

# The Free Lance-Star

## Bayou champions

Carson, Reese lead LSU past Iowa in the NCAA women's final. **SPORTS, PAGE B1**



## Used car prices up

Shoppers struggle to find affordable ride. **BUSINESS, PAGE A6**



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PETER CINELRA PHOTOS, THE FREE LANCE-STAR

## AREA CHILDREN GET A HEAD START ON EASTER FUN AT BEEPING EGG HUNT

Calvin Denethy, 12, reacts after filling his basket while his sister Kai accompanies him at Sunday's Beeping Egg Hunt at Gari Melchers Home and Studio in Falmouth. The event has been held since 2011 for visually impaired or blind children and their families. The eggs emit a chirping sound that allows children to retrieve them using their hearing. They were made and donated by volunteers from the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators. In addition to the egg hunt, the event featured a petting zoo and tactile activities along with a Touch a Tractor station. **Bottom left:** Teddy Chiarati, 7, pretends to drive a tractor as his mom Katie watches. **Bottom right:** Docent Murray Corliss lets Joseph Vessels, 11, touch part of a tactile display at the historic property.



## Saudis and other oil giants to make cuts

Americans could pay more at pump amid worldwide inflation

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Saudi Arabia and other major oil producers on Sunday announced surprise cuts totaling up to 1.15 million barrels per day from May until the end of the year, a move that could raise prices worldwide.

Higher oil prices would help fill Russian President Vladimir Putin's coffers as his country wages war on Ukraine and force Americans and others to pay even more at the pump amid worldwide inflation.

It was also likely to further strain ties with the United States, which has called on Saudi Arabia and other allies to increase production as it tries to bring prices down and squeeze Russia's finances.

The production cuts alone could push U.S. gasoline prices up by roughly 26 cents per gallon, in addition to the usual increase that comes when refineries change the gasoline blend during the summer driving season, said Kevin Book, managing director of Clearview Energy Partners LLC. The Energy Department calculates the seasonal increase at an average of 32 cents per gallon, Book said.

So with an average U.S. price now at roughly \$3.50 per gallon of regular, according to AAA, that could mean gasoline over \$4 per gallon during the summer.

However, Book said there are a number of complex variables in oil and gas prices. The size of each country's production cut depends on the baseline production number it is using, so the cut might not be 1.15 million. It also

Photo: see ENL, Page B1

## Hearing set on shooting 'safety zone' in Culpeper

ALLISON BRIDPHY CHAMPION  
Culpeper Star-Exponent

The Culpeper County Board of Supervisors will hear public comment at its meeting Tuesday night on a proposal to ban the shooting of guns with a "100-yard safety zone" around any regularly occupied home.

In 2019, the Board of Supervisors, following suit with other pro-gun locales, adopted a resolution making Culpeper a "Second Amendment Constitutional County." Gun activists and county residents packed the boardroom in support of the

## Local reps seek to expand 529 savings plan

Funds would help cover noncollege workforce training

NATHANIEL CLINE  
Virginia Mercury

As more Virginians pivot from the traditional path of going to

college, a new proposal that would let families saving for college through 529 accounts to use that money to pay for workforce credential expenses such as examinations, certifications and licenses to operate equipment.

"Whether you're a young adult just coming out of high school, or you've been in the workforce

