Biden administration will send its drug control strategy to Congress on Thursday as officials scramble for ways to curb the deepening opioid and overdose crisis. The 2022 National Drug Control Strategy focuses on addressing untreated addiction and drug trafficking, two critical drivers of the overdose epidemic, which claimed nearly 107,000 lives from November 2020 to November 2021, the White House said in a fact sheet.

VA Conservative

KERRY: UNEMPLOYED & UNEDITED: Play Stupid Games, Win Stupid Prizes (By Kerry Dougherty)

Look who's crying now. Virginia Democrats, who launched ugly attacks on Gov. Glenn Youngkin's religious beliefs in his second week in office and who spent the entire session bragging about how they were a "brick wall" blocking most of his initiatives, are suddenly bawling because the governor vetoed 26 bills.

BEARING DRIFT: Leahy: Harry Byrd's Political Descendants Versus Virginians' Voting Rights (By Norman Leahy)

Think about that for a second. The current and former Virginia attorney general — Jason Miyares (R) and Mark R. Herring (D), respectively) — plus their legal teams, plus the Democratic and Republican leaders of the General Assembly, plus current Gov. Glenn Youngkin, a Republican, and former governor Ralph Northam, a Democrat, have no apparent problems with this situation.

THE REPUBLICAN STANDARD: Virginia House Finance Committee Sends Gas Tax Holiday Bill to Appropriations Committee (By Austin Hamblen)

House Finance Committee Republicans advanced Governor Glenn Youngkin's gas tax holiday bill and killed Democrats' alternate \$50-per-car tax refund proposal on Tuesday. The bill includes a 100-percent motor fuels tax reduction from May 1 through July 31, a 50 percent reduction in August, and a 25 percent reduction in September.

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Austin Stevens
Press F
Work C



Moran, Matt <matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov>

CLIPS ROUNDUP 4/15

1 message

Stevens, Austin

Fri, Apr 15, 2022 at 7:26 AM

To: Austin Stevens

Bcc: matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov

Governor Mentions**RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH:** With Virginia revenues surging, Youngkin touts tax cuts on CNBC (By Michael Martz)

With state revenues continuing to rise, Gov. Glenn Youngkin took his public campaign for tax cuts to the same national stage on which Virginia twice was named "best state for business." Youngkin appeared on CNBC's "Morning Squawk Box" on Thursday to tout the state's economic rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic and call for the General Assembly to adopt a new state budget to cut taxes on income, sales and gasoline purchases.

AUGUSTA FREE PRESS: Report: Virginia government revenues up 22.3 percent in March

March revenue collections for the Commonwealth of Virginia exceeded forecasts by 22.3 percent. General fund revenues were approximately \$870 million higher year-to-date than the mid-session revised forecast issued in January. Total revenue collections have risen 14.5 percent through March, well ahead of the revised annual forecast of 9.2 percent growth.

WASHINGTON EXAMINER: Loudoun school board under grand jury investigation for sexual assault handling (By Jeremiah Poff)

A special grand jury is investigating the Loudoun County school board in Virginia for its handling of a sexual assault case last year. The northern Virginia school board has vowed to cooperate with all "lawful requests" from the grand jury, which comes nearly a year after the board was first notified of a sexual assault of a female student by a male student in the girls bathroom at Stone Bridge High School in Ashburn, Virginia.

WDBJ: Lawmakers in NRV look for budget compromise (By Joe Dashiell)

Virginia's general fund revenues continue to outpace projections. Thursday afternoon, Governor Youngkin reported March collections exceeded forecasts by more than 22%.

WAVY: State and local democrats rally behind VA Senate budget proposal as stalemate continues (By Brett Hall)

With the Virginia General Assembly's final passage of the state biannual budget more than a month late, several Democrat delegates from the Virginia Peninsula are trying to rally support behind their party's plan. Tuesday, Del. Mike Mullin (D-Jamestown), Del. Shelly Simonds (D-Newport News) and Del. Jeion Ward (D-Hampton) called members of the media to the Newport News Redevelopment & Housing Authority Great Oak For The Elderly to plead their case for the Virginia Senate's plan that is currently roughly \$3 billion apart from the House of Delegates plan.

INSIDENOVA: Youngkin signs several Prince William County-specific bills

Several bills introduced by area legislators are slated to become law July 1. Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed hundreds of bills, including several from local representatives, ahead of the Monday deadline for him to take action.

ARLNOW: Nearly half of bills vetoed by Gov. Youngkin had Arlington ties (By Joe DeVoe)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin vetoed 25 bills this week, of which nearly half were proposed or championed by Arlington lawmakers. The new governor signed 700 bills sent to his desk during the 2022 General Assembly session, including some from Arlington lawmakers addressing mental health treatment, medical debt and virtual meetings.

WTKR: Advocates question why Gov. Youngkin vetoed bill creating work group to examine Dept. of Juvenile Justice (By Brendan Ponton)

Advocates are questioning why Gov. Glenn Youngkin vetoed a bill that would create a work group to examine whether the Department of Juvenile Justice should be overseen by the Secretary of Health and Human Resources instead of the Secretary of Public Safety. The bill easily passed both chambers during the General Assembly with support from both sides of the aisle.

RICHMOND FREE PRESS: Democrats angered as Gov. Youngkin vetoes 25 bipartisan bills

Republican Gov. Glenn A. Youngkin vetoed 25 bills — including some that passed with broad bipartisan support — as he took action on more than 800 bills the divided legislature sent him during its regular session. None of the vetoed bills were sponsored by Republicans, a point Democrats quickly seized on, criticizing the first-term governor as excessively partisan.

WVTF: Youngkin vetoes include bipartisan measures to address medical debt issues (By Michael Pope)

The idea that medical debt collectors might come after people having a hard time making ends meet is concerning to a lot of Republicans and Democrats, who worked together during the General Assembly session to protect Virginians. Now, the governor has used his veto pen on two of those bills.

SHORE DAILY NEWS: Governor Youngkin Signs Bill to Allow Sunday Hunting on State Public Land

Governor Glenn Youngkin signed SB8 this week, introduced by Senator Chap Petersen, to allow Sunday hunting on public land more than 200 yards from places of worship. Previously, Wildlife Management Areas and National Forests were only open to hunters every other day of the week, except Sundays.

WJLA: Gas prices in Maryland to go up 36 cents after tax holiday expires this Saturday (By John Gonzalez)

36 cents, that's how much gas will go up this weekend in Maryland. Drivers in the state will not get extended relief at the gas pump with the gas tax holiday set to expire on Saturday.

THE SUN NEWS: Carolina Squat truck owners say 'leave us alone.' Why SC might ban trucks some see as menace

In example of those concerns playing out on the road was when a Virginia man named Jody "BJ" Upton died in February after a head-on-collision with a Carolina Squat truck. When Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed his state's law banning the trucks, Upton's family was present.

WVEC: How Gov. Youngkin's ban on certain cannabis products could impact local hemp sales (By Anne Sparaco)

Governor Glenn Youngkin wants to restrict how people can access certain forms of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the compound found in hemp plants. Two forms of THC are called Delta 8 and Delta 9. Both forms can make you feel high, but Delta 9 is considered more potent.

WRIC: Richmond tenants say health concerns are ignored, Youngkin rejects reform (By Jacki DeFusco)

That fight was dealt a setback earlier this week when Governor Glenn Youngkin rejected a bipartisan bill that advocates say could be a big help in situations like this. In his veto explanation, Youngkin said, "This legislation contains unnecessary and duplicative provisions, already established under the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC), that provide effective powers to localities to enforce violations."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Talk of race, sex in schools divides Americans: AP-NORC poll (By Hannah Fingerhut and Annie Ma)

In the Virginia governor's race last year, Republican Glenn Youngkin won after campaigning on boosting parental involvement in schools and banning critical race theory, an academic framework about systemic racism that has become a catch-all phrase for teaching about race in U.S. history. His Democratic opponent, Terry McAuliffe, had said in a debate that parents shouldn't tell schools what to teach.

HOT AIR: Youngkin's revenge: Will entire Loudoun County school board face voters in November? (By Ed Morrissey)

Glenn Youngkin stunned the political world by winning the gubernatorial election over heavily favored Democrat Terry McAuliffe, riding a wave of parental anger over autocratic education officials. Now the school board at the epicenter of that anger may have to face their voters a lot sooner than expected.

VIRGINIA MERCURY: Youngkin vetoes bill imposing new rules for truckers in snowstorms (Graham Moomaw)

The only piece of Virginia legislation inspired by the prolonged shutdown of Interstate 95 during a January snowstorm appears to be stalling out due to a veto by Gov. Glenn Youngkin. The bill, which would have prohibited truckers from using cruise control or compression brakes during winter weather, was pitched as a way to reduce jack-knife crashes that can block multiple traffic lanes.

THE HILL: The Memo: Democrats hope Trump will save them from midterm disaster (By Niall Stange)

Democrats know just how bad an environment they face heading into November's midterm elections but hold out hope from an unlikely quarter: former President Trump. Democrats believe Trump's backing of flawed candidates in Republican primaries could saddle the GOP with losers in the general election.

FAUQUIER TIMES: Supervisors cut proposed tax rate further, plan Thursday evening vote on budget (By Coy Ferrell)

MSNBC: Glenn Youngkin is trying to hide his snitch line submissions from the media (By Ja'han Jones)

Back in January, Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin set up an email "tip line" for snitches — I mean, parents — to rat out educators teaching so-called "divisive subjects," his non-subtle codeword for lesson plans addressing social inequality.

WTKR: Last call: Today is the final day to preorder Virginia's new Navy license plates! (By Penny Kmitt)

Virginia drivers now have a new option when it comes to their license plates. Governor Glenn Youngkin signed SB 212 into law, authorizing special Navy license plates after the bill received a unanimous yes from the house of delegates and the state senate.

THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT: Opinion: Relationships essential for Richmond to function (By Del. C. E. Cliff Hayes, Jr.)

It is an unfortunate reality that shared government in the commonwealth of Virginia, where each party holds some but not all of the power, has become synonymous with gridlock and obstruction. This year, after two accomplished years of Democratic leadership in the Governor's Mansion and the General Assembly, Virginia once again has shared government — shared being the operative word.

THE FREE LANCE-STAR: Editorial: Snowstorm autopsy records total organ failure

As tends to be the case when 21st-century politics comes into play, the state's new, Republican administration is taking full advantage of alleged Democratic malfeasance. Gov. Glenn Youngkin says the report showed failures of preparation and communication, and that he'll do better.

THE DAILY PROGRESS: Editorial: Youngkin veto puts providers over patients

Medical debt is a leading cause of bankruptcy, if not THE leading cause. So Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's recent vetoes of a pair of laws aimed helping patients strapped by medical bills defies understanding.

CHICAGO SUN TIMES: Ranked-choice voting would disarm political crazies

In Virginia, the Republican Party used a ranked-choice system to choose its gubernatorial candidate in 2021, with the result that Glenn Youngkin rather than Amanda Chase ("Trump in heels") secured the nomination.

THE TIMES AND DEMOCRAT: COMMENTARY: Poor policy, poor polling (By Dan K. Eberhart)

Presidential approval ratings, while certainly dependent on outside factors and the realities of the political climate, are not totally impossible to predict. Milestones that occur on a regular basis throughout the political year, for instance, typically provide a boost to the president.

BLUE VIRGINIA: Video: VA House Dems Blast Youngkin's "Petty" Vetoes of Substantive, Bipartisan Bills on Medical Debt Relief, Protecting Tenants Against Slumlords, Lowering Virginians' Health Insurance Premiums, etc.

See below for video of – and highlights from – this morning's Virginia House Democratic caucus' "veto response press conference."

Local News

WTOP: Michelle Reid named Fairfax County schools superintendent (By Scott Gelman)

Virginia's largest school system has picked its next superintendent. The Fairfax County, Virginia, school board selected Michelle Reid during Thursday's board meeting following a 9-3 vote.

WRIC: Six plead guilty to \$1.5 million Virginia furniture store hack (By Jakob Cordes)

Six men plead guilty in the Richmond Federal District Court to a \$1.5 million fraud that involved identity theft, a chain of fictitious furniture stores and a phishing hack of servers, located in Virginia, that contained sensitive financial data. According to a statement of facts — confirmed by all six defendants as a condition of their plea agreements — over a five year period from April 2017 to January of this year, the defendants posed as customers at various furniture stores, compromised the information of other furniture stores, and ultimately defrauded the stores and financial institutions of almost \$1.5 million.

THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT: Navy's Supervisors of Shipbuilding should have more oversight of subcontractors and suppliers, watchdog says (By Dave Ress)

Problems with the arresting gear on USS Gerald R. Ford show why the Navy's Supervisors of Shipbuilding should get more access to subcontractors and suppliers, the U.S. Government Accountability Office said. A new report from the federal watchdog agency said the supervisors' limited oversight away from the shipyards where they are stationed can pose a challenge to the Navy's efforts to improve the quality of new ships.

VIRGINIA MERCURY: Lawsuit challenges Virginia right to retrieve law for hunting dogs (By Sarah Vogelsong)

Three Virginians and a company run by one are suing Virginia's Department of Wildlife Resources over the state's controversial right to retrieve law, which allows hunters to go onto private property to retrieve hunting dogs. All of the plaintiffs have "been subject to repeated invasions by hunters and their dogs acting under color of lawful authority," argues the suit, which was filed Tuesday in Henrico Circuit Court, where DWR is headquartered.

THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT: Norfolk unveils 'massive' school reconstruction plan funded by casino tax revenue (By Daniel Berti)

Norfolk City officials made public a major plan on Tuesday to rebuild five city schools over the next decade using local tax revenue from a new casino. City officials don't know the total cost of the project yet, but said they plan to take out at least \$250 million in new debt for it.

WTKR: Virginia legislators strengthen law to crack down on animal sexual abuse

Virginia lawmakers updated state law to better prosecute people who sexually abuse animals in the age of the internet. Sen. Scott Surovell, D-Fairfax, introduced Senate Bill 249, which passed both chambers unanimously.

WRIC: Mother of Xzavier Hill, teen shot and killed by Virginia State Police, sues officers involved (By Rachel Keller)

The mother of a young man who was shot and killed by Virginia State Police in January of 2021 is suing the officers involved. LaToya Benton is the mother of 18-year-old Xzavier Hill, who was shot and killed by state troopers following a car chase last year.

THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT: Basement dweller included with \$800k home in Northern Virginia. And they don't pay rent. (By TJ Macias)

Buying a new house often comes with a few surprises, from hidden mold to unexpected repairs, maybe even a few unwelcome rodents. Then there's this house in Northern Virginia, which comes with a person — or two — living in the basement, rent free.

WTOP: Athletes to get paid for good grades at Virginia Tech (By Will Vitka)

Getting good grades as an athlete at Virginia Tech will soon pay off — literally. Virginia Tech said Thursday it plans to financially reward student athletes on their academic progress in the wake of last June's U.S. Supreme Court decision in Alston vs. NCAA.

THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT: Virginia Zoo welcomes new lion to Norfolk; 2 more coming soon (By Ali Sullivan)

Lions will roam once again at the Virginia Zoo. The zoo's newest male African lion arrived last month and can now be seen by visitors, a spokesperson announced Thursday.

National News

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Biden picks Michael Barr for Fed's bank regulation post (By Josh Boak and Paul Wiseman)

President Joe Biden said Friday he plans to nominate Michael Barr, the dean of the University of Michigan's public policy school, to be the Federal Reserve's vice chairman of supervision. The selection of Barr comes after Biden's first choice for the Fed post, Sarah Bloom Raskin, withdrew her nomination a month ago in the face of opposition from Republicans and one Democrat, Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia.

POLITICO: RNC votes to boycott 'biased' Commission on Presidential Debates (By Samuel Benson)

Republican presidential candidates will no longer participate in debates hosted by the Commission on Presidential Debates, the Republican National Committee announced on Wednesday. The RNC voted unanimously Thursday to withdraw from the primary organizer of general-election presidential debates, calling the CPD "biased" and unwilling to "serve the interest of the American people."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: China stages military exercises as US lawmakers visit Taiwan (By Huizhong Wu)

China said its military staged exercises Friday to reinforce its threat to use force to bring Taiwan under its control, as U.S. lawmakers visiting Taiwan made a pointed and public declaration of their support for the self-governing island democracy while issuing a warning to China. The six lawmakers met with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen on Friday morning and were also scheduled to meet with the island's defense minister.

THE HILL: Vulnerable Democrats buck Biden on Trump-era immigration fight (By Jordain Carney)

Sen. Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.) offered a stark warning to the administration as he visited the U.S.-Mexico border this week: Without a comprehensive plan, they could face a "humanitarian crisis." The administration's decision to end the Trump-era Title 42 policy, which allows for the rapid expulsion of migrants at the border and blocks them from seeking asylum due to the pandemic, has opened up a high-profile rift between Biden and Democrats in races that will determine if they keep the Senate majority.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Easter Egg Roll returns after 2-year, COVID-induced hiatus (By Darlene Superville)

The White House is hoping to stir up some "egg-citement" when the Easter Egg Roll returns on Monday after a two-year, coronavirus-induced hiatus. President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden expect to welcome some 30,000 kids and their adult chaperones for the egg roll, an egg hunt and other activities.

VA CONSERVATIVE

BACON'S REBELLION: Youngkin Signs Donor-Privacy Bill (By James A. Bacon)

In recent years, "cancel culture" has targeted many individuals, businesses, and organizations with the intention of silencing them into submission. In one tactic, political activists target or hack donor lists of groups they disagree with and publicly shame or intimidate donors and/or their businesses who expected that their gifts would be kept private.

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Austin Stevens
Press Assistant



Moran, Matt <matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov>

CLIPS ROUNDUP 4/14

1 message

Stevens, Austin <

Thu, Apr 14, 2022 at 7:16 AM

To: Austin Stevens

Bcc: matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov

Governor Mentions

THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER: Popular Youngkin turning Virginia red again and sparks 'whispers' of 2024 (By Paul Bedard)

Despite the left-wing media's efforts to portray Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin as partisan and divisive, the former businessman is so popular that he has stopped the Democrats' march on the commonwealth and is restoring it as a solidly purple and potentially red Republican state. Sworn in as the 74th governor less than three months ago after winning a bitter election by less than 2 percentage points, Youngkin is now one of the commonwealth's more popular recent chief executives with an approval rating among Virginia likely voters of 56.5% in a new Zogby poll, nearly 10 points higher than President Joe Biden's 47.3%.

DALY PRESS AND THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT: Editorial: Dogs Bring Officials Together

At a time when division in government seems to stall legislative progress of any sort, it's refreshing to see that something wholesome could bring Virginia lawmakers together: puppies. While the General Assembly failed to reach agreement on a budget, it did pass five pieces of legislation intended to bring a controversial beagle breeding operation to heel. And on this, lawmakers received support from Gov. Glenn Youngkin, who signed the measures into law April 4.

WRIC: 'Moment of Joy': Adam's Law signed by Gov. Youngkin, focused on college hazing education & transparency (By Tyler Thrasher)

Adam Oakes, the Virginia Commonwealth University freshman who died in a hazing incident at a Delta Chi Greek life event, has his name honored on one of 700 bills signed into Virginia law on Governor Glenn Youngkin's desk. 'Adam's Law' passed through both the Virginia House and Senate before sitting under the pen of Gov. Youngkin.

AUGUSTA FREE PRESS: Kingspan Insulation to invest \$27M to increase capacity in Frederick County

Kingspan Insulation LLC will invest \$27 million to expand its operation at 200 Kingspan Way in Frederick County. The project will create 37 new jobs.

THE WINCHESTER STAR: Governor announces \$27M expansion of Kingspan's Frederick County location

Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced Wednesday that Kingspan Insulation LLC, a division of the Kingspan Group, will invest \$27 million to expand its operation in Frederick County. Located at 200 Kingspan Way, the facility manufactures energy efficiency and moisture management products for the residential and commercial construction industries, according to a news release from the governor's office.

THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER: Youngkin seeks new elections for Loudoun school board for 'accountability' (By Jeremiah Poff).

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin is trying to force the Loudoun County School Board to face an early election, citing a need for accountability for the board, which over the past year has been embroiled in controversies over its handling of school reopenings and a high school sexual assault case. The governor proposed an amendment to a bill passed by the Virginia General Assembly that would require all nine members of the school board to stand for election a year earlier than they were initially scheduled.

WJLA: Loudoun school board fights Youngkin plan putting them on the ballot as grand jury meets (By Nick Minock)

The Loudoun County School Board is coming out swinging against Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin's attempt to put every Loudoun County school board member on the ballot in seven months, this November.

NEW YORK POST: Virginia school board accused of covering up sex assault could all be ousted (By Callie Patterson)

Virginia's Loudoun County School Board, which was accused of covering up the sexual assault of a high school girl last year, could be voted out of office en masse in November if Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin gets his way. According to a bill amendment backed by Youngkin, all nine board members would be up for re-election this year, 12 months earlier than previously scheduled, according to ABC7.

WJLA: Special grand jury looking into how Loudoun County schools handled 2 sex assaults reports

A special grand jury was convened to look into the handling of two sex assaults reported in Loudoun County Public Schools last year. In a statement to 7News, school officials said: "Loudoun County Public Schools is aware that a special grand jury has been convened regarding Governor Youngkin's Executive Order Number Four issued on January 15, 2022, which authorized the Attorney General to investigate incidents at Stone Bridge High School and Broad Run High School that took place in 2021."

FOX NEWS: Youngkin puts all Loudoun County school board members in hot seat in mid-terms (By Emma Colton)

Republican Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin amended a bill that puts all nine Loudoun County School Board members on the ballot during this year's November election cycle, a year earlier than planned. "The last few years just absolutely signified some real challenges with the Loudoun County School Board. And so in the spirit of transparency and accountability, my amendment gives parents the ability to elect their school board. This election can reflect the will of parents," Youngkin told 7 News.

DAILY MAIL: Entire woke Loudoun County School Board faces November ax after Virginia's new GOP Governor Glenn Youngkin ordered all nine to face ballot over their CRT and gender lessons spat with worried parents (By Gina Martinez)

Members of the controversial, woke Loudoun County School Board will face the ax this November after Virginia's new GOP Gov. Glenn Youngkin ordered them to face the ballot a year earlier than they would have. At midnight on Tuesday, Youngkin made an amendment to a bill that moved the school board elections up a year, putting them on the ballot this coming November instead of in 2023, WJLA.com reported.

PATCH: Youngkin Wants All Loudoun School Board Members Up For Election In '22 (By Liam Griffin)

Most of the seats of the Loudoun County School Board are scheduled to be up for election in November 2023. However, under a bill amendment proposed by Governor Glenn Youngkin, all nine of Loudoun's school board members would have to face a special election in November 2022. Youngkin's proposed special election for the Loudoun School Board in 2022 would shorten the terms of seven school board members.

THE VIRGINIA MERCURY: After GOP Official's Racist Post, Va. Elections Board Asks Parties To Take Local Picks Seriously (By Graham Moomaw)

The Virginia State Board of Elections will ask both political parties and the court system to do a better job of vetting appointees to the state's 133 local electoral boards after the removal of the Republican chairman of the Hampton Electoral Board over a racist Facebook post. "Governor Youngkin deserves credit for acting quickly and decisively as head of his party to secure this individual's removal," State Elections Board Chairman Bob Brink, a former Democratic state delegate, said during a meeting Wednesday. "But as far as I'm concerned, the matter never should have landed on the governor's desk. I'm convinced that if the responsible entities had done their job and had exercised due diligence, this individual never would have been appointed in the first place."

WTVR: Search group asks Youngkin for more resources with missing person cases (By Zach Dahlheimer)

Search and rescue crews are in their eleventh week looking for a missing four-year-old boy from Hampton, Codi Bigsby. Hampton Police said they're still working with the FBI and going through massive amounts of evidence in connection to the case, but there are no active large scale ground searches at this time.

WWBT: Gov. Youngkin signs law requiring sexual assault kits be saved for 10 years

Governor Youngkin has signed two bills into law requiring the storage of physical evidence recovery kits or PERKS for at least 10 years for victims of sexual assault. Previously, Senate Bill 658 and House Bill 719 both passed the Senate and House unanimously.

VIRGINIA BUSINESS: Frederick County insulation facility add-on to create 37 jobs (By Katherine Schulte)

Atlanta-based Kingspan Insulation LLC will invest \$27 million to expand its Frederick County operations, a project expected to create 37 jobs, Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced Wednesday. Kingspan Insulation is a division of Kingspan Group that manufactures energy efficiency and moisture management products for residential and commercial

construction. The company will add a manufacturing facility at 200 Kingspan Way to create its OPTIM-R vacuum insulated panels.

NEWSMAX: GOP Gov. Youngkin Already Rankling Virginia Dems With High Veto Count (By Jay Clemons)

Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin has quickly become a source of contention among Virginia Democrats. On Wednesday, the Associated Press reported the new Virginia governor has already vetoed 26 bills during his short time in office — including some measures that had garnered "broad bipartisan support."

WVTF:What comes next for state lawmakers following Youngkin's vetoes and amendments? (By Jahd Khalil)

Governor Youngkin's vetoes of 26 pieces of legislation are the most since 1998. They would've meant some new policies for the Commonwealth. Six of the bills Governor Glenn Youngkin vetoed passed unanimously. That's according to the Virginia Public Access Project.

WAVY: Youngkin only vetoes Democratic-led bills (By Dean Mirshahi)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin vetoed 26 of the nearly 850 bills that the Virginia General Assembly sent to his desk this year. All of the nixed bills were introduced by Democrats. Youngkin, the first Republican to win statewide since 2009, signed 700 pieces of legislation into law and amended over 100 bills.

POLITICAL WIRE: Youngkin Vetoes 25 Bipartisan Bills (By Taegan Goddard)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) "vetoed 25 bills this week — all from Democrats — that received bipartisan support in the General Assembly, a move some lawmakers viewed as an act of retaliation," the Virginian-Pilot reports.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Senate finance leader says Youngkin vetoes 'set us back' in reaching budget agreement (By Michael Martz)

The lead budget negotiator for the Virginia Senate says Gov. Glenn Youngkin has set back agreement on a new state budget by vetoing more than two dozen bills sponsored by Democratic legislators, including a half-dozen that had received unanimous support in both chambers of the General Assembly. Senate Finance Chair Janet Howell, D-Fairfax, said the governor's veto of 26 bills carried by Democratic legislators, many of them non-controversial, would make it harder for Senate and House negotiators to reach agreement on a pair of budgets pending in the special session that began on April 4.

WASHINGTON POST: Media outlets file suit over Va. Gov. Youngkin's teacher tip line (By Laura Vozzella)

The Washington Post and a dozen other media outlets sued Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin on Wednesday over his administration's refusal to release records related to a tip line he established for parents to report school officials who are teaching "divisive" subjects or otherwise behaving in ways deemed objectionable. Youngkin (R), who won the governorship last fall on a promise to stamp out "critical race theory" and other "divisive" concepts in public education, announced in January that he had created the tip line for parents to report on teachers who bring those things into the classroom.

THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT: Virginian-Pilot and Daily Press sue, accusing Youngkin of violating FOIA law (By Katie King)

The Virginian-Pilot and Daily Press along with a dozen other news media organizations are suing Gov. Glenn Youngkin in Richmond's Circuit Court for refusing to turn over records related to his administration's email tip line for parents and others to report so-called "divisive" concepts being taught in schools. The news organizations are asking the court to order the administration to turn over the records — and to pay the coalition's costs, including attorney fees.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: News organizations sue Youngkin over school tip line emails (By Denise Lavoie)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin is violating the state's public records law by refusing to turn over emails sent to a tip line he set up for parents to report "divisive practices" in their children's schools, more than a dozen news organizations assert in a lawsuit filed Wednesday. The news organizations, which include The Associated Press, each filed requests for records related to the tip line Youngkin established shortly after taking office in January.

WRC: News Organizations Sue Youngkin Over 'Divisive Practices' Tip Line Records (By Drew Wilder)

More than a dozen news organizations filed a lawsuit Wednesday against Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin and his administration for allegedly violating the Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, as it's commonly called. The lawsuit is a response to Youngkin's administration withholding public information from the people he serves.

WVIR: NBC29's parent company among 13 media organizations suing Gov. Glenn Youngkin for 'tip line' emails (By Max Marcilla)

More than a dozen media organizations, including NBC29's parent company Gray Television, are suing Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin over documents. The documents we're hoping to get are emails sent into the new governor's tip line where he encouraged parents to share any concerns about potential violations of students' "fundamental rights" and any other perceived "divisive practices" in Virginia schools.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Media outlets sue Youngkin for refusing to turn over documents

A group of media organizations has sued Gov. Glenn Youngkin over his refusal to hand over records related to a tip line he created for residents to report "divisive concepts" being taught in schools, according to reports. The lawsuit, first reported by The Virginian-Pilot, asks a judge to force the administration to turn over the records.

WRIC: Gov. Youngkin sued over refusal to make parents' 'tip line' emails public (By Dean Mirshahi)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin is being sued by a group of media organizations over his office's refusal to share emails sent to a "tip line" that he asked parents to report any "inherently divisive practices" taught in schools. Youngkin's office cited an exemption from the state's public-records law in response to 8News' Freedom of Information Act request seeking the messages sent to the email address.

WVTF: One gubernatorial veto would've helped localities address issues with slumlords (By Michael Pope)

Governor Glenn Youngkin has vetoed 26 bills lawmakers put on his desk this year. One of those vetoes was for a bill aimed at cracking down on slumlords. Mold. Rats. Bad plumbing. Sewage. Christie Marra at the Virginia Poverty Law Center says she's heard from renters across Virginia who have raised concerns about all of these problems and more. She says local governments have limited authority to crack down on slumlords, essentially charging them with a small fine and that's about it. That's why she was working with lawmakers on a bill to give local governments enforcement authority to fix problems.

FOX NEWS: Sending nude images electronically will cost you in Virginia, with one caveat (By Emma Colton)

It will soon be illegal to electronically send unsolicited nude images in the state of Virginia unless solicited by the receiver. "We are thrilled to have helped spearhead this monumental moment in Virginia," Payton Itheme, Bumble's Head of Public Policy for the Americas, told WUSA 9.

WASHINGTON EXAMINER: New Virginia law slaps \$500 fines on those who send unsolicited nude photos (By Jenny Goldsberry)

A new Virginia law will fine those who send unsolicited nude photos via the internet \$500, which will be paid to recipients of the photos. Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed the bill into law on Monday, and it will go into effect on July 1.

WFLD: Sending nude images electronically will soon cost you in one state, with a caveat (By Emma Colton)

It will soon be illegal to electronically send unsolicited nude images in the state of Virginia unless solicited by the receiver.

WRIC: Return of indoor mask mandates unlikely, says new Va. Health Commissioner (By Dean Mirshahi)

Virginia's new health commissioner says he doesn't see indoor mask mandates returning anytime soon as COVID-19 cases slightly rise and other areas reinstate their rules. Concern over the spread of BA.2, an omicron subvariant that data shows is more contagious than the original, has led some areas to make changes. This week, Philadelphia became the first major U.S. city to announce the return of its public indoor mask mandate due to an uptick in cases.

THE VIRGINIA MERCURY: No Plans For New COVID Precautions In Virginia, Despite Uptick In Cases (By Kate Masters)

BA.2, a more infectious subvariant of omicron, now makes up the majority of new COVID-19 cases in Virginia — just under 70 percent, according to recent data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But there are no plans to reinstate indoor mask mandates or earlier pandemic precautions amid a slight uptick in cases, said Dr. Colin Greene, who was recently moved from acting to permanent commissioner of the Virginia Department of Health under Gov. Glenn Youngkin.

THE LYNCHBURG NEWS AND ADVANCE: Lynchburg-area legislators talk CVTC, workforce, gas prices and more at breakfast (By Rachael Smith)

THE VIRGINIA MERCURY: Youngkin administration says it aims to speed up environmental permitting (By Sarah Vogelsong)

Chief environmental officials in Gov. Glenn Youngkin's administration said one of their primary priorities during the next four years will be to review and speed up Virginia's permitting processes. "Taking a look at permitting is one of the priorities for this secretariat," said Acting Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources Travis Voyles Wednesday during a forum on corporate sustainability, energy and the environment hosted by the Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER: Virginia AG makes national debut in selective high school admissions case (By Kaelan Deese)

Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares, a Republican elected along with Gov. Glenn Youngkin in November, is making his national debut as one of the leading challengers of selective admissions practices at Fairfax County's Thomas Jefferson High School. Miyares and 15 other attorneys general filed an amicus brief in the Supreme Court on Tuesday against admissions practices they claim dilute academic merit as a consideration and unfairly target "Asian-American students because of their race."

THE WASHINGTON POST: Opinion: Youngkin's action persona scrapes against Capitol Square tradition (By Norman Leahy)

Virginia's governors have long wanted to lead movements, shake the status quo and, most important for legacy purposes, be the jobs governor, or education governor or something else that would make them stand out from their peers. The current occupant of the Executive Mansion, Glenn Youngkin (R), is no different.

WTVR: This new law makes it easier to get medical marijuana in Virginia (By Richmond BizSense)

The medical cannabis market in Virginia just got cleared for an express lane. Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed into law this week legislation to eliminate the requirement that people register with the state's Board of Pharmacy before being cleared to buy medical cannabis products from approved sellers in the commonwealth.

WAVY: Delayed state budget creating uncertainty for state VB mass shooting commission (By Brett Hall)

Stalled state budget negotiations in Virginia are creating some uncertainty for the state commission investigating Virginia Beach's mass shooting. Wednesday afternoon, the commission met to again hear from survivors of May 31, 2019.

BLUE VIRGINIA: Youngkin Sprints Further To the Right With Unprecedented Vetoes and Amendments

In case you missed it, Governor Youngkin late Monday night took a further turn to the right by vetoing uncontroversial bipartisan bills for his own personal politics, attempting to overturn the will of the people by forcing early elections for the Loudoun School Board, and retaliating against Senator Ebbin.

THE BULWARK: Trump: Still Not Losing His Grip on the GOP (By Sarah Longwell)

The Trump-is-in-decline narrative began with Glenn Youngkin's victory in Virginia last year. The idea was that Youngkin was the model for a post-Trump GOP by being supportive of the idea of Trump, but by never talking about the former president.

THE AMERICAN HUNTER: Virginia Governor Signs Legislation to Allow Sunday Hunting on Public Lands

Senate Bill 8 expands hunting opportunities in Virginia by allowing Sunday hunting on public lands, while keeping the prohibition against hunting within 200 yards of a place of worship on Sundays. This ensures that hunters have the time to continue hunting, or to introduce new hunters, and also ensures that public land may be enjoyed by those who fund it.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Schapiro: Youngkin's Costly Frontal Attack For Veterans Tax Break

Gov. Glenn Youngkin is selling generous tax cuts for Virginia military pensioners, some of whom collect six figures in retirement pay while simultaneously holding high-dollar civilian jobs, as a red-white-and-blue idea. Skeptics see only red, worried that the proposal – embraced by Republican and Democratic lawmakers, alike – disproportionately rewards a small slice of the veteran population of more than 720,000 and will drain millions of dollars from state programs that make Virginia a magnet for military retirees.

LAS VEGAS SUN: Could compulsory voting cure the political divide in the United States? (By Mark Barabak)

There are roughly two dozen countries requiring what is gently called "mandatory attendance at the polls" and two would-be reformers would like the United States to join those ranks, though they readily concede the odds of that happening are exceedingly steep.

VIRGINIA MERCURY: Despite denouncing racist Hampton official, GOP's actions have long alienated Black voters (By Roger Chesley)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin and other Republicans quickly demanded David Dietrich, the electoral board chair in Hampton since January, resign following the recent publicity about his February 2021 Facebook post. The Hampton Circuit Court formally noted his resignation Monday.

THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER: Virginia GOP official resigns after calling for 'public lynching' of Lloyd Austin (By Abigail Adcox)

The Republican chairman of a Virginia electoral board stepped down over a Facebook post suggesting a black Cabinet member should be publicly lynched. David Dietrich, the former chairman of the electoral board in Hampton, resigned on Monday, days after a year-old purported social media post of his prompted calls for his removal by top Virginia leaders, including Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin.

ESSENCE: Virginia GOP Official Resigns After He Called For Pentagon Chief To Be Lynched (By Rayna Reid)

After a racist Facebook post was discovered, David Dietrich, the Hampton Electoral Board Chair, has resigned, and his name has also been removed from the Electoral Board web page.

WSET: Lawmakers weigh in on new Virginia laws, discuss state budget (By Mia Nelson)

Change is happening in Virginia. Governor Glenn Youngkin signed hundreds of bills into law recently. Among the bills that Governor Younkin has signed into law this session is Senate Bill 656. It requires school districts to notify parents of any sexually explicit content in schools.

NEWSWEEK: Why I Want My 8 Year Old to Learn About Sexuality and Race at School | Opinion (By Faith Kirk)

Talking about racial difference, gender, and sexuality in school is becoming increasingly difficult. An unprecedented number of book bans and legislation targeting school curricula have imposed what amounts to a gag order on American teachers and students.

Local News

VPM: Two Richmond homeless shelters are closing, leaving hundreds without emergency housing (By Meg Schiffres)

The inclement weather shelter and a homeless shelter that houses families in individual units in Richmond are both closing this month with no clear plans from the city about how to serve hundreds of people who will soon be evicted from emergency housing. On Friday, April 15, the inclement weather shelter will close until October. It's closing because the shelter is seasonal and does not operate during the spring and summer months. The non-congregate shelter, which was formed by the city when the COVID-19 pandemic began to prevent the virus from spreading among people experiencing homelessness, will also close its doors only a week later on April 22.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Divers recover Navy plane that crashed off Virginia coast

Navy divers have recovered an aircraft that crashed last month in the water off the Eastern Shore near the Virginia-Maryland line, killing one sailor. The E-2D Hawkeye was conducting routine flight operations in the vicinity of Wallops Island, Virginia, when it went down around 7:30 p.m. on March 30, a Navy spokesperson said.

THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT: Portsmouth casino project drives 'record' economic investment in city, mayor says (By Ali Sullivan)

Portsmouth Mayor Shannon Glover touted "record breaking" economic investment in the city in his annual State of the City address Wednesday. During his address at the Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel, Glover said businesses invested \$469 million into the city in 2021 — ventures which created 815 new jobs.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: 'My baby was my love child.' George Wythe High Community mourns the loss of 17-year-old student (By Jessica Nocera)

Samiyah "Mimy" Yellardy always had a smile on her face. She loved her family and friends unconditionally. She never went anywhere without her hair done. She attended George Wythe High School. She loved rapper Lil Durk. She wanted to be a lash technician. Yellardy was killed by gun violence early Sunday morning. Yellardy had turned 17 years old roughly two months ago on Valentine's Day.

THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT: 2 children in critical condition, 5 others being treated following townhouse fire in Portsmouth (By Caitlyn Burchett)

Two children are in critical condition and five others are being treated for injuries that are not life-threatening following a Wednesday afternoon townhouse fire in Portsmouth.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Virginia singer Kenedi Anderson drops out of 'American Idol,' two other Va. contestants in Top 24 (By Colleen Curran)

If you haven't been watching "American Idol," here's a recap of an eventful week for the three Virginia contestants on the show. In big time "American Idol" news, Kenedi Anderson, a 17-year-old from Western Albemarle High School in Albemarle County, has dropped out of the show due to "personal reasons."

National News

NEW YORK POST: Brooklyn shooting suspect Frank James facing terror-related charges after calling Crime Stoppers on himself (By Tina Moore, Larry Celona and Gabrielle Fonrouge)

The smirking madman who turned a rush hour commute into a bloody terror when he opened fire in a crowded New York subway car called Crime Stoppers on himself Wednesday morning — then calmly went for an afternoon stroll through the East Village while he waited for police to come get him.

CNBC: Elon Musk offers to buy Twitter for \$54.20 a share, so it can be 'transformed as private company' (By Samantha Subin)

Elon Musk offered to buy Twitter for \$54.20 a share, saying the social media company needs to be transformed privately.

THE NEW YORK TIMES: Videos Show Police Officer Fatally Shooting Black Man in Michigan (By Mitch Smith)

The police in Grand Rapids, Mich., released videos on Wednesday showing a white officer fatally shooting Patrick Lyoya, a 26-year-old Black man, after a struggle during a traffic stop last week. The officer, who has not been named, was lying on the back of Mr. Lyoya before he appeared to shoot him in the head. In the seconds before the shooting, Mr. Lyoya and the officer wrestled on the ground and seemed to be fighting for control of the officer's Taser.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Ukraine says it damaged Russian flagship, crew evacuates (By Adam Schreck)

Ukraine said its forces struck and seriously damaged the flagship of Russia's Black Sea fleet, dealing a potentially major setback to Moscow's troops as they try to regroup for a renewed offensive in eastern Ukraine after retreating from much of the north, including the capital. Russia said Thursday the entire crew of the Moskva, a warship that would typically have 500 sailors on board, was forced to evacuate after a fire overnight and also reported it was badly damaged.

VA Conservative

BACON'S REBELLION: Youngkin Vetoes Bill Because It Weakened SCC (By Steve Haner)

Reliance on the controlling phrase "in the public interest" helped get an energy bill vetoed by Governor Glenn Youngkin (R), bringing a rare call from a governor to maintain the independent oversight of the State Corporation Commission. Recent governors of both parties happily signed bills with the phrase into law over and over.

Kerry: Unemployed and Unedited: Play Stupid Games, Win Stupid Prizes

Look who's crying now. Virginia Democrats, who launched ugly attacks on Gov. Glenn Youngkin's religious beliefs in his second week in office and who spent the entire session bragging about how they were a "brick wall" blocking most of his initiatives are suddenly bawling because the governor vetoed 26 bills.

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Austin Stevens
Press Asst
Work Cell



Moran, Matt <matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov>

CLIPS ROUNDUP 3/18

1 message

Stevens, Austin <
 To: Austin Stevens
 Bcc: matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov

Fri, Mar 18, 2022 at 7:02 AM

Governor Mentions

WAVY: Youngkin predicts Virginia Tech Final Four run, Norfolk State upset (By Brian Reese)

Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin released his own brackets for the NCAA men's and women's basketball tournaments on Thursday, picking a Virginia Tech Final Four run, a Norfolk State upset of No. 1 Baylor and Sweet Sixteen runs for Longwood and Richmond on the men's side.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Virginia community college board names new chancellor, defying Youngkin's call to restart hiring process (By Eric Kolenich)

The State Board for Community Colleges named a new leader on Thursday, defying Gov. Glenn Youngkin, who one day earlier called for the board to restart the hiring process and appoint an interim chancellor.

WRIC: Virginia Homeowners facing financial hardships now eligible for up to \$40,000 in relief (By Tannock Blair)

Virginia Housing announced Thursday that, effective immediately, the maximum amount of assistance to eligible homeowners facing mortgage delinquency will be raised by \$10,000. The increase is an expansion of the Virginia Mortgage Relief Program, an initiative launched by former-Governor Northam's administration on Jan. 3, 2022 to aid homeowners experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19.

WTOP: 2 disorders added to Virginia's newborn screening program (By Abigail Constantino)

Two disorders are being added to Virginia's newborn screening program. Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) and X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy (X-ALD) will be included on a list of metabolic and genetic disorders that health care professionals check for following the baby's birth. This is done 24 to 48 hours after birth by testing dried blood samples taken by picking the baby's heel.

NEW YORK MAGAZINE: Democrats Learned the Wrong Lessons From Losing Virginia (By Ed Kilgore)

Understandably, the loss of three statewide contests in previously blue-trending Virginia last November was shocking to Democrats. Interpretations of what went wrong there are having a heavy effect on how the party perceives its weaknesses heading into the 2022 midterms, so it's pretty important to get it right — but it doesn't seem that's what's happening.

WSLS: Gov. Youngkin announces major disaster declaration for January winter storm (By Angela Saxon)

Some areas of Virginia may get help paying for emergency costs after the January snowstorm. Gov. Glenn Youngkin says the Commonwealth is getting federal assistance through a major disaster declaration.

AUGUSTA FREE PRESS: Major Disaster Declaration approved for Jan. 2-3 winter storm

Virginia has received federal assistance to designated localities through a Major Disaster Declaration for the Jan. 2-3 winter storm that dumped up to 14 inches of snow and closed a long stretch of Interstate 95 for more than 24 hours.

WJLA: VA. parole board comes to screeching halt after Senate Democrats block Youngkin appointees (By Nick Minock)

Nearly 400 people up for parole consideration in Virginia are now in limbo as the parole board has come to a screeching halt and that number is growing by the day.

WJHL: Gov. Youngkin proposes immediate suspension of Virginia's gas tax (By Tannock Blair and Jackie DeFusco)



Gov. Glenn Youngkin will introduce emergency legislation to suspend Virginia's gas tax for three months. Youngkin announced on Wednesday that the bill would eliminate the entire state portion of the gas tax, an estimated \$0.26 per gallon.

HENRICO CITIZEN: Youngkin proposes temporary suspension of gas tax (By Anna Bryson)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced plans to propose legislation to suspend for three months Virginia's gas tax in response to soaring gas prices. If his proposal is approved by the General Assembly, motorists would see a 26-cent decrease per gallon for three months, May, June, and July, and phase it back in slowly in August and September.

THE CENTER SQUARE: Virginia Republicans back gas tax holiday amid high prices (By Tyler Arnold)

As gasoline costs remain high, Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin and House Republicans will try to pass a three-month gas tax holiday to reduce the burden on struggling Virginians. Although the price of gas dipped this week, the average per-gallon cost in the state is still a little more than \$4.16. This is 77 cents higher than it was a month ago and \$1.40 more expensive than it was one year ago.

THE BALTIMORE SUN: A 30-day pause on Maryland's gas tax is poised to become law Friday, potentially cutting prices immediately (By Scott Dance)

A monthlong suspension of the state's 36-cent fuel tax is poised to become law Friday, with the General Assembly expected to deliver it to Gov. Larry Hogan for his swift signature. That would make Maryland among the first states to pass a measure many others are considering to lessen pain at the pump.

WJHL: Virginia drivers react to proposed gas tax suspension (By Amy Cockerham)

After Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin proposed a bill Wednesday that would suspend the state's gas tax for three months, drivers are reacting to the potential decrease in cost at the pump. The tax suspension would shave about 26 cents per gallon off the price of gasoline and diesel, something drivers said would be a big help.

WVIR: Gov. Youngkin proposes gas tax holiday, Del. Hudson and AAA discuss (By Dominga Murray)

More expensive oil along with higher demand for gas are a combination that hits everyone in the wallet. "Even before the war between Russia and Ukraine started, crude oil prices were already very high this year," AAA Mid-Atlantic Manager Public and Government Affairs Morgan Dean said.

WVVA: From schools to vaccines: Justice, Youngkin chart path forward in COVID fight (By Jared Kline)

During the first couple weeks of his term, Youngkin has pushed to make measures meant to protect communities against the spread of COVID-19 less stringent. In January, he ended a requirement put in place by his Democratic predecessor for state workers to get vaccinated or tested, including at public colleges and universities.

VIRGINIA MERCURY: Legislation to crack down on marijuana products, including synthetics, heads to Youngkin (By Jackie Llanos Hernandez)

The General Assembly failed at finding a path to starting recreational marijuana sales this year, but a law outlining stricter regulations for retailers selling what one lawmaker called "juiced-up" synthetic products made its way through the legislature last week with bipartisan support. The bill, which is now before Gov. Glenn Youngkin, explicitly bans sales of any substance that contains more than 0.3 percent or .25 milligrams of THC per serving or more than one milligram per package.

WWBT: Bill could make CBD products illegal; hemp stores, farmers at risk of losing business (By Ashley Hendricks)

A bill heading to Governor Glenn Youngkin's desk could criminalize the use and distribution of CBD products and hurt hemp farmers if passed. The Virginia Hemp Coalition is calling on Youngkin to amend bill SB 591 to help save thousands of Virginia businesses from crashing.

THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER: Biden and Democrats hope Republicans will blow midterm election prospects (By Naomi Lim)

History and polling may be on Republicans' side as they try to break Democrats' unified control of Washington, but the 2022 midterm cycle is not a fait accompli, according to strategists from both parties. In particular, some Democrats are hoping to flip the script on Republican "Dems in disarray" attacks as intra-GOP flaps, so far overshadowed by the Russia-Ukraine war, threaten to create more drama.

THE CENTER SQUARE: Youngkin disputes several Virginia media reports on divisive concept tip line (By Tyler Arnold)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin is disputing several news reports that claimed every school superintendent in the state opposed his tip line to report divisive concepts taught in public schools. Last week, the Virginia Association of School Superintendents sent a letter to the governor that expressed disapproval of his tip line, which allows students and parents to report teachers and schools for teaching divisive concepts, such as critical race theory.

RAPPAHANNOCK NEWS: Superintendent unsure about Youngkin's 'divisive concepts' tip line, prefers local solutions (By Ben Peters)

Rappahannock County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Shannon Grimsley sided with a letter, written by an organization that represents all 144 public school superintendents in the state, that urged Gov. Glenn Youngkin's administration to terminate the tip line created for parents to report what they believe to be "divisive concepts" being taught in schools.

NEWSWEEK: After Trump Dumps Pence, Who Could Be His VP and Why DeSantis Is a Problem (By Alexandra Hutzler)

Donald Trump has repeatedly hinted at a 2024 comeback, but if he does decide to run, it's not likely to be the same Republican ticket as 2016 and 2020. Trump effectively ruled out bringing back Mike Pence as his potential running mate, telling the Washington Examiner this week that he doesn't think people would "accept that."

FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES: Officials break ground for 495 NEXT (By Heather Zwicker)

Construction officially kicked off on 495 NEXT after a groundbreaking ceremony Monday morning in Tysons attended by state and local officials. The 495 Express Lanes Northern Extension (495 NEXT) project is a \$660 million, two-and-a-half mile extension of the express lanes between the Dulles Corridor and the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Fairfax County.

PATCH: Car Tax Mitigation Option Discussed By Fairfax County Board (By Emily Leayman)

Amid increasing values of new and used cars, a Fairfax County Board of Supervisors committee was briefed Tuesday on possible options for mitigating the personal property tax impact on Fairfax County car owners.

VIRGINIA MERCURY: Youngkin says RGGI won't work to cut emissions. Critics say his own report shows he's wrong. (By Sarah Vogelsong)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin's administration this week released a report that his office says justifies the governor's efforts to pull Virginia out of a multi-state carbon market called the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. But opponents say the report actually demonstrates the key role RGGI plays in reducing climate change-causing carbon emissions.

WJHL: Why Youngkin wants to get out of agreement combating climate change (By Jackie DeFusco)

Governor Glenn Youngkin wants to pull Virginia out of an agreement to combat climate change, despite backlash from environmental advocates. A new report, ordered by one of Youngkin's first executive actions, makes the case for withdrawing from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and initiates the process to do so.

PRINCE WILLIAM TIMES: Local students, teachers slow to shed their masks (By Jill Palermo)

Most Prince William County students and teachers are still wearing masks in schools despite the new state law banning school mask mandates signed by Gov. Glenn Youngkin in February. At least half, if not more, are still donning them, according to recent interviews with students, teachers, parents and some school board members.

THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER: OPINION: The crime of America's schools (By Tiana Lowe)

Most readers familiar with Luke Rosiak probably know him as the Daily Wire reporter who broke the explosive cover-up by the Loudoun County school board of a rape by a boy in the girls' restroom. The scandal, which culminated in the accused rapist's conviction in juvenile court, dominated the news in the weeks leading to the Virginia gubernatorial election, which Republican Glenn Youngkin ultimately won just a year after Joe Biden had won the state by 10 points.

Local Stories

WTOP: Civil War graffiti in Stafford Co. to be relocated, paving way for warehouse project (By Neal Augenstein)

Stafford County's Board of Supervisors has voted to accept the offer from a developer to relocate an isolated, heavy piece of local history to the Virginia county's Civil War park, which will clear the way to build two large warehouses

WTVR: Chesterfield student arrested for school rape: 'He pulled her into the bathroom' (By Laura French and Mike Bergazzi)

A Chesterfield high school student was arrested and charged with the rape and abduction of a female classmate, the CBS 6 Problem Solvers have confirmed with police. Chesterfield Schools confirmed Tuesday that an investigation was underway after a Thomas Dale High School student was charged in relation to an incident on the Chester campus "several weeks ago."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: No. 12 seed Richmond shocks No. 5 Iowa in NCAA Tournament opener

Richmond improved its tournament record to 9-9, with all the wins coming when the Spiders were seeded 12th or lower. In 1991, Richmond became the tournament's first 15-seed to defeat a No. 2 seed with a 73-69 win over Syracuse.

WRIC: Virginia Homeowners facing financial hardships now eligible for up to \$40,000 in relief (By Tannock Blair)

Virginia Housing announced Thursday that, effective immediately, the maximum amount of assistance to eligible homeowners facing mortgage delinquency will be raised by \$10,000.

WRC: Virginia Attorney General, Prosecutor Spar Over Criminal History of Suspect in Homeless Attacks

Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares is claiming that Fairfax County's prosecutor is to blame for an alleged killer's recent deadly crime spree. But the Fairfax County commonwealth's attorney is defending his office and its actions, accusing Miyares of playing politics.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Local aquarium investigating dolphin deaths along Virginia coast

The Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center is investigating the deaths of five dolphins who were found in shallow waters along Virginia's coast. The aquarium said the deaths involved what are known as "common dolphins."

WVIR: Russia's invasion of Ukraine impacting Virginia farmers (By Andrew Webb)

The war in Ukraine is disrupting exports and supply chains, causing massive effects on farmers. Exports such as grain and production of oilseeds, fertilizer, and petroleum are being disrupted by Russia's military invading its neighbor. The Virginia Farm Bureau says this is creating a lot of volatility for farmers in the commonwealth.

National Stories

POLITICO: Europe's Covid spike has Biden officials concerned, could lead to return of masks (By Erin Banco, Cancryn, and Krista Mahr)

The surge in Covid-19 cases in Europe, particularly in the United Kingdom, is prompting urgent conversations among senior Biden health aides about the potential of the U.S. experiencing another wave this spring, according to three senior officials familiar with the matter.

POLITICO: Dems search for next steps on Covid aid as headaches pile up (By Sara Ferris, Marianne Levine, and Adam Cancryn)

After two top Biden administration health officials pleaded with Democrats on Thursday to approve more coronavirus aid funding, Speaker Nancy Pelosi apologized to them in front of her caucus for having to ask at all. Pelosi told Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra and top infectious disease adviser Anthony Fauci she was sorry they needed to come before House members from the president's own party to call for \$15 billion to continue the U.S. fight against Covid, domestically and abroad.

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Austin Stevens
Press Assistant



Moran, Matt <matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov>

CLIPS ROUNDUP 3/26

1 message

Stevens, Austin < >

Sat, Mar 26, 2022 at 8:17 AM

To: Austin Steven

Bcc: matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov

Governor Mentions**WSLS:** Gov. Glenn Youngkin talks to 10 News one-on-one, discussing several topics impacting Virginians (By Tim Harfmann)

Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin visited Lynchburg Friday and spoke one-on-one with 10 News about several topics impacting Southwest and Central Virginia. Youngkin announced this week that he's calling back Virginia's House and Senate to meet in Richmond on April 4 and deliver a budget.

WASHINGTON TIMES: Youngkin calls being Va. governor 'absolute affirmation of my faith' at Liberty University talk (By Mark A. Kellner)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin told thousands of Liberty University students Friday that passing "the most amazing job interview you can possibly imagine," as he called his 2021 gubernatorial campaign, and now serving in Richmond, "has been an absolute affirmation of my faith." Mr. Youngkin spoke at a morning convocation at the Lynchburg campus of what is believed to be the country's largest evangelical university.

WWBT: Gov. Youngkin talks education, law enforcement during Liberty University visit (By Michael Alachnowicz)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin made his way inside the Vines Center at Liberty University Friday. In front of a crowd of students, he spoke during convocation. He opened by talking about faith and its impact on his life.

THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER: WATCH: Youngkin takes aim at critical race theory in university speech (By Jenny Goldsberry)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin made an appearance at Liberty University on Friday morning to give a speech taking aim at critical race theory, anti-police sentiment, and divisive politics. Youngkin encouraged students to acknowledge a duality in political topics.

WSET: Governor Glenn Youngkin speaks at Liberty University's Convocation (By Mia Nelson)

Governor Glenn Youngkin came to the Hill City today for Liberty University's Convocation. He was welcomed to the stage with loud applause and cheers. He said he jumped at the invitation to speak at Convocation.

WDBJ: Gov. Youngkin talks education, law enforcement during Liberty University visit (By Michael Alachnowicz)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin made his way inside the Vines Center at Liberty University Friday. In front of a crowd of students, he spoke during convocation. He opened by talking about faith and its impact on his life. Later, he touched on topics such as K-12 education.

AUGUSTA FREE PRESS: Cana Vineyards wins 2022 Virginia Governor's Cup® with 2019 Unité Reserve

Gov. Glenn Youngkin awarded the 2022 Virginia Governor's Cup® to Cana Vineyards & Winery of Middleburg for its 2019 Unité Reserve —a signature estate red blend of Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. The competition received a record-breaking number of entries this year — 615 wines from over 100 Virginia wineries.

PATCH: Loudoun Vineyard Wins 2022 Virginia Governor's Cup For Best Wine (By Liam Griffin)

Cana Vineyards, a winery based in Middleburg, received the 2022 Governor's Cup, Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced this week. Melanie Natoli of Cana Vineyards became the first woman to win the award.

THE WASHINGTON TIMES: Unemployment drops slightly in Virginia, Maryland and D.C. (By Sean Salai)

Unemployment rates dropped slightly last month in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Friday. But the rates in Maryland and the District continued to exceed the national average, which fell from 4% in January to 3.8% in February.

WRIC: Virginia unemployment rate decreased to 3.2 percent in February (By Tannock Blair)

Virginia's unemployment rate was reduced by 0.1% in February. The rate still falls short of pre-pandemic levels. According to the Virginia Employment Commission, the Commonwealth's unemployment rate was 3.2% in February, dropping from 3.3% in January.

RICHMOND TIMES- DISPATCH: DMV to pay refunds for error in new fee for highway use (By Michael Martz)

One pound makes more than 16 ounces of difference when it comes to a new user fee for owners of fuel-efficient vehicles. The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles confirmed Friday that it will pay refunds to 2,769 vehicle owners because of an error in a formula for determining the highway user fee for owners of fuel-efficient vehicles that average at least 25 miles per gallon.

WVTF: Youngkin will consider hundreds of bills in the coming weeks (By Michael Pope)

The General Assembly session may be over, but the process of a bill moving from just an idea to becoming a law is far from over. Governor Glenn Youngkin still has hundreds of bills to consider. So far, the governor has signed 31 bills and vetoed one. That leaves him with more than 800 bills on his desk to consider.

THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT: Virginia lawmakers ban the sending of unwanted 'intimate images' (By Peter Dujardin)

A bill carried unanimously in the General Assembly this year would penalize those who send an "intimate image" to a person without the recipient's consent. It's punishable with civil fines of up to \$500 — and possibly damages beyond that — payable to the person who was sent the unwanted pictures.

THE CENTER SQUARE: Virginia's Youngkin approves nearly \$1 million in subsidies to Perdue (By Tyler Arnold)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin approved nearly \$1 million worth of subsidies to Perdue to assist with an expansion project in Chesapeake. Perdue AgriBusiness, which is owned by Perdue Farms, plans to invest more than \$59 million to modernize its facilities and increase the production of certain soy products.

WWBT: From rehab to replace: Richmond's Mayo Bridge could close for two years (By Henry Graff)

Richmond's Mayo Bridge could close for two years now that plans for a full replacement are coming together. "Politicians come around, point out problems. It's important that we have the ability to actually deliver," said U.S. Senator Mark Warner, (D) Virginia.

WTVR: Richmond wants a new bridge. The plan could close the Mayo Bridge for two years. (By Cameron Thompson)

Richmond city officials said they now plan to replace — not repair — the more than century-old Mayo Bridge. The decision could lead to a two-year shutdown of the river crossing. While full funding for the project is a work in progress -- it got a step closer on Friday.

HARRISONBURG DAILY NEWS-RECORD: Valley Legislators' Bills Await Governor's Signature (By Charles Paullin)

The 2022 General Assembly session ended March 12, and several bills from local legislators are headed to Gov. Glenn Youngkin's desk for his signature. More bills from Valley lawmakers would be on the Republican governor's desk if it weren't for the Democratic-controlled state Senate, which rejected many proposals passed by the Republican-led House of Delegates, area representatives say.

AUGUSTA FREE PRESS: Hershey employees vote down unionization effort

Employees at Hershey Chocolate of Virginia overwhelmingly, but perhaps predictably, voted down an effort to unionize the Augusta County plant. Seventy-nine percent of the votes cast were against the union, according to a report in the News Leader published on Friday.

RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH: Top Youngkin aide on payroll of political consultants, not state (By Patrick Wilson and Mel Leonor)

A political consulting firm tells clients it will help them navigate the new Republican-controlled executive branch of Virginia's government. LINK Public Affairs might have an edge over its competition - one of its senior strategists is also a top aide to Gov.

Glenn Youngkin and has been working in the governor's suite.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: DeSantis signs bill to keep explicit books out of schools (By Brendan Farrington)

Saying Florida public schools are making sexually explicit books available to children, Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a bill Friday to give parents a say in what books schools can and can't have in their libraries. It will force all elementary schools to provide a searchable list of every book available in their libraries or used in instruction.

WSLS: Sen. Tim Kaine sits down with Roanoke, Blacksburg leaders to get to the root of gun violence (By Alexis Davila)

Senator Tim Kaine calls the rise in gun violence a "public health issue" and sits down with local leaders to discuss the ways to combat the crisis. School, faith, law enforcement and grassroots leaders gathered at Melrose Branch Library Friday to get to the root of gun violence.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Former Trump chief Meadows' voter registration in question (By Steve Peoples and Gary D. Robertson)

Mark Meadows, who as chief of staff to President Donald Trump promoted his lies of mass voter fraud, is facing increasing scrutiny about his own voter registration status. Public records show that he is registered to vote in two states, including North Carolina, where he listed a mobile home he did not own — and may never have visited — as his legal residence weeks before casting a ballot in the 2020 presidential election.

WVTF: Commentary: Youngkin's 'divisive concepts' tip line is likely necessary (By Ben Jackson)

I come to this conclusion based on my experience with the Office of Resolution Management (ORM) of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Congress determined that complaints of discrimination (under Title 7 of the Civil Rights Act) within the VA were not being properly handled by the line organizations.

THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Schapiro: Proposed tax cut spotlights other taxing questions (By Jeff E. Schapiro)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin blew up the stalled House-Senate talks on a compromise Virginia budget with a fiscal flash grenade: a proposal to spare inflation-jittery motorists from paying the state fuel tax for three months — 26.2 cents per gallon for gasoline, 27 cents for diesel. In doing so — the Republican also called on the legislature to return to Richmond on April 4 — Youngkin is creating an opportunity for Virginia to consider a larger issue: How — and what — it taxes.

BRISTOL HERALD COURIER: Guest View | Youngkin is trying to reverse Virginia's climate change progress (By Ed Reynolds)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin's nomination of Andrew Wheeler to a key cabinet position in Virginia governance should cause every Virginian to lean forward and take notice. The Wheeler nomination failed, thank God.

LOUDOUN NOW: State Lawmakers Report to Loudoun Chamber on Session So Far (By Renss Greene)

Four state legislators reported on the work so far in an incomplete Virginia General Assembly session during the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce's PolicyMakers breakfast Friday morning. Sen. John J. Bell (D-13) and delegates Dave A. LaRock (R-33), David A. Reid (D-32) and Suhas Subramanyam (D-87) also took questions from the audience.

Local Stories

WRIC: Thousands of Virginia drivers overcharged, wrongly charged by DMV (By Tannock Blair and Ben Dennis)

Around 2,700 people were incorrectly taxed by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles over the course of two years. According to DMV Spokesperson Jessica Cowardin, Virginia drivers were overcharged between \$5 and \$40 as part of a state law that went into effect in July 2020.

WTKR: Multiple people injured in shooting near Virginia Beach bar (By April Loveland)

Virginia Beach Police are on the scene of a shooting in the 5000 block of Cleveland Street. There are multiple victims. Police say they are non-life threatening injuries. During the incident, a police-involved shooting happened.

THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Growing Loudoun outpaces its political representation in Richmond (By Michael Martz)

Stretching from the Potomac River through one of the fastest growing counties in the United States to a semi-rural corner of Prince William County, the old district contained more than 130,000 residents in 2020, almost 44,000 more than the ideal for equal political representation under the U.S. and Virginia constitutions. No other House District had more people.

WTOP: Oil spill concerns emerge as ship remains stuck in Chesapeake Bay (By Nick Iannelli)

As a 1,095-foot cargo ship remained stranded in the Chesapeake Bay Friday, environmental experts raised concerns about a potential oil spill as crews worked to free the ship from the mud that it's stuck in. "It's so far aground that about 20 feet of the ship is buried in mud," said Doug Myers, a scientist with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, an advocacy group focused on improving the Bay.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Jury acquits Northern Virginia officer who shot disoriented man with stun gun

A Northern Virginia jury on Friday acquitted a police officer who was charged with misdemeanor assault after firing a stun gun at an unarmed Black man who appeared disoriented. Fairfax County Police Officer Tyler Timberlake was charged with assault in June 2020 after bodycam video showed him arriving and quickly firing his stun gun at Lamonta Gladney after other officers had spent several minutes trying to persuade him to get into an ambulance to go to a detox center.

WTOP: Va. couple, DC man and NASA employee investigated for COVID-19 fraud schemes (By Abigail Constantino)

A Virginia couple and a brother, as well as a D.C. man and a NASA employee are among those the IRS investigated for tax and money laundering related to COVID-19 fraud. Southwest Virginia couple Gregory Tackett and Leelyn Chytka were sentenced to nine years in prison for defrauding the government of almost \$500,000, an IRS news release said.

THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Virginia may significantly reduce its bid for Commanders stadium (By Michael Phillips)

Virginia still wants the Washington Commanders to relocate to the state, but at the end of a month in which Maryland and D.C. tempered their enthusiasm, Virginia may be lowering its bid as well. Legislation to create a Stadium Authority was delayed to a special session, where lawmakers will take it up alongside the state's budget, beginning on April 4.

National Stories

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Supreme Court Justice Thomas released from hospital

Justice Clarence Thomas was discharged from the hospital Friday after a stay of nearly a week, the Supreme Court said. Thomas, 73, had entered the hospital last Friday evening after experiencing "flu-like symptoms."

THE HILL: Biden meets with top Ukrainian officials in Poland (By Alex Gangitano)

President Biden on Saturday met with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba and Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov while in Warsaw, Poland, amid Russia's invasion into Ukraine. Kuleba and Reznikov were in a meeting with Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin at the Warsaw Marriott Hotel.

FOX NEWS: Manchin backs Biden Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson (By Tyler Olson)

Sen. Joe Manchin Friday said that he will support Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson for the Supreme Court, as the nominee inches closer to confirmation. "After meeting with her, considering her record, and closely monitoring her testimony and questioning before the Senate Judiciary Committee this week, I have determined I intend to vote for her nomination to serve on the Supreme Court," Manchin, D-W.Va., said in a Friday statement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: High court gives Biden win for now in Navy vaccine case

The Supreme Court is giving the Navy a freer hand determining what job assignments it gives to 35 sailors who sued after refusing on religious grounds to comply with an order to get vaccinated against COVID-19. The high court in a brief order Friday sided with the Biden administration and said that while the lawsuit plays out, the Navy may consider the sailors' vaccination status in making deployment, assignment and other operational decisions.

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Austin Stevens
Press Assistant



Moran, Matt <matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov>

CLIPS ROUNDUP 3/16

1 message

Stevens, Austin < >
 To: Austin Stevens
 Bcc: matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov

Wed, Mar 16, 2022 at 7:17 AM

Governor Mentions

WASHINGTON TIMES: Channeling Virginia's pioneering spirit to address our mental health crisis (By Governor Glenn Youngkin)

As Virginia's Governor, it is my mission to make Virginia the best place to live, learn, work and raise a family. One critical component to delivering on this promise is to ensure that Virginia has a health care structure that supports the strong and resilient residents of the Commonwealth, which includes the resources for and support of mental health care.

WRIC: Hard-hit shop reacts to bill increasing catalytic converter theft penalty in Virginia (By Jackie Defusco)

Virginia lawmakers are cracking down on catalytic converter thefts. Starting July 1, criminals could face a stiffer punishment if Governor Glenn Youngkin signs the bill into law.

WCAV: Youngkin to address conference on Virginia's agricultural trade

Governor Glenn Youngkin will be addressing the 2022 Governor's Conference on Agricultural Trade, which will be taking place on March 29. According to a release, the annual event will be gathering policymakers, agriculture and forestry businesses, and academic leaders to highlight the role of agriculture and forestry in Virginia's international trade landscape.

BUSINESS WIRE: Trustar Bank Hosts NOVA Women's Business Leaders Roundtable Led by VA Governor Glenn Youngkin

The Northern Virginia Women's Business Leaders Roundtable held at the Trustar Bank office building in Tysons, VA yesterday, brought together women entrepreneurs who celebrated women in business

THE WASHINGTON FREE BEACON: FAKE NEWS: How One Reporter's Blatant Lie About Glenn Youngkin Became a Democratic Talking Point (By Andrew Stiles)

Journalists and other Democratic activists love to complain about "fake news" and "propaganda." Nevertheless, they are among the most enthusiastic disseminators of egregious falsehoods about their political enemies. One particularly shameless example involves a story published last week in the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

THE DAILY WIRE: EXCLUSIVE: Government Liaison For Virginia Superintendents Group Deflects Whether Should Have Consulted All Members For Youngkin Letter (By Gabe Kaminsky)

On the heels of the Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS) writing a letter to GOP Gov. Glenn Youngkin "on behalf" of 133 public school leaders criticizing his efforts targeting equity programs, without consulting members, the legislative liaison for VASS deflected questions from The Daily Wire on whether all superintendents should have been notified.

WSET: 'A gross misrepresentation:' Youngkin responds to superintendent association letter (By Chelsea King)

The Virginia Association of School Superintendents sent a letter to the governor last week, asking him to pull the plug on his school tip line. But now, that letter is getting pushback from the governor and some superintendents.

THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: 'Virginia is on a path to normalcy': Youngkin administration rolls out less stringent COVID-19 workplace rules (By Mel Leonor)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin's administration on Tuesday rolled out new COVID-19 guidance for employers that gives the private sector ample flexibility on how to mitigate spread of the virus in the workplace, and signaled that it would take action against employers who fired workers for not wearing a mask.

WAVY: Youngkin to discuss gas tax plan Wednesday

https://mail.google.com/mail/b/AHuVXTpBb0orvLv6DRrhDd3VCqT_igCeSQRvchIMyZE27j5JLru/u/0/?ik=7b350117c0&view=pt&search=all&permthid=... 1/4

VA-GOV-22-0508-A-000037

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin will visit a Henrico gas station Wednesday to discuss his plan for gas tax relief in the commonwealth. Youngkin will visit a BP gas station in Henrico at 12:45 p.m., where he will highlight the "exorbitant gas prices and rising inflation in Virginia," according to a governor's office news release.

WRIC: Virginia unemployment rate held steady in January (By Tannock Blair)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced that Virginia's unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.3% in January, while total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 4,900 jobs.

AUGUSTA FREE PRESS: Thermo Fisher Scientific to expand laboratories in Henrico County, Richmond

Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. will invest \$97 million to expand its bioanalytical laboratory operations into three new locations in the Greater Richmond region and expects to create more than 500 new jobs in the Commonwealth.

THE ROANOKE TIMES: New supply chain company coming to Roanoke

New supply chain jobs are coming to Roanoke, according to a state announcement Tuesday. The logistics company A. Duie Pyle will create 20 new jobs in Roanoke, plus 55 jobs in Richmond and Manassas, by establishing cross-dock service centers in those cities to facilitate transporting of goods, according to the announcement from the office of Gov. Glenn Youngkin.

AUGUSTA FREE PRESS: A. Duie Pyle to establish cross-dock service centers in Manassas, Richmond, Roanoke

A. Duie Pyle will establish three cross-dock service centers in the Cities of Manassas, Richmond and Roanoke, creating a total of 75 new jobs in the Commonwealth.

WRIC: Gov. Youngkin announces supply chain solutions company moving to Richmond (By Tannock Blair)

The governor's office today announced that A. Duie Pyle, a provider of supply chain solutions, will establish three service centers in the cities of Manassas, Richmond and Roanoke, creating a total of 75 new jobs in the Commonwealth.

THE NEWS PROGRESS: Governor Youngkin signs eight bipartisan bills into law

Governor Glenn Youngkin signed eight bills into law March 2. The legislation signed today addressed taxes, economic development, the Virginia Retirement System and higher education construction.

PATCH: Youngkin Orders Flags Lowered For Officer Killed In Line Of Duty (By Mark Hand)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin ordered flags to be flown at half-staff in honor of a police officer who was killed Monday responding to an incident at a gas station in Covington.

WVVA: Gov. Youngkin issues statement following the death of Covington Police Officer Caleb Ogilvie (By Megan Brandl)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin issued a statement regarding the death of Covington Police Officer Caleb Ogilvie.

STAUNTON NEWS LEADER: 'These kids need equity.' Waynesboro chairperson fires back at Gov. Youngkin, cites poverty (By Patrick Hite)

Diana Williams said equity was never a bad word until current Gov. Glenn Youngkin's administration came into office in Virginia. "The work that Virginia public school divisions have done around equity has benefited all of our children because it's giving each child the tools they need when they need them," Williams wrote on Twitter Friday. "That's it. And you can't replace equity with opportunity. Period. Full stop."

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Wheeler keeps \$185k salary in lesser role as Youngkin adviser (By Patrick Wilson)

Scuttled natural resources nominee Andrew Wheeler will keep his \$185,567 salary in his new role as a senior adviser to Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin. Democrats who hold the majority in the Senate refused in the General Assembly session to confirm Wheeler for secretary of natural resources, citing his record of trying to undo environmental protections as a previous head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

DCIST: Andrew Wheeler Gets New Job In Youngkin Administration (By Jacob Fenston)

Former Trump Environmental Protection Agency boss Andrew Wheeler will be joining the Youngkin administration after all, even though Democratic lawmakers blocked his confirmation as secretary of natural and historic resources last

month. Wheeler will serve as a senior advisor to the governor, a Youngkin spokesperson confirmed.

THE HILL: Trump EPA chief to serve as adviser to Youngkin after losing confirmation fight (By Zack Budryk)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) has named former Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler as a special adviser after Democrats in the state Senate voted down his appointment for a Cabinet post. Macaulay Porter, a spokesperson for Youngkin's office, confirmed the move to The Hill Tuesday morning. The position, which does not require General Assembly confirmation, will concentrate on issues relating to natural resources.

WVTF: A General Assembly rejection of a cabinet pick isn't without precedent

Governor Glenn Youngkin's controversial pick for Cabinet secretary was rejected by lawmakers, although he'll be sticking around as an advisor. of the General Assembly almost always approve Cabinet secretaries.

WRIC: Report: Youngkin's team makes case for Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative withdrawal (By Deanna Allbritton)

New state documents show why Gov. Glenn Youngkin believes he's right to stick to his plan of withdrawing Virginia from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. The 78-page Freedom of Information Act request by 8News released on Tuesday night includes the report created by Youngkin's Executive Order 9. It was designed to re-evaluate the state's participation in the RGGI, while simultaneously beginning the regulatory process to end participation.

WCAV: Youngkin issues statement on line of duty death of Covington officer

A Virginia police officer was killed in a shooting on Monday. Covington Police Officer Caleb Ogilvie was responding to an incident, in which two other people were also killed.

VA SCOPE: How did the Youngkin agenda fare during the legislative session? (By Brandon Jarvis)

The political newcomer Glenn Youngkin who won in 2021 had to evolve into a Glenn Youngkin who governs and negotiates with politicians in 2022.

Local Stories

WRIC: Virginia lawmakers pass 'Adam's Law' but hazing penalties remain in limbo (By Dean Mirshahi)

Lawmakers overwhelmingly approved a bill known as "Adam's Law" that will require student organizations at Virginia colleges to go through hazing prevention training.

WJHL: Wise Co. teen lobbies Virginia lawmakers for change (By Nick Dugan)

Since the start of the new year, Miller has been working hard to craft a bill that would require Virginia state law and school systems to excuse students' absences due to 4-H activities, just as they do student-athletes or other members of school clubs.

WRIC: Records reveal Covington shooter's ties to Chesterfield County (By Olivia Jaquith)

After three people were killed in a shooting in Covington Monday evening, 8News has uncovered the shooter's local ties to Chesterfield County. The Virginia State Police (VSP) confirmed that Toney S. Poulston, Jr., 42, and Randall Lee Paxton, 64, lost their lives during the incident. City of Covington Police Chief Christopher Smith said Tuesday that Officer Caleb Daniel Ogilvie, 35, had also been killed, in the department's first line-of-duty death.

THE VIRGINIA PILOT: How to free a 1,000-foot cargo ship stuck in the Chesapeake Bay? Coast Guard weighs options for Norfolk-bound vessel. (By Ali Sullivan)

The U.S. Coast Guard is formulating a "very detailed" assessment before a Norfolk-bound cargo ship stuck in the Chesapeake Bay can be refloated, a spokesperson said Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Virginia museum receives gift worth nearly \$60 million

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts announced Tuesday that it has received a gift worth nearly \$60 million, including a significant contribution to the museum's expansion campaign and 15 paintings by prominent American artists.

WTOP: Prince William to use federal relief funds for bus driver recruitment, homeless students (By Jared Foretek)

Prince William County schools are getting some extra help from the federal pandemic relief bills to bolster its learning recovery plans.

National Stories

POLITICO: How Zelenskyy learned to love Congress (By Andrew Desiderio)

Volodymyr Zelenskyy will address Congress on Wednesday as a wartime Ukrainian president with formidable powers of persuasion over U.S. lawmakers, after perhaps the steepest Capitol learning curve any foreign leader has faced in a generation.

NBC NEWS: Biden admin weighs providing Ukraine with killer drones called Switchblades (By Ken Dilanian, Dan De Luce, and Courtney Kube)

The Biden administration is considering providing Ukraine with U.S.-made killer drones — cutting-edge guided missiles that could accurately target Russian tanks and artillery positions from miles away — two congressional officials briefed on the matter told NBC News.

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Austin Stevens
Press Assistant

Local Stories

WRIC: Florida man caught with loaded firearm at Richmond Airport, attempted to bring on flight (By Tannock Blair)

TSA officers at Richmond International Airport prevented a Florida resident from boarding his flight with a loaded handgun on Sunday. The man was stopped at a security checkpoint when his carry-on bag triggered an alarm from the x-ray unit. Upon inspection, TSA officers found a .357 caliber handgun, loaded with five bullets. TSA alerted airport police who responded to the checkpoint, confiscated the firearm and cited the man on a weapons violation.

WAVY: UPDATE: 2 of 3 victims ID'd in deadly Covington shooting (By Gary Boyer)

Virginia State Police has officially sent an update that provided additional information on the deadly shooting Monday evening in Covington.

WVEC: Virginia state lawmakers adjourn with much unfinished business (By Mike Gooding)

The session is over, but is not quite "mission accomplished" for the Virginia General Assembly. Lawmakers adjourned over the weekend, without completing their most important task.

THE WASHINGTON POST: Fairfax school board appeals judge's invalidation of Thomas Jefferson admissions system (By Hannah Natanson)

The Fairfax County School Board is appealing a federal judge's ruling that invalidated the recently revised admissions system for the prestigious Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology magnet school.

WTKR: Virginia's unemployment rate in January remains at 3.3%

Virginia's unemployment rate in January remained unchanged at 3.3%.

VIRGINIA MERCURY: Solar groups say \$55 minimum bill for shared solar is 'unworkable' (By Sarah Vogelsong)

Solar advocacy groups say a Virginia regulator's recommendation that Dominion Energy charge ratepayers who sign up for a new community solar program a minimum monthly bill of \$55 would be the highest such charge in the nation and would hobble the program by making it too expensive.

WSET: Virginia's gas drops for the first time in 3 months (By Kelsey Childress)

There's some welcome news on the gas front: Virginia's average dropped two cents over the weekend to \$4.23 per gallon.

National Stories

POLITICO: Manchin, Collins opposition likely dooms Biden's Fed nominee Raskin (By Victoria Guida and Burgess Everett)

Sens. Joe Manchin and Susan Collins will oppose Sarah Bloom Raskin's nomination to the Federal Reserve's top job overseeing banks, all but killing her already stalled bid to win confirmation.

REUTERS: U.S. warns China against helping Russia in Ukraine invasion

U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan on Monday raised concerns about China's alignment with Russia in a seven-hour meeting with Chinese diplomat Yang Jiechi as Washington warned of the isolation and penalties Beijing will face if it helps Moscow in its invasion of Ukraine.

POLITICO: Democrats divided over crypto's future (By Zachary Warmbrodt)

Democratic lawmakers are entering a crypto collision course. Questions around how to police digital currency and whether to support its adoption are driving a rift not just between the party's liberal and centrist wings but also among progressives who often see eye-to-eye on financial regulation.

THE HILL: Biden admin to restrict agencies from using prior salary history in hiring (By Morgan Chalfant)

The Biden administration is marking Equal Pay Day by announcing a proposed regulation that would prevent federal agencies from using a job applicant's prior salary history in the hiring process.



Moran, Matt <matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov>

CLIPS ROUNDUP 3/4/22

1 message

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 To: Christian Martinez <christian.martinez@governor.virginia.gov>
 Bcc: matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov

Fri, Mar 4, 2022 at 9:30 AM

Governor Mentions

POTOMAC LOCAL NEWS: Youngkin talks giving Va. families \$1,500 tax break, doubling standard deduction to \$18,000

Today, Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin came to an automotive shop in Stafford County to talk about cutting taxes and got an earful from residents. Estimating a \$14 billion budget surplus over the next three years, Youngkin calls for giving every state resident a \$1,500 tax cut during the first year. The Republican, now seven weeks on the job, also called for doubling the standard income tax deduction for families from \$9,000 to \$18,000.

MEDIATE: VA Democrats Compare Youngkin Critical Race Theory Ban to 'Third Reich Brainwashing Experiment' (By Jackson Richman)

Virginia Democrats compared Gov. Glenn Youngkin's critical race theory ban to Nazi indoctrination and "brainwashing."

WRIC: Half of Virginians approve of Gov. Youngkin's job performance, new poll shows (By Dean Mirshahi)

A new poll has Gov. Glenn Youngkin's approval rating at 50 percent, a nine-point difference from another survey released last week. But there are key differences between the two polls to consider.

PRINCE WILLIAM TIMES: Youngkin's motion to dismiss lawsuit challenging mask-optional law says parents' claims about disabled kids are 'speculative' (By Cher Muzyk)

Ahead of a hearing in federal court set for Monday, Gov. Glenn Youngkin's administration has filed a motion to dismiss a federal lawsuit challenging the state's mask-optional rules brought by 12 Virginia parents of students with disabilities that put them at a high risk for complications due to COVID-19.

WASHINGTON EXAMINER: OPINION: The Great Unmasking (By Jay Caruso)

On Feb. 4, at a grocery store in Alexandria, Virginia, a customer was unhappy that Gov. Glenn Youngkin wasn't wearing a mask. So she yelled out, "Governor, where's your mask?" Youngkin calmly responded, "We're all making choices today." Unfortunately, that wasn't enough to satisfy her. "Yeah, look around you, governor. You're in Alexandria. Read the room, buddy!"

CULPEPER STAR * EXPONENT: Youngkin to speak at Liberty University during School of Govt. public policy conference

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin will speak at Convocation at 10:30 a.m. on March 25 in the Vines Center at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Campus Pastor Jonathan Falwell recently announced. Youngkin's visit will be part of the Helms School of Government's previously scheduled public policy conference, March 24-26.

FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES: Governor Glenn Youngkin announces creation of nearly 200 jobs in Fairfax County (By Sravan Gannavarapu)

On Monday, Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin made his first Fairfax County economic development announcement since taking office on Jan. 15. At Alarm.com's headquarters in McLean, Youngkin announced that the company would invest \$2.6 million to expand technology research, creating 180 jobs.

VPM: Youngkin administration blocks release of public record requests (By Ben Pavoir)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin's office has refused to hand over submissions to the "tipline" he created for parents to submit feedback on state schools. Now his administration is also blocking inquiries into who made public records requests, how

they were handled and how many the governor's office received. At least one state agency and one state-funded college have also shielded the release of records on the governor's behalf.

RICHMOND FREE PRESS: Gov. Youngkin and reality of racism (By Susan Swecker)

On one of the final days of Black History Month, Gov. Glenn A. Youngkin released an interim report on critical race theory from the state superintendent of public instruction -- an attempt to rewrite, revise and change our history. This report launches a new chapter in Gov. Youngkin's racist agenda to whitewash Virginia's history and attempt to cover up the existence of racism in our Commonwealth and nation.

THE ATLANTIC: OPINION: A Taxonomy of Right-Wing Dog Whistles (By Molly Jong-Fast)

This one is an outgrowth of the child-masking debate. The idea is to tap into parental rage about school closures, and use it to target the teaching of the role of race in American history. Some pundits claim it's why Glenn Youngkin won the gubernatorial election in Virginia last year, helping fuel a surge around the country of exaggerations and lies about critical race theory. But according to recent polling, 57 percent of Virginia voters oppose banning the teaching of critical race theory, something that Youngkin has made a central plank of his governorship. Not clear yet is whether this polling will keep Youngkin from going full Ron DeSantis.

THE BREEZE: OPINION: Youngkin's tip line is detrimental to the future of education (By Luke Pineda)

It's not the first time that the U.S. populace has seen politicians taking aim at the future of our country, nor is it the first time that it's seen the same tactics being employed to harm individuals from baseless claims. Similar to communist scare tactics of the early Cold War-era, Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R-Va.) has employed McCarthy-esque devices to limit the amount of racial and social issues taught in schools. Through additional language on his website and actions already taken by the administration, like an email tip line to report teachers educating children about race, Youngkin is allowing Virginia to teach the bare minimum to its students by limiting the information taught in the classroom.

Local Stories

WHRO: Virginia state agencies often fail to provide access for non-English speakers (By Ryan Murphy)

Virginia's Latino residents have been more likely to catch Covid-19 over the last two years. A state report admits a lack of Spanish-speaking contact tracers and insufficient outreach in Spanish-speaking communities are partly to blame. Accessing government services can be confusing enough, awash in a sea of acronyms and bureaucracies. Adding a language barrier on top of that can make navigating something like the Virginia Unemployment Commission or Department of Motor Vehicles nigh impossible.

WTVR: Richmond community gathers to pray for Ukraine: 'It's heartbreaking' (By Maggie Marshall)

The Richmond community gathered on Thursday night to pray for people in Ukraine. Pastor Joe Ellison who helped coordinate the event said people have to come together during this crisis

WTTG: Trucker convoys headed to DC; expected to arrive over weekend

Trucker convoys from across the U.S. are expected to arrive in the D.C. region over the weekend. Thousands of truckers began traveling this week toward the nation's capital as part of the American Trucker's Freedom Convoy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Va. committee passes bill banning admissions discrimination

Legislation to ban racial discrimination in admissions policies at Virginia's highly regarded Governor's Schools has passed a key Senate committee, just days after a federal judge found one such school is discriminating against Asian Americans. Republican Del. Glenn Davis sponsored the bill after Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, an elite public school in northern Virginia, overhauled its admissions policies amid criticism that Black and Hispanic students were woefully underrepresented in the student body.

VIRGINIA MERCURY: Legislation lays out a plan for affordable broadband (By Jackie Llanos Hernandez)

Legislation creating a plan to expand affordable broadband access across the commonwealth is on the way to Gov. Glenn Youngkin's desk with broad bipartisan support. HB 1265, by Del. Suhas Subramanyam, D-Loudoun, charges the state Department of Housing and Community Development with creating a plan to deliver recommendations to the General Assembly and Youngkin by Dec. 1. Designing a map and blueprint to establish the areas in the state that are in most need of broadband access is among the tasks agency will have to tackle before the end of the year.

WTKR: Report finds potentially \$400 million wrongly given out from Virginia Employment Commission (By Margaret Kavanagh)

An audit of the Virginia Employment Commission has highlighted major issues within the agency after an explosion of claims filed as a result of the pandemic. The report dissects problems that could have potentially cost taxpayers \$400 million. The News 3 investigative team spoke to those impacted, the VEC commissioner and Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin about the new findings.

National Stories

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: U.S. added 678,000 jobs in February in sign of economic health

U.S. employers added a robust 678,000 jobs in February, another gain that underscored the economy's solid health as the omicron wave fades and more Americans venture out to spend at restaurants, shops and hotels despite surging inflation.

THE WASHINGTON POST: Russia seizes nuclear plant in Ukraine; radiation levels stable after projectile sparks fire

Ukraine entered a second week of war against Russian President Vladimir Putin's invading forces with parts of Europe's largest nuclear plant on fire early Friday and its southern cities encircled by Russian troops.

POLITICO: Barbershop Confrontations, Profane Signs and Despair: Pro-Biden and Alone in Rural America

In the pandemic's darkest days, a man living across the street from a Methodist church in this small town raised a flag in front of his house emblazoned with the words "Fuck Biden."

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Christian Martinez
Deputy Press Secretary
Work Cel



Moran, Matt <matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov>

ICYMI: 'This letter is a gross misrepresentation of what superintendents believe': Gov. Youngkin

2 messages

Press, Governor Youngkin <press@governor.virginia.gov>
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To: matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov

Mon, Mar 14, 2022 at 8:13 PM



Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of Governor Glenn Youngkin

In Case You Missed It:
'This letter is a gross misrepresentation of what superintendents believe': Gov. Youngkin

By Nick Minock, [WJLA](#)

Over the weekend, it was widely reported that all 133 Virginia public school superintendents sent a letter to Gov. Glenn Youngkin's administration disapproving of the Governor's education agenda.

It was also reported that all of the commonwealth's superintendents asked the Republican Governor to eliminate a "tip line" parents can send their concerns to about teachers and school curriculum.

7News is now learning the state's 133 superintendents were not advised of the letter before it was sent to the Governor's administration.

Virginia Association of School Superintendents Executive Director Ben Kiser told 7News the letter was written and approved by a board that consists of 12 members.

"This letter is a gross misrepresentation of what superintendents believe, I believe," Gov. Glenn Youngkin told 7News on Monday during a visit to McLean. "It's my understanding that in fact there was not a vote, this was a board of an association that wrote a letter and mischaracterized the support they had for that letter. I think that's wrong. This is what these associations are trying to do: which is again put bureaucracy, put politicians, in between parents and their children. This is why Virginians elected me in the fall. This is why we went to work on day one and on day one we reaffirmed the rights of parents to make these decisions. I believe this letter does not represent 133 superintendents, and I'll say just last week I was at the state championships for high school basketball class six all the way down to class one in Richmond men and women teams. It was so much fun. And I had superintendents, principals, teachers, parents, students, coming up to us in droves thanking us for the work we are doing on behalf of students and behalf of parents."

Some Virginia Superintendents told 7News on Monday that the first time they heard about VASS's letter to the Governor's administration was through media reports, including a Washington Post article titled, "All 133 Virginia school superintendents urge Youngkin to scrap tip line and content policy."

"It was a surprise to read a letter that presumed my agreement in the Washington Post as reported through various news sources," a Virginia superintendent said. "I think several of the superintendents in the state were a little surprised that we were attributed to something that we had not seen. It's a little bit of pot calling the kettle black when the letter that was written to the State Superintendent was very critical of the process when in fact there was no process by the State's superintendent association to loop in its membership."

Another Virginia Superintendent told 7News that had the state's superintendent association made it clear it was their board of directors issuing the letter, there wouldn't be an issue. The problem was that the VASS letter characterized that all 133 supported the content of the letter, the superintendent said.

"I was not made aware of the letter prior to it being sent and I would say I'd certainly appreciate it being consulted with prior to the letter going out indicating a representation of my - and along with my colleagues across the commonwealth's - views," the superintendent said. "If there is a letter going out on my behalf I would certainly appreciate and expect to know exactly what that letter says before its being distributed."

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CLIPS ROUNDUP 3/12

1 message

Stevens, Austin < >
 To: Austin Stevens <
 Bcc: matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov

Sat, Mar 12, 2022 at 8:20 AM

Governor Mentions

THE WASHINGTON TIMES: OPINION: Partisan games delay Virginia's Parole Board reforms (By Chadwick Dotson)

The Parole Board was never meant to be an instrument of political gamesmanship. But yesterday, Senate Democrats blocked Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin's supremely qualified nominees for the Parole Board, including three women, one who survived being shot in the head while serving as a Richmond Police Officer, a Latina who advocates for survivors of sexual and domestic violence, and a Black, female attorney and law professor, as well as one of Virginia's finest sheriffs.

THE ROANOKE TIMES: Cave Spring's long journey ends with state basketball title (By Roibert Anderson)

Cave Spring accepted the championship trophy Thursday from Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, who played college basketball at Rice. Youngkin also attended Cave Spring's first scrimmage against E.C. Glass in Lynchburg in November.

THE CENTER SQUARE: Youngkin to go after unemployment fraud, gets thanks from Virginia businesses (By Tyler Arnold)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced a deal aimed at cracking down on fraudulent unemployment claims, a move that garnered support from members of the business community. The governor and Attorney General Jason Miyares signed an agreement with the Virginia Employment Commission, which allows the attorney general to represent the VEC in the prosecution of criminal unemployment compensation fraud cases.

THE FEDERALIST: A Bill Banning Zuckbucks In Virginia Elections Is Headed To Gov. Glenn Youngkin's Desk (By Shawn Fleetwood)

The General Assembly of Virginia successfully passed a series of bills this week that would prohibit state and local election officials from accepting certain gifts and funding from private individuals or nongovernmental entities that would impact how elections are conducted within the Commonwealth.

CULPEPER STAR EXPONENT: Madison meat processor expansion gets Youngkin's first AFID grant (By Allison Brophy Champion)

A Madison County farm operation specializing in wild game processing is investing nearly half-million dollars to expand its services to local livestock producers that have seen a surge in demand during the pandemic. A \$40,000 grant from the Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund, Glenn Youngkin's first of his administration, will support the initiative.

WTVR: General Assembly passes bill to ban 'Carolina Squat' modification after Virginia father's death (By Cameron Thompson)

The Virginia General Assembly has passed legislation that would a ban modified "Carolina Squat" trucks from Virginia's roads in the wake of a deadly crash in Mecklenburg County that left a 27-year-old man dead last month.

WRGB: Gov. Youngkin shocked Senate Democrats rejected his parole board picks (By Jon Burkett)

Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin said he was shocked this week when the Virginia Senate voted to reject most of the people the Republican governor nominated the state parole board. Senate Democrats, who hold a majority in that chamber, said their vote was partly in retaliation after House Republicans voted against appointments to other boards.

WVTF: Despite some opposition, facial recognition measure moves forward (By Michael Pope)

Governor Glenn Youngkin is considering a bill that would allow police departments to use facial recognition technology. Police departments across Virginia may soon have access to facial recognition technology. The House and Senate have

both approved a bill that's raised alarm bells with some lawmakers who feel it's a violation of privacy.

AUGUSTA FREE PRESS: State revenues down, but Youngkin still pushing for tax cuts

Total general fund revenues for the Commonwealth of Virginia fell 1.2 percent in February compared to last year, but total revenues for the first two months of the year are up 13.6 percent. This is being used by Gov. Glenn Youngkin to buttress support for campaign-promised tax cuts.

THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER: Maryland agrees to 30-day gas tax suspension while others eye similar efforts (By Breanne Deppisch)

Meanwhile, lawmakers in at least 15 other state legislatures are discussing legislation that would either temporarily suspend, reduce, or freeze state gas taxes. Among them is Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, who has pushed for a one-year gas tax suspension in an effort to provide "relief" to consumers in the state. "Youngkin laid out his plan on Fox News on Thursday, saying, "This is a big moment for us to recognize that the average American family is really, really hurting right now."

WWBT: Gov. Youngkin, Attorney General Miyares announce investigation into fraudulent unemployment claims (By Joi Bass)

Virginia's top attorney is now joining the effort to crack down on unemployment fraud. Attorney General Jason Miyares signed an agreement with the Virginia Employment Commission to prosecute fake claims. According to the state's watchdog agency, the VEC has paid out at least \$100 million in fraudulent benefits since the pandemic started.

WFXR: Youngkin calls Democrats' argument for blocking Parole Board picks 'a charade' (By Dean Mirshahi)

Democrats wielded their slim majority in the Virginia Senate to reject four of Gov. Glenn Youngkin's picks for the Parole Board — including a New River Valley sheriff — and an appointee for the state's Safety and Health Codes Board.

THE CENTER SQUARE: Virginia bill to protect public workers' free speech heads to governor (By Tyler Arnold)

Legislation that would allow public sector workers to speak against policy proposals in public hearings passed both chambers of the Virginia General Assembly and will be sent to Gov. Glenn Youngkin's desk. House Bill 384, sponsored by Del. Glenn Davis, R-Virginia Beach, passed with bipartisan support: 72-27 in the House and 26-14 in the Senate. The governor is expected to sign the legislation.

WVIR: UVA law students and professor work with Sen. McClellan on SB 485 bill (By Dominga Murray)

UVA law students are working in partnership with Virginia State Senator Jennifer McClellan. Her bill, SB 485, passed the Senate unanimously and is now headed to Gov. Glenn Youngkin's desk for a signature. It's designed to update the Delinquency Prevention and Youth Development Act.

THE WASHINGTON POST: Youngkin could set Virginia education back 'many years': Read the withering letter from school superintendents blasting governor (By Valerie Strauss)

Virginia's 133 school superintendents are taking a strong stand against Gov. Glenn Youngkin's move to end most equity education initiatives, saying that "gross assumptions" were made by his administration about what happens in classrooms and that he could set back public education "many years."

THE WASHINGTON POST: All 133 Virginia school superintendents urge Youngkin to scrap tip line, effort to root out policies deemed 'divisive' (By Gregory S. Schneider)

All 133 of Virginia's public school division superintendents have urged Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) to scrap the "tip line" set up to let parents complain about teachers and principals and have asked him to stop his crusade against the teaching of "divisive" content in schools.

RAW STORY: Another Republican governor faces backlash for trying to censor school curriculums (By Timothy Evans)

In an unprecedented rebuke, all 133 school superintendents in Virginia are rejecting Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin's efforts to censor school curriculums in the commonwealth.

WJLA : 133 Virginia superintendents push back against Gov. Youngkin's 'divisive' interim report

All of Virginia's 133 public school superintendents are pushing back against Governor Glenn Youngkin and the Virginia Department of Education after an interim report on topics was deemed "inherently divisive".

PATCH: VA School Superintendents Urge Youngkin To Terminate Tip Line (By Mark Hand)

Virginia's public school administrators accused Gov. Glenn Youngkin's administration of making statements about "divisive concepts" being taught in schools across the state without providing any evidence. All 133 of Virginia's public school division superintendents also called on Youngkin to immediately scrap a tip line created for residents to report teachers and schools to his administration.

NEWSWEEK: Glenn Youngkin Rebuked Over Tip Line for Parents to Complain About Teachers (By Lora Korpar)

The Virginia Association of School Superintendents has written a letter to a state official asking for Governor Glenn Youngkin to remove a tip line for parents to complain about teachers and principals. The association, made up of all 133 of the state's public school division superintendents, sent the letter to Jillian Balow, the state superintendent of schools, on Thursday.

WRIC: Superintendents condemn Youngkin's 'divisive concepts' report, reversal of equity initiatives (Jackie DeFusco)

A group representing 133 superintendents across Virginia is condemning a report from Gov. Glenn Youngkin's administration outlining the reversal of education equity initiatives. The interim report was directed by Gov. Youngkin's executive order seeking to ban "divisive concepts" in public education, including critical race theory.

WWBT: Va. superintendents push back on Youngkin administration's 'divisive content' report (By Kate Masters)

In a Thursday letter, the Virginia Association of School Superintendents said the recent report made "gross assumptions" about public education in Virginia and failed to solicit input from local school administrators. Members of the association, which represents the state's 133 local school divisions, first read the report after it was picked by the media, according to Executive Director Ben Kiser.

WDBJ: The politics of rising gas prices play out in Richmond (By Joe Dashiell)

The politics of rising gas prices are playing out in the Virginia General Assembly. This week Democrats called on Governor Glenn Youngkin to issue an executive order and declare a state of emergency that would invoke Virginia's price-gouging statute.

WTTG: School superintendents warn Gov. Youngkin's policies could set Virginia education back 'many years'

A letter, written on behalf of every sitting superintendent in the Commonwealth of Virginia, was sent to Governor Glenn Youngkin Thursday demanding that he "terminate" his Critical Race Theory tipline and work more cohesively with the Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS).

WVIR: Public school superintendents disagree on what Department of Education reports as "inherently divisive concepts" taught in schools (By Elizabeth Holmes)

School superintendents from across the commonwealth are calling out the state's Department of Education (VDOE). VDOE reported in February Virginia schools are teaching what it claims to be "inherently divisive concepts," defined in Governor Glenn Youngers first Executive Order.

HUFFPOST: There Is A Culture War – And The GOP Is Waging It (By Nathalie Baptiste)

Last summer, political commentator James Carville went viral for demanding that the Democrats stop being so "woke" or it would cost them at the voting booth. When Republican Glenn Youngkin won Virginia's governor's race last fall, he credited Democrats' "stupid wokeness."

WCAV: Charlottesville superintendent discusses letter to Youngkin (By Macy Moors)

Governor Glenn Youngkin received backlash from school superintendents across the state on Thursday. This comes after the Virginia Department of Education released an interim report on what the administration calls divisive concepts.

WSET: All 133 Virginia superintendents urge Youngkin to scrap tip line and content policy (By Paige Meyer)

Superintendents across the state are fired up. All 133 of them are pushing back against Gov. Glenn Youngkin after being left out of any input for his 30-day education report.

WSET: Virginia House leader calls on Youngkin to act on gas prices (By Brenna McIntos)

House Democratic Leader Eileen Filler-Corn is calling on Gov. Glenn Youngkin to issue an executive order declaring a state of emergency due to Russia's war against Ukraine. This emergency declaration would activate the Virginia Post-Disaster Anti-Price Gouging Act and would give the attorney general tools to protect Virginians from price gouging at the pumps.

WTKR: Virginia superintendents send letter in response to Gov. Youngkin's administration report on divisive concepts in schools (By Brendan Ponton)

Superintendents from across Virginia are responding to a report released late last month by Gov. Glenn Youngkin that examines "inherently divisive concepts" being taught in schools.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: OPINION: Schapiro: In clash over community colleges, Youngkin shows he's learning (By Jeff E. Schapiro)

Turns out, Gov. Glenn Youngkin is a quick study. In a little-noticed, high-stakes clash with the overseers of Virginia's community colleges - all Democratic appointees - the Republican torpedoed what looked suspiciously like an inside job to install as the leader of the 23-school system a former education secretary, interim university president and State Board of Education member whose credentials also include a four-year stint as first lady.

THE WASHINGTON POST: OPINION: Youngkin has a chance to rise above cancel culture (By Sophia A. Nelson)

I was a bit shocked as I found myself emphatically nodding in agreement with, then literally giving an air fist bump to, Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R). The governor had just given a speech to the Federalist Society at the University of Virginia School of Law on March 4, about the work that governors are doing at the state level, and how public service is still a noble calling for young people to consider. And he made an interesting pivot to talking about the power of the First Amendment and free speech. And how in the wake of Russian President Vladimir Putin's tyrannical assault on Ukraine, we Americans had better understand that we have brewing right here at home the seeds of tyranny — of a different kind.

Local Stories

THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Virginia lawmakers plan to adjourn session without budget, at 'loggerheads' over size of tax cuts (By Michael Martz and Mel Leonor)

Unable to come to a resolution on the state budget, Virginia House and Senate leaders say they expect to adjourn the regular session of the General Assembly on Saturday, giving negotiators more time to bridge their differences in anticipation of a special session. Senate Democrats Friday afternoon made clear to Republicans that their caucus would not vote to extend the session past the constitution's prescribed 60 days. That could spell trouble for Gov. Glenn Youngkin, whose hands would be tied from making certain appointments if lawmakers then decide not to adjourn the special session.

ASSOCIATED PRESS: Lawmakers rush as General Assembly session draws to a close (Sarah Rankin and Denise Lavoie)

Virginia General Assembly members put in long hours this week as they worked through hundreds of bills, with the year's regular session drawing to a close. Throughout the day Friday, members hustled back and forth between their respective chambers as they met in the Capitol corridors to hash out compromise versions of bills.

WTOP: US Tennis plans big facility for Loudoun County (By Jeff Clabaugh)

The nonprofit U.S. Tennis Association's Mid-Atlantic division hopes to develop the largest tennis facility of its kind in the Mid-Atlantic in Loudoun County, Virginia. The project, in collaboration with Loudoun County Economic Development, Visit Loudoun and the County Board of Supervisors, would include 20 outdoor tennis courts, 16 indoor tennis courts, and 8 pickleball courts.

WSET: AG Miyares takes steps to prosecute fraudulent unemployment claims (By Brenna McIntosh)

On Thursday, Gov. Glenn Youngkin and Attorney General Jason Miyares announced that the Attorney General has signed an agreement with the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) to prosecute fraudulent claims for unemployment compensation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Judge won't delay ruling on admissions discrimination in Va.

A federal judge has again ruled against a northern Virginia school system that he found guilty of discriminating against Asian American students when it overhauled its admissions policies at a highly selective high school.

WSLS: Miyares urges Biden to rescind head start mask mandate

Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares joins 22 attorneys general in urging President Biden to end the head start program's mask mandate, NBC 12 reports. The mandate requires children as young as two years old to wear masks in head start affiliated schools and daycares.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: It's unclear if the state COVID test-to-stay schools program have helped with student quarantines (By Jessica Nocera)

In late December, the Virginia Department of Health announced a new COVID-19 testing program for unvaccinated students to help them remain in schools despite being exposed to coronavirus in a school setting. But, about a month later, the VDH ceased contact tracing, meaning school systems do not have to inform students if they are exposed to the virus in a school setting.

WTOP: Effort to block future pandemic closures at houses of worship fails in Va. Senate (By Nick Iannelli)

An effort to block Virginia from imposing future health-related restrictions on houses of worship fell short in the state Senate, with Democrats joining together to vote against the legislation.

National Stories

POLITICO: 'You will see the wrath' — Progressives warn Biden against cutting down agenda (By Adam Cancryn and Eugene Daniels)

President Joe Biden's vision for building a vast "care economy" has collapsed — and Democrats fear their party's political advantage with parents and caregivers could end up as collateral damage.

ASSOCIATED PRESS: U.S. announces more sanctions after North Korea missile tests

The U.S. Treasury Department announced new sanctions Friday after North Korea had tested parts of its biggest intercontinental ballistic missile in two recent launches, a sign it is likely to fire that weapon soon to put a spy satellite into orbit in what would be its most significant provocation in years.

NBC: Biden blames oil prices on Ukraine war, credits Democrats for improving economy (By Sahil Kapur)

President Joe Biden told House Democrats gathered here on Friday that 2022 "may be the most important off-year election in modern history," gave his party credit for an improving economy and rejected blame for rising gas prices.

AXIOS: U.S. sanctions more Russian politicians and oligarchs (By Shawna Chen)

The U.S. Treasury announced Friday it has sanctioned additional Russians, including Kremlin elites and political leaders who support Russian President Vladimir Putin's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

AEI on Education Recovery Benefits

1 message

Macy Heath <Macy.Heath@aei.org>
To: Macy Heath <Macy.Heath@aei.org>

Mon, Feb 28, 2022 at 10:57 AM

Good morning,

After more than 6,273 schools shifted to remote learning earlier this month, I wanted to share a [recent publication](#) from the American Enterprise Institute on how state leaders can support parents in bearing the burden of school closures.

In a recent [piece](#), AEI Senior Fellow [John P. Bailey](#) suggests Governors use their federal COVID-19 funds to aid low-income families who are affected the most by school closures. He argues that governors can use the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to establish a temporary [education recovery benefit](#) to provide direct cash assistance to help cover additional costs low-income families incur as a result of closed schools and poor-quality remote learning.

Governors should consider using the flexibility of these funds strategically to address the education and well-being needs of children and families. Bailey points to the recent launch of the Arizona Open for Learning Recovery Benefit program, which provides funds for needs-related child care, school-coordinated transportation, tutoring, tuition, and more.

If you would like more information, or have questions related to your state, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Macy

Macy Heath
Government Relations Manager
American Enterprise Institute
macy.heath@aei.org



Moran, Matt <matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov>

CLIPS ROUNDUP 2/23/22

1 message

Martinez, Christian <christian.martinez@governor.virginia.gov>
 To: Christian Martinez <christian.martinez@governor.virginia.gov>
 Bcc: matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov

Wed, Feb 23, 2022 at 9:09 AM

Governor Mentions

ROLL CALL: In Virginia, GOP has openings in new Biden-Youngkin districts (By Nathan L. Gonzales)

Virginia Republicans caught the country's attention when Glenn Youngkin captured the commonwealth's governorship in 2021. The GOP hopes to continue the trend by picking up a House seat or two in the 2022 midterm elections as it seeks a net gain of five seats to take the majority.

WASHINGTON TIMES: [Youngkin pleases conservatives with moves on mandates, 'divisive' curricula in first month](#) (By Mica Soellner)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin has gone full speed ahead since taking office in January, following a victory that Republicans hope foreshadows bigger wins in 2022. Mr. Youngkin, 55, has made a friend in culture warrior conservatives with two of his first executive orders, related to education and COVID-19 lockdowns. On day one, Mr. Youngkin issued executive orders canceling Virginia schools' mask mandates and banning them from teaching the tenets of critical race theory.

FREDERICKSBURG: EDITORIAL: [Gov. Youngkin and his bipartisan moment](#)

More than a few Virginians were caught off guard in the first month of Gov. Glenn Youngkin's administration when, after campaigning as a more-moderate Republican, he took a hard turn to the right by stoking wedge issues like critical race theory, and by abruptly trying to pull Virginia out of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

FOX NEWS RADIO: Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R-VA): I Think We Read The Room Because We Listened To Parents On Masking

Governor of Virginia joined the Guy Benson Show to discuss the pushback he's received since following through on his campaign promise to unmask children at school and how many other states have followed suit.

WJLA: [Gov. Youngkin pushes for tax relief; Democrats call for extra climate change funding](#) (By Nick Minock)

Right now there is a big-budget battle underway in Richmond and the clock is ticking. The state budget deadline is three weeks away and Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin and State Senate Democrats have very different plans on how to spend your tax dollars

WTVR: Grocery shoppers want to see Virginia's grocery tax come to an end, but Hampton leaders say it could leave a huge impact in our cities (By Kelsey Jones)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin campaigned on eliminating Virginia's grocery tax. As the proposal is debated in the General Assembly, News 3 took a look into what impact our cities could face if the portion that goes to them goes away.

BACON'S REBELLION: CNU Poll Breakdown: Youngkin -2 and Biden -13 in Virginia (By Chris Saxman)

Not trying to throw water on the "underwater with Virginia voters" headline, but the article also noted that President Joe Biden's numbers in the Commonwealth were 40% approve and 53% disapprove or -13%. More that SIX times worse than Youngkin's numbers, but the headline goes to... Youngkin being underwater?

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: [Senate Democrats draw battle lines with Youngkin over economy and budget](#) (By Michael Martz)



Senate Democrats drew clear battle lines with Gov. Glenn Youngkin on Tuesday over the state of Virginia's economy and the next two-year budget. In a sometimes testy exchange with Secretary of Finance Steve Cummings, leaders of the Senate Finance & Appropriations Committee made clear they regard funding of essential public services as a higher budget priority than the governor's aggressive plan for cutting taxes.

WSET: [Gov. Youngkin's \\$150M 'lab school' plan causes debate among lawmakers](#) (By Claire Galt)

RICHMOND, Va. (WSET) — Gov. Glenn Youngkin's Administration wants to introduce what's called "lab schools" here in Virginia. Just like public and charter schools, they would be funded by the state. Under Virginia code, charter schools are overseen by management that includes parents, teachers, administrators and community sponsors. Lab schools, on the other hand, partner with a university rather than local school boards. Some operate as research or job-skill training centers.

WCAV: [Partisan divides evident in first month under Youngkin](#)

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. (CBS19 NEWS) -- According to a Wason Center poll that came out Monday morning, 43 percent of Virginians don't approve of Governor Glenn Youngkin and 41 percent say the state is headed in the wrong direction. Wason Center Research Director Rebecca Bromley-Trujillo explained these numbers. She said Youngkin hit the ground running, with issues like mask mandates, teaching critical race theory, and the teacher tip line played a big part in the results.

WVEC: [Gov. Youngkin announces VEC backlog reduced nearly 90%](#) (By Sarah Hammond)

NORFOLK, Va. — Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin said the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) has made strides to knock down some of the backlog that built up over the last two years. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, it didn't just affect people's health. It also affected their wallets. An overwhelming number of people in the Commonwealth filed unemployment claims, to the point where the Virginia Employment Commission had trouble handling them all. So, some people couldn't get their money

MSNBC: [New poll shows Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's bet on voters was way off](#) (By Ja'han Jones)

Roughly one month into his first term, Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's polling is underwater. The Republican appears to be out of step with a majority of voters on key issues, including school lesson plans and mask requirements. Conservatives rallied around him during a campaign he focused on education issues, such as Covid-19 safety measures and classroom instruction on social inequality. The right touted his November election victory as a vehement denunciation of progressive politics.

VA DOGWOOD: [Poll: Virginia's Voters Mixed on Youngkin's First Month in Office](#) (By Meghin Moore)

In his first month in office, Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin overturned a mandatory mask mandate for students in public K-12 institutions, created an "education tip line" for parents to report any "divisive practices" being taught in public schools, has talked about how important it is to learn all of Virginia's history, despite not wanting to address historical and present racism into Virginia's public school systems, and has faced a lot of backlash from constituents across the commonwealth for his proposed policies.

Local Stories:

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: [Virginia Senate Democrats kill slew of GOP voting bills](#)

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) - A Democrat-led Virginia Senate committee has defeated a broad range of Republican-sponsored voting reform measures. Among the bills voted down Tuesday were several measures that would have reinstated a requirement to present a photo ID before casting a ballot. The committee also killed proposals that would have moved up the deadline for returning an absentee ballot, ended same-day voter registration and shorted the early voting period.

WTOP: [Northern Virginia program aims to help crime survivors, keep youth out of criminal justice system](#) (By Shayna Estulin)

A new program in Northern Virginia aims to help survivors of crime, and keep young people out of the criminal justice system. The Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for Arlington County and the City of Falls Church launched "Heart of

Safety." Under this program, both the person who was harmed and the person who did the harm will be able to participate in a conferencing process overseen by a trained facilitator, and they will work together to come up with a mutually agreed upon restoration plan.

WVEC: Virginia Senate committee stops bill that would end involvement in RGGI (By Preston Stengar)

NORFOLK, Va. — Author's note: The video above is about a recent poll from The Wason Center. It aired on Feb. 21, 2022. A committee in the Virginia Senate voted to stop a bill Tuesday that would end the Commonwealth's involvement in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a market that seeks to cap and reduce emissions across 11 states.

THE ROANOKE TIMES: EDITORIAL: Amtrak extensions hold huge promise for Southwest Virginia

The man stood on the Amtrak train platform in Roanoke, wheeled luggage at the ready, a smile on his face that placed his expression somewhere between resignation and exasperation. The reason for his attitude wasn't hard to discern. He had brought his bags up the ramp right around 6:20 a.m., just as the passenger train had begun to roll north toward Washington, D.C., and New York City. The train's languorous pace tantalized him with an opportunity to take a long look at the train he had just missed as it lumbered away into the dark.

VIRGINIA MERCURY: With half a billion in new federal funding, will Virginia finally fix its bridge repair backlog? (By Wyatt Gordon)

Earlier this month, when Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., visited the Glebe Road Bridge that connects Arlington and Alexandria, that crumbling connection served as the perfect background to announce \$536.8 million in additional federal funding to address Virginia's dilapidated bridges.

National Stories:

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Florida GOP 'Don't Say Gay' bill advances in House

Florida House Republicans on Tuesday advanced a bill to forbid discussions of sexual orientation and gender identity in schools, rejecting criticism from Democrats who said the proposal demonizes LGBTQ people. The measure, dubbed by opponents as the "Don't Say Gay" bill, is now set for a final vote in the House after GOP lawmakers refused a series of Democratic amendments Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Trump's social media app launches year after Twitter ban (By Bernard Condon)

NEW YORK (AP) — Former President Donald Trump's social media app that he hopes will rival Twitter launched Monday as he seeks a new digital stage to rally his supporters and fight Big Tech limits on speech, a year after he was banned from Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. His Truth Social app was offered for download from the Apple App Store to a limited number of subscribers who had preordered. Others who were added to a waiting list are to be given access over the next 10 days.

THE NEW YORK TIMES: U.S. and Allies Impose Sanctions on Russia as Biden Condemns 'Invasion' of Ukraine (By Michael D. Shear, Richard Pérez-Peña, Zolan Kanno-Youngs and Anton Troianovski)

WASHINGTON — The United States and its allies on Tuesday swiftly imposed economic sanctions on Russia for what President Biden denounced as the beginning of an "invasion of Ukraine," unveiling a set of coordinated punishments as Western officials confirmed that Russian forces had begun crossing the Ukrainian border.

THE NEW YORK TIMES: Biden Interviews 3 Supreme Court Candidates as His Search Narrows (By Katie Rogers)

President Biden has interviewed at least three candidates for his Supreme Court nomination, a signal that he intends to fulfill his promise that he would choose a nominee by the end of the month.

THE WASHINGTON POST: Supreme Court will hear another clash pitting religious rights against laws protecting LGBTQ people from discrimination (By Robert Barnes)

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it will decide whether a Colorado designer can tell same-sex couples she will not create a website for their weddings, reviving the issue of where to draw the line between someone's religious beliefs

7/7/22, 2:43 PM

Commonwealth of Virginia Mail - CLIPS ROUNDUP 2/23/22

and protections against discrimination for LGBTQ people.

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Christian Martinez
Deputy Press Secretary
Work Cell:

Students at UVA Wise wandered through the Slemp Student Center on Friday and picked up a freebie — 50-count boxes of medical-grade masks. Meanwhile, according to one college official, the campus is seeing a climb in its weekly count of positive COVID-19 case results since Gov. Glenn Youngkin instructed all state colleges and universities to stop prevalence testing among students and staff about three weeks ago.

NBC NEWS: Amateur fraud hunters bury election officials in public records requests (By Jane C. Timm)

The general registrar and director of elections in Fairfax City, Virginia, Brenda Cabrera, said her office was one of many that was hit by a surge of records requests over the last year, which are governed by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA. Cabrera is a salaried employee of the city of 24,000 people. "We started to talk about FOIA being weaponized," she said. "It's very time-consuming to respond to FOIA, so you could drag a small office to a standstill just by continuing to issue FOIA requests." The requests all but stopped after the November election, when Republican Glenn Youngkin won the Virginia governor's race, Cabrera said.

BRISTOL HERALD COURIER: OPINION: Flooding is not just a coastal issue (Tee Clarkson)

The residents of Chesapeake, Norfolk, Virginia Beach and other coastal communities suffer significant flooding from rising tides, rainstorms and, of course, hurricanes on a regular basis. Much has been made of these issues with sea level rise and coastal flooding. Virginia Beach has already spent millions of taxpayer dollars on plans to save communities. The price tag for relief and mitigation will undoubtedly reach the billions.

National Stories

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: One eye on midterms, Dems ease up on approach to virus (Zeke Miller)

"People are tired," Georgia Sen. Raphael Warnock says in the opening ad for his reelection campaign. There's not a face mask to be seen in the Democrat's video montage of scenes across Georgia, as he goes on to say people that are "wondering when things will get back to normal, and at the same time not knowing what normal even means anymore."

POLITICO: Senate Dems left behind as party inches away from mask mandates (By Natalie Allison)

This week's Democratic memo that voters want a return to normalcy hasn't reached the party's Senate candidates. Even as several blue-state governors dropped mask mandates — and the chair of the party's House campaign committee declared on Tuesday it was time to shift their communications on Covid-19 — Democratic senators and candidates don't seem to want anything to do with the new messaging.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Putin, Biden plan high-stakes phone call in Ukraine crisis (By Jim Heintz)

Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Joe Biden are to hold a high-stakes telephone call on Saturday as tensions over a possibly imminent invasion of Ukraine escalated sharply and the U.S. announced plans to evacuate its embassy in the Ukrainian capital. Before talking to Biden, Putin is to have a call with French President Emmanuel Macron, who met with him in Moscow earlier in the week to try to resolve the crisis.

POLITICO: 'It is past time to leave': U.S. tells Americans to flee Ukraine and evacs embassy staff

The U.S. has begun evacuating its embassy in Kyiv as fears mount over a potential Russian invasion of Ukraine. The State Department said Saturday that almost all of its 200 staff based in Kyiv will be required to leave "due to the continued threat of Russian military action," as the U.S. continues to work "intensively" to prevent Ukraine from becoming a war zone. The embassy will keep a small number of "core" diplomats in Kyiv and will maintain a small consular service in Lviv, which is further away from a potential conflict zone.

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Christian Martinez
Deputy Press Secretary
Work Cell:



Moran, Matt <matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov>

CLIPS ROUNDUP 2/9/22

1 message

Martinez, Christian <christian.martinez@governor.virginia.gov>
Bcc: matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov

Wed, Feb 9, 2022 at 9:46 AM

CLIPS ROUNDUP 2/9/22**Governor Mentions****THE WASHINGTON POST:** [Virginia Senate Democrats join GOP on amendment to allow parents to opt out of school mask mandates](#) (By Laura Vozzella and Gregory S. Schneider)

Democrats in Virginia's Senate signaled support Tuesday for making school masks optional by July, a turnaround after weeks of howling against Gov. Glenn Youngkin's efforts to end mask mandates right away.

FOX NEWS: [Virginia legislature makes bipartisan move to end school mask mandates](#) (By Michael Lee)

A bipartisan group of Virginia lawmakers moved to end mask mandates in the state's schools as Gov. Glenn Youngkin's executive order doing the same faces multiple court challenges. A group of 10 State Senate Democrats voted with Republicans for an amendment that would allow parents to opt their children out of masking in schools, a rule that aligns with the Youngkin order, which was signed on his first day in office last month.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: [Amid Youngkin's court fight, Virginia Senate moves to make masks optional at school](#) (By Mel Leonor)

Opponents of mask mandates in schools are using the power of the legislature to make it optional for parents to send their child to school with a mask. The Virginia Senate on Tuesday overwhelmingly approved a bill that would prevent local school boards from levying mask mandates and from punishing students whose parents opt to send their child to school without a mask.

VIRGINIA MERCURY: [Senate set to vote on bill ending mask mandates in Virginia schools](#) (By Graham Moomaw)

In a surprise move, an education bill was amended on the floor of the Democratic-led Virginia Senate Tuesday to include a provision allowing families to opt-out of mask rules in their local schools, legislation senators from both parties said is expected to win final passage Wednesday.

TOWNHALL: [Glenn Youngkin Nabs Another Victory Against Mask Fanatics](#) (By Katie Pavlich)

Newly minted Republican Governor Glenn Youngkin just nabbed another victory against the mask fanatics in his state. On Tuesday afternoon, the Democrat-controlled Virginia state Senate voted in bipartisan fashion 29-9 to give parents a choice about whether their children wear a mask at school.

THE WASHINGTON POST: [The great debate over Glenn Youngkin and race that might have been](#) (By Courtland Milloy)

There might have been a great debate in the Virginia House of Delegates at a recent session. The debaters were fired up, ready to go. The topic was a barn burner. Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin's racially divisive election campaign had left a bad taste in many a mouth, and this was the time and place to clear the palate

WASHINGTON EXAMINER: [Youngkin and conservatives claim vindication as Democrats back off mask mandates](#) (By Jeremiah Poff)

Conservative activists and Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin are claiming vindication after several states controlled by Democrats lifted their school mask mandates, even as his executive order allowing parents to opt-out of such mandates faces continued opposition.

BREITBART: [Virginia Supreme Court Rejects Petition to Stop Glenn Youngkin's No Mask Mandate](#) (By Paul Bois)

Launched by a group of parents in Chesapeake, Virginia, the petition essentially asked the court to invalidate Youngkin's executive order blocking the enforcement of masking in Virginia schools, seeking a writ of mandamus. The court instead offered "no opinion on the legality" of Youngkin's executive order and ruled that a writ of mandamus is only used for extraordinary circumstances.

WAVY.COM: [Gov. Youngkin orders flags be flown at half staff Wednesday to honor Bridgewater College officers killed](#) (By Gary Boyer)

RICHMOND, Va. (WFXR) – Gov. Glenn Youngkin has ordered the flag of the Commonwealth of Virginia be flown at half-staff. The order takes effect at sunrise on Wednesday, Feb. 9 and will continue until sunset and includes flags at all local, state and federal buildings and grounds in the Commonwealth of Virginia to remember police officer John Painter and campus safety officer J.J. Jefferson who were killed in the shooting at Bridgewater College on Feb. 1.

WTVR.COM: [Gov. Youngkin orders flags to be flown at half-staff for Bridgewater College officers](#)

RICHMOND, Va. -- Gov. Glenn Youngkin ordered that flags be flown at half-staff on Wednesday to honor the two officers killed in a shooting at Bridgewater College. Flags will be lowered at sunrise on Wednesday and will remain at half-staff until sunset. Bridgewater College officers John Painter, 55, and J.J. Jefferson, 48, were both killed in a shooting on Bridgewater College's campus on February 1.

THE CENTER SQUARE: [Youngkin praises Chesapeake, Va. school mask ruling, vows to continue fight for parental rights](#) (By Tyler Arnold)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin praised the Virginia Supreme Court's decision to throw out a lawsuit that sought to overturn his executive order preventing school mask mandates and vowed to keep fighting to protect parental rights.

ROANOKE TIMES: [Virginia education associations to Youngkin: Shut down the tip line and rescind Executive Order #1](#)

Throughout the past year, Virginia's students, teachers and principals have been caught in the middle of a politically driven culture war that has eroded trust in our schools and exacerbated the growing teacher shortage.

FORBES: [What The Spotify, Glenn Youngkin, And Eric Lander Statements Tell Us About The Art Of Apologizing Today](#) (By Jena McGregor)

It's been a big week for high-profile apologies. Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin said he regretted what he called an "unauthorized" Twitter swipe from his team to a teen. Biden administration science adviser Eric Lander apologized for his treatment of subordinates. Joe Rogan said he was sorry for his use of the n-word in past podcasts just a week after an earlier apology about conversations on his show with vaccine skeptics. And Spotify CEO Daniel Ek apologized to staff for the impact on them of the racial slur controversy as the streaming service's P.R. crisis continues.

WVEC: [Chesapeake parents will continue legal action against Youngkin's mask order](#) (By Alex Littlehales)

CHESAPEAKE, Va. — As a parent and network engineer, Matt Castillo isn't exactly a courtroom expert. So in the past couple of weeks, he's learned plenty of lessons while challenging the state's highest authority. "The case in of itself is not a standard case, kind of politically charged, I hate that that's the case," Castillo said, a parent with several children in the Chesapeake Public Schools Division.

Cabinet Mentions

THE WASHINGTON POST: [Senate Democrats put Wheeler's bid for Youngkin's Cabinet in limbo](#) (By Laura Vozzella)

Democrats who control the state Senate thwarted a Republican effort on Tuesday to revive the Cabinet bid of former Trump administration official Andrew Wheeler, leaving Gov. Glenn Youngkin's (R) embattled appointee in limbo.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: [In Key Vote, Democrats Reject Wheeler Cabinet Appointment](#) (By Sarah Rankin)

Democrats who narrowly control the Virginia Senate stuck together Tuesday and voted unanimously against approving former U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administrator Andrew Wheeler to Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin's Cabinet.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: [Virginia Senate rejects Andrew Wheeler, Gov. Glenn Youngkin's pick for secretary of natural resources](#) (By Andrew Cain)

The Virginia Senate on Tuesday voted to reject Gov. Glenn Youngkin's nomination of Andrew Wheeler as secretary of natural resources. The Senate voted 21-19 along party lines to back a committee amendment removing Wheeler, who served as EPA administrator under President Donald Trump, from a list of appointments working its way through the Senate. The Cabinet list comes up for a final Senate vote on Wednesday.

THE HILL: [Virginia lawmakers reject former Trump EPA chief along party lines](#) (By Zack Budryk)

Virginia lawmakers officially rejected the nomination of former Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) head Andrew Wheeler, Gov. Glenn Youngkin's (R) nominee for secretary of natural resources, the first rejection of a state Cabinet nominee in more than 15 years.

PATCH: [VA Senate Rejects Trump EPA Chief For Youngkin's Cabinet](#) (By Mark Hand)

The Virginia Senate voted Tuesday to reject Gov. Glenn Youngkin's nomination of Andrew Wheeler to be the state's next secretary of Natural and Historic Resources. Wheeler served as administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under President Donald Trump, where he worked to roll back many environmental regulations put into place during Barack Obama's presidency.

HUFFINGTON POST: [Democrats Block Trump EPA Chief's Bid For Top Virginia Environmental Post](#) (By Chris D'Angelo)

Democratic lawmakers in Virginia rejected Gov. Glenn Youngkin's (R) nomination of Andrew Wheeler, Donald Trump's controversial second head of the Environmental Protection Agency and a former coal lobbyist, to serve as the state's top environmental official.

Local Stories

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: [Va. Republicans block gay marriage, voting rights proposals](#) (By Sarah Rankin)

Republicans in the Virginia House have defeated a measure that would have let voters decide whether to strip legally outdated language prohibiting gay marriage from the state Constitution. They also killed a measure to let voters weigh in on whether to automatically restore the voting rights of felons who have served their terms. A Republican-controlled subcommittee killed the resolutions Tuesday morning.

NBC 12: [Curling Club of Virginia sees surge in interest as Winter Olympics return](#) (By Riley Wyant)

RICHMOND, Va. (WWBT) - Every four years, we get the chance to watch some unique sports in action at the Winter Olympics. One of the stand-outs is curling. The unusual ice sport is gaining popularity, not only nationwide but right here in Richmond. There's a local club that gets together to curl all the time. You can try it too!

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT FOOD AND WATER WATCH: [Virginia House of Delegates Committee Votes Down the New Virginia Economy Act](#)

Today, a Virginia House of Delegates committee voted against the New Virginia Economy Act, blocking the bill's path to passage in this year's short legislative session. Delegate Sam Rasoul's New Virginia Economy Act, HB 469, would require that Virginia generate 100% of its electricity from clean renewables by 2035, and stop the approval of any large new fossil fuel projects next year.

National Stories

THE NEW YORK TIMES: [Dropping Indoor Mask Mandate, New York Joins Blue States Easing Covid Rules](#)

Gov. Kathy Hochul will drop New York's stringent indoor mask mandate on Wednesday, ending a requirement that businesses ask customers for proof of full vaccination or require mask wearing at all times, and marking a turning point in the state's coronavirus response, according to three people briefed on her decision.

POLITICO: [It was a 'mistake': Abrams apologizes for maskless photo with schoolchildren](#) (By Myah Ward)

Stacey Abrams apologized on Tuesday, after the Georgia gubernatorial candidate posted and deleted a photo of her smiling, maskless, surrounded by masked elementary-school children earlier this week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: [High court's Alabama ruling sparks alarm over voting rights](#) (By Lisa Mascaro and Farnoush Amiri)

The Supreme Court's decision to halt efforts to create a second mostly Black congressional district in Alabama for the 2022 election sparked fresh warnings Tuesday that the court is becoming too politicized, eroding the Voting Rights Act and reviving the need for Congress to intervene.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: [McConnell rebukes RNC, calls Jan. 6 'violent insurrection'](#) (By Mary Clare Jalonick)

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell is criticizing the Republican National Committee for censuring two House GOP lawmakers investigating the "violent insurrection" on Jan. 6, 2021, saying it's not the party's job to police the views of lawmakers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: [House approves short-term bill averting federal shutdown](#) (By Alan Fram)

Federal agencies would be financed for another month under bipartisan legislation approved by the House on Tuesday, the latest emblem of Congress' persistent inability to finish its budget work on time.

THE HILL: [GOP tensions flare over Jan. 6 attack](#) (By Jordan Carney)

Republicans are struggling to break out of a cycle of Jan. 6 controversies, reigniting tensions within the party heading into the 2022 midterm elections.

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CLIPS ROUNDUP 2/10/22

1 message

Martinez, Christian <christian.martinez@governor.virginia.gov>
 To: Christian Martinez <christian.martinez@governor.virginia.gov>
 Bcc: matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov

Thu, Feb 10, 2022 at 9:34 AM

CLIPS ROUNDUP 2/10/22

Governor Mentions

NATIONAL REVIEW: Youngkin the Conqueror (By Jim Geraghty)

On the menu today: Virginia governor Glenn Youngkin's effort to make masking optional in schools scores a big win in the state senate; Georgia gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams admits that she made a mistake in going maskless at that elementary school; and your view on what the U.S. should do regarding Russia and Ukraine is likely connected to your ability to find Ukraine on a map. As someone — no one is entirely sure who — once said, "War is God's way of teaching Americans geography."

WTF: Sexually explicit material notification legislation may be headed for a gubernatorial signature (By Michael Pope)

Governor Glenn Youngkin may soon be receiving a bill that would allow him to deliver on a campaign promise to notify parents when their children will be learning about sexually explicit material. During the campaign for governor, Glenn Youngkin repeatedly attacked Terry McAuliffe for vetoing a bill that would have required schools notify parents when their children will be reading books with sexually explicit content. Now, the state Senate has passed a bill similar to the one McAuliffe vetoed in 2016.

WDBJ: Youngkin says he hopes Senate bill will end legal battle over mask mandates (By Joe Dashiell)

Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin said he believes legislation approved by the State Senate should end the legal battle over mask mandates in public schools. Courts have issued conflicting rulings on the Governor's executive order that allows parents to opt out. But Wednesday, the State Senate gave final passage to a bill that would make masks optional in schools.

WSET: Gov. Youngkin not backing down on promise of supporting parental rights (By Mark Spain)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin has only been on the job less than a month, and he's already been sued over his executive order on mask-wearing in schools. "When it comes to children, parents should be empowered," Virginia's 74th governor said.

FAUQUIER TIMES: Youngkin: Jefferson, fellow officer gave lives for others

The two Bridgewater College officers shot to death last week — one of them a Fauquier High graduate — may have saved countless lives as they bravely confronted the gunman, Gov. Glenn Youngkin said at their memorial service Wednesday.

WTOP: Virginia House to quickly take up school mask issue (Nick Lannelli)

Virginia House Speaker Todd Gilbert promised Wednesday that the state's House of Delegates would vote as soon as possible on a bill that gives families the ability to opt-out of COVID-19 mask mandates issued by school systems.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Virginia Senate Passes Bill to End School Mask Mandates

A bipartisan majority in the Virginia Senate has voted to pass legislation that would ban public school systems from imposing mask requirements on students. The measure passed the Senate Wednesday and now heads to the GOP-controlled House of Delegates. The house is expected to advance it to Gov. Glenn Youngkin for his signature.

THE WASHINGTON POST: [Virginia Senate votes to make masks in schools optional statewide](#) (By Laura Vozzella and Gregory S. Schneider)

Virginia's Senate voted Wednesday to make masks optional in all of the state's K-12 schools, with three Democrats joining Republicans to support a goal that Gov. Glenn Youngkin has tried to accomplish with a legally disputed executive order. The measure now heads to the Republican-led House, which is expected to support it.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: [Bill to end local mask mandates in schools moves ahead in Senate and House](#) (By Mel Leonor)

Legislation blocking local school boards from requiring students to wear masks over their parents' objections moved ahead in the General Assembly on Wednesday. The legislation is poised to become a major victory for Republicans, including Gov. Glenn Youngkin, who made parental power a hallmark of his campaign, and for parents who oppose COVID-19 masking requirements.

FOX NEWS: [MSNBC, others hit as 'hypocrites' for contradictory coverage on Youngkin, Murphy mask mandate orders](#) (By Cortney O'Brien)

Left-leaning news outlets were quick to criticize Gov. Glenn Youngkin, R-Va., in January when he enacted an executive order banning mask mandates in schools during his first week in office, but some of the same media have seemingly changed their tune or remained mum after Gov. Phil Murphy, D-N.J., took a similar action.

FOX NEWS: [Youngkin blasts media 'misperceptions' of his school masking policies](#) (By Charles Creitz)

Three Democrats joined with the Republican minority in the Virginia State Senate to pass a bill making masks optional in the state's schools, which GOP Gov. Glenn Youngkin called a "defining moment for parents and kids" and evidence of a growing "bipartisan movement" to empower parental rights. The bill, sponsored by State Sen. Siobhan Dunnivant will now go to the GOP-majority State House of Delegates where it is expected to pass and go to Youngkin's desk.

FOX NEWS: [Washington Post vs. Youngkin: Paper publishing near-daily pieces attacking new Virginia governor](#) (By Brian Flood)

The Washington Post has attacked Republican Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin on a regular basis since he was sworn in last month, consistently publishing negative opinion pieces slamming him for everything from his stance on critical race theory to an email tip line set up for concerned parents.

FOX NEWS: [Loudoun County Eagle Scout suspended for obeying Gov. Youngkin's mask rules: This is 'disgraceful'](#) (By Angelica Stabile)

Students across the nation are speaking out against restrictive mask mandates, including in Virginia where Gov. Glenn Youngkin has already enacted a mask-optional order. Loudoun County student and Eagle Scout Jarod Missler participated in a protest against mandates by showing up to school maskless alongside 15 other students. The Woodgrove High School senior and his classmates were immediately escorted to speak with school administration and were punished with a 10-day suspension with the potential of being extended by the superintendent.

FOX NEWS: [Loudoun County dad pushes district to comply with Youngkin's mask policy: We want 'optionality'](#) (By Bailee Hill)

A Loudoun County parent and his son are speaking out after the school board received affidavits over their mask mandate, as the nationwide push to roll back COVID-related policies in the classroom continues. Brandon Michon, who is also running for Congress to represent the commonwealth, and his son Duke joined "America's Newsroom" Wednesday to discuss the confrontation with the board and the broader debate surrounding masking children in the classroom.

FOX NEWS: Gutfeld: Can the media even admit when it's wrong?

So remember when Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin eased restrictions on mask mandates? The media mocked and condemned him like the Romans did Jesus.

THE DAILY WIRE: [Virginia Democrats Vote For Bill That Would End Masking Kids, Just Days After Cheering Court Setback For Youngkin](#) (By Ashe Schow)

Last week, a Virginia judge denied Gov. Glenn Youngkin's (R-VA) bid to allow parents to decide whether their children should wear masks at school. Following the judge's order, Virginia Democrats issued a statement saying, "In a win for Virginia parents, courts rule against Youngkin's executive overreach."

THE FREE BEACON: [Youngkin Will Use Emergency Powers To Expedite Bill To End School Mask Mandates](#) (By Alex Nester)

Virginia governor Glenn Youngkin (R.) will use emergency powers to quickly enact legislation that would effectively end mask mandates in public schools. The Virginia State Senate on Wednesday is expected to pass an amended bill that would codify Youngkin's executive order giving parents the right to decide whether their children wear masks to schools. A spokesman for the governor's office told the Washington Free Beacon on Wednesday that the governor plans on attaching an "emergency clause" to the masking amendment, which would allow the provision to take effect immediately.

WRIC: [Why parents-choice mask bill may or may not take place immediately](#) (By Ben Dennis)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin praised the Virginia Senate for approving a bill to give parents authority over school mask mandates. However, when the measure may be effective remains unknown. A spokesperson for Youngkin said Monday the bill could give parents a choice on masks almost immediately if he adds an emergency clause before signing the legislation.

FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS: [School Masking Optional Monday](#) (By Nicholas F. Benton)

Coming this Monday, in accordance with the policy adopted by the Falls Church School Board last month, parents who wish for their children to opt out of mandatory masking in City of Falls Church public school classrooms may do so. The School Board had the opportunity to modify the policy at its meeting this Tuesday, and took no action to do so.

SoVANow: [As masks come off, stress goes up for some](#) (By Brittny C. Valdes)

Since Gov. Glenn Youngkin's executive order to lift the school mask mandate went into effect, some teachers in Halifax County have been left feeling neglected and defenseless.

WAVY: [Hampton Roads area advocacy groups supporting masks in schools help form statewide coalition](#)

A measure allowing parents to send their children to school without a mask is now one step close to becoming law in Virginia. Senate Bill 739 passed through the Senate Wednesday and is expected to sail through the House and be signed by Gov. Glenn Youngkin.

WTKR: [Gov. Youngkin to talk about lowering taxes with working families in Virginia Beach Thursday](#)

Governor Glenn Youngkin will be visiting Virginia Beach on Thursday afternoon. In a press release, his office said he will tour several facilities and talk about lowering taxes with working families at Anchor Allie's Bistro. Youngkin will be accompanied by Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings, Secretary of Commerce and Trade Caren Merrick, and Secretary of Veteran Affairs Craig Crenshaw.

THE ROANOKE TIMES: OPINION: [Glenn Youngkin should go big on cutting Virginia taxes](#) (By Travis Nix)

He's just days into his governorship, but Glenn Youngkin already has done quite a bit. By banning critical race theory and allowing parents to decide whether their children wear a mask at school, he's delivering on major promises he made to the folks who voted for him. But not everything is roses just yet. The governor could use some help with his tax plan. At

stake is lost economic growth if Youngkin does not think big on cutting Virginian taxes. His campaign tax plan wasn't as good as it could be. And right now, it's the one that he's going with. Not only does it add complexity into the state tax code, it also does little to create new jobs and boost wages. But so much more can be done. With a record \$2.6 billion budget surplus, Gov. Youngkin needs to think big on taxes and create a proposal that eliminates the commonwealth's corporate income tax — one that would turn Virginia into an economic powerhouse.

VPM: Youngkin's executive orders raise constitutional questions. It's unclear when they'll be answered. (By Megan Pauley)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin's executive orders allowing parents to opt their kids out of mask-wearing in schools and seeking to prohibit Virginia teachers from discussing "inherently divisive concepts" in public school classrooms are raising constitutional questions. Some legal scholars are suggesting they could even be unconstitutional, though courts are just starting to weigh in on these questions.

WTOP: Judge blocks Youngkin's mask mandate ban in 7 Virginia school districts (By Abigail Constantino)

An Arlington judge issued an order temporarily blocking Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's executive order regarding mask mandates from being enforced in seven school districts. Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax County, Falls Church City, Hampton City, Prince William County and Richmond schools can keep their mask mandates in place, according to the temporary injunction issued by Arlington Circuit Judge Louise M. DiMatteo. The judge's order will remain in place until it is legally resolved.

VIRGINIA MERCURY: Youngkin's education email hotline is unwarranted step backwards (By Amanda Creasey)

Back in December, I stood in front of 13 high school students. One had failed my class the year before. But on this day, he sat in the front row, a copy of Zora Neale Hurston's "Their Eyes Were Watching God," in his hands.

WASHINGTON BLADE: Virginia Gov. Youngkin — a lesson for Democrats (By Peter Rosenstein)

Glenn Youngkin's campaign, election, and actions in his first weeks in office hold lessons Democrats must learn if they are to win in 2022. Democrats must recognize Youngkin's great campaign and how he walked the tightrope between being a total Trumper and a new face, a more moderate Republican. But also see the whole picture. The fact only one Democrat in 40 years won the Virginia governorship when a Democrat was in the White House. Then there was President Biden's low approval ratings, Congress's inability to act, and finally McAuliffe's terrible campaign. Despite all that McAuliffe lost by only 71,000 votes out of nearly 3,300,000 cast. Most observers believe if he hadn't made that mistake in the debate suggesting parents shouldn't have a say in their children's education, he would have won.

WILLISTON HERALD: Rooting out' Glenn Youngkin's hypocrisy (By Gene Lyons)

I'm so old I can remember when people calling themselves "conservative" thought "cancel culture" was a bad thing. Oh wait, that was last week. More recently, the brand-new governor of Virginia — whose own son is safely ensconced in an exclusive Maryland prep school — has opened a telephone snitch line enabling citizens to inform upon teachers committing "Thoughtcrime" in the Commonwealth's public schools.

THE NEW YORK TIMES: The U.S. States That Are Ending Mask Mandates

Gov. Glenn Youngkin issued an executive order on Jan. 15 that said parents could decide for themselves whether to follow school mask rules. The order aimed to end a mandate imposed by Mr. Youngkin's predecessor, Ralph Northam. A judge in Virginia handed down a temporary ruling that seven school districts could continue to enforce mask-wearing.

VIRGINIA MERCURY: OPINION: Youngkin may get his mask victory, but he should learn he's not a monarch (By Roger Chesley)

Let's hope novice politico Glenn Youngkin — eager to appease his base by banning mask mandates in schools — paid attention after an Arlington County judge hauled the governor to the woodshed. The proverbial paddling probably stung. It's a positive outcome, though, if you believe in the rule of law and the state Constitution. That's a lesson Youngkin needs to absorb, just weeks into his tenure. Circuit Court Judge Louise DiMatteo granted a temporary injunction against

Youngkin's executive order Friday, saying he didn't have the authority to override local school boards, as The Washington Post reported. Seven school divisions sued to halt the governor's order.

THE ROANOKE TIMES: Editorial: In 2022 Virginia politics, the pros turn weird

The late gonzo journalist Hunter Thompson wrote that "when the going gets weird, the weird turn pro." While the going has certainly gotten weird in 2022, in the age of social media, what constitutes "pro" and "amateur" gets a bit blurred. Perhaps this helps to explain why in the past couple of weeks we've seen the Virginia governor's campaign launch an attack on a 17-year-old and a Democratic leader accuse a reporter of harassment for trying to do his job.

US NEWS.COM: [The Two Faces of Glenn Youngkin](#) (By Susan Milligan)

In an environment of Big Lie-telling, hate-tweeting and celebration of all things partisan, Glenn Youngkin looked like a relic from the Republican past as he campaigned successfully last year to be Virginia's governor. With his fleece vests and affable manner, Youngkin cast himself as a determined conservative eager to unite the Old Dominion.

THE WASHINGTON POST: This wave of book bans is different from earlier ones (By Valerie Strauss)

Glenn Youngkin (R), for instance, won the governorship of Virginia in November after highlighting concerns about the teaching of Toni Morrison's "Beloved"; some parents held that the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel portrayed the horrors of slavery with overly explicit depictions of sex, violence and bestiality. "This is certainly a reflection of what is going on right now in this country," said Deborah Caldwell-Stone, director of the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom, which monitors book bans and issues annual lists of the most challenged. "There is dispute and debate over what kind of government and society we want to be. Book bannings are part of that."

CABINET MENTIONS

WASHINGTON MONTHLY: A VA Critic Becomes Virginia's New Veterans Affairs Chief (By Suzanne Gordon and Steve Early)

On January 4, newly elected Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin named several of his first cabinet members. Among them was fellow Republican Daniel Gade, his new commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services, who ran for the U.S. Senate from the Old Dominion State two years ago, but with less electoral success than Youngkin. The new governor hailed Gade as a man "dedicated to caring for our veterans, championing their concerns, connecting them with resources [and] getting them the proper care."

THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: [Schapiro: Spinning off Wheeler - still a win for Youngkin](#) (By Jeff E. Schapiro)

Andrew Wheeler delivered home-made brownies to the wrong majority leader. Gov. Glenn Youngkin's imperiled pick for secretary of natural and historic resources, Wheeler dropped off the dainties the other day at the office of House Republican chief Terry Kilgore of Scott County. The brownies — comfort food for Kilgore after the death of his dad, John — were described as excellent; that they were chunky and extra-chocolatey.

Local Stories

WWBT: Small earthquake recorded in Virginia

A small earthquake was recorded in Bedford County on Wednesday evening. The quake happened around 9:20 p.m. in Forest. According to the United States Geological Survey, the magnitude of the quake was 2.2. The epicenter was 6.2 miles from Forest, 15 miles west of Lynchburg and 107.3 miles west of Richmond.

WRIC: Several sexual assaults by convicted predator at Virginia massage salons prompt \$100 million lawsuit (By Emma North)

Four women who were sexually assaulted at a massage salon in Williamsburg are suing the franchise after discovering their attacker was found guilty of sexual battery for an incident at another massage business prior to their appointments.

NEWSWEEK: [Virginia Teacher Says School District Wants to Fire Him for Not Wearing a Mask](#) (By Khaleda Rhaman)

A teaching assistant in Virginia said his school district is trying to fire him over his refusal to comply with a mask mandate. John Ray, a special education teaching assistant at Belmont Ridge Middle School, received a letter from school principal Katie Johnson saying she had recommended that his employment be terminated by Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS), according to Fox 5.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: [House GOP Members Defend Defeat of Campaign Finance Reform](#) (By Sarah Rankin)

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Republican legislators in the Virginia House sought to explain why they voted down a prohibition on using campaign donations for things like home mortgages, vacations and country club memberships, even though the chamber unanimously approved such a ban only last year.

VIRGINIA MERCURY: [Virginia Senate votes to give parents final say over sexually explicit classroom materials](#) (By Kyle Masters)

The Virginia Senate passed a bill that would require local school districts to adopt policies informing parents of any sexually explicit content used in class — and provide alternative materials on request.

WCYB: [Virginia lawmakers, school officials push for school construction funding](#) (By Kristen Quon)

BRISTOL, Va.—Leaky roofs, black mold, and crumbling buildings are just some of the issues facing many schools in Southwest Virginia. The problem isn't new, and local lawmakers are pushing for change. According to a recent survey by the Virginia Department of Education, more than half of the state's public schools are at least 50 years old.

THE NEWS LEADER: Officers killed in Bridgewater College campus shooting mourned as heroes (By Denise Lavoie)

Two officers who were shot to death on the campus of a private college in Virginia were mourned as heroes Wednesday by their families, friends and police officers from around the country. About 3,000 people attended the memorial service for Bridgewater College campus police officer John Painter and campus safety officer J.J. Jefferson, who were gunned down on Feb. 1 when they responded to reports of a suspicious man on campus. Painter and Jefferson were close friends who were known as "the dynamic duo" on the campus of the small liberal arts college.

FOX NEWS: [VA school district seeks 'social media listening' for 'hate speech,' to deter 'negative actions' towards staff](#) (By Sam Dorman)

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is seeking a social media monitoring service that will track hate speech as well as purported harassment and threats against employees, students, or racial groups — resurfacing concerns about First Amendment rights and school safety.

National News

CNN: Annual American inflation hit 7.5%: A near 40-year high (By Anneken Tappe)

New year, same old high inflation. A key measure of inflation climbed to a near-40-year high last month. Economists are hopeful that America will reach the peak of the pandemic-era price increases in the early months of 2021. Here's to hoping. The consumer price index rose 7.5% in the 12 months ending January, not adjusted for seasonal swings, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said Thursday. It was the steepest annual price increase since February 1982 and worse than economists had forecast.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: [Under pressure to ease up, Biden weighs new virus response](#) (By Zeke Miller)

Facing growing pressure to ease up on pandemic restrictions, the White House insisted Wednesday it is making plans for a less-disruptive phase of the national virus response. But impatient states, including Democratic New York, made clear they aren't waiting for Washington as public frustration grows.

THE HILL: Kemp looks to make masking optional in Georgia schools (By Mychael Schnell)

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp (R) is looking to pass legislation that would make masking optional in the state's schools, but is facing criticism from his main primary challenger that he didn't move fast enough. Kemp on Wednesday said he is working with state lawmakers on legislation that would allow parents to opt their children out of school mask mandates.

POLITICO: On Ukraine, senators put cyberattacks top-of-list for sanctions (By Maggie Miller)

Leaders of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee say a Russian cyberattack against Ukraine would be high on the list of acts to prompt sanctions against Vladimir Putin's regime, even before an invasion. Some senators are pushing to include sanctions for cyberattacks as part of a wider bill taking action against Russia if it invades Ukraine. And it's looking increasingly likely that a Russian hacking operation could be the first to trigger those sanctions.

THE NEW YORK TIMES: A Product of Public Universities, Michelle Childs Would Be an Unconventional Court Pick (By Erica L. Green and Rick Rojas)

WASHINGTON — It was just before Christmas, and Jean H. Toal, then the chief justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court, was in a bind. She needed an emergency order drawn up, but the courthouse in Columbia, the state capital, was empty. She was relieved to reach someone who assured her, "Chief, I got it."

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CLIPS ROUNDUP 2/8/22

1 message

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Bcc: matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov

Tue, Feb 8, 2022 at 9:20 AM

CLIPS ROUNDUP 2/8/22**Governor Mentions**

THE WASHINGTON POST: [Va. Supreme Court dismisses lawsuit against Youngkin's mask-optional order on technical grounds](#)
(By Hannah Natanson and Justin Jouvenal)

The Virginia Supreme Court has dismissed a lawsuit filed by parents in Chesapeake challenging Gov. Glenn Youngkin's controversial mask-optional executive order — but the dismissal was on highly technical, procedural grounds and did not touch the merits of the case, leaving open questions about the order's legality.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: [Virginia Supreme Court dismisses mask mandate petition](#) (By Matthew Barakat)

The Supreme Court of Virginia on Monday rejected on procedural grounds a petition from parents seeking to invalidate Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin's executive order prohibiting school systems from enforcing mask mandates in the classroom.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: [Virginia Supreme Court rejects Chesapeake parents' challenge of Youngkin school mask order](#)
(By Michael Martz)

The Virginia Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a parental challenge of Gov. Glenn Youngkin's executive order to prevent public schools from requiring students to wear face masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

THE HILL: [Top Virginia court rejects parents' challenge to Youngkin school mask order](#) (By Olafimihan Oshin)

The Supreme Court of Virginia has voted to reject a parent challenge to Gov. Glenn Youngkin's (R) school mask order calling for parents to be able to choose whether their child wears a mask at school.

BUSINESS INSIDER: [Virginia Supreme Court dismisses parents' lawsuit challenging Gov. Youngkin's order that ended school mask mandate](#). (By Natalie Musumeci)

Virginia's highest court tossed a lawsuit on Monday challenging Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin's executive order that ends mask mandates in the state's schools. The Supreme Court of Virginia threw out the lawsuit filed last month by a group of parents from Chesapeake, Virginia, against Youngkin over the mask order.

AXIOS: [Virginia Supreme Court dismisses parents' lawsuit against Youngkin's school mask order](#) (By Oriana Gonzalez)

The Virginia Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a lawsuit from Chesapeake parents against Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) for his order making mask-wearing optional in schools.

WSET: Dates set for hearings on Loudoun County school mask lawsuit by Youngkin, Miyares (Sonia Dasgupta)

Two dates are set for hearings on a lawsuit in Loudoun County over the school mask mandates. The case will be heard on Feb. 16 and Feb. 23 at 10 a.m.

MSNBC NEWS: Glenn Youngkin's rough start in Virginia gets a little rougher (By Steve Benen)

The same day as his inauguration in Virginia, Gov. Glenn Youngkin picked a legally dubious fight over mask protections in local school districts. The Republican's policy forbade mask requirements, and it came with a provocative possible punishment: The new governor's administration raised the prospect of withholding funding from school districts that defied him.

CNN: Parents' bid to block Youngkin school mask policy dismissed, but temporary hold granted to school districts still stands (By Tierney Sneed)

The Virginia Supreme Court dismissed a lawsuit filed last month by parents in Chesapeake, Virginia, who alleged that Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin's mask executive order ran afoul of the state constitution.

WJLA: Gov. Youngkin defends school tip line as educational groups call for it to be shut down (By Heather Graf)

Eight educational groups issued a joint statement that calls on Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin to "immediately shut down" an email tip line created for people to report "divisive practices" in schools.

WJLA: Youngkin taps outside firm to investigate Virginia I-95 shutdown during Jan. 3 snowstorm (By Nick Minock)

An outside firm has been tapped to investigate what led to the January 3, 2022 traffic nightmare on I-95 in Virginia when some drivers spent as long as 19 hours in a backup after a major snowstorm hit the region.

THE WASHINGTON POST: Youngkin distances himself from campaign's swipe at teen (By Laura Vozzella and Gregory S. Schneider)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) distanced himself Monday from a tweet mocking a teenager that his campaign account posted Saturday, calling it "unauthorized," but the teen and his mother said they would like an apology after enduring two days of "bullying" on social media. Democrats piled on, accusing the governor of violating his pledges to seek unity and lower the temperature of political disagreements.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Meet Ethan Lynne, the Hanover teen who accused Gov. Youngkin of being a 'bully' on Twitter (By Colleen Curran)

Hanover County teenager Ethan Lynne, 17, found himself in the national spotlight this past weekend after an online spat with a Twitter account for Gov. Glenn Youngkin's election campaign. Lynne, a senior at Patrick Henry High School and a Democratic activist, retweeted a Richmond public radio station's report about a historian resigning her Executive Mansion position telling stories of the enslaved. The radio station's report contained an error, which Lynne noted on Twitter hours later after the station issued a correction.

Local Stories

VIRGINIA SCOPE: Petersen wrote to Fairfax's superintendent about mask mandates and Scott Taylor is considering running again (Brandon Jarvis)

A Democratic state Senator wrote to Fairfax's superintendent urging him to drop the mask mandate in schools

VIRGINIA MERCURY: Virginia Senate OKs bill to make elections agency 'truly independent' (Graham Moomaw)

The Virginia Senate voted unanimously Monday to approve legislation overhauling state elections oversight by equalizing partisan representation on the State Board of Elections and removing the governor's power to hand-pick the state's top election official. The bill, supported by Gov. Glenn Youngkin's administration, cleared the Democratic-led Senate 40-0 after several tweaks to address the concerns about partisan gridlock and vacancies under the proposed system. Sen. Jill Vogel, R-Fauquier, the bill's sponsor, said the goal is to have a "truly independent" state elections commissioner running the Virginia Department of Elections.

voting maps based on claims of race discrimination.

THE WASHINGTON POST: The GOP's 'legitimate political discourse' Jan. 6 revisionism is off to a rough start (By Aaron Blake)

For days, Republicans intent upon accusing the Jan. 6 committee of targeting "ordinary" citizens who engaged in "legitimate political discourse" have focused on a supposed case-in-point: an older woman whom the committee subpoenaed after she signed up to be an alternate elector for Donald Trump.

THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER: Rent skyrockets across the country against the backdrop of inflation (By Zachary Halaschak)

Rental prices have risen dramatically since the pandemic began, and renters hoping for relief are not likely to see any good news on the horizon. According to Redfin, the average monthly listed rents in the United States increased 14.1% year-over-year to \$1,877 in December. This massive increase comes as the country grapples with inflated prices across most sectors of the economy. Some cities and parts of the country are experiencing even sharper increases, with prices climbing by more than 30% since this time last year.

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The Supreme Court of Virginia has voted to reject a parent challenge to Gov. Glenn Youngkin's (R) school mask order calling for parents to be able to choose whether their child wears a mask at school.

BUSINESS INSIDER: [Virginia Supreme Court dismisses parents' lawsuit challenging Gov. Youngkin's order that ended school mask mandate.](#) (By Natalie Musumeci)

Virginia's highest court tossed a lawsuit on Monday challenging Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin's executive order that ends mask mandates in the state's schools. The Supreme Court of Virginia threw out the lawsuit filed last month by a group of parents from Chesapeake, Virginia, against Youngkin over the mask order.

AXIOS: [Virginia Supreme Court dismisses parents' lawsuit against Youngkin's school mask order](#) (By Oriana Gonzalez)

The Virginia Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a lawsuit from Chesapeake parents against Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) for his order making mask-wearing optional in schools.

WSET: Dates set for hearings on Loudoun County school mask lawsuit by Youngkin, Miyares (Sonia Dasgupta)

Two dates are set for hearings on a lawsuit in Loudoun County over the school mask mandates. The case will be heard on Feb. 16 and Feb. 23 at 10 a.m.

MSNBC NEWS: [Glenn Youngkin's rough start in Virginia gets a little rougher](#) (By Steve Benen)

The same day as his inauguration in Virginia, Gov. Glenn Youngkin picked a legally dubious fight over mask protections in local school districts. The Republican's policy forbade mask requirements, and it came with a provocative possible punishment: The new governor's administration raised the prospect of withholding funding from school districts that defied him.

CNN: [Parents' bid to block Youngkin school mask policy dismissed, but temporary hold granted to school districts still stands](#) (By Tierney Sneed)

The Virginia Supreme Court dismissed a lawsuit filed last month by parents in Chesapeake, Virginia, who alleged that Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin's mask executive order ran afoul of the state constitution.

WJLA: [Gov. Youngkin defends school tip line as educational groups call for it to be shut down](#) (By Heather Graf)

Eight educational groups issued a joint statement that calls on Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin to "immediately shut down" an email tip line created for people to report "divisive practices" in schools.

WJLA: [Youngkin taps outside firm to investigate Virginia I-95 shutdown during Jan. 3 snowstorm](#) (By Nick Minock)

An outside firm has been tapped to investigate what led to the January 3, 2022 traffic nightmare on I-95 in Virginia when some drivers spent as long as 19 hours in a backup after a major snowstorm hit the region.

THE WASHINGTON POST: [Youngkin distances himself from campaign's swipe at teen](#) (By Laura Vozzella and Gregory S. Schneider)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) distanced himself Monday from a tweet mocking a teenager that his campaign account posted Saturday, calling it "unauthorized," but the teen and his mother said they would like an apology after enduring two days of "bullying" on social media. Democrats piled on, accusing the governor of violating his pledges to seek unity and lower the temperature of political disagreements.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: [Meet Ethan Lynne, the Hanover teen who accused Gov. Youngkin of being a 'bully' on Twitter](#) (By Colleen Curran)

Hanover County teenager Ethan Lynne, 17, found himself in the national spotlight this past weekend after an online spat with a Twitter account for Gov. Glenn Youngkin's election campaign. Lynne, a senior at Patrick Henry High School and a Democratic activist, retweeted a Richmond public radio station's report about a historian resigning her Executive Mansion position telling stories of the enslaved. The radio station's report contained an error, which Lynne noted on Twitter hours later after the station issued a correction.

Local Stories

VIRGINIA SCOPE: [Petersen wrote to Fairfax's superintendent about mask mandates and Scott Taylor is considering running again](#) (Brandon Jarvis)

A Democratic state Senator wrote to Fairfax's superintendent urging him to drop the mask mandate in schools

VIRGINIA MERCURY: [Virginia Senate OKs bill to make elections agency 'truly independent'](#) (Graham Moomaw)

The Virginia Senate voted unanimously Monday to approve legislation overhauling state elections oversight by equalizing partisan representation on the State Board of Elections and removing the governor's power to hand-pick the state's top election official. The bill, supported by Gov. Glenn Youngkin's administration, cleared the Democratic-led Senate 40-0 after several tweaks to address the concerns about partisan gridlock and vacancies under the proposed system. Sen. Jill Vogel, R-Fauquier, the bill's sponsor, said the goal is to have a "truly independent" state elections commissioner running the Virginia Department of Elections.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: State's watchdog issues first 'racial, ethnic impact statement' under new Virginia law (By Michael Martz)

It wasn't the first time that someone found a disparity in the number of older Black youths who end up in adult court for trial on criminal charges, compared with their proportion to Virginia's population. But the "racial and ethnic impact statement" attached to a Senate bill that would shift many of those cases into juvenile courts was a first under a new state law. It requires the legislature's watchdog agency to assess the effects of proposed criminal justice legislation on racial and ethnic minorities, if asked.

WRIC: Families ask lawmakers to lower cost of prison phone calls, products: 'It's ridiculous' (By Jackie DeFusco)

Pauletta James' unconventional love story comes with an unwelcome cost. James met her husband while he was incarcerated with her son at a state prison in Virginia. She says she has spent about \$40,000 over a six-year period to keep in touch with both of them behind bars.

WSLS 10: Virginia Senate kills bill ending most mandatory minimums

Two Democrats in the Virginia Senate joined with Republicans on Monday to defeat a measure that would have eliminated hundreds of mandatory minimum sentences. The measure sponsored by Sen. Joe Morrissey died on a vote of 21-19 after a lengthy debate. It would have eliminated all mandatory minimums, except in the case of a conviction for the aggravated murder of a law enforcement officer. Many of the penalties were adopted decades ago as part of the tough-on-crime movement, which some lawmakers blame for mass incarceration.

WHSV: Virginia State Police investigating death on JMU campus

The James Madison University Police Department requested help from Virginia State Police to conduct a death investigation. At approximately 4:31 p.m. Monday, Feb 7, a male subject was found deceased in the 250 block of E. Grace Street in Harrisonburg.

WSET: History museums create project to document enslaved experience across Central Virginia (By Brenna McIntosh)

You may be able to make a significant contribution to a new history project in Central Virginia. The project is called "Silent Witnesses: The History of Enslavement in Lynchburg, Virginia." It is a joint effort between both the Legacy Museum and the Lynchburg Museum System.

National Stories

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Governors in Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey and Oregon announce plans to end school mask mandates as COVID cases plummet

The governors of four states announced plans Monday to lift statewide mask requirements in schools by the end of February or March, citing the rapid easing of COVID-19's omicron surge. The decisions in Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey and Oregon were announced as state and local governments grapple with which virus restrictions to jettison and which ones to keep in place. The changes also come amid a growing sense that the virus is never going to go away and Americans need to find a way to coexist with it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: White House: Top scientist resigns over treatment of staff (By Zeke Miller)

President Joe Biden's top science adviser Eric Lander resigned Monday, hours after the White House confirmed that an internal investigation found credible evidence that he mistreated his staff, marking the first Cabinet-level departure of the Biden administration.

THE NEW YORK TIMES: Supreme Court, in 5-4 Vote, Restores Alabama's Congressional Voting Map (By Adam Liptak)

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday reinstated an Alabama congressional map that a lower court had said diluted the power of Black voters, suggesting that the court was poised to become more skeptical of challenges to

voting maps based on claims of race discrimination.

THE WASHINGTON POST: The GOP's 'legitimate political discourse' Jan. 6 revisionism is off to a rough start (By Aaron Blake)

For days, Republicans intent upon accusing the Jan. 6 committee of targeting "ordinary" citizens who engaged in "legitimate political discourse" have focused on a supposed case-in-point: an older woman whom the committee subpoenaed after she signed up to be an alternate elector for Donald Trump.

THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER: Rent skyrockets across the country against the backdrop of inflation (By Zachary Halaschak)

Rental prices have risen dramatically since the pandemic began, and renters hoping for relief are not likely to see any good news on the horizon. According to Redfin, the average monthly listed rents in the United States increased 14.1% year-over-year to \$1,877 in December. This massive increase comes as the country grapples with inflated prices across most sectors of the economy. Some cities and parts of the country are experiencing even sharper increases, with prices climbing by more than 30% since this time last year.

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Christian Martinez
Deputy P
Work Cell



Moran, Matt <matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov>

CLIPS ROUNDUP 2/5/22

1 message

Martinez, Christian <christian.martinez@governor.virginia.gov>
Bcc: matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov

Sat, Feb 5, 2022 at 9:23 AM

CLIPS ROUNDUP 2/5/22**Governor Mentions****TIME MAGAZINE:** It's Time to End Mandatory Masks in Schools (By Jennifer Knips)

I am a physician and mother of four children, two of whom attend public elementary school in northern Virginia. Our state's newly inaugurated governor recently issued an executive order giving parents the choice of whether or not their children wear masks to school. But instead of complying, several districts including mine are suing the state to keep mask mandates in place. I believe it is time to follow the science and give parents the choice when it comes to masking in schools.

THE HILL: Cruz defends Youngkin from 'Dem Karens' at Alexandria grocery store visit (By Sarah Rai)

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) has come out in support of Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) on Friday after a video of a woman shouting at Youngkin about his lack of a mask at grocery store in Alexandria went viral. Cruz, who formally threw his support behind Youngkin in the Virginia gubernatorial race and campaigned for him, tweeted on Friday in response to the incident, criticizing what he referred to as "angry screaming Leftists." "Dem Karens want to tell you how to live your life," Cruz added. "And they'll fire you, cancel you, or scream at you if you don't obey."

THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Arlington judge blocks Youngkin's order to make masks optional in schools (By Michael Martz)

An Arlington County judge ruled Friday that Gov. Glenn Youngkin did not have authority to override local school boards in deciding whether to require all students to wear face masks in public schools to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

THE WASHINGTON POST: Judge temporarily halts Youngkin order making masks optional in Va. schools after lawsuit from school boards (By Hannah Natanson, Rachel Weiner and Justin Jouvenal)

An Arlington judge on Friday barred enforcement of Gov. Glenn Youngkin's mask-optional order for schools — a major victory for the seven school boards that sued to stop it, and a sharp rebuke for the new governor. In her 10-page order, Arlington Circuit Court Judge Louise DiMatteo offered a check to Youngkin's assertion of gubernatorial authority, writing that the Virginia Constitution gives authority to local school boards to make safety and health decisions — including masking — for their students. She also wrote that a state law passed over the summer requiring school districts to comply with federal health guidance makes Youngkin's mask-optional order impossible to carry out, because it, too, delegates authority over decisions such as masking to local school boards.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Judge halts Virginia governor's opt-out school mask order — for now

A judge on Friday temporarily halted Republican Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's executive order that sought to allow parents to opt out of classroom mask mandates for their children but had been met with resistance from some school districts. Arlington Circuit Court Judge Louise DiMatteo ruled in favor of seven school boards that filed a lawsuit challenging the governor's order, one of the first actions Youngkin took after his inauguration Jan. 15. Her temporary restraining order means mask mandates put in place by school boards may remain, at least for now.

AXIOS: Virginia judge temporarily blocks Youngkin's mask-optional order for schools (By Shawna Chen)

A Virginia judge on Friday temporarily barred enforcement of Gov. Glenn Youngkin's (R) executive order making masks optional in schools. Why it matters: Seven school boards have sued Youngkin over the order, calling it a violation of Virginia's constitution, which leaves school supervision up to the boards, and a state law that requires school districts to follow federal health guidelines.

WRIC: Youngkin won't detail school 'tip line' complaints, defends dead bills in interview (By Jackie DeFusco)

In a one-on-one interview, Governor Glenn Youngkin defended his education "tip line" and discussed how he plans to overcome Democratic opposition in the Senate. Youngkin accused the media of "mischaracterizing" the email address intended for the reporting of parental rights violations and "inherently divisive practices in schools."

WRIC: Gov. Glenn Youngkin on "divisive concepts" in schools, tax reform, VEC (By Emma North)

Jackie Defusco met with Gov. Glenn Youngkin on Friday discuss some of his earliest decisions as governor. Youngkin responded to questions about his email tip line regarding "divisive concepts" in schools, tax reform plans, his review of the response to the massive Interstate 95 snow storm shutdown in Fredericksburg and plans for the Virginia Employment Commission.

WWBT: Gov. Youngkin defends education tip line and moves on critical race theory (By Henry Graff)

Virginia's Governor says he's received phone calls, letters and emails reporting issues in Virginia schools. But he's also facing growing calls to stop it altogether. "Getting rid of divisive concepts in schools is really important," said Governor Glenn Youngkin, (R) Virginia.

WTKR: Gov. Youngkin defends executive orders (Brendan Ponton)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin defended his recently signed executive orders during an interview with News 3 on Friday. On his order making masks optional at schools, Youngkin said he had no regrets with how the issue is playing out.

NBC4: Youngkin Says Office Won't Share Concerns Sent to School 'Tip Line' (By Julie Carey)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin says his office will not be sharing any of the concerns and complaints sent into his newly created parent tip email address. Youngkin announced the creation of special email address earlier last month. He asked parents to send in concerns about their children's rights being violated or if they see school curriculum they believe is divisive. The opportunity drew cheers from some parents. But other Virginians criticized and mocked it as a "snitch" line. Still others encouraged families to send in notes praising teachers.

THE ATLANTIC: A Party With One Principle: Pleasing Trump (By David A. Graham)

Trump is still the favorite for the GOP nomination in 2024, but there are signs that voters are a bit weary with Trump. Glenn Youngkin's victory in last year's Virginia gubernatorial race showed that a candidate can win while keeping Trump at arm's reach. Some recent polls have even found that fewer than half of Republican voters—including many Trump fans—want to see him run again in 2024.

THE WASHINGTON POST: In Virginia, some students worry about a future without coronavirus vaccine mandates (By Lauren Lumpkin)

Coronavirus vaccines — and more specifically, vaccine mandates — have been an integral part of the reopening plans on college campuses throughout the country. At one point in Virginia, more than a dozen public universities were requiring students and employees to get their doses. But recent changes in the state's government have complicated that strategy. Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin, who took office last month, ordered state agencies, including public colleges and universities, to stop requiring employees to be vaccinated. Attorney General Jason S. Miyares later issued a legal opinion that public campuses are not authorized to impose vaccination mandates for students.

THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: SCHAPIRO: 21 days on, Youngkin's Day 1 is a nightmare for some (By Jeff E. Schapiro)

Welcome to the Youngkin Tip Jar. It's not about money. It could be, depending how many millions the new Republican governor's initiatives save — or waste. It's about change. That's what a tiny majority of voters demanded in electing Glenn Youngkin. He's delivering with firings and hirings; revised spending, though he's not saying where he'd find the requisite cash; a decree — blocked Friday by an Arlington judge as overreach — to give parents an opt-out from local mask mandates in public schools; and a snitch line targeting educators, many of them Democrats, for race-teaching.

THE WASHINGTON POST: EDITORIAL: Youngkin's tip line stokes tribal wars over race in public schools (The Editorial Board)

In his successful bid for Virginia's highest office last fall, Glenn Youngkin stressed parental rights to control their children's education, including by having books removed from public schools. A Youngkin campaign ad featured a mother who wanted her son's high school to ban Toni Morrison's "Beloved," a Pulitzer Prize-winning book that also happens to be on the recommended summer reading list at the private school Mr. Youngkin's son attended and on whose governing board he once served.

Cabinet Mentions

VIRGINIA MERCURY: Virginia elections commissioner, who Youngkin is replacing, announces departure (By Graham Moomaw)

Virginia elections Commissioner Chris Piper is leaving his post March 11 after Gov. Glenn Youngkin's administration formally told him he won't be reappointed to the job, according to an internal email Piper sent his agency Friday. Piper, an appointee of former Gov. Ralph Northam, said in the email he had agreed to stay on a few more weeks to "ensure a smooth transition."

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Youngkin appoints Richmond health director Danny Avula to lead Social Services (By Eric Kolenich)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin has appointed Dr. Danny Avula to be the state's commissioner of the Department of Social Services, likely ending his time as director of the Richmond and Henrico Health Districts. The appointment is subject to General Assembly confirmation. Dr. Melissa Viray has been named acting director of the health districts, having served as deputy director since 2017.

VPM: Historian resigns from Executive Mansion position highlighting stories of enslaved (By Ben Paviour)

Archeologist and historian Kelley Fanto Deetz resigned on Friday from a position as Virginia's Executive Mansion's director of historic interpretation and education. Deetz had worked with a broader team aiming to tell the story of descendents of workers who once lived and worked at the site, which is the oldest continuously occupied, purpose-built governor's residence in the U.S. Former First Lady Pam Northam was a driver in the project and helped hire Deetz, but the archeologists' position has been unclear since Gov. Glenn Youngkin was inaugurated.

Local Stories

THE WASHINGTON POST: 1 dead, 4 injured in shooting at hookah lounge near Virginia Tech campus

A late-night shooting at a hookah lounge near the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg, Va., killed one person and left four injured, according to the university. At about 11:50 p.m. Friday, police responded to a report of shots fired at the Melody Hookah Lounge in downtown Blacksburg. One person was killed and four others, including a Virginia Tech student, were hospitalized. Police have not released the names of the victims and did not specify the extent of the injuries.

WRIC: One dead, four injured; Virginia Tech President confirms student was one of five in hookah bar shooting (By Cassidy Hammond)

One person is dead and four others are in the hospital after a late night shooting at a Virginia hookah bar Friday. Police responded to reports of shots fired near the Virginia Tech campus in downtown Blacksburg at Melody Hookah Lounge at 11:53 p.m. Friday night.

THE ROANOKE TIMES: EDITORIAL: There's no need to fix what isn't broken in Virginia

U.S. Sen. Mark Warner has on multiple occasions expressed frustration with his Republican colleagues for their refusal to support the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act when these bills came up for a vote last month. "In 2021, we had the biggest turnout ever in Virginia," Warner said during a media question and answer

session in January. "A lot of that was due to lots more early voting, early voting on weekends, the ability to use drop boxes, and that helped the Republican candidates, both at the statewide level and in the House of Delegates."

VIRGINIA MERCURY: Outside firm to investigate Virginia's I-95 response (By Jackie Llanos Hernandez)

A month after the shutdown that left hundreds of people stranded on I-95, there's no timeline yet for the completion of the multi-agency after-action review to examine the state's widely-criticized response. However, state officials said the review will be conducted by an outside firm under an existing contract with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

VIRGINIA MERCURY: Federal court (again) overturns (another) Mountain Valley Pipeline permit (By Sarah Vogelsong)

The hits keep coming for the embattled Mountain Valley Pipeline, with the Richmond-based U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals overturning yet another key project approval this week, this time because of impacts to two endangered fish species. The court in an opinion filed Thursday determined that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had erred in a September 2020 finding that Mountain Valley was unlikely to jeopardize several endangered species.

WTOP: Va. wants Commanders to call commonwealth home. But taxpayers would get sacked: expert (By Will Witka)

Now that the worst-kept secret in football is official, with the announcement of the Commanders rebranding, there are questions about where the team will play after its FedEx Field lease runs out. Two bills have been filed in the Virginia General Assembly aimed at luring the team and would create a Virginia Football Stadium Authority. On Friday, Gov. Glenn Youngkin said he is more than open to have the Commanders build a new stadium in the state and has had conversations with the team's ownership.

WTOP: LEGO Discovery Center is coming to Northern Virginia (By Jeff Clabaugh)

Springfield Town Center owner Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust has signed a lease with Merlin Entertainments for the D.C. region's first LEGO attraction, this one a next generation version called LEGO Discovery Center. The 32,000-square-foot indoor attraction, planned for the lower level of the mall directly off the main entrance, is scheduled to open in 2023, but no other details of what the Springfield location will have have been offered.

National Stories

THE NEW YORK TIMES: 'Trump Is Wrong,' Pence Says of False Claim About Overturning Election (By Lisa Lerer)

Former Vice President Mike Pence on Friday offered his most forceful rebuke of Donald J. Trump, saying the former president is "wrong" that Mr. Pence had the legal authority to change the results of the 2020 election and that the Republican Party must accept the outcome and look toward the future. Speaking to a gathering of conservatives near Orlando, Fla., the former vice president said he understands "the disappointment so many feel about the last election" but repudiated Mr. Trump's false claims that Mr. Pence could reject the Electoral College results and alter the outcome last year.

THE HILL: Hogan calls RNC censure of Cheney, Kinzinger a 'sad day' for GOP (By Caroline Vakili)

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) called the Republican National Committee's (RNC) censure of Reps. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.) and Adam Kinzinger (R-Ill.) a "sad day" for his party. "The GOP I believe in is the party of freedom and truth," Hogan tweeted on Friday. "It's a sad day for my party—and the country—when you're punished just for expressing your beliefs, standing on principle, and refusing to tell blatant lies."

THE NEW YORK TIMES: G.O.P. Declares Jan. 6 Attack 'Legitimate Political Discourse' (By Jonathan Weisman and Reid J. Epstein)

The Republican Party on Friday officially declared the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol and events that led to it "legitimate political discourse," and rebuked two lawmakers in the party who have been most outspoken in condemning the deadly riot and the role of Donald J. Trump in spreading the election lies that fueled it. The Republican National Committee's voice vote to censure Representatives Liz Cheney of Wyoming and Adam Kinzinger of Illinois at its winter meeting in Salt Lake City culminated more than a year of vacillation, which started with party leaders condemning the Capitol attack and Mr. Trump's conduct, then shifted to downplaying and denying it.

POLITICO: Trump's 'circular firing squad' threatens GOP midterm gains (By David Siders, Natalie Allison)

Nine months before the midterm elections, nearly everything is falling the Republican Party's way, from President Joe Biden's dismal approval ratings to rising gas prices and a seemingly never-ending pandemic. Yet as the Republican National Committee concluded its winter meeting here on Friday, it was censuring two of its own, Reps. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.) and Adam Kinzinger (R-Ill.), and decrying the House's Jan. 6 select committee for what Ronna McDaniel, the RNC chair, called the "persecution of ordinary citizens who engaged in legitimate political discourse that had nothing to do with violence at the Capitol."

POLITICO: GOP takes mail voting to court in swing states Biden won (By Zach Montellaro)

A pair of looming state court cases could significantly curtail mail voting ahead of the midterms — one of Republicans' major goals since former President Donald Trump went to war against the practice in 2020. The state Supreme Courts in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin are both hearing major voting cases after conservative victories in lower courts. In Wisconsin, a judge in January ruled in favor of banning drop boxes for the return of absentee ballots. In Pennsylvania, the legal challenge went bigger, throwing out the state's relatively new law allowing anyone to vote by mail without an excuse.

THE NEW YORK TIMES: Why 'Trust Us' Is Often Reason Enough Not to Trust the Government (By Charlie Savage)

The dramatic national security stories recounted in two official news briefings on Thursday centered on very different subjects, but they featured the same indignant pushback to questioning reporters: just trust us, unless you are more inclined to believe America's enemies. Pressed for evidence supporting an official narrative about how children had died during a commando raid in Syria — specifically, that an ISIS leader's bomb, not American forces, had killed them — the White House press secretary, Jen Psaki, seemed to bristle at a suggestion that people might be dubious about the civilian casualties.

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Christian Martinez
Deputy Press Secretary
Work

Unemployment rates dropped slightly last month in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Friday. But the rates in Maryland and the District continued to exceed the national average, which fell from 4% in January to 3.8% in February.

WRIC: Virginia unemployment rate decreased to 3.2 percent in February (By Tannock Blair)

Virginia's unemployment rate was reduced by 0.1% in February. The rate still falls short of pre-pandemic levels. According to the Virginia Employment Commission, the Commonwealth's unemployment rate was 3.2% in February, dropping from 3.3% in January.

RICHMOND TIMES- DISPATCH: DMV to pay refunds for error in new fee for highway use (By Michael Martz)

One pound makes more than 16 ounces of difference when it comes to a new user fee for owners of fuel-efficient vehicles. The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles confirmed Friday that it will pay refunds to 2,769 vehicle owners because of an error in a formula for determining the highway user fee for owners of fuel-efficient vehicles that average at least 25 miles per gallon.

WVTF: Youngkin will consider hundreds of bills in the coming weeks (By Michael Pope)

The General Assembly session may be over, but the process of a bill moving from just an idea to becoming a law is far from over. Governor Glenn Youngkin still has hundreds of bills to consider. So far, the governor has signed 31 bills and vetoed one. That leaves him with more than 800 bills on his desk to consider.

THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT: Virginia lawmakers ban the sending of unwanted 'intimate images' (By Peter Dujardin)

A bill carried unanimously in the General Assembly this year would penalize those who send an "intimate image" to a person without the recipient's consent. It's punishable with civil fines of up to \$500 — and possibly damages beyond that — payable to the person who was sent the unwanted pictures.

THE CENTER SQUARE: Virginia's Youngkin approves nearly \$1 million in subsidies to Perdue (By Tyler Arnold)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin approved nearly \$1 million worth of subsidies to Perdue to assist with an expansion project in Chesapeake. Perdue AgriBusiness, which is owned by Perdue Farms, plans to invest more than \$59 million to modernize its facilities and increase the production of certain soy products.

WWBT: From rehab to replace: Richmond's Mayo Bridge could close for two years (By Henry Graff)

Richmond's Mayo Bridge could close for two years now that plans for a full replacement are coming together. "Politicians come around, point out problems. It's important that we have the ability to actually deliver," said U.S. Senator Mark Warner, (D) Virginia.

WTVR: Richmond wants a new bridge. The plan could close the Mayo Bridge for two years. (By Cameron Thompson)

Richmond city officials said they now plan to replace — not repair — the more than century-old Mayo Bridge. The decision could lead to a two-year shutdown of the river crossing. While full funding for the project is a work in progress -- it got a step closer on Friday.

HARRISONBURG DAILY NEWS-RECORD: Valley Legislators' Bills Await Governor's Signature (By Charles Paullin)

The 2022 General Assembly session ended March 12, and several bills from local legislators are headed to Gov. Glenn Youngkin's desk for his signature. More bills from Valley lawmakers would be on the Republican governor's desk if it weren't for the Democratic-controlled state Senate, which rejected many proposals passed by the Republican-led House of Delegates, area representatives say.

AUGUSTA FREE PRESS: Hershey employees vote down unionization effort

Employees at Hershey Chocolate of Virginia overwhelmingly, but perhaps predictably, voted down an effort to unionize the Augusta County plant. Seventy-nine percent of the votes cast were against the union, according to a report in the News Leader published on Friday.

RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH: Top Youngkin aide on payroll of political consultants, not state (By Patrick Wilson and Mel Leonor)

A political consulting firm tells clients it will help them navigate the new Republican-controlled executive branch of Virginia's government. LINK Public Affairs might have an edge over its competition - one of its senior strategists is also a top aide to Gov.

Glenn Youngkin and has been working in the governor's suite.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: DeSantis signs bill to keep explicit books out of schools (By Brendan Farrington)

Saying Florida public schools are making sexually explicit books available to children, Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a bill Friday to give parents a say in what books schools can and can't have in their libraries. It will force all elementary schools to provide a searchable list of every book available in their libraries or used in instruction.

WLSL: Sen. Tim Kaine sits down with Roanoke, Blacksburg leaders to get to the root of gun violence (By Alexis Davila)

Senator Tim Kaine calls the rise in gun violence a "public health issue" and sits down with local leaders to discuss the ways to combat the crisis. School, faith, law enforcement and grassroots leaders gathered at Melrose Branch Library Friday to get to the root of gun violence.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Former Trump chief Meadows' voter registration in question (By Steve Peoples and Gary D. Robertson)

Mark Meadows, who as chief of staff to President Donald Trump promoted his lies of mass voter fraud, is facing increasing scrutiny about his own voter registration status. Public records show that he is registered to vote in two states, including North Carolina, where he listed a mobile home he did not own — and may never have visited — as his legal residence weeks before casting a ballot in the 2020 presidential election.

WVTF: Commentary: Youngkin's 'divisive concepts' tip line is likely necessary (By Ben Jackson)

I come to this conclusion based on my experience with the Office of Resolution Management (ORM) of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Congress determined that complaints of discrimination (under Title 7 of the Civil Rights Act) within the VA were not being properly handled by the line organizations.

THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Schapiro: Proposed tax cut spotlights other taxing questions (By Jeff E. Schapiro)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin blew up the stalled House-Senate talks on a compromise Virginia budget with a fiscal flash grenade: a proposal to spare inflation-jittery motorists from paying the state fuel tax for three months — 26.2 cents per gallon for gasoline, 27 cents for diesel. In doing so — the Republican also called on the legislature to return to Richmond on April 4 — Youngkin is creating an opportunity for Virginia to consider a larger issue: How — and what — it taxes.

BRISTOL HERALD COURIER: Guest View | Youngkin is trying to reverse Virginia's climate change progress (By Ed Reynolds)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin's nomination of Andrew Wheeler to a key cabinet position in Virginia governance should cause every Virginian to lean forward and take notice. The Wheeler nomination failed, thank God.

LOUDOUN NOW: State Lawmakers Report to Loudoun Chamber on Session So Far (By Renss Greene)

Four state legislators reported on the work so far in an incomplete Virginia General Assembly session during the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce's PolicyMakers breakfast Friday morning. Sen. John J. Bell (D-13) and delegates Dave A. LaRock (R-33), David A. Reid (D-32) and Suhas Subramanyam (D-87) also took questions from the audience.

Local Stories

WRIC: Thousands of Virginia drivers overcharged, wrongly charged by DMV (By Tannock Blair and Ben Dennis)

Around 2,700 people were incorrectly taxed by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles over the course of two years. According to DMV Spokesperson Jessica Cowardin, Virginia drivers were overcharged between \$5 and \$40 as part of a state law that went into effect in July 2020.

WTKR: Multiple people injured in shooting near Virginia Beach bar (By April Loveland)

Virginia Beach Police are on the scene of a shooting in the 5000 block of Cleveland Street. There are multiple victims. Police say they are non-life threatening injuries. During the incident, a police-involved shooting happened.

THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Growing Loudoun outpaces its political representation in Richmond (By Michael Martz)

Stretching from the Potomac River through one of the fastest growing counties in the United States to a semi-rural corner of Prince William County, the old district contained more than 130,000 residents in 2020, almost 44,000 more than the ideal for equal political representation under the U.S. and Virginia constitutions. No other House District had more people.

WTOP: Oil spill concerns emerge as ship remains stuck in Chesapeake Bay (By Nick Iannelli)

As a 1,095-foot cargo ship remained stranded in the Chesapeake Bay Friday, environmental experts raised concerns about a potential oil spill as crews worked to free the ship from the mud that it's stuck in. "It's so far aground that about 20 feet of the ship is buried in mud," said Doug Myers, a scientist with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, an advocacy group focused on improving the Bay.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Jury acquits Northern Virginia officer who shot disoriented man with stun gun

A Northern Virginia jury on Friday acquitted a police officer who was charged with misdemeanor assault after firing a stun gun at an unarmed Black man who appeared disoriented. Fairfax County Police Officer Tyler Timberlake was charged with assault in June 2020 after bodycam video showed him arriving and quickly firing his stun gun at Lamonta Gladney after other officers had spent several minutes trying to persuade him to get into an ambulance to go to a detox center.

WTOP: Va. couple, DC man and NASA employee investigated for COVID-19 fraud schemes (By Abigail Constantino)

A Virginia couple and a brother, as well as a D.C. man and a NASA employee are among those the IRS investigated for tax and money laundering related to COVID-19 fraud. Southwest Virginia couple Gregory Tackett and Leelyn Chytka were sentenced to nine years in prison for defrauding the government of almost \$500,000, an IRS news release said.

THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Virginia may significantly reduce its bid for Commanders stadium (By Michael Phillips)

Virginia still wants the Washington Commanders to relocate to the state, but at the end of a month in which Maryland and D.C. tempered their enthusiasm, Virginia may be lowering its bid as well. Legislation to create a Stadium Authority was delayed to a special session, where lawmakers will take it up alongside the state's budget, beginning on April 4.

National Stories

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Supreme Court Justice Thomas released from hospital

Justice Clarence Thomas was discharged from the hospital Friday after a stay of nearly a week, the Supreme Court said. Thomas, 73, had entered the hospital last Friday evening after experiencing "flu-like symptoms."

THE HILL: Biden meets with top Ukrainian officials in Poland (By Alex Gangitano)

President Biden on Saturday met with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba and Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov while in Warsaw, Poland, amid Russia's invasion into Ukraine. Kuleba and Reznikov were in a meeting with Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin at the Warsaw Marriott Hotel.

FOX NEWS: Manchin backs Biden Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson (By Tyler Olson)

Sen. Joe Manchin Friday said that he will support Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson for the Supreme Court, as the nominee inches closer to confirmation. "After meeting with her, considering her record, and closely monitoring her testimony and questioning before the Senate Judiciary Committee this week, I have determined I intend to vote for her nomination to serve on the Supreme Court," Manchin, D-W.Va., said in a Friday statement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: High court gives Biden win for now in Navy vaccine case

The Supreme Court is giving the Navy a freer hand determining what job assignments it gives to 35 sailors who sued after refusing on religious grounds to comply with an order to get vaccinated against COVID-19. The high court in a brief order Friday sided with the Biden administration and said that while the lawsuit plays out, the Navy may consider the sailors' vaccination status in making deployment, assignment and other operational decisions.

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Austin Stevens
Press Assistant



Lynch, Jesse <jesse.lynn@governor.virginia.gov>

CLIPS ROUNDUP 1/30/22

1 message

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 Bcc: jesse.lynn@governor.virginia.gov

Sun, Jan 30, 2022 at 8:42 AM

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Deputy Press Secretary
Work Cell:



Moran, R

CLIPS ROUNDUP 1/30/22

1 message

Martinez, Christian

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Sun, Jan 30, 2022 at 8:42 AM

CLIPS ROUNDUP 1/30/22

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7/7/22, 12:49 PM

Commonwealth of Virginia Mail - CLIPS ROUNDUP 1/30/22

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1/30/22



Moran, Matt <matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov>

CLIPS ROUNDUP 1/27/22

1 message

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 To: Christian Martinez <christian.martinez@governor.virginia.gov>
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Thu, Jan 27, 2022 at 9:41 AM

CLIPS ROUNDUP 1/27/22**Governor Mentions****THE ROANOKE TIMES: EDITORIAL: Good signs for Growth4VA**

A well thought out initiative to build stronger connections between higher education and businesses statewide has gotten off to a promising start, if Gov. Glenn Youngkin's proposed amendments to the state budget stay intact. Growth4VA wants to set up college programs across the state called "talent pathways" that let students acquire the skills that Virginia industries most need in new employees. The campaign was developed by the Virginia Business Higher Education Council in collaboration with college presidents and business leaders.

THE WASHINGTON POST: Youngkin says he's 'having a ball,' defends actions as living up to campaign promises (By Gregory S. Schneider)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin said Wednesday that he's "having a ball" during his first days in office and expressed surprise at public reaction against some of his initial actions, which include letting parents opt their children out of school mask mandates and banning the teaching of critical race theory. "I am surprised that so many are surprised," Youngkin (R) said to an enthusiastically supportive audience at a Richmond meeting of Virginia members of the National Federation of Independent Business. "I am delivering on what we promised."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Lawmakers Say Youngkin Backs Ban on Dominion Campaign Cash

A bipartisan trio of Virginia lawmakers says Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin's administration has conveyed the governor's support for bills that would ban Dominion Energy and certain other public utilities from making campaign contributions.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: GOP senator says Youngkin would sign bill to ban Dominion Energy campaign donations (By Patrick Wilson)

A Republican state senator says the office of Gov. Glenn Youngkin notified him that the new governor will sign a bill to end campaign donations from regulated electric monopoly Dominion Energy should the legislation reach his desk.

ROANOKE STAR: Governor Youngkin Announces School Choice Proclamation

Governor Glenn Youngkin has announced this week as School Choice week, and issued a proclamation highlighting the importance of school choice for Virginia's students and parents.

WSET: Youngkin vows to 'stand up for students and parents' with School Choice Week (By Brenna McIntosh)

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FOX NEWS: Democrat delegate attacks Youngkin's faith, says his CRT ban shows he's 'not a Christian' (By Tyler O'Neil)

A Democrat in the Virginia House of Delegates slammed Gov. Glenn Youngkin, R-Va., claiming that the governor's action-packed first day in office, including the ban on critical race theory (CRT) in schools, suggests Youngkin is not "a man of faith, not a Christian." Del. Don Scott, D-Portsmouth, claimed that Youngkin's CRT ban represents "the old Southern strategy to use race as a wedge issue, to use Black bodies as a prop in your campaigns."

TOWNHALL: Virginia Delegate Claims Gov. Youngkin Not a Man of Faith Over Executive Orders (By Rebecca Downs)

Criticism over Gov. Glenn Youngkin's (R-VA) day one executive orders putting the power back in the hands of parents to decide if their children will wear masks to school and putting a stop to divisive lessons in school such as Critical Race Theory (CRT) has hit new lows with personal attacks. Del. Don L. Scott, Jr., a Democrat from the 80th district claimed that Gov. Youngkin is not sincere in his faith and prayer life because of such executive orders.

WTOP: Families vent over Loudoun Co. schools upholding mask mandate, despite Youngkin's mask-optional order (By Neal Augenstein)

Two days after Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's executive order making masks optional, parents and children who showed up maskless voiced contempt for Loudoun County Public School's decision to maintain a mask mandate.

FOX NEWS: CNN's Jim Acosta compares Virginia to 'Soviet-style police state' under Glenn Youngkin (By Brandon Gillespie)

CNN host Jim Acosta on Tuesday suggested Virginia was being run like a "Soviet-style police state" under new Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin.

WTOP: Youngkin pens op-ed defending ban on mask mandates; Fairfax supervisors support school mask requirement (By Will Vitka)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin took to the pages of The Washington Post on Tuesday to defend his ban on mask mandates in the commonwealth's schools, a move which is being challenged in court by seven school districts and ignored by more.

WASHINGTON POST: Human trafficking statistics: Politicians love them though they remain imprecise (By Glenn Kessler)

Human trafficking, both for sex and labor, is a horrific crime plagued by poor statistics. Readers may recall that in 2015, The Fact Checker published a series of articles that debunked or exposed faulty statistics that anti-trafficking groups had used to garner institutional and financial support.

THE WASHINGTON POST: OPINION: Glenn Youngkin didn't mind if some kids got an anti-racist education: His own (By Dana Milbank)

Not only is Virginia's new Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin banning the fictional menace of critical race theory from public schools, but he's also turning the commonwealth into a little Stasi State. He's setting up a tip line so parents can report to the government any school official they consider to be teaching something "divisive."

THE WASHINGTON POST: OPINION: Youngkin's tip line bumble should be a lesson to the new governor (By Norman Leahy)

I was going to use this space to offer up a way-too-early look at the race for the 2025 GOP gubernatorial nomination. But a funny thing happened on the way to punditry.

WJLA: Judge sets date for hearing on Virginia schools lawsuit against Gov. Youngkin's mask order (By Sonia Dasgupta)

An Arlington County judge has set a date for a court hearing on a lawsuit filed by seven Virginia school districts against Gov. Glenn Youngkin over his executive order forcing schools to lift a mask mandate.

NEW YORK MAGAZINE: Glenn Youngkin Won't Stop Undermining Public Schools (By Ed Kilgore)

In a very self-satisfied op-ed for the Washington Post, Virginia's new governor, Republican Glenn Youngkin, uses up some leftover campaign rhetoric regarding parental rights in education — his signature issue in a winning campaign over Terry McAuliffe last November. What makes the essay interesting is his insistence that individual parents should control not just curriculum or textbook decisions but public-health measures in schools.

WRIC: Lawmakers: Youngkin will support ban on Dominion campaign donations (By Dean Mirshahi)

Republican and Democratic lawmakers confirmed Wednesday that Gov. Glenn Youngkin's office told them the governor would sign legislation banning public utilities like Dominion Energy from giving political donations.

WALL STREET JOURNAL: New Virginia Hotline Lets Parents Report 'Divisive Teaching Practices' (By Omar Abdel-Baqi and Jennifer Calfas)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's office has set up an email hotline where parents can send complaints about what he has called "divisive teaching practices" such as critical race theory, a move educators in the state worry could be used to intimidate staff teaching historical fact.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: SCHAPIRO: Virginia's back-to-the-future governor (By Jeff E. Schapiro)

Glenn Youngkin is George Allen with better manners. Mashing the hot buttons of 'rona and race in his first hours as Virginia's new Republican governor — in the process, stirring punch-drunk Democrats from their November stupor — Youngkin was alternately reviled as Donald Trump, the former president with whom he held hands but didn't neck, and Ron DeSantis, the Florida governor who ranted about mask mandates and wokeness before Youngkin took ownership of both with his unexpected victory.

THE WASHINGTON POST: More than half of Virginia school districts are defying Youngkin's mask-optional order (By Hannah Natanson)

About a week after announcing his executive order making masks optional in schools throughout Virginia, Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) said on a radio show that school districts statewide had rushed to comply.

NATIONAL REVIEW: Public-Education Blob Says No to Governor Youngkin (By George Leef)

It has been evident for a long time that the Left only likes democracy if it wins. Proof of that mounts daily, and here is more: "Fairfax School Suspends Kids, Calls Police As System Defies Virginia Governor On Masks." Of course, the educators believe themselves to be the real experts, so why obey rules they just know can't be good?

WVTF: Youngkin asks General Assembly for \$150 Million for charter schools (By Jahd Khalil)

Governor Glenn Youngkin wants 20 new charter schools in his first year. He's asking the General Assembly for a judgment amendment putting \$150 million dollars towards 20 charter schools, which are publicly-funded but privately-run.

Cabinet Mentions

THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT: Youngkin pick Andrew Wheeler defends EPA record amid environmentalists' worries, calls media coverage unfair (By Katie King)

RICHMOND — During a Tuesday state Senate committee hearing, Andrew Wheeler made his case for why he should be confirmed as Virginia's next secretary of natural and historic resources.

Local News

VIRGINIA MERCURY: Four ways Republicans want to pull Virginia out of RGGI (By Sarah Vogelsong)

In December, Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin pledged to pull Virginia out of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a carbon reduction market involving 10 other Mid-Atlantic and New England states. The move put the new administration immediately at odds with state Democrats, who saw participation in RGGI, which caps carbon emissions from power plants and compels generators to buy carbon allowances, as one of their party's signature environmental successes during their two years of control in Richmond.

WASHINGTON EXAMINER: School mask wars reach boiling point as districts threaten suspensions (By Jeremiah Poff)

The fight over school mask mandates greatly escalated in several localities this week, most notably in Virginia and New York, where an executive order in the former made masks optional and a judge's decision in the latter made them at least temporarily mandatory for students.

NBC12: Some House Dems now back bill requiring school principals to report misdemeanor crimes (By Kate Masters)

Democrats on the House Education Committee gave broad support to a bill that would once again require school principals to report many misdemeanor-level offenses to law enforcement. The legislation, which passed the committee Wednesday on a 16-5 vote, would roll back a 2020 law that passed under Democratic control that made it optional for principals and superintendents to report certain incidents committed on school property. As passed, the law still required principals to report felony-level offenses, but gave administrators discretion on whether to report a range of lower-level incidents, from assault and battery to stalking to threats against school employees.

FOX NEWS: Virginia AG blasts Jim Acosta's 'Soviet-style police state' assertion: 'Take some history classes' (By Charles Creitz)

Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares responded Wednesday to CNN pundit Jim Acosta, who earlier in the day referred to the Commonwealth under Miyares and Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin as the "Soviet-style police state across the Potomac."

WTVR: Richmond Police officer injured after being hit head-on by motorcycle (By WTVR CBS 6 Web Staff)

A Richmond officer was hit head-on by a motorcycle while directing traffic on West Broad Street on Tuesday night. On Tuesday just after 5 p.m., Richmond Police responded to a report of aggressive driving by a group of motorcycles near the intersection of Broad Street and Terminal. Once on the scene, the officer began to direct traffic.

WRIC: Bills to reverse gun control shot down in Virginia Senate (By Jackie DeFusco)

A Republican push to roll back gun control policies came up short in the Virginia General Assembly on Wednesday.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Senate unanimously passes anti-hazing bill for Virginia colleges following VCU student's death (By Eric Kolenich)

The bill passed unanimously, and Courtney White rose from her bench in the upstairs Senate gallery to hug her uncle, Eric Oakes. Then the bill's sponsor, Sen. Jennifer Boysko, D-Fairfax, ascended the staircase from the Senate floor and embraced them both.

WRIC: RATE A COP: VCU Police introduce QR code performance reviews (By Ben Dennis)

VCU Police in Richmond are rolling out the chance for people to give feedback after interactions with their officers. Officers on campus are now equipped with QR coded business cards that give VCU students and Richmond residents' direct access to submit concerns, complaints and recommendations after their own brush with the law.

USA TODAY: OPINION: Virginia parents can opt out of mask mandates. But my kids' school barred the door to them. (By Carrie Lucas)

I sought to exercise my right as a parent under Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's Executive Order 2 by opting my two elementary school children out of their school system's mask mandate on Tuesday. I was told that if my children were unwilling to put on a mask, they were not allowed into the school building.

National News:

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Justice Breyer to retire, giving Biden first court pick (By Mark Sherman and Michael Balsamo)

Longtime liberal Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer is retiring, numerous sources said Wednesday, giving President Joe Biden his first high court opening, which he has pledged to fill with the historic naming of the court's first Black woman.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: At least 3 judges eyed as Biden mulls Supreme Court pick By Colleen Long, Zeke Miller, Michael Balsamo, Jessica Gresko)

President Joe Biden is eyeing at least three judges for an expected vacancy on the Supreme Court as he prepares to quickly deliver on his campaign pledge to nominate the first Black woman to the nation's highest court, according to aides and allies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Americans' trust in science now deeply polarized, poll shows (By Seth Borenstein and Hannah Fingerhut)

Republicans' faith in science is falling as Democrats rely on it even more, with a trust gap in science and medicine widening substantially during the COVID-19 pandemic, new survey data shows.

THE HILL: North Korea conducts potential 6th missile test in a month (By Brad Dress)

North Korea appeared to fire two ballistic missiles off its east coast on Thursday, according to South Korea's military, in what would be the nation's sixth missile test this month.

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Christian Martinez
Deputy Press Secretary
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CLIPS ROUNDUP 1/30/22

1 message

Martinez, Christian <christian.martinez@governor.virginia.gov>
To: Christian Martinez <christian.martinez@governor.virginia.gov>
Bcc: matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov

Sun, Jan 30, 2022 at 8:42 AM

CLIPS ROUNDUP 1/30/22**Governor Mentions**

FOX NEWS: Youngkin's CRT tip line in Virginia triggering Dems, teachers: 'It's scaring people to death' (By Dom Calicchio)

A tip line set up by new Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin for parents to report the teaching of "inherently divisive concepts" in the commonwealth's public schools is triggering teachers and Democrats, according to a report.

THE BOSTON GLOBE: OPINION: Having more options would reduce the fights over education (By Jeff Jacoby)

Within hours of being sworn in as Virginia's new governor on Jan. 15, Glenn Youngkin issued an executive order empowering parents to decide whether their children should wear masks in school. That effectively made masking optional for students across the state, triggering a backlash from education officials who support mask mandates. Seven school boards quickly filed lawsuits to block Youngkin's order. "We will fight it to the end," vowed a defiant Jason Kamras, the superintendent of schools in Richmond.

THE WASHINGTON POST: After hard-charging start, Youngkin faces tricky work of relationship-building (By Laura Vozzella and Gregory Schneider)

Not two weeks after he swaggered into Virginia's Executive Mansion with a fusillade of executive actions, Gov. Glenn Youngkin walked across Capitol Square on a more humble mission to the office of a junior state legislator. Del. Don L. Scott Jr. (D-Portsmouth) had made an emotional speech on the House floor questioning Youngkin's religious faith over his use of race as a political issue. It was one of several challenges this week to the new Republican governor, whose executive orders had already sparked lawsuits and whose legislative agenda was hitting the roadblock of a Democrat-controlled Senate.

THE HILL: Youngkin sparks Democratic backlash in Virginia (By Julia Manchester)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) is facing fierce pushback from Democrats as he implements a slew of conservative policies just two weeks after he formally assumed office.

MARTINSVILLE BULLETIN: EDITORIAL: Virginia has to address housing challenges head on

Last September, candidate Glenn Youngkin shared his thoughts about a critical issue not just in Virginia but across the country: evictions. "I think that there's a really good legal framework in place to provide resources and support for people so that they won't be kicked out of their homes," Youngkin said at a debate in Northern Virginia. He then shifted to the importance of the economic recovery from COVID-19, adding, "I believe the No. 1 way we're going to help folks with their rent is to get them jobs."

FREE LANCE-STAR: EDITORIAL: Charters must answer hard questions

Gov. GLENN Youngkin is dangling lots of shiny words before people eager to flex their new-found parental rights and throw open Virginia's doors to charter schools. In a Jan. 26 proclamation, for example, he sprinkles words and phrases

like "high quality," "innovation" and "merit based" to sell charter schools to Virginians. He also whines a bit. North Carolina, he says, has almost 200 charter schools. We should, too.

THE WASHINGTON POST: OPINION: Politicians have long courted Jews, even as antisemitism abounds (By Rebecca Graham)

One of Glenn Youngkin's first acts as Virginia governor was signing an executive order to create a commission to combat antisemitism. The move stood out because Youngkin's other early executive orders fulfilled a laundry list of right-wing goals: ending the teaching of "divisive concepts" in public schools, rescinding mask laws and vaccine mandates and withdrawing from a regional climate change initiative.

THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT: OPINION: Climate progress off to a bad start under the Youngkin administration (By Michael Town)

On the campaign trail, Glenn Youngkin's only on-the-record comments regarding climate change foreshadowed the extreme attacks on the environment that we've seen in just the first few days of his administration. In a live interview with WAVY-TV, he was asked if he believes human activity is responsible for climate change. He responded, "I don't know what's responsible for climate change in all candor. I'm a pretty smart guy, but I'm not that smart."

THE ROANOKE TIMES: OPINION: Could Virginia teachers get arrested for discussing this column? (By Dan Casey)

You probably heard last week that Gov. Glenn Youngkin has created a new email account, helpeducation@governor.virginia.gov. The stated goal is so parents can report the teaching of "inherently divisive concepts" in public schools — to the governor directly. The tattle-on-teachers hotline, or whatever you want to call it, got off to a rocky start in a couple of ways. One was caused by John Legend, the R&B/soul singer and songwriter. The California father of two has almost 14 million followers on Twitter.

CULPEPER STAR-EXPONENT: OPINION: Children are the victims of a flawed political strategy (By Tim Cotton)

Friends and family as far away as Europe ask me; what the hell happened to Virginia? Initially my response was that as part of the American South, progress has always been an obstacle. There is an ever-present push backwards to archaic and primitive ways, which was promoted in November's elections. The once-defeated Tories of 1776, have left behind their ways in the hearts of many. Opportunist businessman Glenn Youngkin took his obvious political non-experience into the gubernatorial race with no platform except Trump. As someone with no heart for people except the perpetuation of Trumpism he used the same methods that stirred the ignorant hearts of those Tories that were drowning in fear: fear of the future.

DEADLINE: 'SNL': Michael Che Passes Seth Meyers In Weekend Update Appearances

The stat, from analysis by The SNL Network, comes as Che and Jost, who is now on 162 appearances on Weekend Update, ribbed Melania Trump for her failed NFT hat auction, Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's racist school hot line, Peleton and Justice Breyer's retirement on tonight's show. Peyton Manning also turned up to talk about his love of Emily in Paris.

Cabinet Mentions

THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: EDITORIAL: With state revamp, don't contradict diversity, equity and inclusion goal

The appointment of Virginia's new diversity officer and a proposed name change to the Cabinet-level office she will oversee has created a cloud of uncertainty felt throughout the commonwealth and beyond, capturing national headlines and commentary. Angela Sailor is a former policy expert with the Heritage Foundation, a conservative research institution. With her appointment, Gov. Glenn Youngkin has proposed renaming, via executive order, the state diversity office — established by his predecessor in 2019 — by replacing the word "equity" with "opportunity." Youngkin's order also proposes changing the diversity office's mission to focus on economic opportunity, faith communities, and to eliminate "disparities in prenatal care, and be an ambassador to the unborn."

Local News

THE ROANOKE TIMES: Officials in Richmond pledge Southwest Virginia, rural outreach (By Luke Weir)

Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears promised her presence in Southwest Virginia during a meeting of rural lawmakers late Thursday, and two of Gov. Glenn Youngkin's cabinet nominees discussed plans for health and education outreach. "One of the things I kept hearing during the campaign, especially in the Southwest, is, 'nobody cares about us,'" Earle-Sears

said. "Everybody says that... 'they're going to come out and visit and do this and do that, and then we never see them again for four years.'"

WDBJ: Virginia Department of Health hoping to raise awareness about radon (By Will Thomas)

It's something that's a part of our every day life, even if we might not know it - we're talking about Radon. January is National Radon Action Month and the Virginia Department of Health is encouraging residents to get tested for it, while also bringing awareness of ways to combat it.

WTOP: Suspect in Virginia bus stop kidnapping was on probation for 2016 abduction, home invasion (By Neal Augenstein)

The man charged with abducting a girl getting off a school bus in Stafford, Virginia, before barricading himself in his house for five hours Friday was on probation for a 2016 home invasion, in which he tied up a woman and her 10-year-old son, WTOP has learned.

National News

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: AP sources: Despite reports, Tom Brady hasn't made up mind (By Rob Maaddi)

Only Tom Brady could turn a retirement decision into must-see drama. Despite reports that he is retiring, Brady has told the Tampa Bay Buccaneers he hasn't made up his mind, two people familiar with the details told The Associated Press.

POLITICO: Omicron has states rethinking 'broken' school Covid testing (By Juan Perez Jr.)

State leaders and health experts are weighing a counterintuitive school Covid strategy: Less testing and contact tracing. Utah's legislature suspended school testing requirements this month after high Covid rates strained the state's system. Omicron's quick spread left Vermont officials abandoning their onetime school test-and-trace program, while Massachusetts officials strongly encouraged schools to give up a diagnostics program endorsed by federal officials.

POLITICO: How the Biden Presidency Became a Cultural Black Hole (By Sophie Haigney)

It is often customary, when writing about a person, to open with an image or an anecdote that illustrates something about them. When I sat down to write this story, which is about President Joe Biden, and particularly his influence on culture, I could think of very few. I tried to manufacture some, watching videos of his inauguration and subsequent speeches; looking at pictures of him in the Oval Office and reading about the art he had chosen for the White House; considering the Bidens' Christmas decorations; even asking people I'd interviewed what cultural moments of his first year in the presidency had stuck with them. Yet everything I came up with felt forced.

THE NEW YORK TIMES: Democrats Decried Dark Money. Then They Won With It in 2020. (By Kenneth P. Vogel and Shane Goldmacher)

For much of the last decade, Democrats complained — with a mix of indignation, frustration and envy — that Republicans and their allies were spending hundreds of millions of difficult-to-trace dollars to influence politics. "Dark money" became a dirty word, as the left warned of the threat of corruption posed by corporations and billionaires that were spending unlimited sums through loosely regulated nonprofits, which did not disclose their donors' identities.

THE WASHINGTON POST: Inside the campaign to pressure Justice Stephen Breyer to retire (By Matt Viser, Tyler Pager, Seung Min Kim and Robert Barnes)

During a Harvard Law School lecture last April, Justice Stephen G. Breyer made clear that he viewed the judiciary as divorced from politics. Once a judge takes an oath, the Supreme Court jurist said, "They are loyal to the rule of law, not to the political party that helped to secure their appointment."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Clyburn, architect of Biden's court pledge, pushes his pick (By Meg Kinnard)

At President Joe Biden's lowest moment in the 2020 campaign, South Carolina Rep. Jim Clyburn came to him with a suggestion: He should pledge to put the first Black woman on the Supreme Court.

THE WASHINGTON POST: Do Republicans love Donald Trump as they once did? (By Dan Balz)

No one should underestimate former president Donald Trump's standing within the Republican Party, especially the passionate allegiance of a substantial part of the GOP base. But there are signs that, since the assault on the Capitol last year, his support within the party may not be quite as robust as it once was.

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Christian Martinez
Deputy Press Secretary
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CLIPS ROUNDUP 1/29/22

1 message

Martinez, Christian <christian.martinez@governor.virginia.gov>
 To: Christian Martinez <christian.martinez@governor.virginia.gov>
 Bcc: matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov

Sat, Jan 29, 2022 at 10:05 AM

CLIPS ROUNDUP 1/29/22

Governor Mentions

WRIC: Court to hear Virginia school boards' challenge to Youngkin's mask-optional order (By Dean Mirshahi)

A legal challenge from seven Virginia school boards trying to block Gov. Glenn Youngkin's mask-optional executive order will be heard next week. The schools boards, the one for Richmond Public Schools among them, filed the lawsuit in Arlington Circuit County the day Youngkin's order went into effect.

THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Schapiro: Divide and conquer was Youngkin's M.O. even before politics (By Jeff Schapiro)

Virginia Democrats still wincing from their whipping by Glenn Youngkin howl that the rookie Republican governor is undergoing a metamorphosis: He is chucking unity and consensus for divide and conquer, gambling that he prevails by splitting the opposition. There's nothing malevolent about this. For Youngkin, it is a clever necessity for steering his program through a divided legislature. For now, the Republicans who control the House of Delegates would play in traffic if told by Youngkin. In the Democratic Virginia Senate, he's eyeing the few free souls willing to break with the majority.

THE HILL: Youngkin underwater on handling of coronavirus in Virginia: PPP poll (By Julia Manchester)

A new poll from the left-leaning firm Public Policy Polling shows new Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's approval rating on the coronavirus pandemic is underwater. The survey, which was first seen by The Hill, found that 44 percent of Virginia voters polled said they approved of Youngkin's handling of the pandemic, while 47 percent said they disapproved. The poll was conducted on behalf of the Coronavirus War Room, which is a project of the left-leaning Protect Our Care.

TOWNHALL: OPINION: Assessing Virginia's Hidden Wind And Solar Costs (By Paul Driessen)

Among Governor Glenn Youngkin's first actions was Executive Order #9 initiating Virginia's withdrawal from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the Northeastern U.S. "carbon market" that sets and enforces emission limits for coal and gas power plants. RGGI also lets utilities buy "carbon credits" when emissions exceed those limits, passing costs on to families, businesses, hospitals and schools.

TOWNHALL: OPINION: CNN's Jim Acosta Accuses Youngkin of Turning VA Into a 'Soviet-style Police State' (By Humberto Fontova)

"In office less than two weeks and Governor Glenn Youngkin has already set up an email tip line for parents to report teachers for teaching divisive subjects," said CNN's Jim Acosta. "I seem to remember Glenn Youngkin campaigning in a fleece vest in Virginia. He was running as a different kind of Republican. I was told there was going to be a vest, not a Soviet-style police state across the Potomac from Washington."

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: 'It's scaring people to death': Youngkin's tip line fuels anger from the left at agenda to reframe race education (By Mel Leonor)

When the state announced in 2020 that it would launch a new high school-level African American history course, Dianne Carter de Mayo quickly volunteered to teach it. The Gloucester history teacher, who as a Virginia school child was taught from a textbook that framed slaves as content under oppression, said she is excited to take her students on a deep dive into the history of Black people in the U.S.

THE WASHINGTON POST: OPINION: Youngkin's 'tip line' to snitch on teachers suffers from this, too (by Valerie Strauss)

In case you missed it, Virginia's new governor, Glenn Youngkin, has set up a "tip line" for people to snitch on teachers who supposedly are promoting "divisive practices" and to report on violations of his order against mask mandates.

THE WASHINGTON POST: OPINION: Virginia's new lost cause (By Atif Qarni)

In the opening days of the new administration in Virginia, Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) openly declared war on Virginia's public education system.

His first executive order on critical race theory (CRT) was an aggressive attack on our public educators and school systems. In the order, Youngkin claims that students are being taught "inherently divisive concepts" and are undergoing "political indoctrination" in the classrooms.

Cabinet Mentions

THE WASHINGTON POST: Flouting CDC, Youngkin health chief wants to help Virginia move on from covid (By Jenna Portnoy)
Colin Greene knew that some public health directors — foot soldiers in the fight against coronavirus — would balk at Gov. Glenn Youngkin's order making masks optional in schools. The rule Youngkin (R) implemented the day he took office flipped the playbook they'd followed for two years overnight, and undermined Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance as infection rates skyrocketed and patients overwhelmed hospitals.

VIRGINIA MERCURY: 'We don't need a study': Health officials can't offer evidence to support Youngkin's mask order
A day after Gov. Glenn Youngkin issued an executive order giving students the ability to opt out of school masking policies, Dr. Colin Greene, the newly appointed state health commissioner, addressed the directive in an email to local health district directors. "I suspect there are those who find this rule hard to hear," he wrote, adding that they could discuss "the pros and cons of masking at length" in a planned monthly Zoom meeting. When it came to the Virginia Department of Health's public stance, though, Greene was clear. "I respectfully remind all health directors that VDH is an executive agency, under the leadership, oversight and discipline of the governor," he continued in the email, which was obtained by the Mercury. "Compliance with the word and intent of this executive order on the part of any VDH employee is not optional."

Local News

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Virginia Republicans push for changes in marijuana law (By Denise Lavoie)
Newly empowered Republican lawmakers in Virginia who opposed legalizing simple possession of marijuana say they don't want to scrap the law, but they do want to make significant changes. Those changes could include moving up the start date for retail sales and getting rid of a provision that would give licensing preference to people who have been convicted of marijuana crimes.

WTVR: Girl killed in car that stopped for Virginia school bus
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, Va. -- A 12-year-old girl was killed and a 13-year-old suffered life-threatening injuries in a Friday morning crash, according to Virginia State Police. The girls were in a car that had stopped for a school bus on Route 13 in Northampton County on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. "The investigation reveals that a Northampton school bus was stopped in the left, southbound lanes of Route 13 with its safety lights flashing and its stop sign deployed," Virginia State Police spokesperson Sgt. Michelle Anaya wrote in an email.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Virginia AG pans schools' order
State colleges and universities in Virginia cannot require students to get vaccinated against covid-19, under a legal opinion issued Friday by Virginia's new Republican attorney general.

THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Front of the line? Richmond seeks federal help for \$1.3 billion sewer project (By Michael Martz)
The leader of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Friday brought a message of potential financial relief for Richmond, which is under mounting state political pressure to complete a \$1.3 billion cleanup of an antiquated sewer system that overflows into the James River during heavy rains. EPA Administrator Michael Regan toured the Shockoe Retention Basin - built almost 40 years ago to catch the "first flush" of sewage-contaminated stormwater - with Rep. Donald McEachin, D-4th, and Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., who are seeking his help.

ROANOKE TIMES: OPINION: Their View: Bills to aid school construction have bipartisan support
More than half of Virginia's school buildings are more than 50 years old, and the problem of how best to repair or replace them has grown to Godzilla-sized proportions. Although no titanic kaiju is going to knock these buildings over, they're falling into disrepair all on their own. The first few days of the new General Assembly session have stirred partisan squabbles, but not much discussion of school facilities. Yet efforts to fix Virginia's deteriorating school buildings are underway, and they have supporters on both sides of the aisle.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Richmond casino campaign spent more per vote than Stoney, McAuliffe, Youngkin. Will it get a second shot? (By Chris Suarez)

The corporations behind the proposed One Casino and Resort in Richmond spent \$2.6 million last year campaigning for their project that was rejected by city voters in November. Richmond officials and project backers are now calling for another referendum this year, saying it was only narrowly rejected by a margin of 1,500 voters because too many people were not well informed about the projected benefits of project or were misled by opponents. This time around, Mayor Levar Stoney and several City Council are upping the ante on spending, promising homeowners a two-cent property tax reduction worth \$5.7 million that they say will only be passed if city voters approve the casino.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: A desk for working parents at a Henrico Public Library goes viral, called a 'game-changer' by Newsweek

When Richmonder Ali Faruk snapped a picture of a desk for working parents at Henrico's Fairfield Area Library and posted it to Twitter, he didn't think much of it. "A new public library in my area has these work stations for caregivers with babies!" he tweeted. "Maybe these are common in other places but [I've] never seen anything like this before."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Virginia man crashes into Taylor Swift's building, tries to get inside

A Virginia man has been arrested for drunkenly crashing a car into Taylor Swift's New York City apartment building and trying to gain entry, police said.

THE WASHINGTON POST: 'So broken down': Teachers, students and families caught in the middle of Youngkin's mask order (By Hannah Natanson)

In Virginia Beach, a mother is sending frantic emails to her school board, begging them to reverse their mask-optional policy to protect the life of her 14-year-old daughter who has a heart condition. In Arlington, a teenage girl broke down sobbing this week as she asked her parents for help navigating the suddenly thorny social dynamics between masked and unmasked friends — leading her mother to pull her from school for a mental health day.

National News

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Biden visits collapsed bridge, touts infrastructure law (By Colleen Long, Steve Peoples, and Alexandra Jaffe)

Arriving just hours after a Pennsylvania bridge collapse, President Joe Biden stared into the cratered muddy earth where the aging span fell early Friday, striking evidence supporting the \$1 trillion infrastructure law he already had planned to tout on his trip to Pittsburgh. Standing before concrete barriers papered with yellow police tape, Biden craned his neck to look out over the gaping expanse left by the crumbled bridge, as the smell of gas from a nearby leak filled the air.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Divided no more? Court opening may draw Democrats together (By Kevin Freking)

Democrats in Congress have fractured repeatedly over President Joe Biden's agenda, stalling legislation and creating an atmosphere of mistrust that has made it increasingly difficult for progressives and centrists to work together. But one area where the party has not cracked, not even an inch, is on Biden's nominations to the courts.

THE HILL: Kirby: 'It's really unclear' what Putin's thinking amid rising Russia-Ukraine tensions (By Caroline Vakil)

Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said that "it's really unclear" what Russian President Vladimir Putin is planning on doing amid rising tensions between Ukraine and Russia. Greta Van Susteren asked the Pentagon spokesman in an interview to be aired on Sunday what might provoke Putin to act given the present situation between both countries.

THE NEW YORK TIMES: Republicans Relish Biden's Troubles, Eyeing a Takeover of Congress (By Annie Karnie)

Republicans on Capitol Hill are using President Biden's failures to fuel their bid to retake control of Congress, focusing on his collapsing legislative agenda, his unfulfilled promise to "shut down" the coronavirus pandemic and rising voter anxieties over school closures and inflation as they seek a winning message for this year's elections.

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Christian Martinez
Deputy Press Secretary
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CLIPS ROUNDUP 1/27/22

1 message

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To: Christian Martinez <christian.martinez@governor.virginia.gov>
Bcc: matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov

Thu, Jan 27, 2022 at 9:41 AM

CLIPS ROUNDUP 1/27/22**Governor Mentions****THE ROANOKE TIMES: EDITORIAL: Good signs for Growth4VA**

A well thought out initiative to build stronger connections between higher education and businesses statewide has gotten off to a promising start, if Gov. Glenn Youngkin's proposed amendments to the state budget stay intact. Growth4VA wants to set up college programs across the state called "talent pathways" that let students acquire the skills that Virginia industries most need in new employees. The campaign was developed by the Virginia Business Higher Education Council in collaboration with college presidents and business leaders.

THE WASHINGTON POST: Youngkin says he's 'having a ball,' defends actions as living up to campaign promises (By Gregory S. Schneider)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin said Wednesday that he's "having a ball" during his first days in office and expressed surprise at public reaction against some of his initial actions, which include letting parents opt their children out of school mask mandates and banning the teaching of critical race theory. "I am surprised that so many are surprised," Youngkin (R) said to an enthusiastically supportive audience at a Richmond meeting of Virginia members of the National Federation of Independent Business. "I am delivering on what we promised."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Lawmakers Say Youngkin Backs Ban on Dominion Campaign Cash

A bipartisan trio of Virginia lawmakers says Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin's administration has conveyed the governor's support for bills that would ban Dominion Energy and certain other public utilities from making campaign contributions.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: GOP senator says Youngkin would sign bill to ban Dominion Energy campaign donations (By Patrick Wilson)

A Republican state senator says the office of Gov. Glenn Youngkin notified him that the new governor will sign a bill to end campaign donations from regulated electric monopoly Dominion Energy should the legislation reach his desk.

ROANOKE STAR: Governor Youngkin Announces School Choice Proclamation

Governor Glenn Youngkin has announced this week as School Choice week, and issued a proclamation highlighting the importance of school choice for Virginia's students and parents.

WSET: Youngkin vows to 'stand up for students and parents' with School Choice Week (By Brenna McIntosh)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin said Wednesday that this week is School Choice Week. The governor issued a proclamation highlighting the importance of school choice for Virginia's students and parents.

FOX NEWS: Democrat delegate attacks Youngkin's faith, says his CRT ban shows he's 'not a Christian' (By Tyler O'Neil)

A Democrat in the Virginia House of Delegates slammed Gov. Glenn Youngkin, R-Va., claiming that the governor's action-packed first day in office, including the ban on critical race theory (CRT) in schools, suggests Youngkin is not "a man of faith, not a Christian." Del. Don Scott, D-Portsmouth, claimed that Youngkin's CRT ban represents "the old Southern strategy to use race as a wedge issue, to use Black bodies as a prop in your campaigns."

TOWNHALL: [Virginia Delegate Claims Gov. Youngkin Not a Man of Faith Over Executive Orders](#) (By Rebecca Downs)

Criticism over Gov. Glenn Youngkin's (R-VA) day one executive orders putting the power back in the hands of parents to decide if their children will wear masks to school and putting a stop to divisive lessons in school such as Critical Race Theory (CRT) has hit new lows with personal attacks. Del. Don L. Scott, Jr., a Democrat from the 80th district claimed that Gov. Youngkin is not sincere in his faith and prayer life because of such executive orders.

WTOP: [Families vent over Loudoun Co. schools upholding mask mandate, despite Youngkin's mask-optional order](#) (By Neal Augenstein)

Two days after Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's executive order making masks optional, parents and children who showed up maskless voiced contempt for Loudoun County Public School's decision to maintain a mask mandate.

FOX NEWS: [CNN's Jim Acosta compares Virginia to 'Soviet-style police state' under Glenn Youngkin](#) (By Brandon Gillespie)

CNN host Jim Acosta on Tuesday suggested Virginia was being run like a "Soviet-style police state" under new Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin.

WTOP: [Youngkin pens op-ed defending ban on mask mandates; Fairfax supervisors support school mask requirement](#) (By Will Vitka)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin took to the pages of The Washington Post on Tuesday to defend his ban on mask mandates in the commonwealth's schools, a move which is being challenged in court by seven school districts and ignored by more.

WASHINGTON POST: [Human trafficking statistics: Politicians love them though they remain imprecise](#) (By Glenn Kessler)

Human trafficking, both for sex and labor, is a horrific crime plagued by poor statistics. Readers may recall that in 2015, The Fact Checker published a series of articles that debunked or exposed faulty statistics that anti-trafficking groups had used to garner institutional and financial support.

THE WASHINGTON POST: OPINION: [Glenn Youngkin didn't mind if some kids got an anti-racist education: His own](#) (By Dana Milbank)

Not only is Virginia's new Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin banning the fictional menace of critical race theory from public schools, but he's also turning the commonwealth into a little Stasi State. He's setting up a tip line so parents can report to the government any school official they consider to be teaching something "divisive."

THE WASHINGTON POST: OPINION: [Youngkin's tip line bumble should be a lesson to the new governor](#) (By Norman Leahy)

I was going to use this space to offer up a way-too-early look at the race for the 2025 GOP gubernatorial nomination. But a funny thing happened on the way to punditry.

WJLA: [Judge sets date for hearing on Virginia schools lawsuit against Gov. Youngkin's mask order](#) (By Sonia Dasgupta)

An Arlington County judge has set a date for a court hearing on a lawsuit filed by seven Virginia school districts against Gov. Glenn Youngkin over his executive order forcing schools to lift a mask mandate.

NEW YORK MAGAZINE: [Glenn Youngkin Won't Stop Undermining Public Schools](#) (By Ed Kilgore)

In a very self-satisfied op-ed for the Washington Post, Virginia's new governor, Republican Glenn Youngkin, uses up some leftover campaign rhetoric regarding parental rights in education — his signature issue in a winning campaign over Terry McAuliffe last November. What makes the essay interesting is his insistence that individual parents should control not just curriculum or textbook decisions but public-health measures in schools.

WRIC: Lawmakers: Youngkin will support ban on Dominion campaign donations (By Dean Mirshahi)

Republican and Democratic lawmakers confirmed Wednesday that Gov. Glenn Youngkin's office told them the governor would sign legislation banning public utilities like Dominion Energy from giving political donations.

WALL STREET JOURNAL: New Virginia Hotline Lets Parents Report 'Divisive Teaching Practices' (By Omar Abdel-Baqi and Jennifer Calfas)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's office has set up an email hotline where parents can send complaints about what he has called "divisive teaching practices" such as critical race theory, a move educators in the state worry could be used to intimidate staff teaching historical fact.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: SCHAPIRO: Virginia's back-to-the-future governor (By Jeff E. Schapiro)

Glenn Youngkin is George Allen with better manners. Mashing the hot buttons of 'rona and race in his first hours as Virginia's new Republican governor — in the process, stirring punch-drunk Democrats from their November stupor — Youngkin was alternately reviled as Donald Trump, the former president with whom he held hands but didn't neck, and Ron DeSantis, the Florida governor who ranted about mask mandates and wokeness before Youngkin took ownership of both with his unexpected victory.

THE WASHINGTON POST: More than half of Virginia school districts are defying Youngkin's mask-optional order (By Hannah Natanson)

About a week after announcing his executive order making masks optional in schools throughout Virginia, Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) said on a radio show that school districts statewide had rushed to comply.

NATIONAL REVIEW: Public-Education Blob Says No to Governor Youngkin (By George Leef)

It has been evident for a long time that the Left only likes democracy if it wins. Proof of that mounts daily, and here is more: "Fairfax School Suspends Kids, Calls Police As System Defies Virginia Governor On Masks." Of course, the educrats believe themselves to be the real experts, so why obey rules they just know can't be good?

WVTF: Youngkin asks General Assembly for \$150 Million for charter schools (By Jahd Khalil)

Governor Glenn Youngkin wants 20 new charter schools in his first year. He's asking the General Assembly for a judgment amendment putting \$150 million dollars towards 20 charter schools, which are publicly-funded but privately-run.

Cabinet Mentions

THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT: Youngkin pick Andrew Wheeler defends EPA record amid environmentalists' worries, calls media coverage unfair (By Katie King)

RICHMOND — During a Tuesday state Senate committee hearing, Andrew Wheeler made his case for why he should be confirmed as Virginia's next secretary of natural and historic resources.

Local News

VIRGINIA MERCURY: Four ways Republicans want to pull Virginia out of RGGI (By Sarah Vogelsong)

In December, Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin pledged to pull Virginia out of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a carbon reduction market involving 10 other Mid-Atlantic and New England states. The move put the new administration immediately at odds with state Democrats, who saw participation in RGGI, which caps carbon emissions from power plants and compels generators to buy carbon allowances, as one of their party's signature environmental successes during their two years of control in Richmond.

WASHINGTON EXAMINER: School mask wars reach boiling point as districts threaten suspensions (By Jeremiah Poff)

The fight over school mask mandates greatly escalated in several localities this week, most notably in Virginia and New York, where an executive order in the former made masks optional and a judge's decision in the latter made them at least temporarily mandatory for students.

NBC12: Some House Dems now back bill requiring school principals to report misdemeanor crimes (By Kate Masters)

Democrats on the House Education Committee gave broad support to a bill that would once again require school principals to report many misdemeanor-level offenses to law enforcement. The legislation, which passed the committee Wednesday on a 16-5 vote, would roll back a 2020 law that passed under Democratic control that made it optional for principals and superintendents to report certain incidents committed on school property. As passed, the law still required principals to report felony-level offenses, but gave administrators discretion on whether to report a range of lower-level incidents, from assault and battery to stalking to threats against school employees.

FOX NEWS: Virginia AG blasts Jim Acosta's 'Soviet-style police state' assertion: 'Take some history classes' (By Charles Creitz)

Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares responded Wednesday to CNN pundit Jim Acosta, who earlier in the day referred to the Commonwealth under Miyares and Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin as the "Soviet-style police state across the Potomac."

WTVR: Richmond Police officer injured after being hit head-on by motorcycle (By WTVR CBS 6 Web Staff)

A Richmond officer was hit head-on by a motorcycle while directing traffic on West Broad Street on Tuesday night. On Tuesday just after 5 p.m., Richmond Police responded to a report of aggressive driving by a group of motorcycles near the intersection of Broad Street and Terminal. Once on the scene, the officer began to direct traffic.

WRIC: Bills to reverse gun control shot down in Virginia Senate (By Jackie DeFusco)

A Republican push to roll back gun control policies came up short in the Virginia General Assembly on Wednesday.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Senate unanimously passes anti-hazing bill for Virginia colleges following VCU student's death (By Eric Kolenich)

The bill passed unanimously, and Courtney White rose from her bench in the upstairs Senate gallery to hug her uncle, Eric Oakes. Then the bill's sponsor, Sen. Jennifer Boysko, D-Fairfax, ascended the staircase from the Senate floor and embraced them both.

WRIC: RATE A COP: VCU Police introduce QR code performance reviews (By Ben Dennis)

VCU Police in Richmond are rolling out the chance for people to give feedback after interactions with their officers. Officers on campus are now equipped with QR coded business cards that give VCU students and Richmond residents' direct access to submit concerns, complaints and recommendations after their own brush with the law.

USA TODAY: OPINION: Virginia parents can opt out of mask mandates. But my kids' school barred the door to them. (By Carrie Lucas)

I sought to exercise my right as a parent under Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's Executive Order 2 by opting my two elementary school children out of their school system's mask mandate on Tuesday. I was told that if my children were unwilling to put on a mask, they were not allowed into the school building.

National News:

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: [Justice Breyer to retire, giving Biden first court pick](#) (By Mark Sherman and Michael Balsamo)

Longtime liberal Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer is retiring, numerous sources said Wednesday, giving President Joe Biden his first high court opening, which he has pledged to fill with the historic naming of the court's first Black woman.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: [At least 3 judges eyed as Biden mulls Supreme Court pick](#) By Colleen Long, Zeke Miller, Michael Balsamo, Jessica Gresko)

President Joe Biden is eyeing at least three judges for an expected vacancy on the Supreme Court as he prepares to quickly deliver on his campaign pledge to nominate the first Black woman to the nation's highest court, according to aides and allies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: [Americans' trust in science now deeply polarized, poll shows](#) (By Seth Borenstein and Hannah Fingerhut)

Republicans' faith in science is falling as Democrats rely on it even more, with a trust gap in science and medicine widening substantially during the COVID-19 pandemic, new survey data shows.

THE HILL: [North Korea conducts potential 6th missile test in a month](#) (By Brad Dress)

North Korea appeared to fire two ballistic missiles off its east coast on Thursday, according to South Korea's military, in what would be the nation's sixth missile test this month.

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CLIPS ROUND UP -- 1/18/22

1 message

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Tue, Jan 18, 2022 at 1:03 PM

Good afternoon-- Some of you may not have received this in the morning, therefore I am resending:

CLIPS ROUNDUP 1/18/22

Governor Mentions

Fox News: Former Democrat Virginia governor praises Glenn Youngkin's focus on education

Former Virginia Democratic Gov. L. Douglas Wilder praised newly-minted Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin and Lt. Gov. Winsome Sears as unifiers of people, telling Fox News on Monday he was heartened to see the new administration make public education a focal point on a weekend when the nation remembers Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Wilder, 91, the first African-American to be elected governor of any state since Reconstruction when he took office in 1990, told "Your World" he was honored to be a guest at Youngkin's ceremony in Richmond on Saturday – after the Falls Church businessman defeated Democrat Terry McAuliffe last November. Youngkin promised education reform and a ban on critical race theory in the classroom, telling the crowd that his administration will "refocus on essential math, science and reading. And we will teach all of our history, the good and the bad." Host Charles Payne noted many observers were offended or upset by those comments, and asked Wilder why that might be. Wilder replied that such a platform should be a welcome sign in a divided country; to remove politics from the classroom and focus on the children and parents. He told Payne that Youngkin and Sears' policy proposals highlight the "independent" nature of Virginians.

The Washington Times: Glenn Youngkin, man of hope and change

Bankrupt of ideas and blind of vision, Democrats spent months last year trying to smear Virginia's new Gov. Glenn Youngkin as some racist reincarnation of former President Donald Trump. It was as desperate as it would prove to be ridiculous. The caricature Democrats tried spinning did not stick, as was evident on election night and even more obvious Saturday under sparkling skies on the front steps of Thomas Jefferson's Virginia Capitol where Mr. Youngkin took the oath of office as the state's 74th governor. Ever tall and always sunny, Mr. Youngkin was flanked by newly minted Lt. Gov. Winsome Sears and Attorney General Jason Miyares, all three swept into office promising a new future for Virginia. Democrats, meanwhile, were stuck looking backward. They spent the campaign obsessing over a past president, peddling racist division and defending archaic teachers unions from parents furious over the sorry state of education in Virginia. In the end, Mr. Youngkin and his fellow Republicans beat Democrats – including retread former Gov. Terry McAuliffe – on the very issue Democrats have owned forever: education. This is particularly interesting not just because it is an issue that Democrats have always dominated, largely because of their unholy alliance with teachers unions. It is interesting also because of what it says about the ideas and visions of the two parties in Virginia today. By definition, education is about the future. Jefferson gave us public education, not for the immediate entertainment of pupils but the hopeful future of a Republic guided by an informed electorate. Politicizing and weaponizing the simple biology of a confused teenager going through puberty was undoubtedly not what Mr. Jefferson had in mind. (These people today really are so stupid they could wreck a one-car parade. And they are evil on top of that.) And so Mr. Youngkin beat Democrats at their best issue in a state that has become more reliably Democrat today than it ever was Republican. Mr. Youngkin is a man of hope, promising change. In contrast, the backward Democrat Party in Virginia clings to death, depression and deception. They are the forever pandemic party. Outgoing ex-Gov. Ralph Northam will forever be remembered for wearing either blackface or a KKK hood for his college yearbook – or maybe both. And for his barbaric description of the proper way, he envisions live birth abortions to be carried out. "The infant would be kept comfortable," Mr. Northam publicly explained as the adults decide how to dispose of the live infant. In his very fine inaugural address, the hopeful Mr. Youngkin reminded Virginians of the promises that got him elected. On his first day in office, he made good on 11 of those promises. And of his predecessor, Mr. Youngkin was courtly and generous – far more generous than Mr. Northam deserved. The audience politely applauded. But, dear Lord, it was a beautiful sight –

as is Virginia tradition — when Mr. Youngkin swore his oath and Mr. Northam rose from his seat to take his leave. As Mr. Northam trundled up the steps, cannon fire from a 21-gun salute thundered across the lawn as the garbage got hauled up the front steps of Jefferson's Capitol. Hopefully, there was a cold, steel surgery table waiting for Mr. Northam where he could be kept comfortable.

AP: Youngkin calls on lawmakers to enact 'vision of change'

Gov. Glenn Youngkin asked the divided Virginia General Assembly on Monday to work with him to enact his “sweeping vision of change” for the state by rolling back taxes, expanding school choice and boosting funding for law enforcement. In his first joint address to the Democrat-controlled Senate and GOP-controlled House, the governor reiterated many of his campaign pledges while offering some new specifics and avoiding certain issues altogether, including firearms and abortion policy. “I’m asking each of us in this body, Republicans and Democrats alike, to come together,” he said, speaking inside the Capitol’s House chamber. “To rise above the Richmond of division, special interests, the small and the parochial and to usher in a sweeping vision of change. And to put this commonwealth on a pathway to prosperity.” Senate Democrats, speaking to reporters after the speech, signaled continued disagreement with many of the governor’s priorities and said the political newcomer was not showing the type of bipartisanship he was asking for. “There’s a lot of hypocrisy going on here,” said caucus chair Mamie Locke, pointing to a slew of first-day executive orders Youngkin issued that many Democrats have criticized as excessively partisan, not based in fact or exceeding the authority of the office. Youngkin, a political newcomer who took office Saturday, has been reaching out to lawmakers from both parties since he defeated former Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe in November. In his speech, he said he had heard “bipartisan agreement” that the budget would include a “record investment in education,” including a pay raise for teachers. Locke agreed that Democrats see common ground on raising teacher pay, noting they previously had done so. Youngkin also called on the General Assembly to allocate \$150 million to meet his previously stated goal of starting 20 new charter schools. Saying no group was under greater scrutiny than law enforcement officials, Youngkin said he hoped to lower the “temperature” around discussions of policing. He called for dedicating \$100 million in federal coronavirus relief money to a training and equipment grant program for law enforcement and said he would like to provide capital funding for a new state police training facility. He also asked lawmakers to dedicate \$26 million in state funding for police departments, but only those in localities that are increasing police funding. And he threw his support behind \$5 million for a community violence reduction initiative modeled after one that began in Boston.

Richmond Times-Dispatch: Youngkin tells lawmakers to 'turn the page' and better serve Virginia's people

Gov. Glenn Youngkin addressed the Virginia General Assembly for the first time on Monday, pitching his legislative priorities as solutions to “kitchen-table” issues Virginians face. Youngkin said he was elected to “turn the page” on the COVID-19 pandemic and rising cost of living, as well as to address the state’s “fractured” politics. He took aim at public schools, which he says are teaching “divisive concepts” related to race. “From the perspective of everyday Virginia families, times are tough. And the state of our commonwealth is not what it should be,” Youngkin told delegates and senators gathered in the House chamber two days after his inauguration. “They’re genuinely concerned that the cold halls of government are disconnected from the cold realities families face while sitting at their kitchen tables every day.” Youngkin, Virginia’s first Republican governor in eight years, roundly rejected former Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam’s outgoing message to the legislature last week, which presented the state’s economy as thriving and fertile for business growth, and its policies as more equitable compared with four years ago. Here are some key takeaways from Youngkin’s address: Tax cuts, education. Youngkin, a wealthy former private equity executive who’s never served in public office, took immediate aim at the state’s higher-than-expected revenues, promising to deliver a package of tax cuts. “We shouldn’t misconstrue record revenue for government as economic success for Virginians,” Youngkin said. “The view from the people, whose labor generates those tax receipts, is quite different than the talk in Richmond.” Youngkin reiterated to lawmakers his key tax cut priorities: suspending the most recent 5-cent increase to the gas tax; eliminating the state’s grocery tax; doubling the standard deduction in the state’s income tax; and offering a tax rebate of \$300 for individuals and \$600 for families. He also highlighted his education agenda, which has attracted the most ardent criticism from Democrats. Youngkin promised to raise academic standards and end lessons on “inherently divisive concepts” related to race and the nation’s history with racism. He said “we should not be teaching our children to see everything through the lens of race,” echoing complaints by conservatives that schools are overly emphasizing racism and inequity in their curricula. Democrats like Del. Lamont Bagby of Henrico, head of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus, have referred to Youngkin’s education agenda as a “war” on Black history. Youngkin also urged lawmakers to pass legislation expanding privately run but publicly funded schools, calling for \$150 million to help his administration’s goal of starting 20 new charter schools. He also wants more parental control over school curricula and COVID-19 safety measures like masks, and a law enforcement officer stationed at every school. Youngkin will try to get his agenda through a Senate in which Democrats hold a 21-19 edge and a House in which Republicans now hold a 52-48 edge. The new governor urged Republicans to bring back some bills Democratic governors had vetoed. “Pass that bill again and I will sign it,” he said more than once on Monday. Youngkin urged lawmakers to bring back legislation allowing for association health plans, a type of health insurance where smaller employers can pool together to offer benefits to their employees. The plans have been criticized for having too few consumer protections and not covering key benefits. Youngkin also urged lawmakers to bring back a bill that would have required schools to notify parents of any sexually explicit content in instructional materials, and to offer an alternative. In contrast, Youngkin said he would quash any attempts to repeal the

state's right-to-work policy, which allows workers to opt out of paying dues to unions in their workplace. "If anyone tries to bring me a bill that creates forced unionization, it will meet the business end of my veto pen," he said. Democratic opposition. Democrats were mostly silent and sat at their desks during Youngkin's address, as Republicans offered many standing ovations. Democrats did applaud when Youngkin urged all Virginians to get vaccinated and to get boosters, though he said he would never mandate it of any Virginian, including health care workers, which Democrats have heavily criticized. "Speaking to you as your governor, I'll never tell you what you must do," Youngkin said. "But speaking to you as a friend and a neighbor, I strongly encourage you to get the vaccine." Democratic senators, who have the votes to block Youngkin's agenda if they choose — and if they have no defections — gathered in the Capitol Rotunda after his speech and said they didn't like what they heard. "What we've heard was a lot of doom and gloom as though nothing has happened in the last four years. Virginia has always been open for business," said Sen. Mamie Locke, D-Hampton, the caucus chair. "We've given teachers raises. We've done a lot for law enforcement in terms of raises. In listening to the speech, you would think that we had done absolutely nothing for teachers, for law enforcement." They said Youngkin continued traveling down the wrong path on race in a state where history lessons have often omitted uncomfortable facts about racism and its role in the building of the state and nation. "That is a dog whistle. And it's a dog whistle that's throwing red meat to a base," Locke said. "It's a bogeyman for his base," said Sen. Adam Ebbin, D-Alexandria. Environmental protections: Youngkin left environmental protection out of his inaugural address, but on Monday, Virginia's new governor remarked on the state's "raw beauty" and threw his support behind some ways to protect natural resources. He has said he does not support legislation enacted by Democrats to end coal and gas burning by 2045, and he rarely addresses climate change. His pick for secretary of natural resources, Andrew Wheeler, who served as head of the Environmental Protection Agency under former President Donald Trump, faces what could be an uphill confirmation fight in the Senate. Youngkin on Monday, however, said his administration would "end the dumping of raw sewage in the James River once and for all," an ongoing effort with a \$1 billion price tag. The governor said he would also support putting funding toward helping farmers avoid toxic runoff into the state's waterways — a program Northam also backed. He also supports "full cleanup" of the Chesapeake Bay; Virginia is part of a multistate partnership working on the issue. Youngkin also promised to create a Coastal Virginia Resiliency Authority, which will focus on rising seas. "I deeply treasure the natural beauty of Virginia. And my administration will dedicate itself to protecting and promoting it as a core principle of our service," he said.

Richmond Times-Dispatch: Old finance secretary to help advise new one, as Youngkin administration takes shape

The new finance secretary under Gov. Glenn Youngkin will continue to get advice from his predecessor as the new administration prepares to push an aggressive plan of tax cuts as part of the governor's "day one agenda." Secretary of Finance Steve Cummings, sworn into office on Saturday but still subject to legislative confirmation, told the House Finance Committee on Monday that former Secretary of Finance Aubrey Layne will serve as an unpaid special adviser "for a period of time." Layne, who served in Cabinet positions under two Democratic governors, was a member of Youngkin's transition team on finance issues. He now works as senior vice president and chief of staff at Sentara Healthcare, based in Norfolk. The informal announcement of Layne's role in the new administration came as welcome news to members of the finance committee, which oversees state tax policies to raise revenues that the House Appropriations Committee helps to decide how to spend. "I think that's a terrific development," Del. Rip Sullivan, D-Fairfax, told Cummings, who was making his first appearance before a General Assembly committee. Layne won't be the only familiar face among the finance secretary's advisers. June Jennings, who served as deputy secretary for finance under Layne during the administration of Gov. Ralph Northam, will continue as deputy for Cummings.

WSET: 'Virginia is open for business:' Youngkin outlines plans in address to Joint Assembly

Gov. Glenn Youngkin addressed the Joint Assembly Monday, outlining his vision for Virginia. Youngkin was sworn into office Saturday as the Commonwealth's 74th governor. The event took place at the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond at 4 p.m. During his address, Youngkin discussed eliminating Critical Race Theory from schools, making masks optional in schools and eliminating the grocery tax. If you missed his speech, here are some of the highlights: Youngkin expressed the need to start investing in Virginia classrooms. "Virginia schools have a lofty reputation. But lately, we've not lived up to that reputation. In fact, our education standards for math and reading are now the lowest in the nation," Youngkin said. Youngkin announced that he is calling for \$150 million to meet his goal of starting 20 new charter schools. "When it comes to the education budget, I've heard consistent bipartisan agreement from all of you that the budget you'll pass, and that I'll sign will reflect a record investment in education including a significant boost in teacher pay," Youngkin said. Youngkin also emphasized that parents have a right to make decisions regarding their child's education. "That's why we should not use inherently divisive concepts like Critical Race Theory in Virginia. And why we should not be teaching our children to see everything through the lens of race," Youngkin said. Youngkin said he strongly encourages everyone to get the COVID-19 vaccine; however, he says parents should decide the health measures taken for their children. Youngkin said he signed an executive order that allows parents to opt-out of mask mandates in schools. "I will continue to oppose President Biden's COVID vaccine mandate for health workers as we continue to fight a crisis of staffing in Virginia's healthcare system. Our fight against COVID-19 will move forward based on this simple principle we will protect lives and livelihoods. That means no more mandates and no more shutdowns. As I said on Saturday it

means Virginia is open for business," Youngkin said. In regard to taxes, Youngkin said he supports suspending the recent gas tax increase for a year and fully eliminating the grocery tax. The governor also plans to provide the largest tax rebate in Virginia's history -- \$1,500 this year for the typical Virginia family. He plans to also eliminate the tax on the first \$40,000 in military retirement pay.

The Washington Post: Youngkin addresses General Assembly, sets priorities for session as partisan clouds gather

Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) urged lawmakers to rise above "the small and the parochial to usher in a sweeping vision of change" Monday during a speech laying out his priorities to the General Assembly, but stirred immediate partisan rancor by depicting the state as a place with a stagnant economy, broken schools and menacing crime rate. "Today we begin anew, all of us together," Youngkin said, two days after being sworn in as governor. "After years of fractured politics, a deadly pandemic, lives and livelihoods lost ... and drug overdoses, rising crime rates, ever-increasing costs for housing, food and fuel, Virginians have sent us here to turn the page." Describing a state economy that he said has been stymied by slow growth and an education system beset by "failing schools," Youngkin said "the state of our commonwealth is not what it should be." He defended his Saturday moves to issue executive orders banning the teaching of critical race theory in schools and allowing parents to opt out of school mask mandates put in place against the coronavirus pandemic. And while he urged everyone, as he has, to get vaccinated, "Speaking to you as your governor, I'll never tell you what you must do," Youngkin said. "But speaking to you as your neighbor and a friend, I strongly encourage you to get the vaccine." Youngkin said he has worked on 59 pieces of legislation and 25 budget amendments to enact his plan to cut taxes, slash regulations and strengthen law enforcement, calling on Republicans and Democrats to come together to get them passed. Virginians, he said, are "genuinely concerned that the cold halls of government are disconnected from the cold realities families face while sitting at their kitchen tables every day." Incensed against the deadly virus, he vowed to fight President Biden's vaccine mandates. Youngkin drew bipartisan applause for calls to complete the cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay, supply raises to teachers and law enforcement, and extend access to broadband — areas where Democrats have taken action over the past two years. He voiced support for converting the state's existing baseball authority into an entity that could oversee the financing and construction of a National Football League stadium — a plan the Washington Football Team has been promoting to legislators, although Youngkin did not mention the team by name. After the speech, Democratic leaders said they had a hard time recognizing the state Youngkin described or reconciling his calls for unity with recent partisan actions. "Gross exaggerations," said Senate Majority Leader Richard L. Saslaw (D-Fairfax). He cited a recent report from Intelligent.com that ranked Virginia schools fifth in the nation for academic performance, and noted that Virginia has been ranked the top state for business by CNBC for two years running. After the speech, Democratic leaders said they had a hard time recognizing the state Youngkin described or reconciling his calls for unity with recent partisan actions. "Gross exaggerations," said Senate Majority Leader Richard L. Saslaw (D-Fairfax). He cited a recent report from Intelligent.com that ranked Virginia schools fifth in the nation for academic performance, and noted that Virginia has been ranked the top state for business by CNBC for two years running. The reception to Youngkin's speech showed that the balancing act that got him elected last year as a Republican in a state that had swung heavily blue will be put to the test in his first legislative session with a divided General Assembly. Republicans enjoy a slim majority in the House of Delegates, but Democrats maintain a slight edge in the state Senate. Youngkin needs to win over Senate Democrats just as he wooed moderate suburbanites during the campaign, but catering to his Republican base — in Virginia and perhaps beyond — risks shutting the door to bipartisan cooperation. Del. Delores L. McQuinn (D-Richmond), a senior member of the Black Caucus, said Youngkin's order aimed at banning the teaching of critical race theory in schools was an affront to the legacy of King, whose birthday was honored with Monday's holiday. The ban was part of "a coordinated campaign to intimidate teachers [and] school board members and prevent ... teachers from teaching a complete accurate history of our nation. In other words, teaching the truth," McQuinn said on the floor of the House before Youngkin arrived to deliver his speech. Critical race theory is an intellectual movement that examines the way policies and laws perpetuate systemic racism that has never been part of the state's public school curriculum, but became a culture war issue raised by conservatives in last year's political campaigns. Del. Schuyler T. VanValkenburg (D-Henrico), a high school civics teacher, said he applauded Youngkin's determination to keep public schools open five days a week during the coronavirus pandemic. But an executive action allowing parents to opt out of mask mandates, he said, works against that goal. Kids or teachers who get sick won't be able to come in and learn, he said. "If our goal is to keep kids in classrooms and to make sure kids are learning, I would hope we would just do anything we can to make that happen," VanValkenburg said. "We're doing the opposite of that right in the middle of the omicron wave." But there were glimmers of bipartisanship Monday. Democratic Sen. Chap Petersen (Fairfax City) and Republican Del. Lee Ware (Powhatan) held a joint news conference to propose legislation that would ban public utility companies from making political donations. The measure — versions of which they have introduced before — is aimed largely at Dominion Energy, the state's biggest utility and a regulated monopoly. Dominion is also one of the most generous campaign contributors to members of both parties and wields enormous clout in the lawmaking process. Ware and Petersen both said they had spoken with the new administration and are optimistic that Youngkin might support their bill. "I think it's fair to say he sees some affinity ... with this

legislation,” Ware said. “We need the new governor to speak out on this issue,” Petersen said. There were also indications of bipartisanship in the Senate for Lt. Gov. Winsome E. Sears (R), the first woman of color to hold statewide office in Virginia. Sears brought down the gavel three times shortly after noon. In the gallery to observe the historic moment were her husband and daughter, Terence and Janel Sears, and one of Sears’s ticketmates: Attorney General Jason S. Miyares (R), the first Latino to hold statewide office. Sears is a Jamaican immigrant and Miyares’s mother fled Cuba as a teen. Senators from both parties said they were happily adjusting to addressing “Madame president” rather than “Mr. president,” as had been the case since the state Senate was established in 1776 (years behind the 403-year-old House). Despite the bipartisan well-wishes, there were sharp floor speeches. Sen. Ghazala F. Hashmi (D-Chesterfield), who was born in India, welcomed Sears as a fellow immigrant and example of the state’s growing diversity — but also said she was “immensely disappointed” that Youngkin, in one of his first acts in office, removed the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion section of the Virginia governor’s website. “I do ask, what does it signal?” Hashmi said. “What was the urgency?” Youngkin made the rounds to closed-door caucus meetings in the Capitol — for both chambers and both parties — before the House and Senate sessions got underway. Cheers could be heard from the hallway each time he entered. As he waited to enter the caucus rooms, Youngkin greeted the few people he encountered in the unusually empty marble hallways, including the woman working the metal detector at the Capitol’s west entrance. “My name’s Glenn Youngkin,” he told her. “What’s your first name?” Youngkin’s appearance at the General Assembly coincided with not only the King holiday but also Lobby Day, when Virginia residents who have the day off from work are encouraged to visit their legislators and advocate for causes. Pro-gun advocates usually dominate, but Monday’s event was notably quieter than recent years. In 2020, thousands of armed advocates from around the country converged on Richmond on Lobby Day to protest Democrats’ efforts to pass gun control. Last year, after Democrats passed laws to limit weapons on Capitol Square, gun rights organizers staged a drive-through protest, with several caravans parading through city streets. On Monday, members of the Virginia Citizens Defense League — the primary organizer of the pro-gun events — showed up in modest numbers. Those who visited with lawmakers were unarmed and mostly wearing business attire; only a few small groups of rifle-wielding, combat gear-wearing advocates gathered across Main Street from the General Assembly’s office building. Richmond police were out in large numbers for several blocks around the Capitol, but all seemed quiet. Overhead, an airplane pulled a banner that said: “Repeal all gun control — VCDL.org.”

The Washington Post: Youngkin’s first act as Virginia governor — while quoting the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. — is ominous

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) gave his voters what they asked for as his first act in office, invoking the moral authority of Martin Luther King Jr. — on the actual birthday of the civil rights icon — to justify an attack on anti-racist teaching. He used King’s own words in an executive order forbidding “inherently divisive concepts” in education, rendering Virginia the seventh state to ban outright the teaching of “critical race theory,” a graduate-level framework for understanding how policies and laws perpetuate systemic racism, something that is not taught in K-12 settings. Pushed into the mainstream by conservative activists looking to stoke the very fears and division Youngkin decries, “CRT” is a boogeyman that drove parents to school board meetings and to the polls in the closely-watched contest for governor in November. “We must equip our teachers to teach our students the entirety of our history — both good and bad ... Only then will we realize Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream that our children ‘will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character,’ ” the executive order states. Read that again. Youngkin set the tone for his administration by prohibiting learning about the consequences of racism in the state where the first enslaved Africans arrived to what would become America. More than 400 years later, Youngkin would rob their descendants of a history that is not just theirs but all of ours. This, the executive order claims, will coincide with “The purpose of education, King wrote as an 18-year-old Morehouse College student in 1947, is to “save a man from the morass of propaganda.” “Education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction,” he wrote in the school paper. Sounds like it could’ve been written today, to a nation struggling with conspiracy theories, with lying leaders, with continued attacks on education teaching our children the value of freedom of thought and diversity of ideas.” On what should’ve been his 93rd birthday on Saturday, King’s memory was hijacked and defiled by a multimillionaire who rocketed to public office, powered by the very things King warned us about: falsehoods and propaganda. “I don’t think that White kids should be taught they should be made to feel guilty,” was the response a Fox News-watching relative of mine told me when I asked her what she knows about critical race theory, which she denounces heartily. This isn’t about guilt or shame. Though it’s perfectly natural, and morally on point, to feel horror when learning about our nation’s difficult history. Remember the Virginia mom who tried to ban Toni Morrison’s Pulitzer Prize-winning book, “Beloved,” because it gave her high school senior nightmares? The true story about slavery certainly should give us nightmares. It was morally abhorrent and learning the full truth about it will make Americans better citizens and better advocates for a more just and equitable society. Critical race theory is facts, evidence and information to be digested and analyzed by students, primarily the ones in law school. It is education. But for Youngkin and others who use it to scare uninformed White voters, it was political rocket fuel. “We will eventually turn it toxic,” Christopher Rufo, the man who helped weaponize the concept, wrote on Twitter last March. “The goal is to

have the public read something crazy in the newspaper and immediately think ‘critical race theory.’” President Donald Trump saw Rufo, a conservative activist and senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, on Fox News pushing his marketing strategy last year, seized on it, and pushed it. If a governor’s opening actions communicate ruling ethos, there is more division to come. Buckle your seat belts, Virginia. This first executive order — a valentine to fragile Whites — is ominous. Too bad Youngkin didn’t read more from King, whose legacy is too often pacified. “Whites, it must frankly be said, are not putting in a similar mass effort to reeducate themselves out of their racial ignorance,” King wrote in his 1967 book, “Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?” “It is an aspect of their sense of superiority that the white people of America believe they have so little to learn.” If your solution to division is “not seeing color,” it’s not a solution. Only through education that allows us to sift and weigh evidence, and to separate truth from falsehoods, will we be able to unite.

Richmond Times-Dispatch: Youngkin backs off plan to use executive power to remove Virginia from RGGI

Gov. Glenn Youngkin backed off his pledge to try to remove Virginia from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative through “executive action,” saying in his executive order Saturday that he wants a state regulatory board to do it. Even that would be illegal, according to the Southern Environmental Law Center in Charlottesville. The General Assembly passed legislation in 2020 to join the program, in which energy producers in a number of states trade emission reductions for credits, or buy credits to emit carbon dioxide past a cap. The revenue the state gets from the program is directed to programs that help low-income people reduce energy usage — thereby lowering their cost of electricity — and for programs combating sea level rise in coastal areas. Youngkin has called the program a tax and said it’s not good for business or electricity ratepayers, while Democrats say the program is raising important money to fight climate change. Youngkin said in December that he would use executive power to remove Virginia from RGGI. Last week, then-Attorney General Mark Herring, a Democrat, issued an opinion saying that wouldn’t be legal. Apparently acknowledging that he can’t do it, Youngkin’s executive order No. 9 called on an emergency regulation to go before the State Air Pollution Control Board for consideration. “Since Virginia’s participation in RGGI is required by law, it cannot be repealed through regulation alone, whether labeled as ‘emergency’ regulation or otherwise,” said Nate Benforado, a senior attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center. The governor’s order expressed concern about the cost of RGGI on customers. “Virginia’s participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) risks contributing to the increased cost of electricity for our citizens. Virginia’s utilities have sold over \$227 million in allowances in 2021 during the RGGI auctions, doubling the initial estimates. Those utilities are allowed to pass on the costs of purchasing allowances to their ratepayers.” Youngkin’s office downplayed his change in tone. Press secretary Macauley Porter said: “The Governor-elect promised he would remove RGGI because of the unfair burden it places on Virginia taxpayers. On Day One, he issued an executive order to do just that.” The SELC acknowledged the law is raising millions of dollars but said it is for an important cause. The RGGI “has brought in millions of dollars that are being deployed across the Commonwealth to help communities deal with flooding and to lower energy bills for Virginians who need it most,” a statement said. “The General Assembly gets to decide the laws in Virginia, and the Executive Order — which asks state officials to develop an illegal repeal — is a dead end.”

WRIC: Meet the new Virginia Parole Board appointed by Gov. Youngkin

Just hours after he was sworn in Saturday, Gov. Glenn Youngkin followed through on one of his key campaign promises and fired the entire Virginia Parole Board. Youngkin signed an executive order after his inauguration appointing five new members to the board and directing the secretary of public safety and homeland security to conduct a thorough review of the board with recommendations for administrative, legislative and policy changes by not later than Sept. 1. “The review shall include, but not be limited to, increasing the transparency of Parole Board votes, recording reasons for granting parole, and reviewing the management, personnel, and operations of the Parole Board,” Youngkin wrote in the order. The executive order also gives new Attorney General Jason Miyares the authority to open an investigation into the previous board, which came under fire after state investigations found that members had violated procedure and state law by failing to notify victims’ families and local prosecutors before granting parole to people convicted of murder. High profile cases made headlines and the state investigator who led the investigations into the board in 2020 was fired after filing a whistleblower lawsuit. That former state employee filed a wrongful termination lawsuit alleging defamation by senior state officials. Youngkin, Miyares and other Republicans made the scandal surrounding the parole board a main talking point on the campaign trail, accusing the Northam administration and Democrats of being weak on crime and vowing to replace the board if elected. “To this day, the family members and victims have no answers as to how or why the Virginia Parole Board failed to abide by the laws governing its operations, and no one has been held accountable,” Youngkin’s order states. On Monday, 8news legal expert Rich Meagher said this is not only a symbolic move for Youngkin but said the new board will very likely keep more people in prison for longer. “They [Youngkin administration] want a return to kind of more traditional republican law and order politics and these replacements reflect that,” Meagher said. “In one sense it’s just rewarding people who were supportive of the governor in his campaign. You have to remember that these are jobs. These are well paid jobs.” Virginia’s parole board is tasked with

reviewing requests from those with convictions before 1995, the year the commonwealth abolished parole, and those seeking geriatric release. There is a Democratic bill in the state Senate for the 2022 legislative session that aims to repeal the abolition of parole. Other measures filed for this year would increase the number of members from five to 11, require votes to be unanimous and mandate monthly reports from the board. The new members of the Virginia Parole Board. Chairman Chadwick Dotson The new chairman of the Virginia Parole Board is Chadwick Dotson, the former top prosecutor for Wise County and the city of Norton and a former circuit court judge in Wise County. Dotson was elected to the General District Court in 2007 by the General Assembly. Dotson, the dean of students at the Appalachian School of Law, lost out on the Republican nomination in the special election for the state Senate seat held by former Sen. Ben Chafin, who died from COVID-19 complications last year. Dotson did not immediately respond to 8News' request for an interview. Montgomery County Sheriff Hank Partin Sheriff Hank Partin started his law enforcement career in 1987 and has served in the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office since December 1993. Partin, who was named to Youngkin's transition steering committee, gained attention ahead of Virginia's gubernatorial election after he asked former Gov. Terry McAuliffe, one of Youngkin's opponents, whether he backed calls to defund police after he received an endorsement from the New Virginia Majority, a group that has supported moves to defund the police. The tense exchange between Partin and McAuliffe was recorded and then shared online by Youngkin's campaign staff. McAuliffe shoots down any link between the group's priorities and his own in the video, telling Partin that he has "invested in law enforcement" and refusing to commit on whether he would ever support plans to defund police. Partin then tells McAuliffe he doesn't believe his answers, with the former governor responding, "I don't care what you believe. I've got a track record." The sheriff's office did not immediately respond to 8News' request for an interview with Partin. Cheryl Nici-O'Connell, a former Richmond police officer, was featured in one of Youngkin's political spots targeting the parole board appointed by McAuliffe. In the ad, she tells a story about how she was shot in the head in 1984 by a wanted man. "Every few years I have to rip those wounds open again to plead with the members of Terry McAuliffe's parole board to keep the man who tried to kill me off the streets," Nici says in the ad. But The Washington Post did a fact-checking report that said the ad is misleading as the man who shot Nici has been denied parole multiple times. Carmen Williams is the legal services project manager at Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, a nonprofit that aims "to strengthen how communities across Virginia respond to and prevent sexual and intimate partner violence," according to its website. Williams is a member of the Chesterfield County Republican Committee, according to a Facebook post from the group congratulating Williams on her appointment to the parole board. Ms. Williams told 8News on Monday she could not speak to the press about her appointment at this time. Tracy Banks is an attorney in Charlottesville. Efforts to reach Ms. Banks and the law firm she's listed as working at have been unsuccessful.

The Free Lance-Star: Fredericksburg schools will continue mask mandate; others adjust to meet Youngkin's opt-out order

Fredericksburg City Public Schools will continue to require that staff, students and visitors wear masks while inside schools, the division announced Monday morning. "Layered prevention strategies have been successful in reducing the spread of COVID-19 in our schools which has allowed us to provide in-person learning that is required by Virginia law," the division noted in a press release. Other local school divisions, such as King George, will permit masking to become optional once Gov. Glenn Youngkin's executive order allowing parents to opt their children out mask mandates goes into effect Jan. 24. The Fredericksburg school system said in a press release Monday that it is following Virginia law by continuing the practice of masking, quoting Senate Bill 1303, which is in effect through Aug. 1 and states that school divisions need to provide in-person instruction "in a manner in which it adheres, to the maximum extent practicable, to any currently applicable mitigation strategies for early childhood care and education programs and elementary and secondary schools to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 that have been provided by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention." The CDC and the Virginia Department of Health continue to recommend masking in schools to reduce transmission of the virus. Youngkin's executive order states that "a child whose parent has elected that he or she is not subject to a mask mandate should not be required to wear a mask under any policy implemented by a teacher, school, school district, the Department of Education, or any other state authority." It also states that the superintendent of public instruction will issue new guidance for the prevention of COVID-19 in schools. Stafford County Public Schools superintendent Thomas Taylor said in a message sent to the school community Sunday evening that current mitigation strategies, which include masking, will continue until the executive order takes effect. According to division spokesperson Sandra Osborn, the School Board will meet later this week to discuss masking, "and we are waiting to see what the new K-12 guidance will be from the state." Taylor said in his email division employees are still required to wear masks under Virginia Administrative Code's occupational safety and health standards, but noted that Youngkin issued another executive order directing that these be reviewed. Taylor said the division's goal is to "keep our students and staff safe and ensure our doors remain open for in-person instruction" and stressed the effectiveness of "layered prevention strategies" that include face coverings, hand washing, social distancing, contact tracing, isolation and quarantine, air purification and daily health screening. Taylor asked the school community to recognize that "constant change and uncertainty are difficult for some to process, and that consistency must be maintained to the greatest extent possible."

Caroline County Public Schools is also awaiting additional guidance before making a decision about masking after the executive order goes into effect, the division communicated in an announcement sent Monday evening. "The CCPS School Board is awaiting additional information related to [Executive Order 2] implementation and is reviewing requirements/recommendations associated with Senate Bill 1303, CDC/VDH guidelines, [occupational safety and health standards] and VDOE Interim Guidance for COVID-19," according to the announcement. King George County Public Schools announced Monday that as of Jan. 24, masks will be optional for students in grades six through 12, and for those in preschool through grade five with a signed waiver. Parents submitted waivers in August, and will have the opportunity to submit new waivers or rescind a waiver request this week, the school division said. The Spotsylvania County School Board will discuss masking at its meeting Tuesday, according to the meeting agenda. Federal regulation still mandates that masks be worn on public transportation, including school buses.

WTOP: Some Va. school systems say they'll ignore Youngkin's masking order

Not long after he was sworn in as Virginia's 74th governor, Glenn Youngkin wasted little time keeping promises he made on the campaign trail, issuing nine executive orders addressing a range of issues. The second of those orders specified that parents have the right to exempt their kids from their school system's mask mandate. Some school systems are already saying they will defy his order and stick with their rules. Arlington Public Schools tweeted Saturday that the school system would stick with its mask requirement, as did Richmond Public Schools' superintendent. On Monday, Fredericksburg City Public Schools indicated it, too, would continue with its policy. "The CDC and the Virginia Department of Health continue to recommend using masks in schools as a layered approach to mitigation," the system said in a statement Monday. Manassas City Public Schools also vowed Monday to leave the mask policy for students, staff and visitors in place in alignment with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Meantime, Loudoun County Public Schools announced that the district's mask mandate will remain in place at least through Jan. 24, which is when Youngkin's executive order takes effect. In a statement Monday, school officials said they would be reviewing the updated state guidance before making public their plans on Wednesday. The superintendent of Prince William County Public Schools, LaTanya McDade, said Prince William County's masking policies and other health precautions would remain unchanged, but they, too, will be reviewing both Youngkin's order and anticipated guidance from Virginia's Department of Education. "Any changes to our mitigation strategies will be made thoughtfully and with the health and safety of students and staff as our priority," McDade said in a statement. "Any decision to remove a mitigation layer must take into consideration our ability to continue in-person instruction." While Executive Order No. 2 fulfills one of Youngkin's promises, it sets up yet another legal fight, said Stephen Farnsworth, a political science professor at the University of Mary Washington. "Like any contentious issue in American politics, this is going to end up in a courtroom," Farnsworth said. "It's not clear exactly what authority that the governor has in these areas," he told WTOP's Debra Feinstein and Shayna Estulin. "We are really in an unprecedented environment here with COVID, and so that's why these decisions will end up in front of the courts, and the ultimate decision will be made by judges."

NBC12: 'School systems are in a tough position here': Response to Youngkin's mask executive order grows

A handful of school systems have come out in response to Governor Glenn Youngkin's Executive Order on lifting the mask mandate in schools. While the measure does not take effect until Jan. 24, there are some school systems in Central Virginia that have not made their stance clear just yet. However, Henrico County Public Schools told NBC12 its plan even before Youngkin was inaugurated on Saturday. "Even if the mask mandate is lifted by the Governor, existing HCPS protocols would remain in place unless they were changed by our school board," said HCPS spokeswoman Eileen Cox. However, one element of Youngkin's executive order states a teacher, school or school district cannot force a child to wear a mask if their parent doesn't want them to. "School systems are in a tough position here, in a sense they're getting inconsistent messages," said Mary Bauer, Executive Director of the ACLU of Virginia. Bauer said there is no doubt litigation will spawn from Youngkin's executive order on masking in schools; much of it tied to the current laws passed in Virginia. "The General Assembly actually passed a bill last session requiring schools to comply with CDC guidelines to the maximum extent possible," Bauer said. "The governor's order is flatly inconsistent with that." Opinions on all sides of the issue have been shared since the executive order was signed. "We don't have a lot of tools," said Melissa Dart, a Henrico parent. "So, even if these masks help mitigate the number of cases a little bit, that protects us while we're going through this surge." However, many parents believe masks should be a choice, calling on the school board to listen to parents. "Allow us to make the decisions instead of being forced into agreement as was the case earlier this school year," said Scott Edwards, a parent. Youngkin echoed that sentiment Sunday: "First of all, we wrote the order specifically to give all schools system basically eight days to get ready, to listen to parents, and the fact that that tweet came out from Arlington county within minutes of my executive order what that tells me is that they didn't listen to parents yet. If there is one thing that hopefully everybody heard in November, is it is time to listen to parents. Over the course of this week, I hope they will listen to parents because we will use every resource within the governor's authority to explore what we can do and will do in order to make sure that parents' rights are protected. The code of Virginia is really clear - parents have a right to make decisions with regard to their children's upbringing, education, and care - we are going to protect

that right and so I just hope that Arlington county schools and the rest of the school systems around the Commonwealth of Virginia use this week to listen to parents and get prepared because we granted parents the option of deciding whether they want their child to wear a mask or not - and we are going to protect that right." However, hours later, Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS) sent an email to families reiterating its stance on continuing with the mask policy. "The HCPS School Board and administration respect that parents make decisions for their families; however, division leaders must make decisions for the collective safety of nearly 49,000 students and 10,000 employees and fulfill HCPS' responsibility to provide in-person instruction," a news release said. "I'm very grateful to the leadership of Henrico County School Board, and I hope they continue because I know there are only a handful of counties who have come out since that EO," Dart added. "I'm incredibly grateful that I live in one of those counties." The Henrico Education Association President also said HCPS made the right decision in terms of health, safety and justice. However, Edwards believes the current mask policy is ineffective in stopping COVID-19 in schools, citing the number of positive cases. "Latest guidance is that hospital grade masks are the only ones that are effective, yet we continue the charade," he said. Due to scheduling conflicts, an on-camera interview was not available with Edwards.

Richmond Times-Dispatch: Sen. Petersen: We need Youngkin to join effort to end Dominion campaign donations

A state senator who's tried for years to scale down Dominion Energy's influence in the state Capitol called on Gov. Glenn Youngkin on Monday to join the effort, saying lawmakers need the new governor's support if they're going to pass the legislation. "We need the new governor to speak out on this issue," said Sen. Chap Petersen, D-Fairfax City. "I can get a portion of my caucus. I can't get them all. I certainly can't get the ones that are more senior in leadership. ... The commonwealth needs the new governor to take a firm stand on this issue." Petersen held a news conference with Del. Lee Ware, R-Powhatan, on Monday to discuss legislation they have filed that would prohibit campaign contributions from any public utility. The issue: The General Assembly writes laws that regulate Dominion, a monopoly and the state's largest electric utility. Dominion is among the largest campaign donors to lawmakers, and those laws they write generally favor the utility's bottom line. Last year, Dominion was able to keep hundreds of millions above a fair profit following a review of its finances, rather than return it to customers. Ware said he thinks the bill has a good chance of passing in the House, where Republicans have a 52-48 edge. "This is about ratepayers. At the bottom line, we are concerned for the ratepayers." Adding to the chances something could pass this year, he said, was Dominion's \$250,000 in funding to a secretive federal political action committee last fall that funded misleading attacks on Youngkin. The ads were meant to undercut Youngkin with his Republican base by painting him as weak on the Second Amendment. Dominion CEO Bob Blue apologized last year and said the company failed to properly vet the PAC, while Youngkin attacked the utility's assistance of his Democratic opponent, Terry McAuliffe. On Monday, the nonprofit Virginia Public Access Project posted Federal Election Commission data showing all the donors to the anti-Youngkin PAC, called "Accountability Virginia." In addition to money from the Dominion PAC, Accountability Virginia received personal donations from Blue (\$10,000), Dominion President Ed Baine (\$5,000), Dominion general counsel Carlos Brown (\$5,000) and Bill Murray (\$7,500), the utility's head lobbyist. Dominion donated \$50,000 to Youngkin's inauguration committee in December. As for the legislation from Petersen and Ware, Dominion spokesman Rayhan Daudani said on Monday: "Campaign finance laws should apply to all equally." A state filing by Dominion's PAC last year showed the utility had given \$200,000 to the PAC between July 1 and Sept. 30. A new federal filing by the PAC also showed an additional \$50,000 donation from Dominion to Accountability Virginia, received on Oct. 15, bringing the utility's total contribution to \$250,000. Sen. David Suetterlein, R-Roanoke County, unloaded on the utility in a speech on the state Senate floor on Monday. "I said at the time that we needed to change disclosure policies in Virginia because we would not know exactly what was done until after the next governor was inaugurated," he said. Suetterlein said Dominion's leadership should have known in September what was happening with its money, and noted that the personal donations from its executives came right around the time Blue was apologizing and saying Dominion wanted its money back from the PAC. "I know those folks are sophisticated enough that they knew how to cancel a check between Oct. 16 and Oct. 18. There's no excuse ... we need more disclosure in this commonwealth," he said. Daudani said Dominion's last donation was made electronically on Oct. 12. "We did try and put a stop payment after the fact, but the transaction was complete."

PEOPLE: Virginia's New Governor Bans Mask Mandates, 'Critical Race Theory' in Schools on Day 1 'Just Like We Promised'

Virginia's brand-new governor, Republican Glenn Youngkin, took the oath of office Saturday on the steps of the Capitol in Richmond and quickly got to work by signing two executive directives as well as nine orders — including some that got immediate push-back, like bans on teaching "critical race theory" in schools and requiring students to wear masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19. "It's Day One, and we are going to work just like we promised," Youngkin, 55, said in a statement. "The important steps we are taking today begins the work of restoring excellence in education, making our communities safer, opening Virginia for business and reinvigorating job growth, and making government work for the people, and not the other way around." Youngkin's first order prohibits "the use of inherently divisive concepts, including Critical Race Theory," a set of academic concepts that consider how the U.S.' legacy of slavery, racial inequality

and the law are connected. Despite typically circulating mostly in higher education circles, the term has become widely used — especially by conservatives — as a catch-all for issues of race, diversity and equity. Youngkin, a former private equity executive who has never held political office, ran on a promise to ban the theory, even though Virginia educators have said its concepts are not taught in public schools and would be inappropriate for young students. During his inauguration speech, Youngkin got the most applause when he addressed "removing politics from the classroom," NPR reports. His order defines "inherently divisive concepts" in a number of ways, including those that suggest an "individual, by virtue of his or her race, skin color, ethnicity, sex, or faith, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other member of the same race ethnicity, sex or faith." Critics of the order worry it could limit what teachers are able to discuss in their classrooms while discussing subjects like history which would include topics like slavery, the Civil War and the civil rights movement. Richmond Public Schools Superintendent Jason Kamras appeared to reject the order. "The Commonwealth was literally created on the backs of enslaved Africans," he wrote on Twitter Sunday. "We will continue to study that and be honest about its profound implications for our students and families today." "The war they have declared on Black history is dangerous, to say the least," Del. Lamont Bagby, a Democrat and member of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus, said of the order, according to The Washington Post. The second order signed by Youngkin allows parents of students to decide whether their child must wear a mask in public schools, ending a mandate his predecessor, former Gov. Ralph Northam, had in place. "A child whose parent has elected that he or she is not subject to a mask mandate should not be required to wear a mask under any policy implemented by a teacher, school, school district, the Department of Education, or any other state authority," the order states. Several school districts issued statements to say their mask mandates remain in effect. "Arlington Public Schools will continue to require all staff and students to wear masks inside on school grounds and on buses, as part of our layered approach to safety," that district said Saturday. "Universal mask use has proven effective in keeping COVID-19 transmission rates low in our schools and ensuring schools remain safe and open." Fairfax County Public Schools said it is reviewing the governor's executive order but will "continue universal masking for all students and staff." Youngkin replied to the news that districts plan to ignore his order, which goes into effect Jan. 24. "I hope they will listen to parents," he said, "because we will use every resource within the governor's authority to explore what we can do and what we will do in order to make sure that parents' rights are protected." Also in his speech, Youngkin made a promise to represent all Virginians. "No matter who you voted for," he said, "I pledge to be your advocate, your voice, your governor."

CNN: Virginia's new GOP governor meets resistance from some school districts planning to keep mask requirements

Newly inaugurated Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin has been in office for mere days, but the Republican is already rolling back the priorities of his Democratic predecessors and running into opposition from counties he lost months earlier, specifically on the hot-button issue of mask requirements in schools. The tension over school mask requirements echoes the way pandemic-related measures have become political touchpoints over the past two years, with Youngkin campaigning last fall in no small part on parents' frustrations with remote learning and seizing on what they perceived as lack of control over their kids' schooling. But Youngkin's executive action about mask wearing in schools, which he signed on his first day in office on Saturday, comes in the middle of the latest spike in coronavirus cases -- in part due to the highly transmissible Omicron variant -- and during a public health crisis where the choices of individuals impact entire communities. His order states "parents should have the ability to decide whether their child should wear masks for the duration of the school day," thereby attempting to stop any mask mandates in public schools. Youngkin's executive actions, which include nine orders and two directives so far, offer the clearest sign that the Republican governor will represent a dramatic departure for a state that has been blue for years, including eight years of Democrats in the governor's mansion and two years of total Democratic control in the state. They've set off a firestorm of controversy and are poised to become Youngkin's first large test since taking office. Several school districts in more blue areas of the commonwealth immediately responded to Youngkin by saying they will defy his new order on masks. Youngkin's predecessor, former Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam, had announced in August that masks would be required in schools as part of a public health emergency order. School officials in Northern Virginia, including in Arlington County and Fairfax County (the commonwealth's largest district), as well as Henrico County in the Richmond region, say they will continue to enforce mask requirements for kids after Youngkin's executive order takes effect on January 24. "FCPS continues to require universal mask wearing in alignment with (US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidance. Our layered prevention strategies have proven effective in keeping transmission rates low in our schools," said Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand in a letter to the school community. "Universal mask use has proven effective in keeping COVID-19 transmission rates low in our schools and ensuring schools remain safe and open," a statement from Arlington Public Schools said about its decision. The CDC recommends "universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of their vaccination status or the area's transmission rates," adding that "the benefits of mask-wearing are well-established." Youngkin, however, rejects that notion in his order. "Many children wear masks incorrectly, providing little or no health benefit. The masks worn by children are often ineffective because they are made from cloth material, and they are often not clean, resulting in the collection of impurities, including bacteria and parasites," he writes. The governor also cited the availability of vaccines for 5-12-year-olds, though he vehemently argues vaccines should not be mandated either --

something that split him and former Gov. Terry McAuliffe, his Democratic opponent, in 2021. Biden and Democrats run up against relentless conservative power. Asked on Sunday about Arlington County's decision to buck his order, the governor told WTOP, "I hope they will listen to parents because we will use every resource within the governor's authority to explore what we can do and will do in order to make sure parents' rights are protected." Macaulay Porter, a spokeswoman for the governor, reiterated his pledge, telling CNN on Monday that Youngkin "will consider all options available and all tools at his disposal to ensure parents can make decisions about their children's upbringing, education, and care." In his State of the Commonwealth address to a joint session of the General Assembly on Monday, Youngkin described reversing course on mask mandates as "a matter of individual liberty." 'A mask mandate should not be a political ping pong' Like many Republicans across the country, Youngkin routinely pledged to give parents more agency in pandemic-related decision making during his campaign. And his path to victory offered the GOP a possible road map for which issues to talk about in 2022, like education and parental rights, and which issues to approach carefully, like the 2020 election and false claims by former President Donald Trump. Youngkin's focus on parental rights blossomed from a misstep by McAuliffe. During a debate over what books should be taught in schools, the Democrat flippantly said, "I don't think parents should be telling schools what they should teach," a line that Youngkin quickly spun into an ad and used as a rallying cry for the rest of the race. The focus quickly grew beyond books in schools, and included questions about coronavirus, questions about how race is addressed in the classroom and issues around transgender students. All of it was aimed at cutting into McAuliffe's support with swing voters in key areas like vote-rich Northern Virginia and around Richmond. It is now officials in many of those same areas, however, who are bucking Youngkin's order, something that Monica Hutchinson, a parent to a 14- and a 15-year-old in Henrico County, celebrates. DeSantis says he regrets not speaking out 'much louder' against Trump's recommendation to stay home "As adults we should be leading by example. A mask mandate should not be a political ping pong," Hutchinson said, adding that mask mandates for young people are vital to maintaining in-person learning. Youngkin is not the first Republican governor to face pushback on schools and masks. The legal back-and-forth in Florida over Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis' executive order "protecting parents' freedom to choose whether their children wear masks" could be an indication of what lies ahead for Youngkin. DeSantis secured a political victory last November when the GOP-controlled state legislature agreed on a ban on school mask mandates, which DeSantis signed into law. While Youngkin has a Republican majority in the Virginia House of Delegates, the state Senate is still narrowly controlled by Democrats. Even if the current Omicron surge subsides, the conversation about how much control parents should have in the daily decision making of schools is likely to remain a political issue in the coming years. US House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy said after Youngkin's victory that the issue will play a prominent role in the 2022 midterms as Republicans will make it part of the party's case to retake the majority from Democrats. *This story has been updated with a comment from the governor's spokeswoman.*

The Hill: Youngkin asks divided Virginia General Assembly to help enact 'vision of change'

In his first State of the Commonwealth address, Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) asked the divided General Assembly to help enact his "vision of change," The Associated Press reported. "I'm asking each of us in this body, Republicans and Democrats alike, to come together," Youngkin on Monday told the Republican-majority state House and Democratic-majority state Senate. "To rise above the Richmond of division, special interests, the small and the parochial and to usher in a sweeping vision of change. And to put this commonwealth on a pathway to prosperity." Youngkin reiterated many of his campaign pledges and offered some new specifics on issues including firearms and abortion policy, according to the AP. He also called on the House chamber to allocate \$150 million to meet his goal of creating 20 new charter schools in the state. Youngkin mentioned dedicating \$126 million to training and equipment grant programs for law enforcement and state funding for law enforcement as well, the AP reported. Youngkin, who defeated former Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) in the state's gubernatorial election in November, took office on Saturday. Some Democratic lawmakers remain skeptical of Youngkin's priorities as governor, saying he's not showing the type of bipartisan support he asked for, the AP reported. "There's a lot of hypocrisy going on here," Senate caucus chair Mamie Locke (D) told the newswire. Locke added that Democrats see common ground with Republicans on raising teacher pay, noting that the House chamber had previously done so, the AP noted.

WTOP: Youngkin addresses Va. General Assembly

In his first address to the Virginia General Assembly as governor, Glenn Youngkin on Monday asked lawmakers to put aside division to work on bipartisan solutions – and repeated many of the red-meat culture themes of his campaign. "Today we begin anew," Youngkin said early on in his speech. "All of us, together." On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, he used words from the murdered Civil Rights leader: "We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now." In contrast to last week's farewell speech of his predecessor, Ralph Northam, Youngkin listed the problems facing Virginia: "fractured politics; a deadly pandemic; lives and livelihoods lost; soaring mental health incidents; ever-increasing costs for housing, fuel and food." That said, the governor added that during his campaign: "I've taken the measure of our people. I've found them to be resilient, optimistic and courageous. I come here today to echo their clarion call for change, to form a government that's a catalyst for change, rather than an obstacle." It wasn't the only

time he portrayed government and the citizenry as different and even opposed forces. “The cold halls of government are disconnected from the cold realities families face when sitting at their kitchen tables every day,” Youngkin said. “We shouldn’t misconstrue record revenue for government as economic success for Virginians,” he added in a reference to the revenues Northam touted as an achievement. “The view from the people, whose labor generates those tax receipts, is quite different than the talk in Richmond.” That said, Youngkin noted that surpluses were on the way, which would allow him and the assembly to lower taxes “and make critical investments in those key pillars to the great Virginia promise.” Repeating some of his campaign proposals, Youngkin proposed suspending the gasoline tax for a year (a move he said had bipartisan support) and eliminating the grocery tax. He also called for the elimination of regulations he called “burdensome” and for a reduction in the income tax. That said, Youngkin noted that surpluses were on the way, which would allow him and the assembly to lower taxes “and make critical investments in those key pillars to the great Virginia promise.” Repeating some of his campaign proposals, Youngkin proposed suspending the gasoline tax for a year (a move he said had bipartisan support) and eliminating the grocery tax. He also called for the elimination of regulations he called “burdensome” and for a reduction in the income tax. The state of Virginia’s schools was often cited as a key reason why Youngkin won November’s election, and he spent a lot of time on the topic Monday. “Education is the key to opportunity,” Youngkin said, and while Virginia’s schools have an excellent reputation, he added, “lately we’ve not lived up to that reputation,” citing the percentages of students, especially Latino (70%) and Black (80%) students who don’t meet national standards. He pledged to end “the accountability shell game intended to make us feel good but that leads to the oft-quoted soft bigotry of low expectations. Let’s stop cheating our kids.” Youngkin repeated his campaign call for a raise in teacher pay, saying, “We will attract quality professionals to Virginia schools, and we will pay teachers like the quality professionals they are.” He also sought \$150 million for 20 new charter schools: “Whether they’re called charter schools, lab schools, or schools of innovation – it doesn’t really matter. I don’t care what we call them; I just care that we do it.” He also repeated another of his campaign pledges, which he kept Saturday, signing an executive order giving the superintendent for public instruction the power to ban the teaching of “Inherently divisive concepts in schools, including critical race theory,” which is not taught in Virginia K-12 schools. “Virginia parents want our history – all our history, the good and the bad – to be taught. And they want their children to be taught how to think, not what to think,” Youngkin said. “We should not be teaching children to view everything through the lens of race.” Youngkin also proposed a police officer in every school and the involvement of law enforcement agencies in the approval of school safety audits. “And,” in a nod to the recent controversy in Loudoun County, “whenever someone preys upon a child in a Virginia school, we must require it to be reported to local law enforcement for investigation. “No more cover-ups. No more sweeping it under the rug. Parents deserve to know if their child is at risk.” Youngkin said that as governor, he’ll never tell Virginians what they must do. “But speaking as your neighbor and your friend, I strongly encourage you to get the vaccine,” he said. And as such, he touted the executive order he signed Saturday banning mask mandates in Virginia schools. Claiming “the science since the beginning of the pandemic has not been static,” Youngkin said, “it’s parents that should decide the health measures taken for their children.” Youngkin also cast the wearing of masks as “a matter of individual liberty.” His approach to the pandemic, he said, would be to “protect lives and livelihoods,” adding, “Virginia is open for business.” Saying that “a culture of lawlessness has filled the void in Virginia,” Youngkin proposed spending more money on the police. While Northam’s budget proposal includes pay raises for officers – “strong first steps we all support,” Youngkin said – the new governor proposed another \$100 million from the federal American Rescue Plan Act for training and equipment, as well as another \$26 million for departments in localities that also raise their spending on police. “It’s time to take down the temperature around the discussions of policing,” Youngkin said, saying the times call for “engagement and dialogue,” not cuts to departments. “I deeply treasure the natural beauty of Virginia,” Youngkin said, adding that protecting the environment is “a core principle of our service.” He vowed to end the dumping of raw sewage in the James River, “see the cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay to the finish line” and create a Coastal Virginia Resiliency Authority to fight rising sea levels. He also touted the creation Saturday of the office of chief transformation officer “to make government more responsive, more efficient and more transparent,” starting with the DMV and the Virginia Employment Commission. And he took credit for firing the entire troubled Parole Board on his first day, and pledged to make Virginia’s infrastructure “the most reliable in the nation.” Youngkin also repeated his opposition to any change to Virginia’s status as a right-to-work state, which means that unions can’t charge dues to workers who don’t want to pay, while continuing to require unions to bargain and work on their behalf. Youngkin closed by invoking veteran Natasha Barrion, an immigrant he met on the campaign trail. He recounted the sight of tears streaming down her cheeks as she described her hopes for her daughter, and said, “She loves this country with a passion few can understand – though certainly our lieutenant governor can,” referring to Winsome Sears, the first Black woman elected to statewide office in Virginia. “Natasha represents the best of America,” Youngkin said. “She wasn’t born here, but she is every bit as American as someone who was, because she has lived the ideals of this great land.” He also recounted going to the funeral last month of Brian Bourgeois, the head of Seal Team 8 who left behind a wife and five children. “What price would we in this room put on freedom?” Youngkin asked. “For some, freedom is so precious they would offer everything in its defense. Those of us who live in the freedom they so valiantly protect must live lives worthy of their sacrifice.” He added: “Let’s set aside petty divisions. Let’s set aside ego and self-advancement, and let’s make the Virginia that we love stronger and better.” Del. Eileen Filler-Corn, the House minority leader, said after Youngkin’s speech that while the governor speaks of unity and moderation, “the substance of his administration so far has been anything but.” Youngkin’s executive order on masks is “irresponsible,” she said; his stance on vaccine mandates “makes it clear that he stands with those who are against vaccines” and “will prolong this pandemic.” Regarding schools, Filler-Corn said: “Let’s tell the truth, clear and simple. Critical race theory is not taught in schools. But Governor Youngkin

wants to put politics in the curriculum.” She pointed out that among GOP bills so far were proposals to roll back a \$1 minimum wage increase, a restriction on abortion and a two-thirds reduction in days for early voting “in an attempt to curtail participation in our democracy.” “Glenn Youngkin is out of step with the values of Virginians, and his actions speak louder than his words today. ... We hope the governor has a change of heart, but if he does not, we will stand firm to protect the progress we have made.” Another Democrat — Sen. John Bell of Loudoun County — pointed out that CNBC has named Virginia the best state in the nation to do business two years in a row, and that the commonwealth’s public schools are ranked fourth in the nation. Cutting the gas tax proposal, he said, would deprive the state of money to fight climate problems, and added that “we will not retreat when someone’s rights are threatened.”

WUSA9: 'No more cover-ups' | Virginia attorney general investigating Loudoun County Schools

On the campaign trail, Republican Glenn Youngkin accused the Loudoun County Public Schools of covering up two sexual assaults. Now, as the Commonwealth’s newest governor, he’s leading the effort to investigate the Northern Virginia school system. On Saturday, just hours after he was sworn into office, Youngkin signed an executive action requesting Attorney General Jason Miyares conduct a full investigation of the Loudoun County Public Schools system. Last year, many parents criticized LCPS for not informing the public of two sexual assaults that occurred at two of its high schools in a timely manner. Local groups became particularly incensed when they learned the offending student, an unidentified 15-year-old boy, was transferred to another school within the system as he was being investigated for his actions at his first school. Local authorities would later arrest the same student for sexual battery and abduction at his second school. That student has since been sentenced to supervised probation after being found guilty on four charges connected to those two sexual assault cases. He has also been placed on the sex offender registry, according to the Loudoun County Commonwealth’s Attorney. “The Loudoun County School Board and school administrators withheld key details and knowingly lied to parents about the assaults,” Youngkin’s executive action reads. “Neither the Loudoun County School Board, nor the administrators of the Loudoun County school system, have been held accountable for deceiving the very Virginians they serve.” Youngkin’s order specifically calls on Miyares’ office to hold accountable any individuals who have violated existing law or violated the rights of victims of crime. Youngkin commented on school safety again, Monday, during his address to the General Assembly in Richmond. “Whenever someone preys upon a child in a Virginia school, we must require it to be reported to local law enforcement for investigation,” he said. “No more cover-ups. No more sweeping it under the rug. Parents deserve to know if their child is at risk. In a press release, released Saturday, Miyares also characterized LCPS’ handling of the sexual assault cases as a cover-up. “Loudoun County Public Schools covered up a sexual assault on school grounds for political gain, leading to an additional assault of a young girl,” he said. Miyares added the investigation is open and the process has begun to examine LCPS’ actions. “These investigations are not to solely go after or bring criminal charges against any one actor, but to learn from the mistakes that were made,” he said. Miyares’ spokesperson declined to comment on the specifics of the ongoing investigation when questioned Monday about which charges his office may ultimately pursue or whether it has reached out to LCPS or local law enforcement agencies. WUSA9 reached out to both LCPS and newly appointed Loudoun School Board Chair Jeff Morse to see if they had a response to either Youngkin’s executive action or General Assembly comments. WUSA9 has yet to receive a response to both requests made on Monday. However, LCPS did release a lengthy statement, on Friday, just before Youngkin’s signing of the executive order. “The Loudoun County School Board is committed to creating a safe, affirming and welcoming environment by implementing improved processes to protect every student,” the statement reads. “Loudoun County Public Schools has taken action, and will continue to take action, responsive to the concerns raised by the sexual assaults in LCPS in order to further protect our students from sexual assault and strengthen Division practices regarding harassment and discrimination under Title IX.” The school system also mentioned it had appointed a new interim Title IX Coordinator and created a more robust process for alternative school placements for students who may pose a risk to others. LCPS said it also plans to review and recommend revisions to the Division’s Memorandum of Understanding with the Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office to better coordinate investigation and reporting, among other things. However, LCPS also said it would not publicly release a report detailing its handling of the two sexual assault cases that occurred at its high school. In late October, LCPS hired Blankingship & Keith, P.C., of Fairfax County, to conduct an independent review of the incidents. The school system said, on Friday, the report could not be publicly released to protect the privacy of the families involved and protect student confidentiality. “This decision was also based on the advice of legal counsel, which determined that the report falls under the protections of the attorney-client privilege,” the statement reads. That decision has not sat well with some Loudoun County parents, like Elicia Brand. Brand, a mother of three LCPS students, also co-founded a parents group named “Army of Parents”. “We paid for it,” Brand said. “And, we should see those results.” However, Brand said she was hopeful some details of the independent review may come out in the Miyares investigation. She added she is thankful his office has opened an investigation into the Northern Virginia school system. “I was really pleased to hear that Attorney General Miyares is holding the school accountable, particularly [LCPS Superintendent Dr. Scott Ziegler], and the school board for what they knew, and what they did not tell parents, and for the protocols that they did not

follow that they are legally required to follow,” she said. “By not doing that, they put every one of our students in jeopardy.”

New York Post: Glenn Youngkin is right — mask mandates harm kids

Glenn Youngkin promised to be on the side of parents as Virginia governor, and on his first day in office, he delivered. The Republican issued an executive order allowing parents to decide whether their kids will wear masks in school and met an instant wall of resistance from Democratic-controlled counties and criticism from the White House press secretary, Jen Psaki. A Washington Post headline said that Youngkin is “terrifying” people. The flak notwithstanding, his order is a sign of a growing backlash against COVID restrictions that will likely only gain force as the pandemic drags on and former articles of faith, including on masking, get increasingly called into doubt. Youngkin has ventured into a legally murky area. Critics believe he doesn’t have the authority to issue his order because Virginia passed a statute in early 2021 that says schools should “to the maximum extent practicable” adhere to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-blessed strategies for controlling spread. The CDC is still recommending masks. The statute is vague, though, and doesn’t mention masks. Youngkin’s predecessor, Democrat Ralph Northam, felt compelled to issue an executive order specifically mandating them in K-12 schools. There’s also the question of whether decisions on masking and other mitigation measures are best left to school districts. Here, it is worth noting that Youngkin’s order is different from that of his fellow Republican governors in Texas and Florida, who prohibited school districts from adopting mask mandates. Instead, Youngkin is establishing a carveout for parents from mandates, should they choose to take advantage of it. All that said, it is clearly time for mask mandates to end. The conventional wisdom on masks has gone from “Don’t wear them, they are useless” at the beginning of the pandemic to “You are a terrible person if you don’t wear them” for about a year and a half to “Cloth masks don’t really protect anyone.” Despite Jen Psaki saying that Arlington County, which vows to defy Youngkin, is standing up for kids and their safety, the case for masking kids in schools is weak or nonexistent. The United States is an outlier on this question. The CDC recommends masking all kids age 2 and older, whereas other health authorities are considerably more nuanced. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control doesn’t recommend masking for schoolchildren younger than age 12, noting — correctly — that they “may have a lower tolerance to wearing masks for extended periods of time and may fail to wear them properly.” In areas with community spread, it recommends masks for students in secondary schools, although it stipulates that they should “be seen as a complementary measure, rather than a stand-alone measure to prevent transmission within schools.” The World Health Organization makes distinctions based on age. It says that kids age 5 and younger shouldn’t be required to wear masks based on the “overall interest of the child and the capacity to appropriately use a mask with minimal assistance.” It is open to the masking of 6-to-11-year-olds, so long as a wide variety of conditions is met. And it says that kids age 12 and over should mask like adults. Many European countries have avoided sweeping, American-style mask mandates on school kids and for good reason. A large-scale CDC study found no benefits from masking kids. Many students wear cloth masks that don’t provide much protection (even if worn and maintained properly), and no sane person should want to subject a child to an N95 all day long. Parents in Virginia who believe that masking is important can still act accordingly, and vaccines and boosters are available to provide another layer of protection. But masks remain something more than a public-health measure for many proponents — they are a signal of virtue and a pillar of pandemic orthodoxy. Youngkin’s offense, at bottom, is dissenting from this worldview and providing options for parents who don’t share it either.

WTOP: Prince William Co. school board head seeks ‘masking off ramp,’ asks Youngkin for help

Amid the flurry of activity after new Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin’s executive order allowing parents to have their children opt-out of a school system’s mask mandate, Prince William County School Board Chairman Babur Lateef is calling for state and local public health and education leaders to work together to develop metrics for a safe, scientifically-based “masking off-ramp.” Lateef is seeking a measured, public-health based compromise, with the eventual goal of reducing — and ultimately eliminating — masking. “My highest priority, although not everyone is happy with me, is to keep kids in school — even with a mask — but I would like us to find an exit strategy, or what we call an off-ramp,” Lateef told WTOP. “I’m hopeful the governor’s new medical advisory team will be able to provide a road map toward getting rid of masks.” Although Youngkin’s executive order takes effect Monday, Jan. 24, Lateef said he believes tweaking COVID-19 mitigation strategies will take some time, thought and collaboration. “We can’t just decide, ‘We’re going to lift the mask order,’” said Lateef. “We need metrics to help us reduce masking.” Lateef, and state senator Chap Petersen, a Democrat, from Fairfax City, wrote an Op-Ed in the Richmond Times-Dispatch, calling for “the state government to find those metrics and start outlining them for school divisions as guidance for how we should get rid of masking.” As an example, Lateef points toward Massachusetts, where public health and school leaders looked for other mitigation strategies, with the goal of freeing students from the discomfort, educational and social constraints of masking. “If 80% of people in the building there were vaccinated, teachers and students, they went mask-optional, so

they had a road map there for everyone to aim for," said Lateef. "I think, if we all work together, we can find some of those road maps as well, that we can all agree on, that all sides can sit down and say, 'I can live with that.'" Prince William County Public Schools is joining other Northern Virginia school divisions in declaring the school system will maintain its current mask mandates on Jan. 24, when Youngkin's Executive Order 2 goes into effect. In addition, local school leaders are considering legal challenges to Youngkin's order. "Like any contentious issue in American politics, this is going to end up in a courtroom," said Stephen Farnsworth, a political-science professor at the University of Mary Washington. Lateef, an eye surgeon, who was elected to serve as the board chairman in November 2019, is supportive of Superintendent LaTaynya McDade's announcement on Monday, that the school division will continue masking, while reviewing Youngkin's order and anticipated guidance from Virginia's Department of Education. This is not the first time Lateef has been willing to consider strong steps, in an attempt to approximate a return to a pre-pandemic normal for Prince William County students. "I was criticized heavily for bringing special ed students back, in September 2020, long before the vaccine, and we did it successfully, with the heroic efforts of our teachers. That experience guided us to say we're OK to bring our first and second graders in November, our third and fourth grades in January," of 2021, far earlier than most school systems in Northern Virginia. Most challenges to Youngkin's executive order will focus on Virginia Senate Bill 1303, signed by former Gov. Ralph Northam, which mandated in-person learning. As part of the final compromise, school boards were required to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance "to the maximum extent practicable" in bringing students back for in-person learning. Lateef said school districts have previously taken safe, measured steps — for instance, shortening physical distance requirements to facilitate all students returning to classrooms and buses, as well as shortening quarantine periods. With the priority of maximizing the number of days students are in-person, Lateef said leaping into a mask-free school environment wouldn't work. "If we just go ahead and remove masking, that throws us backward on the quarantining, and that creates far more days missed," Lateef said. "I, more than anyone, would like to see us get rid of masks, but there has to be an orderly process, based on sound scientific principles to do so." Part of the challenge, Lateef said, is that the CDC hasn't provided data to allow school systems to draw blueprints for a mask off-ramp. "CDC has to look at how the rest of the country is doing, put those studies together and say, 'We have districts that have been mask optional and we have not seen the spread,'" Lateef said. "Share the data, let's work on that data together, because we can reassure our public, 'Look, folks, this is working elsewhere, there's no reason why it won't work here.'"

CBS: Youngkin begins term as Virginia governor with executive actions on critical race theory, masks in schools

Republican Glenn Youngkin began his term as governor of Virginia on Saturday with executive actions that tackle education and the COVID-19 pandemic, including a ban on critical race theory in public schools and a lifting of school mask requirements. Youngkin, the first Republican to win statewide office in Virginia since 2009, signed nine executive orders and two executive directives following his swearing-in. Youngkin said the executive actions are "important steps" that launches "the work of restoring excellence in education, making our communities safer, opening Virginia for business and reinvigorating job growth, and making government work for the people, and not the other way around." The first executive order from the governor prohibits the teaching of "inherently divisive concepts," including critical race theory, an academic concept developed by legal scholars to examine the ongoing effects of racism in American policies and institutions. The issue became a flash point in the Virginia governor's race and a lightning rod for conservatives. At least half the states have sought to restrict the teaching of critical race theory or limit how teachers can discuss racism and sexism. "Political indoctrination has no place in our classrooms," Youngkin said in his executive order, adding that "inherently divisive concepts, like critical race theory and its progeny, instruct students to only view life through the lens of race and presumes that some students are consciously or unconsciously racist, sexist, or oppressive, and that other students are victims." Youngkin also took unilateral action to remove school mask requirements statewide, a move that prompted pushback from school districts outside of Washington, D.C. The governor's order states that parents with children in public schools "may elect for their children not to be subject to any mask mandate in effect at the child's school or educational program." "A child whose parent has elected that he or she is not subject to a mask mandate should not be required to wear a mask under any policy implemented by a teacher, school, school district, the Department of Education, or any other state authority," Youngkin's order continued. Following the governor's executive order, Arlington Public Schools announced Saturday there would be no change to its mask requirements, with the face coverings still required for staff and students inside school grounds and on buses. Fairfax County Public Schools superintendent Scott Braband also said the district, the state's largest, would continue to require universal masking, though the system is examining Youngkin's executive order. Alexandria City Public Schools said it, too, would continue to require all individuals wear masks in schools, facilities and on buses. White House press secretary Jen Psaki praised the decision by Arlington Public Schools to leave its mask requirements in place, thanking the district on Twitter for "standing up for our kids, teachers and administrators and their safety in the midst of a transmissible variant." Youngkin also issued executive actions terminating the Virginia Parole Board, rescinding a vaccine mandate for state employees and establishing a commission to combat anti-Semitism.

Officials from Prince William County Schools and Manassas City Public Schools announced Monday that their universal masking policies remain in place despite Gov. Glenn Youngkin's Saturday executive order. On his first day in office, Gov. Glenn Youngkin issued an executive order requiring school districts to offer parental choice in masking at school. Prince William schools said in a note to the school community that they are sticking with the previous mask policy requiring them for all students and staff inside school buildings and rejecting Youngkin's new order promising parental choice in the matter. Manassas schools did the same. "PWCS COVID-19 mitigation measures remain unchanged at this time, including mask requirements for students, staff, and visitors," Superintendent LaTanya McDade said in a message to families Monday. "We are aware that over the weekend Governor Glenn Youngkin announced a series of executive orders, including future modification to guidance on masks in schools. The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) will also be issuing revised guidance. PWCS is evaluating both the order and anticipated VDOE guidance, along with local, state, and national legal requirements." On Saturday, shortly after taking office, Youngkin signed 11 executive actions, the second of which promised parents the choice to send their child to public school without a mask and without any reason. "The parents of any child enrolled in an elementary or secondary school or a school board early childcare and educational program may elect for their children not to be subject to any mask mandate in effect at the child's school or educational program," the order, which is set to take effect Jan. 24, reads. But over the weekend, a number of school divisions announced that they were rejecting the order. Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax school divisions have also rejected the governor's order, citing state law on the matter. Loudoun County Public Schools announced Monday that, since the order takes effect on Jan. 24, masks will be required at LCPS when school opens on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 and for the remainder of the week. The announcement said the division will review the updated guidance from the Governor's Office, the Virginia Department of Education, and the Virginia Department of Health and will provide new information to LCPS families and staff this Wednesday. Fauquier County schools say they will continue the mask mandate for now as the governor's order does not take effect until Jan. 24. State law SB1303, signed into law last year, mandates that school divisions make in-person instruction available and that they do so "in a manner in which it adheres, to the maximum extent practicable, to any currently applicable mitigation strategies ... to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 that have been provided by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention." The CDC still recommends universal masking inside of public schools, putting the law passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Ralph Northam, at odds with the new governor's order. "As students return to school this week, please note that Manassas City Public Schools will continue universal masking for all students, staff, and visitors in alignment with [CDC] guidance," a message from the Manassas school board to parents on Monday reads, adding that the division is aware of Youngkin's order. "To continue in-person instruction, as outlined in Senate Bill 1303, adhering to our mitigation strategies, especially universal masking, keeps our schools open and safe places for students to learn." At the same time, the commonwealth and local school divisions are dealing with their highest case counts since the pandemic began. On Friday, Prince William schools reported a record number of students either isolating with COVID or quarantining due to close contact for the school year, at 1,476 and 2,217 students, respectively. When schools let out for what would become an extended winter break, 283 students were isolating with COVID, though the division's numbers are imperfect and are dependent on when and how cases are reported. In an interview with Fox News on Sunday, Youngkin said his administration was "going to stand up for parents," and said that under Virginia law, parents had a "fundamental right to make decisions for their children's upbringing, their education and their care." "We are going to use all the authority that I have to consider all options to protect that right," Youngkin said. One complicating factor for school divisions is the way in which removing mask mandates could force even more students into quarantine. Current quarantine policy for Prince William schools, for example, mandates that students within 6 feet of an unmasked, COVID-positive student will have to go into the division's quarantine procedure. But as long as students are masked, they can be even closer and not have to quarantine. Of course, divisions can adjust quarantine policy, as Prince William's is considering to shorten the time away to better align with new CDC guidance.

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CLIPS ROUNDUP 6/12

1 message

Stevens, Aust
To: Austin Stev

Sun, Jun 12, 2022 at 8:30 AM

Governor Mentions**DAILY PRESS:** Opinion: Youngkin right to advance ideological diversity on campus (By Michael B. Poliakoff and Peter W. Wood)

In May, Gov. Glenn Youngkin sent the Council of Presidents of Virginia's public colleges and universities a detailed letter setting out his expectations. Among his most urgent requests is that university administrators promote intellectual diversity and the free exchange of ideas. That includes a bold, overdue reform: hiring faculty of diverse political persuasions.

WUSA: DMV gas prices increase as the national gas price averages \$5 (By John Henry)

The average national price of a regular gallon of gas has exceeded \$5 and some parts of the D.C. region have gas price averages that are even higher than that. Higher crude oil costs, tighter gas supplies and the War in Ukraine have contributed to pushing prices up across the country.

THE WASHINGTON POST: Let's remove local school districts' power to block charter schools (By Jay Mathews)

The Washington Post published recently an intriguing commentary on education by Virginia Del. Nick Freitas and Americans for Prosperity-Virginia deputy director Jacob Fish. Its title was "Transform Virginia's education system to create opportunities for all."

THE VIRGINIAN PILOT: Behind Virginia's mystery marijuana provision: Measure came from Governor's office, with help from two Democrats (By Katie King)

Ryan Suit tries to keep a close eye on marijuana legislation. As the co-owner of a Virginia Beach shop that sells cannabinoid products, he doesn't want to be caught off guard by new rules or regulations.

THE WASHINGTON POST: Gov. Youngkin, who ran on culture wars, takes cautious approach to Pride (By Laura Vozzella)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin, who ran for office last year as a sunny but deeply conservative culture warrior, traveled to this gay-friendly city this week to meet with Log Cabin Republicans, a conservative LGBTQ group — chatting amicably with them for more than an hour without uttering a word about LGBTQ rights.

CULPEPPER STAR EXPONENT-EDITORIAL: A promising start, a worrisome future

The first six months of Gov. Glenn Youngkin's administration has seen him continue to struggle on two fronts. The first front is his transition from businessman to governor. Though Youngkin's business bona fides are indisputable, his experience in government is limited. Learning to navigate Richmond, and learning to lead not by fiat, but by coalition-building, is critical for his success.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Labor Law: Return to the office and COVID-19 (By Karen Michael)

Employees working for the Commonwealth of Virginia must return to the office July 5, unless they receive permission to telework one day a week from the agency head. For additional telework days, the employees must seek approval beyond the agency head within Governor Youngkin's administration.

THE ROANOKE TIMES: Editorial: Gun violence solutions needed at every level of government

The proposals White outlines include a tip line to allow students and members of the public to quickly alert authorities to safety threats, a potentially useful tool in an emergency that serves as a painfully stark contrast to Gov. Glenn Youngkin's face of a "tip line" intended to curb the supposedly "divisive" — but in fact nonexistent — teaching of "critical race theory" in K-12 schools. Youngkin would do well to employ White's idea instead.

COMMON DREAMS: The Movement to Restore Ex-Felons' Voting Rights is Now Focusing on the States (By Benjamin Barber)

In recent years, voting rights advocates and state lawmakers have made significant strides in restoring voting rights to U.S. citizens with felony convictions. In the 2020 U.S. presidential election, 5.17 million people were disenfranchised due to a felony conviction, according to the Sentencing Project — 15% fewer than in 2016, as states implemented measures to restore voting rights to people with felony convictions who served their sentences.

Local News**WTOP:** 3 injured in Loudoun Co. shooting (By Veronica Canales)

Three people were shot Saturday evening in Sterling, Virginia. The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office says it happened right after 7:30 p.m. in the area of North Fillmore Avenue and Fletcher Road

WVEC: No one seriously injured after fire at shooting range in Virginia Beach

The Virginia Beach Fire Department was on the scene of a fire on the roof of a business on Saturday afternoon. According to a tweet, it happened at Freedom Shooting Academy, which is on Virginia Beach Boulevard. The first alarm went off shortly after 2 p.m.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Some college degrees in Virginia never pay off. Others provide an immediate return. (By Eric Kolenich and Sean McGoey)

The analysis, which estimated the earnings for 750 school-specific majors in Virginia, found that VCU philosophy majors earned the least in the state.

PATCH: Spotted Lanternfly Emerges In VA: How To Stop The Pests (By Deb Belt)

Spotted lanternflies have already hatched in Virginia — posing a threat to grapes, peaches, hops and other crops — but there's still time to stop them in their tracks before they can spread. The invasive species, originally from China, India and Vietnam, has the potential to harm agricultural crops and hardwood trees, according to experts. Spotted lanternflies also excrete a sugary substance while feeding, which can attract bees and wasps, as well as promote growth for mold that can cover patio furniture, cars and forest understories.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: Economic Impact: Online job ads in Virginia show increase in wages & sign-on bonuses (By Christine Chmura)

With talk of recession increasing, analysts are scrutinizing all the economic indicators for signs of a slowdown. Job postings are a good indicator to watch because they are updated daily and are a leading indicator of employment trends because businesses don't post job ads unless they expect demand for their good and services to continue to increase. Chmura's real time intelligence job postings showed a slight slowing in job posts in Virginia during the last week of May, but not a sharp drop.

National News**NBC NEWS:** Navy orders 'safety pause' after back-to-back Southern California crashes (By Dennis Romero)

The U.S. Navy on Saturday announced a "safety pause" for non-deployed aircraft after a pair of crashes in Southern California during the week. The Monday pause will give Naval Air Forces, including U.S. Marine Corps aircraft operations, an opportunity to review risk management and implement fresh safety training, U.S. Navy officials said in a statement.

NPR: Thousands gather at March for Our Lives rallies nationwide to push for gun control (By Dustin Jones)

Supporters in cities across the nation filled the streets Saturday to once again push for stronger gun control laws, weeks after mass shootings in New York and Texas where in each instance the gunman purchased AR-style-rifles legally. Thousands of demonstrators gathered at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., while others protested in hundreds of other cities in at least 45 states.

POLITICO: Trump endorses Britt in Alabama Republican Senate race (By Natalie Allison)

Donald Trump has endorsed Katie Britt in Alabama's Republican Senate race, calling her an "Incredible Fighter" and likely shoring up her already significant lead ahead of the June 21 runoff. The former president made the announcement late Friday, just hours after two new polls were released showing Britt with a double-digit lead over Rep. Mo Brooks.

CNN: Mo Donegal wins Belmont Stakes (By Homero De la Fuente and Christina Maxouris)

Mo Donegal won the 154th running of the Belmont Stakes in Elmont, New York, on Saturday. Mo Donegal was piloted by three-time Eclipse Award-winning jockey Irad Ortiz, Jr. Ortiz also won the 2016 Belmont Stakes with Creator.

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Austin Stevens
Press Assistant
Wor



Moran, Matt <matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov>

ICYMI: Editorial Boards Sound Off on Governor Youngkin's Educational Success in Virginia

1 message

Press, Governor Youngkin <press@governor.virginia.gov>

Wed, Jul 6, 2022 at 6:02 PM

Reply-To: press@governor.virginia.gov

To: matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov



Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of Governor Glenn Youngkin

In Case You Missed It: Editorial Boards Sound Off on Governor Youngkin's Educational Success in Virginia

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL: [Virginia Breaks the School-Choice Barrier](#)

Parents haven't let up in their push for greater school choice, and Virginia reflects the growing momentum. The state's latest budget includes funding for new flexible public schools meant to meet the demand for alternatives.

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin cited "record investments in education" while signing the two-year budget last month, but the details deserve more attention. The centerpiece is \$100 million to open new "lab schools." These are publicly funded K-12 schools founded by public universities, rather than school districts. That puts them outside the state's collective-bargaining agreement, meaning each lab school's administrators control hiring and pay.

Virginia Republicans hope that lab schools will replicate the success of charters, which face an unusual barrier in the state. The Virginia constitution requires each new charter to gain sign-off from the local school board, most of which are politically aligned with the unions. The fast-growing state had a mere seven charter schools in 2021, serving about 1,300 students out of more than 1.2 million.

Laying the foundation for non-union schools is in keeping with Mr. Youngkin's campaign promise to grant more options and control to parents. Debates over Covid restrictions and critical-race theory helped push education to the forefront of last year's gubernatorial election, with dissatisfied parents driving an unexpected GOP vote surge.

[...]

Read the Full Article [Here](#)

The Washington Post

THE WASHINGTON POST: [Youngkin's pragmatic school board picks offer hope for reform](#)

Education was key to Republican Glenn Youngkin's successful campaign for governor of Virginia, and it has figured prominently in his first months in office. Unfortunately, some of his moves — his first executive order forbidding the teaching of "inherently divisive concepts," the establishment of a secretive tip line for people to snitch on teachers and his bid to oust the Loudoun school board — seemed to be outgrowths of the divisive ideology that drove his campaign. But his choice for education secretary — an expert in the use of data to drive education reform — offered some hope that Mr. Youngkin might be more interested in improving education than just weaponizing it. Now his first appointments to the state board of education offer further encouragement that Mr. Youngkin wants solutions for the issues that have long bedeviled education.

A standoff with the General Assembly over gubernatorial appointments gave Mr. Youngkin the unprecedented opportunity to name five members on the state's nine-member Board of Education, which has broad authority over issues affecting public and private education in the commonwealth. His choices, announced last week and subject to legislative approval, promise to add people with a variety of interesting experiences and perspectives to the board.

Andrew Rotherham is a former Bill Clinton education adviser and member of the Virginia state school board who co-founded a research nonprofit focused on improving learning outcomes for

marginalized students. Grace Turner Creasey, an expert in early-childhood education, is executive director of the Virginia Council for Private Education. William D. Hansen, deputy secretary of education under former president George W. Bush, heads up a nonprofit dedicated to helping public charter schools build and finance facilities. Alan Seibert, former superintendent of Salem City Schools, is the constituent services and government relations officer for Roanoke City Public Schools. Suparna Dutta, a technology expert, is co-founder of the parent group Coalition for TJ (Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology).

[...]

Read the Full Article [Here](#)

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