

SECTIONS
Front Page
News
Election 2005
Community
Obituaries
Opinion
Columns
Business
Sports
Entertainment
Calendar of Events
TV Listings
Fiction
Kids
TeenZine
Classified Ads
Online Store
About
Pay
Advertise
Book Publishing
Design Services

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[THE TOP STORY: Gay-Rights Advocates 1, Social Conservatives 0](#)

By Chris Graham/AFP It hasn't been that long since gay-rights advocates were bemoaning the apparent fact that Virginia was on its way toward becoming the most anti-gay state in the Union. Things can change in a New York minute in the world of politics, though. "I would view the outcome of the General Assembly session as definitely being positive," said Joshua Israel ...

Sorry, 'Charlie'

Director pleasantly surprised with changes to Players production

Eye on the Valley

Chris Graham

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The cast of *Goodbye Charlie* is having fun working through the plot twist that has the star of the show, the womanizing Charlie Sorel, returning from the dead as of all things a woman.

Director Betty Hale is having her own good time with the Waynesboro Players production, which debuts tonight at the Louis Spilman Auditorium at Waynesboro High School.

"I've been directing for a long time, and I usually go into a project of direction with a pretty clear picture of what I want and expect of the script and the actors. This one I had come into with an idea from having acted in a production of the play before," said Hale, a Players veteran who acted in a community-theater run of *Goodbye Charlie* years ago.

The experience gave her an idea of how she wanted to do the show as the director. She had worked with Jenny Howard, who brings Charlie to life in this weekend's production, in the past and thought her perfect for the role.



"She was the person I wanted in this role," Hale told *The Augusta Free Press*.

INSIDE ... Bolling them over

By Chris Graham/AFP Mechanicsville Republican Sen. Bill Bolling was on his way back from a talk that he had just given in Williamsburg. He was looking forward to a brief respite before getting back on the road for a jaunt through Central Virginia, the Shenandoah Valley, then heading down toward Southwest before ending up ... somewhere. "It's a busy time, but this is how it has to be between now and June 14 ..."

IN FOCUS: Lohr expected to confirm run in 26th

By Chris Graham/AFP Matt Lohr is expected to make his candidacy for the 26th House District Republican nomination official on Friday. The Rockingham County School Board chairman has scheduled a news conference for 12:15 p.m. on Friday on the steps of the Rockingham County Courthouse Building in Harrisonburg to discuss his intentions with respect to the party nod.

NOTES FROM THE PRESS: Virginia politics notebook

By Chris Graham/AFP George Mason University political-science professor Mark Rozell sees Winchester Sen. Russ Potts' independent gubernatorial campaign having a similar effect on the 2005 state race as Marshall Coleman's independent bid for the United States Senate had on the 1994 race for the seat then held by Chuck Robb. "That's not to compare Jerry Kilgore to Ollie North ..."

EYE ON VIRGINIA: Shaq joins Safe Surfin' effort

By Chris Graham/AFP If the Safe Surfin' Foundation ever gets together a rec-league hoops team, it has its center. "Today's criminals are hiding behind computer screens, fake names and fraudulent identities, all with the intention of exploiting and harming our youth," said Miami Heat center and NBA all-star Shaquille O'Neal, speaking at a Wednesday news conference on Capitol Hill ...

EYE ON THE VALLEY: I-81 lane closure associated with hazmat cleanup

By Chris Graham/AFP A stretch of Interstate 81 in the Fort Defiance area will be closed for six hours tonight in connection with the ongoing cleanup

"And she's done very well with it. She's really wanted to be very credible in the part. She's been open and very creative in how she's approached it in addition to studying the reality of it in various different forms. And she's been very open to my direction as far as things that I've seen that she can improve upon as far as bringing about her character," Hale said.

That thing about direction, though. Hale said this incarnation of *Goodbye Charlie* is coming across differently than she had envisioned several months ago because of the contributions of Howard and supporting actors Ben Houseknecht, who portrays Charlie's best friend, George Tracy, and Jennifer Launt, co-starring as Rusty Sartori, one of Charlie's many mistresses.

"They have all brought their own perspectives to this process. And as a result, the picture that I had has not materialized in the same way that I thought it would," Hale said.

"That has been a surprise. Actually, it has been a very pleasant surprise. I'm very pleased with how it's changed," Hale said.

In a Nutshell

March 3-5: *Goodbye Charlie*, presented by the Waynesboro Players, 8 p.m., Louis Spilman Auditorium, Waynesboro High School, 1200 W. Main St., Waynesboro. Tickets available on-line, at the door, or in Waynesboro, Quality Cleaners, Donna's Hallmark, Sharon Bookstore; in Staunton, Terry Court Florist, The Bookstack; in Stuarts Draft, Village Green Florist; and in Fishersville, Quail Hill Herb Shoppe. Info: (540) 949-7464.

Related story

- '[Goodbye, Charlie](#)', Feb. 25, 2005 *AFP*

On the Web

- www.waynesboroplayers.org

Chris Graham is the co-publisher of The Augusta Free Press.

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associated with a Feb. 5 tractor-trailer accident. A contractor employed by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality is leading the efforts related to the cleanup of a tributary to the Middle River that was contaminated with chromium ...

news@augustafreepress.com.

(Published 03-03-05/[Entertainment](#))

[EYE ON THE VALLEY: Slater throws hat into Rockingham school board ring](#)

By Chris Graham/AFP The District 1 seat on the Rockingham County School Board could be opening up this November. Broadway resident Anthony Slater is ready to step in as a candidate for the seat who is interested in doing his part to keep the school board on a positive track. "I've been involved in the Broadway community for a number of years through wrestling and track at the middle school ..."

[EYE ON THE VALLEY: Sorry, 'Charlie'](#)

By Chris Graham/AFP The cast of *Goodbye Charlie* is having fun working through the plot twist that has the star of the show, the womanizing Charlie Sorel, returning from the dead as of all things a woman. Director Betty Hale is having her own good time with the Waynesboro Players production, which debuts tonight at the Louis Spilman Auditorium at Waynesboro High School.

[THE AGENDA: Augusta County School Board meeting tonight](#)

By Chris Graham/AFP The Augusta County School Board is meeting tonight at 7 p.m. at the Augusta County Government Center in Verona. The board is also meeting at 4 p.m. for a work session on the proposed 2005-2006 operating budget for the county school system. The agenda for the night meeting includes ...

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Edited by Crystal Graham & Chris Graham



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Last updated 3/3/2005; 12:31:37 AM