

## Locales

Zacarías 9:9

**Alégrate mucho, hija de Sion; da voces de júbilo, hija de Jerusalén; he aquí tu rey vendrá a ti, justo y salvador, humilde, y cabalgando sobre un asno, sobre un pollino hijo de asna.**

## Recuerden ajustar su reloj

*El horario de verano para ahorrar energía, en Estados Unidos.*

El horario de verano para ahorrar energía, en Estados Unidos, empezará el 10 de marzo a las 2:00 am de la hora local. En ese día, se avanzará la manecilla del reloj 1 hora, o sea hasta las 3:00 de la mañana. A este cambio frecuentemente se le llama "Spring forward" y esto hará que tengamos más luz de noche debido a que el sunset se realizará más tarde.

Por el contrario, este cambio de horario terminará el domingo 3



El 10 de marzo adelantaremos una hora.

de noviembre a las 2:00 a.m. del tiempo local, los relojes se retrasarán 1 hora, con lo cual estaremos a la 1:00 a.m.

Este regreso del tiempo es conocido como "Fall back", este regreso hará que tengamos más luz en la mañana.

## Virginia Festival of the Book Announces Full Schedule

Charlottesville—The Virginia Festival of the Book, a program of Virginia Humanities, has been bringing together writers and readers to promote and celebrate books, reading, literacy, and literary culture every March since 1995, making 2024 the 30th annual festival.

Today, the festival—which will take place from March 20 to 24 in Charlottesville—announced the full program for 2024. The schedule includes more than 80 events featuring 130 authors including nine festival preview events happening in the weeks leading up to the festival.

"Festival preview events are part of an intentional effort to reach people all across the state," said festival director Kalela Williams. "We want to bring the festival to them and meet



them where they are." Nine festival preview events will take place in Crozet, Staunton, Nelson County, Alexandria, Richmond, Grundy, Charles City, and Lynchburg.

"We're committed to making the festival as accessible as possible," Williams continued. "That's why the vast majority of our events are free and open to the public, with no ticket or advance registration required." Events span the full gamut of literary genres featuring authors of historical fiction, romance, poetry, science fiction, non-fiction,

memoirs, mystery/crime, and more.

Tickets are required for select headline events including Senator Danica Roem, U.S. Poet Laureate and recent MacArthur "Genius" awardee Ada Limón, bestselling author and columnist Roxane Gay, and Percival Everett, author of Erasure, which the major motion picture American Fiction is based on.

The festival's thirtieth anniversary will be celebrated with a 90s-themed rooftop

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**Virginia Beach Public Library Free Events – March 2024**

**Bayside Area Library:** 936 Independence Blvd., VA Beach 23455  
**BYOB (aby) Book Club**  
Bring your baby along for this judgment-free adult book club. Talk about books while your kids play. Adults 18+. Registration is not required.  
March 12, 10:15-11:15 a.m., (757) 385-0150

**Solar Eclipse 2024: UV Kids Sun Science**  
Learn about the sun's ultraviolet (UV) light with experiments, make a UV detector to take home and receive complimentary eclipse glasses. Grades 3-5. Visit libraries.VirginiaBeach.gov to register.  
March 30, 11-12:30

p.m., (757) 385-0150

**Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library:** 4100 Virginia Beach Blvd., VA Beach 23452  
**Author Spotlight: Kelly J. Baptist**  
Join the Battle of the Books 2024 author Kelly J. Baptist for a book discussion and Q&A of "Isaiah Dunn is My Hero." Bring your personal copy of the book to be signed by the author. Teachers and educators are welcome. Grades 3-12 & adults 18+. Visit libraries.VirginiaBeach.gov to register.  
March 2, 10:30-11:30 a.m., (757) 385-0150

**Graphic Novel Author Workshop with Swim Team Creator Johnnie Christmas**  
Meet best-selling author Johnnie Christmas for this graphic novel workshop featuring his 2022 middle-grade

graphic novel debut, "Swim Team." This event will include an artist workshop, author talk, Q&A and book signing. Teachers and educators are welcome. Grades 3-8 & adults 18+. Visit libraries.VirginiaBeach.gov to register.  
March 16, 1-3 p.m., (757) 385-0150

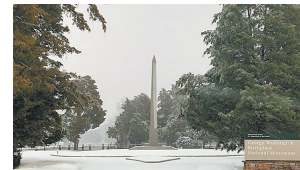
**Great Neck Area Library:** 1251 Bayne Dr., VA Beach 23454  
**Solar Eclipse 2024: Preschool Science**  
Come and learn all about solar eclipses in this special edition of Preschool Science. Eclipse glasses will be provided at the end of the program. Age 3-5 with caregiver. Visit libraries.VirginiaBeach.gov to register.  
March 21, 10:30-11:15 a.m., (757) 385-0150

**Solar Eclipse 2024:**  
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## George Washington Birthplace National Monument Launches Podcast Series

Colonial Beach, VA — Staff at George Washington Birthplace National Monument have announced the launch of a new podcast series titled Upon this Land: History, Mystery and Monuments. The project aims to illuminate emerging research and the rich history of the park during the lead-up to three landmark events: the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in 2026, the 100th anniversary of the park in 2030 and the tricentennial of Washington's birth in 2032.

Drawing upon the expertise of historians, archaeologists, park rangers and local



community members, the podcast will offer multifaceted perspectives on the park's significance. Listeners can expect a diverse range of content, including fascinating facts about Washington Family history that have only recently been discovered. Each episode also offers compelling insights into how people have remembered

Washington, both as a person and as a national icon.

"This podcast is way beyond facts and statistics," says Superintendent Melissa Cobern. "It's an evolving story at the intersection of resources, circumstance and human existence that guarantees you'll never look at this

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## Bait and Switch: Reform Reverts to Mo' Money

By Chris Braulich

3/1/2024 -- Some years back, I ran into a friend, a Virginia Education Association unit chair outside the General Assembly Building, there to lobby on behalf of a state-wide teacher salary increase.

The real problem, I noted, was that across-the-board salary increases didn't reflect reality, providing, for example, the same increases for hard-to-find Physics, Chemistry, or Special Education teachers as it did for those teaching subjects with dozens of applicants for each position. That's far from the incentive needed to drive qualified professionals into hard-to-staff fields or to schools where educators struggle to

teach educationally underserved students.

"I agree with you," came the reply in a sotto voce voice: "Just don't tell my members I said that."

He had whispered the silent part out loud. Across-the-board increases fail to serve students best, but they are important to unions looking to collect more dues. Paying teachers the same with a uniform salary schedule -- regardless of skill, subject or instructional challenge -- is a disincentive for quality teachers, those with a STEM background, or those with the heart and skill to work in challenged schools.

To be clear: Virginia teacher salaries have



lagged many other states for decades. In an effort to catch up, state funding has jumped from \$5,840 to \$8,200 per student between 2020-2023, with the amount of the state share for teacher compensation increasing 17 percent between FY 2021 and FY 2024. That's not chump change.

But other states have also increased teacher compensation, not all instructional positions are considered part of the Standards of Quality (and thus not funded), and Virginia's opaque funding scheme makes it impossible to understand or track what and how state dollars are spent.

Last year's report by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) on the state's K-12 funding structure should have been a jumping-off point for reforming Virginia's Byzantine formula to reflect 21st century needs and demands, empower local school leaders, and redirect funding towards those students harder to teach. It still might become that.

But so far, the report has merely been weaponized by those seeking to spend more money broadly rather than reform the process

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## Evitando el cierre: El senado de EE. UU. aprueba financiamiento temporal

El pasado 29 de febrero, el Senado de Estados Unidos aprobó con 77 votos a favor y 13 en contra una resolución para financiar de manera provisional al Gobierno federal y prevenir su paralización, otorgando a los legisladores más tiempo para aprobar los proyectos de ley de asignaciones en las semanas venideras.

El 28 de febrero, los líderes del Congreso dieron a conocer su plan de ratificar una resolución continua antes de la fecha límite del cierre del 1 de marzo.

El Senado desestimó las propuestas de incluir ayuda a Israel y de incorporar el proyecto de ley HR2, respaldado por la Cámara Republicana, que es una medida de seguridad fronteriza que habría reinstaurado algunas políticas migratorias de la Administración del anterior presidente Donald Trump (2017-2021).

En septiembre pasado, el Congreso ratificó al límite una propuesta bipartidista que previno, de manera provisional, la paralización parcial del Gobierno estadounidense, en el contexto de las presiones del Partido Republicano para disminuir el gasto público planteado por la administración del demócrata Joe Biden.