

Fluvanna

REVIEW

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An Award Winning Newspaper

Founded in 1979 by Len Gardner

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6,300 Copies

General: The *Fluvanna Review* is published weekly by Valley Publishing Corp. and covers Fluvanna exclusively. It is printed on Tuesday afternoons. One copy is free. Additional copies are \$1 each payable in advance to the publisher.

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Classified ads: \$10 for two weeks for 30 words or less. Email edee@fluvannareview.com or mail to *Fluvanna Review*, P.O. Box 59, Palmyra, VA 22963 or stop by the office at 2987 Lake Monticello Road.

Legal ads: The *Fluvanna Review* is the paper of record for Fluvanna County. Call Judi Price at 434-207-0223 to place a legal ad.

Weddings, engagements, anniversaries: Call Judi Price at 434-207-0223.

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If you see news happening, call us!

Letters to the editor

- Keep letters under 350 words.
- Refrain from personal attacks.
- Do not send letters that have been sent to other newspapers.
- We do not accept letters that function as advertisements
- Include your name, address and phone number (for verification).
- We reserve the right to edit letters.
- Submit via email to editor@fluvannareview.com or mail to *Fluvanna Review*, P.O. Box 59, Palmyra, VA 22963

You will get an email confirmation that your letter has been received. If you don't, contact the editor directly.

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We strive for accuracy. The policy of this newspaper is to promptly correct errors of fact brought to our attention. We encourage readers to notify us of errors or the need for clarification in any of our content. Please email the editor at editor@fluvannareview.com.

Deadline: Advertising due by Wednesday at 5 p.m. for the issue released eight days later. Submissions, letters and calendar items due by Friday at 9 a.m. for the subsequent paper.

Display and web ads: For information including rates and deadlines, call Judi Price at 434-207-0223.

Cover: Richard Glen Spradlin and Kevin Michael Moore are charged with murder. Photos courtesy of the Albemarle County Police Department
Cover designed by Jane Skafte



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Photo of the week:

Submit your best Fluvanna photo to editor@fluvannareview.com.



A spider spins a web in Lake Monticello. Photo by Mary Pergolizzi

UNDER CONTRACT
IN 9 DAYS

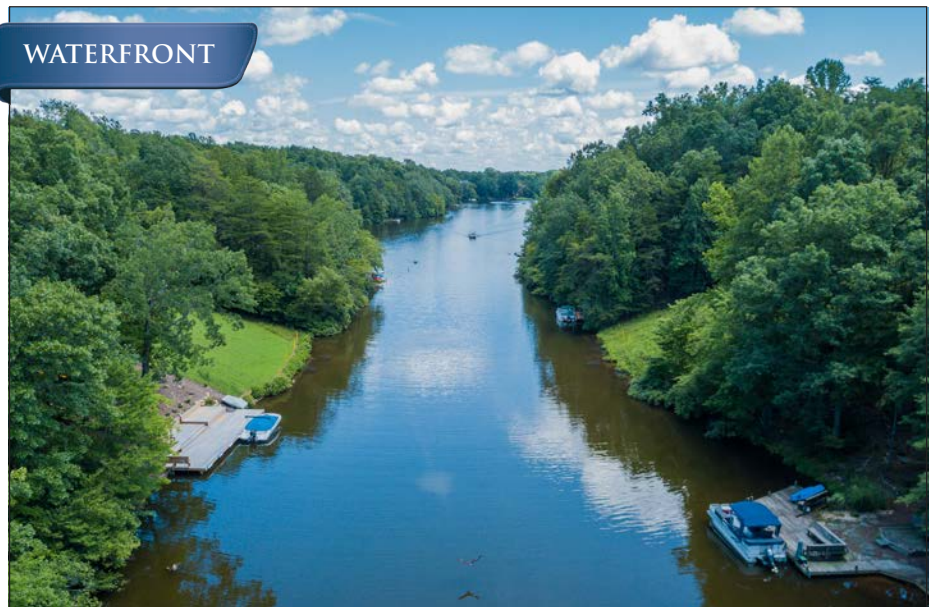


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528 BUCK BRANCH DRIVE

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UNDER CONTRACT



15 MOSSY CREEK COURT

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IN 6 DAYS



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WATERFRONT



21 OLD HOMESTEAD CIRCLE

4 BEDS. 2.5 BATHS. 2711 FINSQFT.

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THE MARKET IS CHANGING... SO ARE WE!

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UNDER CONTRACT



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2186 SF, 3 BR, 3 BA, GARAGE 114-FT OF WATERFRONTAGE

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14 years later

Two men arrested for murder of Fluvanna man

BY CARLOS SANTOS, CORRESPONDENT



Left: Jesse Morgan Hicks, Jr., File photo
Center: Richard Glen Spradlin Right: Kevin Michael Moore.
Photos courtesy of Albemarle County Police Department

Authorities aren't saying what led to the arrest of two Albemarle County men charged in connection with the murder of Jesse Morgan Hicks Jr. Hicks disappeared from Fluvanna County a little over 14 years ago.

Albemarle County Police arrested 56-year-old Richard Glen Spradlin and his son, 34-year-old Kevin Michael Moore, on Oct. 11. Each has been charged with one felony count of first-degree murder, one felony count of conspiracy to commit murder, and one felony count of using a firearm in commission of a felony

in connection with Hicks' death.

Fluvanna County Sheriff's Capt. David Wells declined to comment on the case, saying, "we'll defer to the Albemarle County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office as they are the media point of contact." Albemarle County Commonwealth's Attorney Robert Tracci

said he wouldn't comment because the cases are pending. Nancy Hicks, Jesse Hicks' wife, could not immediately be reached for comment.

Authorities have released little information about the case, refusing to disclose the exact location where Hicks' body was found or the cause of death. Search warrants issued in the case have been sealed by an Albemarle County judge.

Jesse Hicks was reported missing to the Fluvanna County Sheriff's Office on Sept. 1, 2004 and he was declared legally dead in January of 2012. His remains were discovered near Keene in southern Albemarle County on May 7, 2014. He was 47 when he disappeared.

Jesse Hicks disappearance is one of Fluvanna County's oldest, cold murder cases. In an interview with the Fluvanna Review in 2010, Nancy Hicks said she last saw her husband – a truck driver – at their home. He was on his way to cut hay on their farm. She went to work. "I left home and I never saw him again," she said.

On the day he vanished, witnesses saw Hicks driving his 2004 maroon Ford F-150 truck around 12:30 p.m. in the Blenheim area of southern Albemarle County. He was last heard from when he called a friend on his cell phone around 1:50 p.m. on that same day. A few days after he vanished, his truck was found abandoned in a parking area off Rt. 29 near the intersection with Rt. 6 in Nelson County. There was no sign of a struggle in the truck and no sign of Hicks.

Spradlin and Moore, who were indicted by a multi-jurisdictional grand jury, are being held without bond at the Albemarle County Regional Jail.

Albemarle authorities are asking anyone with information about the case to contact Detective Phil Giles directly at 434-972-4047.



CONSIDERING A MOVE IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

If so, you've probably got a lot of questions.

- How's the market in Fluvanna?
- Where does my home fit into the bigger picture?
- With low inventory, will we need to make improvements to our home before we sell?

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Fluvanna schools fully accredited

Committee will examine reducing testing

BY RUTHANN CARR
CORRESPONDENT

For the fifth year in a row, Fluvanna County Public Schools are fully accredited.

That was just one piece of news delivered to the School Board at its meeting Wednesday (Oct. 10).

The Board voted to approve hiring a coordinator of federal and instructional programs who would take over many of the duties of Jill Dahl, who left her position as director of elementary instruction and federal programs to take a new job in Charlottesville.

By downgrading that position from director to coordinator, it makes room in the budget to add an administrative assistant position to help with finance and instructional needs, said Superintendent Chuck Winkler.

The Board will also do a self-evaluation and hand it in by the end of October. They will discuss the results in open session at the November meeting.

Andrew Pullen (Columbia) asked Winkler to collaborate with County Administrator Steve Nichols on purchasing. "It's time we started working together with the county," Pullen said.

Winkler said he and Nichols will look into economies of scale with combining some school and county purchases at their next meeting.

Director of Instruction and Finance Brenda Gilliam reported closing out the 2018 budget with a \$1.5 million surplus.

A half million that can legally be moved onto the 2019 budget will be and close to a half million will be given back to the county. The rest is money that can't be used in any other way than what it's earmarked for, she said.

Gilliam said in the current budget one month's payroll is about \$2.6 million.

The governor has proposed a 3 percent raise for Standards of Quality positions only, Gilliam said.

"We are grateful for the 3 percent but it's based on outdated salary guidelines and there are no plans to adjust those salary calculations," Gilliam said.

She anticipated getting about \$1 million to cover the raises, but it will cost localities \$375,937.

The Board approved setting up a textbook adoption committee for high school social studies textbooks.

Board Chair Perrie Johnson (Fork Union) began the discussion on testing with the following statement:

"One of the reasons I was elected to the School Board was to share my perspective as a classroom teacher. My motivation for pursuing a policy of less testing is my own experience, along with feedback from teachers, parents, and students, particularly in grades K-3. I ask the Board to consider if our testing program has reached the point of diminishing returns, especially regarding our youngest students. I believe, in its current form, the negatives expressed by some students and staff, outweigh the benefits. I also believe the loss of instructional time associated with our level of testing is significant.

Besides reducing stress on our students and increasing instructional time, I think less testing would improve the staff survey results that over the last three years, the single biggest item in decline has been the visibility of building administrators among students and staff. I greatly respect the job our administrators do, and attribute the survey results partly to demands on their time required by test reporting and test data meetings.

I understand the reasoning of our administrators for requiring each test, but I also wondered what teachers, who give the tests and use the results, had to say. I talked to many, concentrating on classroom teachers, thinking theirs was the more typical experience with testing. I spoke to over half of the classroom teachers in kindergarten through third grade, and all but two, at this primary level, said we test too much. They had specific recommendations of what to stop and what to keep, but their main message was don't replace any testing, truly reduce it. Almost every teacher I spoke to suggested we stop giving the Measures of Academic Achievement test (MAP) and use data already available by other means to determine student growth, similar to what we do in grades 8-12.

The VSBA recently shared information that starting with this year's freshman class at the high school, new state standards allow students to take fewer SOL tests to obtain their diploma. In fact, advanced

diplomas will require only five SOL tests, down from the current standard of nine.

I'd like to see Fluvanna follow the state's example, and require significantly less testing, soliciting the professional opinion of teachers as we make the transition."

Shirley Stewart (Rivanna) said fourth grade teachers wrote a letter to the board supporting testing but cutting back on the MAP test to once per year. MAP tests measure students' growth and performance.

Brenda Pace (Palmyra) said some teachers feel a need for tests.

Pullen said he wanted to get a committee of teachers together to get their input. "I'd like to see us set the standard for others," he said.

Winkler agreed and said he would get a committee together to "pursue a policy of less testing."

THIRD THURSDAY

at The Lodge at Old Trail

NOVEMBER

15

Doors open at 5:30 pm.
Program begins at 5:45 pm.



See the World Through the Eye of a Photographer

This month the Lodge welcomes six photographers from the Charlottesville Camera Club, who will be presenting their unique visions of the world, captured beautifully with their cameras. All of the photographers are long time members of the Club and will be sharing the stories

behind their photos. In addition, twenty photographs from other members of the Club will be on display.

Be sure and join us for this captivating display of art. It will forever change the way you look at photography. Make your plans and reservations today. Seating is limited.

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Spectrum Fitness launches new gym program

BY HEATHER MICHON
CORRESPONDENT



of equipment or overdoing it, and either end up dropping out or having to visit a physical therapist to recover.

Russell said the goal is to have the physical therapy staff and the personal trainer staff work seamlessly and “go above and beyond to make exercise enjoyable and safe.”

Carly Bach, clinic director of Spectrum Physical Therapy, said that staff and patients are very happy in their new airy new treatment room and excited by the potential of the fitness center.

Spectrum is part of the Ivy Rehab Network, and out of over 100 Ivy partners nationwide, Bach said she knows of only one other than also offers a gym.

It’s added some challenge to setting up such a novel service. “There’s no checklist. There’s no book for what we’re doing. We’re writing the book,” she said.

Workout machines are lined up and ready and the finishing touches are being put on the Coffee and Hydration Station, where people can sit and have a drink or a chat. A classroom will be up and running early next year.

Spectrum Fitness Center will offer two main membership packages: a \$29 per month basic and a \$39 per month medical membership.

Both membership tiers include 24/7 access to the workout facility and saunas, but the medical membership includes semiannual body metrics screening, including health and fitness assessment and goal tracking with the physical therapy staff, and coordination of care with your primary care providers.

Members will have access to on-site personal trainers on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (on Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon), and the physical therapy staff will be ready to give advice as issues arise.

Family members can join for \$10 a month extra on either membership level.

Russell added that these are month-to-month memberships with no contract: “If you need to leave for three months to travel, for example, you don’t have to worry about suspending your account. You can just pick up when you come back.”

The grand opening is set for Oct. 27, but for those too curious to wait, the building will be open for visitors starting around Oct. 15.

For more information, visit <http://www.IvyRehab.com/SpectrumFitness>.

they thought it might be good to have some room to stretch out a bit.

But they soon developed a more

expansive vision for the building. Why not offer physical therapy and a gym?

“Their thinking was that it’s a natural progression. When you end physical therapy, they usually tell you to go work

out,” said Teri Russell. “Nobody does.”

Russell, an experienced personal trainer, is fitness manager of the new facility. She believes a big part of the reason physical therapy patients fail to follow the recommendation to exercise is that they aren’t sure how to it.

At the same time, many people join a gym only to find themselves equally at a loss in setting up a program, or worse, injure themselves through improper use

Change is good.

When Health Nutz closed at Crofton Plaza earlier this year, their neighbors at Spectrum Physical Therapy took notice. After over 20 years in the same space,



SENIORS

and Those Concerned about Seniors
Come to the Fluvanna County TRIAD Senior Day

at Saints Peter and Paul Church
October 24, 2018, 10 am – 2 pm

<p>No admission fee Box lunch provided Treasury Dept.'s Unclaimed Property Refunds Hearing Tests Flu Shots CarFit - 2 lanes Vendors with services for seniors</p>	<p>Breakouts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Yoga 2 sessions • Decluttering For your health • JABA - Medicare 2 sessions • GrandDriver
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Art association meeting

The next meeting of the Fluvanna Art Association will be **Oct. 19** from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Fluvanna Library. Susan Rosen will demonstrate different techniques and materials she uses to create the collage papers that are incorporated into her mixed media paintings. FAA members free; non-members \$10. Contact bevbowman23@gmail.com with questions.

Octoberfest

Wesley's Chapel UMC in Scottsville is hosting Octoberfest Saturday, **Oct. 20** from 4-7 p.m. Silent auction, bake sale, face painting, live music: Tim and Wendy Cline. Event is free and all are welcome. Food trucks: Polish sausage, hot dogs, sides/drinks are free. Accepting canned goods for local church pantries. All proceeds donated to the Scottsville VFW.

Community dinner

Scottsville United Methodist Church will host a free community dinner Saturday, **Oct. 27** in the church's fellowship hall. Dinner will be served from 5-6 p.m. with a menu that will include baked ziti, salad, garlic bread and desserts. A sing-along gospel jam will follow, featuring old-time hymns and contemporary praise songs. More information at 434-286-4736.

Quilt show

The women of Scottsville Presbyterian Church will host a quilt show at the church **Oct. 27** from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Admission is free but donations are appreciated. Around 50 quilts, both antique and new, will be on display. Some quilts and other hand-crafted items will be available for sale. Cash or check only. For further information, contact Cathey Reelee at 434-286-2054.

Fall festival

Byrd Chapel United Methodist Church in Kents Store will have a Fun Fall Festival Sunday, **Oct. 28** at 3 p.m. There will be a chili cook off, hotdogs, a hayride, and fun and games with prizes. For further information call 434-589-2142.

Driver improvement clinic

Fork Union Driving Academy will offer a driver improvement clinic at the Kents Store Fire Station **Oct. 28** at 8 a.m. Call 434-842-1717 or visit Fork Union Driving Academy's Facebook page to register. Seating is limited. Court directed, DMV directed, voluntary, or possible insurance discount – check with your insurance first.

Fall festival and trunk-or-treat

Beulah Baptist Church in Kents Store will hold its annual Fall Festival and Trunk-or-Treat **Oct. 31** from 5-7 p.m. Everything is free. Inflatable bounce houses, sno-cones, popcorn, trunks full of candy, and other food and games. Join in an evening of good food and fun. Call 434-589-2245 for more information.

Youth Sunday

Byrd Chapel United Methodist Church will celebrate Youth Sunday **Nov. 4** at the 11 a.m. service. The youth will lead the worship service and the Rev. Gary Ziegler will be the guest speaker. All are welcome. Call 434-589-2142 with questions.

Lake Monticello Fire & Rescue

Every Thursday!
Doors Open at 5:30 p.m.
Early Bird 6:45 p.m.

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80 or more players to pay \$1000 pot.

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Vote for Denver Riggleman

I support Denver Riggleman for Congress! I admire his military service, business achievements and commitment to America. I've listened to his ideas and found them to be thoughtful, logical and practical. His time in the military was honorable and unique (coming up through the ranks from enlisted man to

officer), achieving a college degree and then being assigned to a critical element of the Defense Department. He is a successful businessman focused on getting things done in business and will take that initiative to Congress. He is a bright and independent thinker, yet a practical conservative that is the kind of leader we need in Congress. Denver has a plan for the future, protect our borders, create jobs and support the president's goals. I encourage you to vote for Denver Riggleman for Congress and keep our government on its winning streak for Americans.

Bing Spitler
Lake Monticello

SALE DATES: OCTOBER 16, 17, 18, 19, 20



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- Washington Bartlett Pears \$1.49 lb.
- Red or Green Seedless Grapes \$1.99 lb.



- Boars Head Everoast Chicken .. \$7.99 lb.
- Kites Country Ham..... \$10.99 lb.
- Land O Lakes Swiss Cheese .. \$4.99 lb.
- Homemade Pasta Salad \$4.49 lb.
- La Brea Ciabatta Bread \$2.49
- Superior Mini Eclairs 9.75 oz. \$2.49

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- Boneless Beef Flank Steaks \$8.29 lb.
 - Boeotia Round Steaks \$3.99 lb.
 - Bottom Round Rump Roasts \$3.79 lb.
 - Bottom Round Roasts \$3.69 lb.
 - Fresh Pork Tenderloins Twin pack .. \$2.99 lb.
 - Tyson Valu Pack Boneless Chicken Breasts \$1.99 lb.

LUNCH & FROZEN

- Gwaltney Bacon 1 lb. \$3.99
- BarS Meat Hot Dogs 1 lb. \$1.29
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Riggleman visits fire and rescue squad

BY RUTHANN CARR, CORRESPONDENT

As Hurricane Michael brought winds and torrential rain to Fluvanna Thursday (Oct. 11), 5th District Republican candidate Denver Riggleman stopped to visit Lake Monticello Volunteer Fire and Rescue.

The candidate, whose father lived in Lake Monticello and Palmyra, talked with Fire Chief Richie Constantino and a few other volunteers.

Riggleman and his wife, Christine, own a distillery in Nelson County, so much of the initial talk was the men asking to visit the business and taste the product.

But it soon settled into a discussion of running an all-volunteer fire and rescue squad.

Constantino went right to the heart of the problem. "The biggest thing is money...the tax base doesn't cover the whole budget," the chief said.

Riggleman said he's amazed at how such departments survive.

"It stuns me how they're able to afford millions of dollars of equipment and what they have to do to keep it," he said.

Len Bozza listened as he tried to decide whether to cancel the Thursday night bingo game that funds the squad.

Bozza did cancel because of the rain.

Constantino appreciates the financial support from the community and said

the department couldn't operate without it.

The chief is from Westchester County, N.Y., and ran a well-funded fire department there. "There is a stark difference between here and Westchester County," he said.

Constantino told Riggleman about selling their old fire truck. A volunteer squad from Greenwood, W.V., came to look at it.

"They were interested but the guy said, 'I have to sell my tractor to buy it,'" Constantino said. "Do you believe that? He couldn't buy it until he sold his own tractor. Needless to say we did the right thing."

That kindness sparked a friendship between the two departments. Not too long after, Constantino and his squad went through their equipment and hauled everything they weren't using over to Greenwood.

"I came back here with a new appreciation for what we have here," he said.

Constantino plopped onto the table in front of Riggleman a three-inch thick book of Standard Operating Guidelines fire departments must keep updated and follow. If they don't, they run the risk of lawsuits, Constantino said.

"That makes me angry," Riggleman said. "If you don't follow the standard operating procedure you don't get covered?"

One of the volunteers asked Riggleman how he differs from his Democratic opponent Leslie Cockburn.

Riggleman rattled off a list of what his opponent believes in:

- Repeal the tax cuts;
- Open borders;
- Single-payer health system;
- Free community college; and
- Pro-choice.

"She's just an interesting person," Riggleman said. "You know her daughter is Olivia Wilde, an actress. I'm an independent conservative who wants to err on the side of liberty and she's someone who wants to err on the side of the government taking over your life."



Denver Riggleman (center) visits Lake Monticello Volunteer Fire and Rescue. Photo by Ruthann Carr

The election is Nov. 6.

They talked about farmers and their reliance on the H-2A workers. An H-2A visa allows a foreign national to come to the United States for temporary or seasonal agricultural work.

The consensus around the table was it would be better for the Agriculture Department to run the program rather than the Department of Labor.

Riggleman listened.

Andrew Pullen, chief of the Kents Store Volunteer Fire Department and Columbia representative on the School Board, accompanied Riggleman on his visit to Fluvanna.

The group went on a tour of the department.

They came to the workout room, which is dedicated to Dakota Rigsby, the LMVFD volunteer who served in the U.S. Navy and was killed on the USS Fitzgerald.

Pullen and Constantino told the candidate about that day in June 2017 when they found out he was missing in the wreckage off the coast of Japan.

Dakota's mother, who also volunteers with the department, wanted to go to Japan, Constantino said. Between Constantino, Pullen, Congressman Tom Garrett and aides to President Donald Trump, they got Nikki Rigsby a passport. But when the Navy announced her son was found dead, she didn't go, Pullen said.

"A lot of time people think you'll never need your congressman, but when something like that happens, you do," Pullen said.

Riggleman answered questions from the *Fluvanna Review*. Answering how he is different from the stereotype of the middle-aged white man in power, he said there wasn't anything he could do to change that fact.

"I think it's interesting when people who are so interested in getting rid of stereotypes believe things about me," he said. "Just because I'm a 48-year-old white guy doesn't mean a hill of beans. People need to know what I am, what I believe in and how I act."

Following up on his comment during the Piedmont Virginia Community College debate about needing to educate women to cut down on incidences of rape, he said what men can do to minimize rape.

"We need to make sure every single person who says they've been assaulted is believed," Riggleman said, choking up. "It's very emotional for me. I have three daughters. But we also have to follow the rule of law and constitutional rights. We need to make sure the criminal is punished for these types of crimes - that laws are enforced with utmost prejudice."

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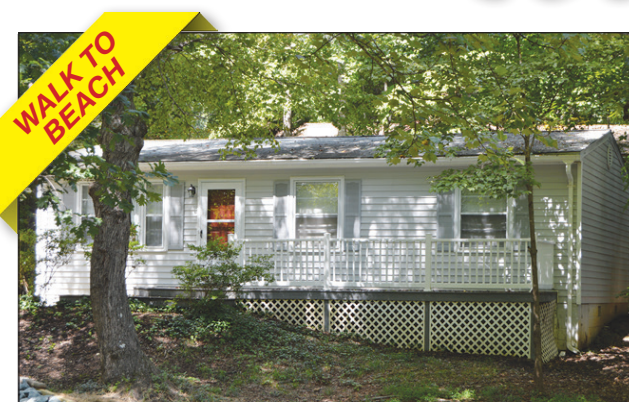
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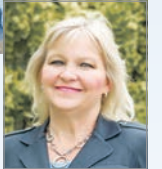


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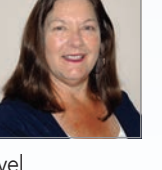


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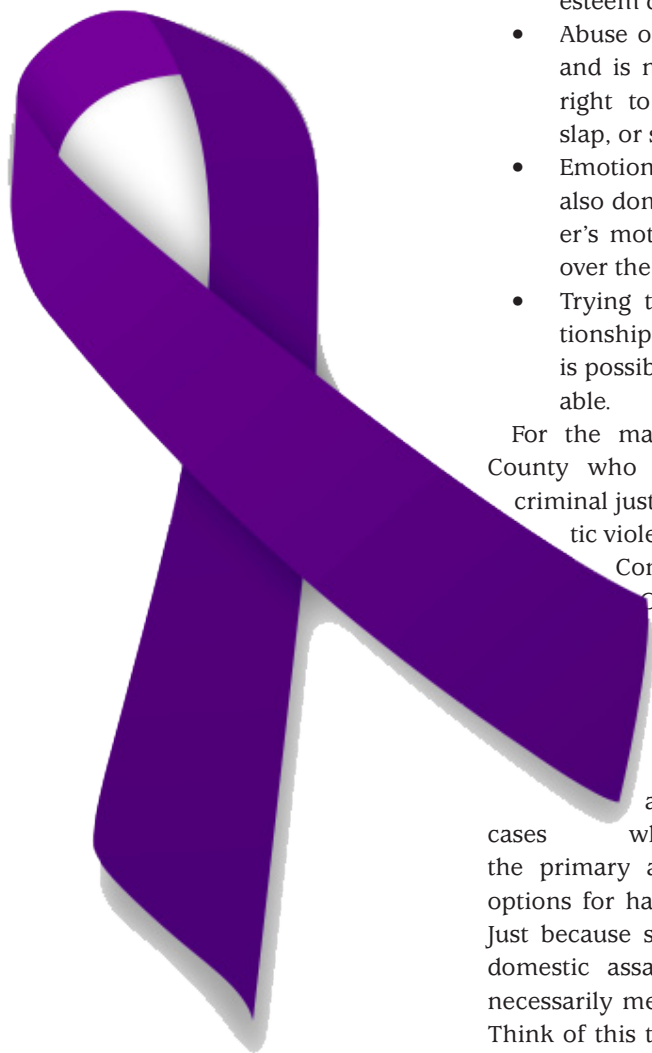


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What I want Fluvanna to know about domestic violence

SUBMITTED BY SHERRI STADER
DIRECTOR OF THE VICTIM/WITNESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF
THE FLUVANNA COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



reasons they stay include finances, religious beliefs, and low self-esteem due to the abuse.

- Abuse of a partner is not normal and is not okay. No one has the right to hit, choke, push, kick, slap, or spit on anyone.
- Emotional and verbal abuse is also domestic violence. The abuser's motive is power and control over the victim.
- Trying to leave an abusive relationship can be difficult – but it is possible and there is help available.

For the many victims in Fluvanna County who find themselves in the criminal justice system due to domestic violence, please know that the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office is here to help, not to make things worse for your family.

Other things you should know: By law, the police must make an arrest in domestic violence cases when they can determine the primary aggressor, and there are options for handling the case in court. Just because someone is charged with domestic assault and battery doesn't necessarily mean they are going to jail. Think of this time as an opportunity to hopefully make your situation better by addressing the issue. Perhaps your partner can finally get some help with substance abuse, mental health, and/or anger issues. Your interaction with the system doesn't have to be a negative one.

To those who are charged with domestic assault and battery, this is not your partner's fault. Again, the police have to make an arrest and the victim does not have the ability to simply drop the charge. That is up to the prosecutor's office. Please do not blame your partner for your actions or the consequences.

If you are in a relationship where you are living in constant fear, you are put down, threatened, physically, emotionally or verbally abused, then you are suffering domestic violence and it is not normal. You do not deserve to be treated that way. Please reach out for help by calling the Fluvanna Victim/Witness Program at 434-591-1985, the Shelter for Help in Emergency (SHE) at 434-293-8509, or your local law enforcement agency.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time dedicated to remembering victims whose lives ended too soon as the result of domestic violence, offering safety and support for those currently in abusive relationships, and celebrating survivors who are now free from their abusers.

As the victim advocate for Fluvanna County, I work with victims every day. When thinking about this month specifically, I asked myself: What do I want the community to know about domestic violence? Here are a few thoughts:

- Domestic violence affects people of all races, genders, religions and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Children are absolutely impacted negatively by witnessing abuse in the home.
- Victims stay with their abusers for many reasons – such as fear that the abuser will hurt or kill them, will hurt or kill the children, will hurt or kill pets, or will take the children away from them. Other

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Homecoming festivities fall into place

BY BLAKE BERRY, FLUCO BEAT EDITOR



Upper left: Homecoming dance. Photo by Blake Berry.

Homecoming king and queen, Taileek Ashton and Kyra Shelley. Flucos win against Powhatan.

Photos by Fluvanna Sports Photography

Homecoming week is always an eventful experience for students and staff at FCHS. Spirit Week, the Pep Rally, and the Homecoming game and dance are some of the most anticipated festivities of the fall season.

However, a strange confluence of holidays and Mother Nature conspired to make this Homecoming week one of ups and downs.

While Monday, Oct. 8, was Columbus Day and gave students a welcomed four-day weekend, it meant that Spirit Week, known for themed dress-up days and a rowdy pep rally, was shorter than usual.

Tuesday, Oct. 9, was "Tie-Dye Tuesday," as well as what turned out to be the only normal school day of the week, with no interruptions to the regular schedule. "Way Back Wednesday" was a school-wide testing day, with underclassmen taking the PSAT and seniors taking the SAT.

When "Patriotic Thursday" dawned, however, Hurricane Michael began making its way to Fluvanna. Tornado and flash flood watches and warnings caused the county to end the school day early for the safety of students and staff.

Thanks to flooding from several inches of rain, schools closed on Friday, effectively putting an end to "Fluco Friday," a much-anticipated pep rally, and the annual parade (for which a dozen or more clubs had been preparing for weeks). The Homecoming game was pushed back to noon on Saturday the 12th, the same day as the Homecoming dance. A scheduling conflict meant that the school band would not be able to play at the half-time show.

Despite the disappointment of canceled events, however, the Flucos were able to take pride in their decisive victory against Powhatan, beating them 16-7. This continues the Fluco's winning streak, bringing the team to a 6-1 record, their best in years.

Mid-way through the game, the Homecoming court was announced, with seniors Taileek Ashton and Kyra Shelley winning the King and Queen spots respectively on the Homecoming Court.

Topping off the week with beautiful weather, the Homecoming dance was held. The event was managed by teacher David Small and his Student Government Association (SGA) students, who spent weeks planning a fall-themed dance, complete with Fluvanna graduate Von Hill as the DJ. While some might think the dance has a single purpose-- to provide a fun night for students-- Small said it had other benefits.

"Some of the money we raised, [about] \$700, goes to Adopt A Family," said Small. "The rest goes to pay for class expenses for SGA, and for our pre-spring break event, Hands On Fluvanna."

So even though Hurricane Michael did its best to put a rain on the parade (literally), fun still prevailed. Hundreds of happy and unforgettable memories were made this Homecoming, just as many more are to come in the next.

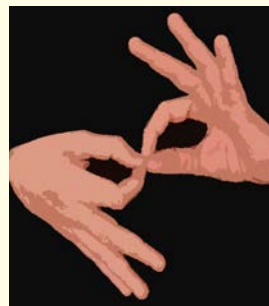
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Sanctuary worker discusses wildlife rehab

BY PAGE H. GIFFORD
 CORRESPONDENT



Kat Werner and Autumn the corn snake.
 Photo by Page Gifford

Kat Werner, from the Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary in Nelson County, visited Lake Monticello Sept. 29 with her friends: a screech owl, box turtle and a corn snake. She spoke to an audience of 75, most of them inquisitive and wide-eyed children learning about wildlife and what the sanctuary does.

Werner discussed when you should help wildlife or let nature take its course.

"In an area highly populated with wildlife it is good to know when an animal needs help," she said. "When it is injured, contact the Wildlife Center of Virginia in Waynesboro. They are

equipped and staffed to deal with injuries and medical care; we are not. If an animal is orphaned then we take care of it, rehabilitate it and release back into the wild." She added that they do not take domestic animals.

Werner began her discussion by stating that keeping wildlife as pets is not a good idea, as it makes them non-releasable into the natural environment. She told the story of a call they received from a conservation police officer about a hoarding incident in a home where they found Rosie the black vulture, who had been raised as a pet since babyhood.

"Her primary feathers had been cut, making flying impossible," she said. "This is traumatic for a high-flying scavenger who has become accustomed to humans." She then produced the box turtle for viewing. "Box turtles' population is declining because of either habitat destruction or getting hit by cars."

If you find a turtle, she said, let it go in whatever direction it is

headed. Do not turn them around but get them to a safer area to continue their journey. If they are headed across a road, put them on the other side in the direction they were headed and she stressed never to remove them from their natural habitat.

Children asked many questions. One was about how long they lived.

"They can live up to 100 years," Werner said. She explained that turtles close inside their shells to ward off predators. They hibernate and since the weather has not been typical, animals may come out of hibernation earlier than usual. "They love to burrow into the leaves. If you see any box turtle eggs, cover them with chicken wire to protect them until they hatch at the end of August through

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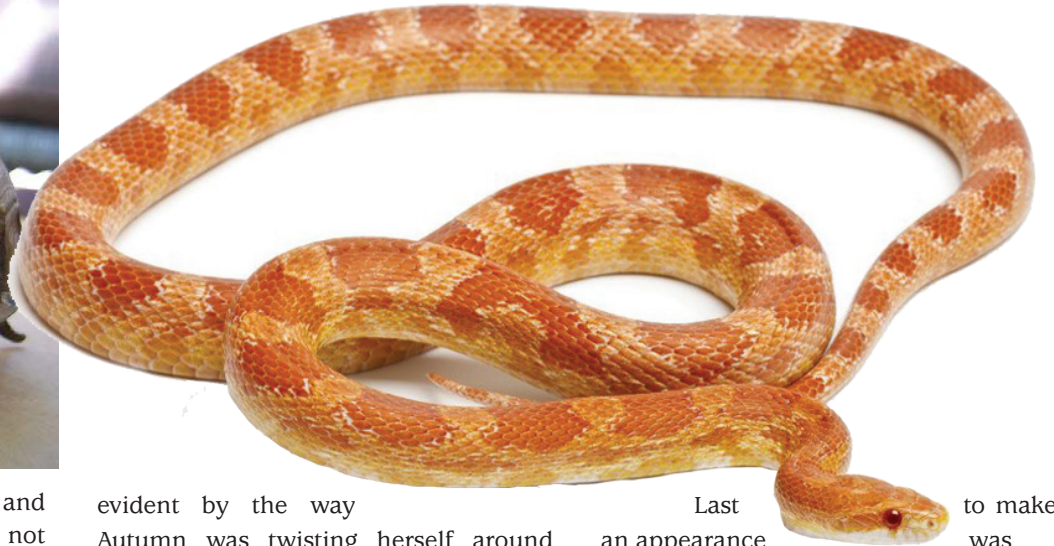
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Photos of box turtle, corn snake and screech owl.
Source: Wikipedia



laws on trapping and non-trapping, and not feeding the wildlife; it is against the law. She also suggested using more natural deterrents and fewer insecticides.

The sanctuary is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you encounter a possible orphan after hours, visit the website.

"It must be determined first if it is orphaned and efforts should always be made to reunite it with its mother," Werner said. "Check for any signs of injury. It could be weak or shivering." She described methods of keeping babies or other wildlife warm: a sock filled with uncooked rice warmed in the microwave, a heating pad on low, or a hot water bottle beneath a container.

September."

She said most of the day at the sanctuary is spent feeding the animals. Most are fed by a syringe, except rabbits and possums who also have a tube to the stomach. Rabbits become highly stressed with too much handling and possums have a specific nipple in the pouch when fed by their mothers. They feed birds every 15 minutes and never feed baby birds; they require special formulas.

Skunks will warn anyone that comes near them with a stomping and scratching behavior prior to spraying. The babies will actually follow humans around if separated from their mothers.

Sanctuary workers replicate the animals' natural environments, encouraging them to climb, fly and swim. Eventually after rehab they are released into the wild. Werner added that we can help in several ways to maintain and protect the natural environment by picking up litter, keeping cats inside, checking

other babies," she said. If a nest cannot be found, she added, then improvise and use small plastic containers like a flower pot, berry box or butter tub, but add holes to it. Hang it on the tree in the location where the bird was found and the mother will find it. The mother bird listens for the babies so wait two hours. For baby squirrels the method is the same, but wait six to eight hours for the parent's return. Birds will sometimes use the makeshift nests; squirrels will remove the young and return them to the original nest.

"If you see a fledgling hopping around, that is normal: mama is nearby. This is how they learn," she said.

Werner then brought Autumn the corn snake around to visit. The snake was named Autumn, no doubt, for her beautiful fall colors. Corn snakes are non-venomous constrictors, which was

evident by the way Autumn was twisting herself around Werner's arm as she spoke.

"Corn snakes like to climb trees to hunt and hide," she said. "They are good snakes, keep away venomous snakes, and were favored by farmers to keep other critters out of corn cribs, hence their name. They eat mice and other small rodents and will eat two mice a week. They have a slow digestive system and get their water from the food they eat."

Last appearance was Alphonse, the one-eyed screech owl, the smallest of the owls. Alphonse sat quietly on his perch, watching the audience from his cage as Werner explained they offer tours to 10 people or fewer for anyone interested in learning more and seeing firsthand the work they do at the sanctuary.

To learn more about Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary visit <https://www.rockfish-wildlifesanctuary.org/>.

What You Should Know about the Proposed Fluvanna County Meals Tax

Fast Facts

- ✓ Most surrounding localities have already had a meals tax for years. If you eat in the towns of Louisa, Mineral, Gordonsville, or Scottsville, the cities of Charlottesville and Richmond, or the counties of Albemarle, Greene, Louisa, Orange, Madison, Nelson, Spotsylvania, or many other localities in Virginia, you are already paying a meals tax.
- ✓ Non-resident visitors and travelers in Fluvanna County do not pay a meals tax when they eat in our restaurants.
- ✓ A 4% Meals Tax in Fluvanna will generate an estimated \$300,000 to \$600,000 annually in new revenue.
- ✓ The new revenue will help support capital improvements for our schools and our sheriff, fire, and rescue operations.
- ✓ How much will a 4% Meals Tax cost when visiting a local restaurant?
 - Would add \$0.40 to a \$10 bill
 - Would add \$1.00 to a \$25 bill
 - Would add \$2.00 to a \$50 bill

More Details

- The Meals Tax referendum will be on the November 6, 2018, election ballot. If approved by the voters, the meals tax that would become effective July 1, 2019.
- Fluvanna County has an opportunity to diversify its revenues, and this new revenue source will assist in providing additional funds to handle the increasing demands facing our community.



For more information and FAQs:
 Online: www.FluvannaCounty.org
 County Administration: (434) 591-1910



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ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. JJ004386-07-00
Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FLUVANNA COMBINED COURT: Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Fuvanna DSS v. Velvia Inman and Unknown Father of K.M.I

The object of this suit is to: TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MOTHER OF K.M.I., INCLUDING HER RIGHT TO VISITATION, RIGHT TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, RESPONSIBILITY TO SUPPORT SAID CHILD AND ALL OTHER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES REMAINING WITH HER, AS PROVIDED BY SECTION 16.1-283 OF THE 1950 CODE OF VIRGINIA AS AMENDED. BASED ON AN AFFIDAVIT FILED HEREIN, THE COURT FINDS SUFFICIENT CAUSE FOR SERVING PROCESS BY ORDER OF PUBLICATION AGAINST THE BIOLOGICAL MOTHER OF K.M.I, WHOSE ACTUAL WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN.

It is ORDERED that MOTHER OF K.M.I. appear at the above- named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 11/05/2018 2:30 PM

09/20/2018
Date

K. Warner
Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. JJ004386-06-00
Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FLUVANNA COMBINED COURT: Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Fuvanna DSS v. Velvia Inman and Unknown Father of K.M.I

The object of this suit is to: TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FATHER OF K.M.I., INCLUDING HIS RIGHT TO VISITATION, RIGHT TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, RESPONSIBILITY TO SUPPORT SAID CHILD AND ALL OTHER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES REMAINING WITH HIM, AS PROVIDED BY SECTION 16.1-283 OF THE 1950 CODE OF VIRGINIA AS AMENDED. BASED ON AN AFFIDAVIT FILED HEREIN, THE COURT FINDS SUFFICIENT CAUSE FOR SERVING PROCESS BY ORDER OF PUBLICATION AGAINST THE BIOLOGICAL FATHER OF K.M.I, WHOSE ACTUAL WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN.

It is ORDERED that FATHER OF K.M.I. appear at the above- named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 11/05/2018 2:30 PM

09/20/2018
Date

K. Warner
Clerk

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FLUVANNA COMBINED COURT: Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Fuvanna DSS v. Velvia Inman and Unknown Father of K.L.I

The object of this suit is to: TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MOTHER OF K.L.I., INCLUDING HER RIGHT TO VISITATION, RIGHT TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, RESPONSIBILITY TO SUPPORT SAID CHILD AND ALL OTHER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES REMAINING WITH HER, AS PROVIDED BY SECTION 16.1-283 OF THE 1950 CODE OF VIRGINIA AS AMENDED. BASED ON AN AFFIDAVIT FILED HEREIN, THE COURT FINDS SUFFICIENT CAUSE FOR SERVING PROCESS BY ORDER OF PUBLICATION AGAINST THE BIOLOGICAL MOTHER OF K.L.I, WHOSE ACTUAL WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN.

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SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Medium

7			6	4				5
							4	2
3				2				6
5	8				3			
		4			1			
	2			8	5		6	4
2								
						7		8
	6	9		3				

HOW TO SOLVE:

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:

2	7	6	8	3	9	5	1	4
9	1	3	5	4	2	7	8	6
4	5	8	6	1	7	3	9	2
6	4	2	7	8	5	9	3	1
1	8	7	2	9	3	4	6	5
5	3	9	1	6	4	8	2	7
3	9	5	4	2	6	1	7	8
8	2	4	9	7	1	6	5	3
7	6	1	3	5	8	2	4	9

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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Grimm beast
- 5 Turkish bigwig
- 10 Cass of 60's music
- 14 Show some muscle
- 15 Acquired relative
- 16 Methane's lack
- 17 Solidarity symbol
- 18 Overcharge
- 19 Lizard look-alike
- 20 "The Silence of the Lambs" surname
- 22 Notary's mark
- 24 Bakery buy
- 25 Russian horseman
- 28 Beat-heat link
- 29 TB, in olden days
- 32 Kitchen set
- 33 Taro root
- 34 Cleanser brand
- 37 1942 flick "My ___ Sal"
- 38 October handout
- 39 Milky gem
- 40 St. Louis Arch, e.g.
- 42 Itinerant
- 44 Matterhorn, e.g.
- 47 Trap
- 48 Cheerless
- 50 Rosemary, for one
- 51 Writer's bottom line?
- 53 Turkish title
- 55 Burning bright
- 57 Rainless
- 58 Frost, e.g.
- 59 First-aid kit staple
- 60 "You ___?"
- 61 Voicemail prompt
- 62 Glowing remnant
- 63 Arctic ice mass

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21					22	23				
24								25					26	27
28				29		30	31							
34	35	36				37				38				
39					40					41				
42				43							44	45	46	
47								48			49			
53	54				55	56					57			
58					59						60			
61					62						63			

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- 4 Background actor
- 5 Blast furnace output
- 6 Briefly unknown?
- 7 Garden pest
- 8 Frightful old woman
- 9 More than cool
- 10 Religious residence
- 11 Capital of South Australia
- 12 Do some yard work
- 13 Frida's forte
- 21 Authorized
- 23 Psychic ability
- 25 Serving of veal
- 26 End piece
- 27 Maritime speed
- 30 Make invalid
- 31 Cabinet department
- 32 Show by drawing
- 34 Deal with
- 35 Dentist's order
- 36 Rail family water bird
- 38 Like some agreements
- 40 Dumpster filler
- 41 Andy Taylor was one
- 43 Scorecard number
- 44 Ethically neutral
- 45 Ricky Martin, notably
- 46 Promise to PBS
- 49 Eat greedily (with "down")
- 51 Bungle
- 52 Flow slowly
- 53 Likely
- 54 Sticky stuff
- 56 Looker's leg

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

O	C	C	U	R		A	W	A	Y		P	A	L	M
A	L	O	N	E		R	O	B	E		A	G	U	E
T	O	T	A	L		B	O	L	T		N	E	S	T
S	T	E	R	I	L	I	Z	E		B	A	S	T	E
			M	E	A	T	Y			B	U	M		
E	G	O		F	U	R		E	A	T	A	B	L	E
A	U	L	D		D	A	I	S	Y	C	H	A	I	N
V	I	D	E	O		T	O	T		H	A	S	T	E
E	L	E	C	T	R	O	N	I	C		T	E	E	M
S	E	N	A	T	O	R		M	O	T		D	R	Y
			D	E	B		P	A	R	I	S			
C	H	E	E	R		P	O	T	E	N	T	I	A	L
H	Y	M	N		D	E	L	I		H	A	R	D	Y
E	P	I	C		O	L	I	O		A	L	K	I	E
W	E	R	E		N	E	O	N		T	E	S	T	S

DOWN

- 1 Compensate for
- 2 Computer snag
- 3 Used car deal

SHERIFF'S REPORT

OCT. 4-12

Nature of Incident

911 HANG UP	3
911 MISDIAL	7
911 OPEN LINE	9
ANIMAL CONTROL CALLBACK	2
ADULT WELFARE/PUBLIC SAFETY CHECK	4
ANIMAL CARCASS	1
ANIMAL WELFARE	3
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	3
BE ON LOOKOUT	11
BURGLARY PAST OCCURRANCE	1
CHILD WELFARE/ABUSE/ENDANGERMENT	2
CIVIL INFORMATION REQUEST	1
CIVIL PAPER RECEIVED	2
CIVIL PAPER SERVICE	49
COMMERCIAL BURGLAR ALARM	10
DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY	1
DISABLED VEHICLE	6
PAST DISTURBANCE	1
DISTURBANCE	6
EMERGENCY CUSTODY/TEMPORARY DETENTION	3
ORDER CALL	8
FINGERPRINTS	18
FOLLOW UP INVESTIGATION	1
FRAUD	7
GUN PERMIT RECEIVED	4
VCIN CHECK	2
INCLEMENT WEATHER LOG	6
LARCENY/THEFT	38
PHONE CALL RETURN	5
LIVESTOCK CALL	2
LOST ANIMAL	4
MAGISTRATE WALK-IN	1
MEDICAL ALARM	7
MVC WITH INJURY OR UNKNOWN INJURY	8
MVC WITH NO INJURY	3
MVC WITH ANIMAL	2
LOUD NOISE COMPLAINT	11
OTHER LAW CALL	1
OVERDOSE	1
GENERAL PAIN	5
PEDESTRIAN IN ROAD/INTOXICATED PEDESTRIAN	3
PRISONER TRANSPORT	3
PROJECT LIFESAVER-RELATED CALL	5
LAW PUBLIC SERVICE	3
REPOSSESSION	1
RESIDENTIAL BURGLAR ALARM	63
SEIZURE	2
SELECT PATROL	1
SEXUAL RELATED OFFENSES	7
SHOTS HEARD	22
STRAY DOG	3
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY/PERSON	6
TIPS/INFORMATION RECEIVED	2
DIRECT TRAFFIC/FUNERAL TRAFFIC	42
TRAFFIC HAZARD	1
TRAFFIC STOP	2
TREE DOWN	1
TRESPASSING/HUNTING TRESPASS	2
VCIN HITS RECEIVED	1
VCIN QUERY RUN	3
WARRANT RECEIVED	3
OUT SERVING WARRANT	7

Total incidents 594

Crashes

- Oct. 5 at 9:39 a.m.
- Interstate 64
- No injury

Total

- Oct. 5 at 4:03 p.m.
- 1000 block The Cross Road
- No injury
- Oct. 7 at 2:08 p.m.
- 7800 block Thomas Jefferson Parkway
- No injury
- Oct. 7 at 3:02 p.m.
- 1400 block Dobby Creed Road
- Injury/unknown injury
- Oct. 7 at 5:08 p.m.
- Market Street
- No injury
- Oct. 8 at 6:57 a.m.
- Union Mills Road and Kings Way
- Crash with animal
- Oct. 8 at 8:02 p.m.
- James Madison Highway and East River Road
- Injury/unknown injury
- Oct. 9 at 3:26 p.m.
- 1900 block Thomas Jefferson Parkway; high school
- Injury/unknown injury
- Oct. 9 at 5:49 p.m.
- Thomas Jefferson Parkway and Martin Kings Road
- No injury
- Oct. 10 at 6:51 a.m.
- Bybees Church Road and Meadow Brook Lane
- Injury/unknown injury
- Oct. 10 at 7:22 a.m.
- Lake Road and James Madison Highway
- Injury/unknown injury
- Oct. 10 at 8:30 a.m.
- 70 block Main Street
- No injury
- Oct. 10 at 4:55 p.m.
- 13000 block James Madison Highway
- No injury
- Oct. 11 at 4:47 a.m.
- 10700 block West River Road
- Crash with animal
- Oct. 11 at 2:42 p.m.
- 14500 block James Madison Highway
- No injury
- Oct. 11 at 7:24 p.m.
- 2800 block West River Road
- Injury/unknown injury
- Oct. 11 at 9:37 p.m.
- 2200 block Sclaters Ford Road
- Injury/unknown injury

Total crashes: 17

Arrests

- Oct. 5 at 6:25 p.m.
- Home address: Scottsville
- Reckless driving
- Oct. 5 at 9:41 p.m.
- Home address: Charlottesville
- Receipt or possession of stolen goods
- Oct. 8 at 6:31 p.m.
- Home address: Troy
- Assault and battery of a family member
- Oct. 10 at 12:16 p.m.
- Home address: Fredericksburg
- Driving on a suspended or revoked license
- Oct. 10 at 3:34 p.m.
- Home address: Charlottesville
- Contempt of court
- Oct. 10 at 5:28 p.m.
- Home address: Palmyra
- Possession of marijuana
- Oct. 11 at 11:05 p.m.
- Home address: Palmyra
- DUI/DUID
- Eluding officer/failure to stop

Total arrests: 7

EMT training added to high school career and tech program

BY RUTHANN CARR
CORRESPONDENT



EMT students learn how to apply a traction splint. Photo by Ruthann Carr

Two teens prepared to apply a traction splint to the leg of a young girl.

It wasn't the real thing, just a demonstration.

Fluvanna High School emergency medical technician (EMT) students explained the proper procedures and the reason for each step. Teacher Stephanie Corbin stood silently by as they worked.

Corbin, a Culpeper native who taught EMT and paramedic classes in Loudoun County, is teaching the first two classes of 17 students who hope to join the ranks of rescue squads.

Matt Kolezynski, 17, is already a junior firefighter with Lake Monticello Volunteer Fire and Rescue (LMVFR).

"My dad was a firefighter on Long Island and it was the only thing that held my interest," Kolezynski said. "Because I'm already a firefighter I wanted to expand into rescue."

Shortly after a unit on signs of cardiac arrest, he went on a run with LMVFR. The patient was having chest pain, and watching the EMT and paramedics assess and treat the patient brought it all back to Kolezynski.

Corbin said that kind of reinforcement is vital.

Her background is in journalism and she was an editor in Culpeper when 9/11 happened. All of her EMT and paramedic friends went to the Pentagon to help treat survivors. Because it was the biggest story in the nation, Corbin had to advertise call: 434.207.0223

to stay at the paper and couldn't go with them.

But it confirmed for her that she needed a career change.

Corbin wanted to use her skills and become a full-time part of the excitement, camaraderie and medical expertise of the rescue community.

"I'm a big advocate for the importance of getting people hooked at a really young age," Corbin said. "They'll stick around and hopefully volunteer in the community – this area is struggling to get volunteers – before they get full-time jobs as an EMT."

The Fluvanna fire and rescue community has embraced the program.

Gloria Vest, a long-time Kents Store Volunteer Rescue Squad member, helped coordinate equipment donations to the program.

Corbin said so far they've gotten a stretcher, two Kendrick Extrication Devices and several plastic bins full of airway and trauma treatment supplies. Fellow teachers have donated motorcycle, bike and football helmets.

Andrew Pullen, Kents Store Volunteer Fire Chief, Fluvanna School Board member representing the Columbia District, and full-time firefighter in Spotsylvania, is thrilled students can now get EMT training in high school.

"As we see a sharp decline in volunteer firefighters and EMS providers across the country (Fluvanna County being no

different) it is essential for us to recruit new members while they are young adults," Pullen wrote in an email. "Not only does this provide for a line of succession in our local volunteer agencies, but this training could prepare them for a rewarding career as a fireman or in the healthcare field. I personally started taking night classes for EMT and firefighter I when I was a student at FCHS, but they were not affiliated with the school. Those classes prepared me for the workforce as a career fireman soon after I graduated. I've now been a career fireman for 14 years and it is without a doubt the best profession in the world."

Fluvanna High School EMT students recounted Pullen's talk with them during one class.

Brianna Fisher recalled Pullen's story of going into a building on fire. It was his partner's first fire. Once inside, Pullen said he realized his oxygen tank wasn't working. They were on the second floor of the building.

"He was trying to get her (his partner's) attention and finally got to a window, grabbed her and threw her out the window (onto the ladder) then threw himself out," Fisher recalled. "He was unable to breathe but he got his partner out first."

Teamwork in a crisis helping others seemed to be the energy fueling the students.

Alexis Hamshar, a senior, said she hopes to go into the medical field and

work in critical care areas. She took the nurse's aide class, "but it didn't hold my interest as much."

EMT students will move on to their clinical training in the next month and will be ready to take the EMT test in December, Corbin said.

Many of them already have their applications in to volunteer with local squads.

Pullen said he hopes this class is the beginning of stream of young people volunteering.

"We have an active junior firefighter-EMT program in Kents Store with six members and are always recruiting more," Pullen said. "They are required to maintain good grades, no disciplinary issues, with approval from [Principal Margo] Bruce and their parents. Mike Sheridan supervises the junior program."

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Girls' cross country blows away competition in Monticello Midweek Madness

Boys take third place with solid performance

BY DUNCAN NIXON
CORRESPONDENT



Maryann Chittenden, Emily Beckman, Troy Stephens. Photos by Duncan Nixon

The Fluco girls' and boys' cross country squads traveled down Route 53 to Monticello High School on Wednesday (Oct. 10) to participate in the Monticello Midweek Madness meet. Five teams competed on the course laid out on the practice fields behind the high school. The competing schools were host school Monticello High School, Fluvanna County, Charlottesville High, William Monroe High and private school Tandem Friends, whose athletes only had to walk across the street.

The girls' race was up first, and the outcome was basically no contest. Fluco standout, sophomore Emily Smeds, was far and away the fastest runner. Smeds

finished the 5,000-meter (approximately three-mile) course in a time of 20:22.3. This was nearly two minutes faster than the second place finisher. A two-minute winning margin in a race of this length is extremely impressive. Marathon races (26.4 miles) are often won by a margin of less than two minutes.

Of course, a cross country meet is a team sport, so having the fastest runner gives a team an advantage, but not a big one. The team with the fastest runner can easily lose the match if it does not have depth. The winning team is determined by adding the finishing places of each team's top five runners, with the low score winning. If a team were to take

second, third and fifth, it would have 10 for its first three, and they would be way ahead of a team that took first, seventh and tenth for a total of 18 for its first three finishers.

At this meet, the Flucos showed plenty of depth and easily came in with the lowest team score. The Fluco girls took five of the top 10 slots for a team score of 28. Charlottesville finished in second, far behind at 46. Fluco junior Hattie Lintecum was the third place finisher. In sixth place was Fluco freshman Emily Beckman, who was only five seconds out of fourth place. Fluco sophomore Anja Vernatter finished in eighth place and junior Maryann Chittenden was 10th.

The Flucos' depth is further demonstrated by the fact that sophomore Samantha Clarke, sophomore Summer Craig, junior MacKenzie Morris, junior Kieri Hart and sophomore Sylar Solga all finished in the top 30.

It is also impressive to note that Coach Rose Brogan pointed out before the meet that one of her top runners, Brianna Parker, was out injured. Brogan has consistently fielded large and talented squads and the Fluco girls' cross country teams have a history of top performances.

In the boys' competition, the Flucos ran a number of solid performances and finished in third place overall. Coach Tom Casto said that he has a large group of very young runners, but the team is thin when it comes to upperclassmen. The Fluco boys were behind Tandem Friends 10-25 based on the first two runners to finish for each team, but the Flucos had a deeper squad and, when the top five were considered, the Flucos edged out Tandem for third place.

Finishing 12 and 13 for the Flucos were sophomore Troy Stevens and senior Sterling Ruff. Coming in 18 and 19 for the Flucos were freshman Nathan Valentin and Matthew Cantagallo. Senior Ethan Vernatter was the 30th point finisher to round out the Fluco squad.

The Flucos hosted a meet Oct. 17 and travel to an away meet Oct. 20. The Jefferson District meet is scheduled for Oct. 24 at the Fluco home course at Pleasant Grove. The Region meet will be held Nov. 1.

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Fall color forecast looks promising in Blue Ridge

PRESS RELEASE



All signs are pointing to a vibrant season of autumn color this year, thanks to plenty of summer and early fall rain, according to Virginia Tech tree physiology expert John Seiler.

“I don’t see any reason to not be optimistic,” said Seiler. “It looks like a really good fall, as all the soils have been recharged with good rainfall. Everything is well saturated, and even if we didn’t get another drop of rain during October, the trees are in a really healthy position.”

“If it stays wet and gloomy, that could potentially dampen the red coloration because the reds need some nice clear days of sunshine to develop,” he said. “But I think it’s going to be good. People should

be looking at their calendars and pick a good Saturday or Sunday, either the third or fourth week in October, and plan their trip accordingly.”



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