FLUVANNAREVIEW.COM

# **FIUVANNA** REVIEW

# ELECTED BOARDS START 2019 WITH A BANG

Comments Cause Controversy as Rainbow F Approved Page 4

Construction of Zion Crossroads Water System Nears Page 10

Lake Board Discusses \$250 Dues Increase Page 11

Swim and Dive Athletes Set Records PAGE 15 Legislators Introduce Journalist Protections PAGE 22

Farm Heritage Museum Wins National Award PAGE 18

# Update

A story called "Recapping the 10 biggest stories of 2018" that ran in the Jan. 3 edition stated that Richard Glenn Spradlin and his son, Kevin Michael Moore, who are charged with the murder of Jesse Hicks, Jr., are being held at the Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail. Spradlin posted bond Oct. 24, 2018. Moore is being held without bond.

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### PUBLISHER CARLOS SANTOS 434-591-1000 / carlos@fluvannareview.com

EDITOR CHRISTINA DIMEO 434-207-2324 / editor@fluvannareview.com

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR JUDI PRICE 434-207-0223 / sales@fluvannareview.com

ACCOUNTS MANAGER EDEE POVOL 434-591-1000 / edee@fluvannareview.com

ADVERTISING DESIGNER LYNN STAYTON-EURELL sales@fluvannareview.com

EDITORIAL DESIGNER AMELIA MCCONNELL amelia@fluvannareview.com

### DESIGNER MARILYN ELLINGER

# **REPORTERS RUTHANN CARR,**

PAGE GIFFORD, HEATHER MICHON, DUNCAN NIXON AND MADELINE OTTEN Mailing Address

P.O. Box 59 Palmyra, VA 22963 Physical Address Crofton Plaza Building 106, Suite 1 434-591-1000



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### **GENERAL**

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# PHOTO OF THE WEEK

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

The Fluvanna Branch National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) sponsored a Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., prayer breakfast Saturday (Jan.12). The program was hosted in the fellowship hall of the New Fork Baptist Church. The prayer breakfast honored Dr. King, highlighting the civil rights leader's oratory prowess while accenting his service to community and commitment to unity and fellowship. Pastor Marcus Lee of New Fork Baptist Church gave the keynote address. Visit the fluvannanaacp.org website for information about upcoming activities sponsored by the Fluvanna Branch NAACP. Submitted by Loretta Johnson-Morgan

# EW LISTINGS



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**NEWS HOTLINE** 

# Rainbow F logo approved by 2-0 vote

# Rittenhouse calls logo an "abomination"

BY RUTHANN CARR CORRESPONDENT

What started with a bang ended with a whimper.

After three months of study, debate, legal consultation and community input, the Fluvanna County School Board agreed Wednesday (Jan. 9) to let the high school Alliance Club alter the school logo with rainbow colors for its own use.

It does not mean the flying "F" is changed permanently, only that the club can modify it as requested.

Three School Board members abstained and two voted to allow the change.

Chair Perrie Johnson (Fork Union) and Shirley Stewart (Rivanna) voted for the motion, as they did when the vote was called in the Dec. 19 meeting.

At that meeting, which Andrew Pullen (Columbia) did not attend, Brenda Pace (Palmyra) and Charles Rittenhouse (Cunningham) voted against the Alliance Club request. On Wednesday, Pace, Rittenhouse and Pullen abstained, which allowed the motion to pass.

Even though he abstained, Rittenhouse made it clear what he thought about the issue.

"This is an abomination to anybody who graduated from Fluvanna High School," Rittenhouse said at the end of the meeting during School Board member comments. "I'm not happy with it. It does set a precedent. It is political. But it's over with. Now it's done. I know we'll hear a lot of ridicule and backlash from it, but so be it."

# Background

The Alliance Club is a school-sanctioned group supporting LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer) students and their allies.

A few of the club leaders thought it would be a good idea to replace the traditional blue and gold colors of the Fluco logo – a flying F – with rainbow colors to symbolize pride and solidarity. The rainbow flag, also known as the gay pride flag, is used worldwide to show support for the LGBTQ community. Students asked their principal, Margo Bruce, for guidance.

Bruce suggested they ask the School Board for permission.

Originally, the Alliance Club wanted to use the rainbow logo to make stickers to give to any teacher volunteering to be identified as a "safe space" for LGBTQ students and their allies.

Before the first public hearing on the issue at the Nov. 7 School Board meeting, the group amended its request, taking out the part about distributing stickers to teachers. Teachers can't engage in political speech in the classroom, and the schools' lawyer said the rainbow F would constitute political speech.

The group said they would use the rainbow F to "encourage a safe, accepting space" in the school. They agreed not to use the logo to make money, but would instead raise money another way to buy items to put the logo on to give away.

When Superintendent Chuck Winkler received the request, he decided to bring it up to the board in the Oct. 10 closed session because it was a "possible legal matter," he said last week.

It was then put on the Nov. 7 meeting agenda.

Five days before, however, the website Bearing Drift, which bills itself as "Virginia's conservative voice," ran a blog post written by Rob Schilling entitled "The







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# TAX TIPS

BY RUDY GARCIA, RIVANNA WOODS FINANCIAL / TAX SERVICES

# **Alert! Beware the Telephone Scam**

2018 Tax Filing Season, many of us are going to be subjected to folks who are trying to take advantage of us. Here are some practical tips to take in case you find yourself the TARGET of a telephone SCAM.

"Aggressive, threatening phone calls from scam artists continue to be seen on a daily basis in states across the nation. The IRS urges taxpayers not to give out money or personal financial information as a result of these phone calls or from emails claiming to be from the IRS." Source: IRS.gov

## Here is what you should (and shouldn't) do

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• Give No confirmation. These thieves often have stolen information of yours. It might include your name, address and social security number. By providing this information to you, they hope you will think they are legitimate. Do not fall for this trap.

• Get information. So, are they the Twitter: http://twitter.com/RWFTaxServices real deal? Get the name of the person, their id number, and your case

As we get closer to the start of the number. Have them provide you with a phone number to call them back. Then hang up. Do not call them but do contact the authorities.

• Do not get bullied. These thieves are aggressive, may have fake caller id's and may threaten you with asset seizure or jail time. Do not be harassed. Hang up.

• Do Report the incident. Contact the IRS via their direct phone number found on irs.gov (800-829-1040) and tell the representative what happened.

For more information on this scam and on what to do if this happens to you, please read this: https://www.irs. gov/newsroom/phone-scams-remainserious-threat-no-2-on-the-irs-dirtydozen-list-of-tax-scams-for-2017

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luvanna Business Corner

# Role of Fluvanna's **Economic Development Authority**

Dr. Shelley Murphy, Economic Development Authority (EDA)

ave you ever heard of the Fluvanna Economic Development Authority or more commonly called the EDA? Simply put its goal and function is to help promote business growth in Fluvanna County. There are 7 directors appointed by the Board of Supervisors to oversee the work of the authority. EDA is authorized by the Commonwealth to issue tax-exempt revenue bonds. The bonds are below-market rate financing of project. The EDA's encourage manufacturing, professional, governmental, commercial and non-profit enterprises and educational institutions to locate, remain and prosper in Fluvanna County. The coordinator serves as principal liaison to County's Economic Development Authority and to the Fluvanna Chamber of Commerce, two key allies in business retention, growth, and attraction efforts. The coordinator also works closely with other local, regional and state economic development partners including the Central Virginia Economic Development Partnership, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, among others. Each of those organizations provide support for our economic development efforts through advice, expertise, program funding, and grant opportunities.

The mission of the EDA is accomplished through the financing, development, sponsorship, acquisition, construction and equipping of economic development projects, and through participation in the Fluvanna County planning process. The EDA can support the County by being a pass-through funder for any business incentives the county uses to assist in attracting businesses to Fluvanna and much more.

Some examples you might not be aware of that the Fluvanna EDA has supported:

- Assisted local wineries in their efforts to have Fluvanna County included in the Monticello American Viticultural Area
- Partner in the Central Virginia Electric **Cooperative Broadband Initiative**
- Sponsored two Fluvanna Fledgling Entrepreneurs to attend Community Investment Collaborative Entrepreneurs Course
- Provided funding towards Fluvanna County membership in the Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development
- Shovel Ready Site Program
- Business Appreciation Month • Sponsored the Quad County Business Conference

The EDA partners with Fluvanna County via the Economic Development Coordinator. We provide support with marketing and business development, economic development strategy, planning and the advocacy of the mission and continue to maintain and support the County's economic partnerships (Chamber of Commerce, State and Local Agencies, Nonprofits, etc.)

The door is open for business, ideas are welcome, and the possibilities are endless. If you have questions or wish for more information, contact EDA at edafluvanna@gmail. com or the County Administration Office for more information (Ph: 434-591-1910). The EDA meetings are public and held in the Morris Room (County Administration Building). The meeting schedule can be viewed on the County's webpage (https://www.fluvannacounty.org/bc-eda/page/economic-development-authority-eda-0).

# **CONTACTS**

**Economic Development coordinator** 434-591-1910

**Ruthann Carr** 

Chamber of Commerce office manager ruthann.carr@fluvannachamber.org 434-906-2536

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# BAXTER IS MISSING!!!!



Our boxer, Baxter, has been missing since January 10. He ran off that morning with our lab, but the lab returned home and Baxter did not. He was last seen on Shannon Hill Road in the Kents Store/Columbia/ Louisa area. He was wearing his green reflective collar with our number on it.

# PLEASE KEEP AN EYE OUT AND HELP US BRING BAXTER HOME!! 434-962-8619 or 434-962-7264

## Rainbow F, from page 4

culture wars come to Fluvanna." Schilling posted a picture of the request letter from the Alliance Club. The student's information was blurred in the photo, but the teacher sponsor's name was not.

That article inflamed the Fluvanna community and brought out a nearly standing room only crowd to the Nov. 7 meeting. About a quarter of those who spoke were against changing the logo. Everyone, however, wanted to know how Schilling found out about the issue.

An overriding concern seemed to be how a group of students who are at higher risk of being the victims of bullying, emotional struggles and suicide became a political football by making a request to the School Board.

Another question concerned who owned the trademark and whether the School Board had the authority to grant the club's request.

At that meeting, Johnson made a motion to allow the students to alter the logo. No one seconded the motion so it died. The board said it would study the issue, ask for legal advice and put it on the December meeting agenda.

Johnson began the Dec. 19 meeting by reading the following message from the board: "We understand that there have been some recent concerns regarding privileged information being shared inappropriately with a local radio show host. The Board has conducted an inquiry, beginning more than a month ago. Based on the findings, the Fluvanna County School Board states that no School Board member gave any confidential information to this outlet. Furthermore, no Fluvanna County School Board member has any knowledge of who shared this information with this media outlet or any public entity."

Fewer attended the December meeting, but many were frustrated with the board's statement.

Johnson again made a motion to approve altering the logo. It was seconded. Johnson and Stewart voted for; Pace and Rittenhouse voted against. Pullen was not at the meeting, so the motion ended in a tie.

# January School Board meeting

The issue energized John Atkins, a Fluvanna graduate who supported the Alliance Club. Atkins researched case law regarding trademark issues and sent his findings to the board members prior to Wednesday's meeting. He said he "had grave concerns about the lackluster investigation" the board did on who leaked *See* Rainbow F, page 8

# Letters to the editor

# "Abomination" carries complicated, hurtful meaning

Attending the School Board meetings over the last three months, I have been heartened to see many fellow Flucos standing up to speak in of support for the Alliance Club teens. While the overall tone has been positive, closing remarks made by School Board member Charles Rittenhouse were needlessly hurtful. Holding a picture of the rainbow F, he remarked that it was an "abomination."

As a gay person and a Christian pastor, that word carries layers of complicated meaning. It is a word that gay folks have had hurled at us all our lives; implying that we are disgusting and irredeemable, someone to be hated. The punishment for most "abominations" in the Bible is death. Historically the word has been used as justification for acts of violence, abuse, and rejection against LGBTQ+ persons. Abomination is not a word to throw around lightly.

During public comments each month, community members came forward to tell their story about why the rainbow F was important. Young folks talked about how much they have struggled with bullying and rejection from their peers and

# Rittenhouse "abomination" comment cruel and heartless

Abomination. The Merriam-Webster definition of abomination is: "something regarded with disgust or hatred." It's a very strong word historically used to justify discrimination. That's the word Charles Rittenhouse used in the Jan. 9 School Board meeting while holding the now-approved rainbow F in his hand. He said it was an abomination. He used this word after three consecutive School Board meetings concerning the logo request that started with the inappropriate sharing of student and staff personal informational with an unauthorized third party with the sole intent of politicizing a student's request. A student. A child.

These three meetings also featured past and current Fluvanna County students who shared their heartbreaking stories of the discrimination and bullying endured by LGBTQ+ kids in our how they have contemplated or attempted suicide. Parents came forward to voice concern for their children and the agony of watching them suffer the derision of their peers. Counselors and teachers came forward to share the stark statistics for LGBTQ+ teens when it comes to depression and suicide. It is in that context that Mr. Rittenhouse chose to use the word abomination. You know what else is labeled an abomination in the Bible? Oppressing the vulnerable – Ezekiel 18.

We probably shouldn't get into a theology debate. Obviously, we approach scripture differently and come to different conclusions. Still one thing should be just basic human decency, if not also a tenet of Christianity: Treat people, especially people who are hurting, with kindness. These students came with stories of great pain, laying themselves vulnerable before the board and the community. Mr. Rittenhouse made his viewpoint clear in his abstention; calling the rainbow F an abomination was cruel and unnecessary.

Karen Mann Scottsville

schools. In these meetings, LGBTQ+ allies, including myself, shared the horrifying statistics around depression and suicide rates within the LGBTQ+ community and the studies showing how inclusiveness reduces those rates. Still, Mr. Rittenhouse chose to use that word. The decision to do so was heartless and cruel. To anybody in the LGBTQ+ community reading this, please know the vast majority of Flucos don't share those hateful and archaic views. We think you're amazing and look forward to proudly displaying our rainbow F's!

And to the person who leaked the student's letter: Your anonymity is the true mark of a coward and exploiting the privacy of a child to push political divisiveness is shameful.

Kerry Murphy-Hammond Columbia

### Rainbow F, from page 7

## the letter.

Before the vote, Pullen acknowledged the passion surrounding the issue. He said he was sorry he missed the December meeting, but had to work. (The meeting was postponed a week because of weather.)

"You can't persuade us to vote a certain way by calling us names," he said.

Pullen supported newly elected 5th District Congressman Denver Riggleman and does consulting work for him, he said. That does not inform his view on the logo vote, he said.

"I think it's a policy issue...it's not the School Board's purview to vote on this," he said. Pullen said he knows people have already altered the school logo, but "that doesn't make it right."

"We need to develop a policy so it is fixed and it doesn't change when School Boards change."

Because of that, Pullen said he would abstain from voting.

Pace said even with getting legal advice during the closed session before Wednesday's meeting, she was still confused and needed more clarification. Because of that, she would abstain.

After the vote, community members thanked the board for passing the motion.

Amber Kidd, who attended all three meetings stating her objection to changing the logo, said she was not happy about the vote, but she accepted it.

## **Other business**

Winkler presented a new version of next year's school calendar. It contained nine half days. Several people spoke during public comments, asking Winkler to eliminate as many half days as possible.

Johnson noted the board was concerned about the six half days in the current calendar and wondered why next year's had more. She, too, urged Winkler

### to decrease them.

Tony Stephan, education and marketing director of Sun Tribe Solar, made a presentation to the board about installing solar panels at the schools.

The company has already partnered with St. Anne's Belfield, Arlington, and Middlesex County Public Schools.

Fluvanna County Public Schools would enter into a 25-year power purchase agreement at 8.4 cents per kilowatt hour (kwh). Right now the average cost is 11.2 cents per khw. There is no upfront cost for installation. Sun Tribe would own and maintain the equipment. Energy produced is not stored in batteries but instead is sent directly to the grid.

If Fluvanna's solar panels collect all the energy used, there is no additional cost. If not, schools pay the balance to Central Virginia Electric Cooperative, the current supplier.

Stephan said Sun Tribe would give a grant for training teachers interested in incorporating solar energy into their curriculum.

During public comments, Bob Livengood with Budget Electrical and Mechanical said his company wanted to bring an apprenticeship program to the high school. "Point us in the right direction to implement that," he said.

Johnson said she was sure someone would be in touch.

The board voted unanimously to allow a group from the current Fluvanna Leadership Development Program to conduct a survey of students. The Youth Opportunities Group's project is to identify programs and activities for Fluvanna children. The community youth need assessment will be online for older students.

Johnson said she would go to the elementary school during lunch to help students there fill out a paper copy of the survey so no instructional time is lost.

# Fluco logo not trademarked

This whole time he thought the logo was trademarked.

After the Nov. 7 School Board meeting when Superintendent Chuck Winkler first said the Fluco F was trademarked, several members of the community checked into it.

*Fluvanna Review* reporter Heather Michon spent hours searching the trademark database and found no record for the Fluco logo. Neither did community members Bryant Atkins or Kerry Murphy Hammond.

Many who spoke about the logo during all three meetings mentioned they've seen the Fluco logo in many colors. At the Nov. 7 meeting, Winkler said athletes got permission to use the American flag colors on the logo to show support for veterans.

At the Dec. 19 School Board meeting, Winkler said the schools' lawyers advised the board not to grant the Alliance Club request to change the colors of the logo because it would "weaken the trademark."

Even when asked on Jan. 7 if the logo was trademarked, Winkler said: "Yes, the lawyers put in for the trademark about five years ago. I'm not sure exactly how long ago it was, I was here but not yet the superintendent."

A few days before the board meeting, Murphy-Hammond sent Winkler an email requesting the file number of the trademark.

On Thursday, she got her answer when Winkler returned her email. It turns out the lawyers did not file the paperwork. But they told him the school has "ownership and proprietary rights under trademark law(s)."

Given the outcome of the logo vote and School Board member Andrew Pullen urging the Board to set a policy for future logo requests, Winkler said the lawyers assured him they would "solidify things with an actual registration moving forward."







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ΕE

# **Construction of Zion Crossroads** water system nears

BY CHRISTINA DIMEO EDITOR

Construction is set to begin on the Zion Crossroads water and sewer system in about two months' time.

The Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors approved two contracts for the system Wednesday (Jan. 9) afternoon.

Supervisors unanimously approved a contract with CB&I LLC to build a 500,000 gallon elevated water storage tank for \$2 million. The water tower will be "essentially a twin" of the one just over the county line in Louisa, said Cyndi Toler, purchasing officer.

They also unanimously agreed to a \$1.9 million water booster station and wastewater pump station contract with Sargent Corporation.

"We're finally getting to construction on [the] Zion Crossroads" system, Toler said.

The \$11.6 million water and sewer system will connect the Zion Crossroads area with up to 75,000 gallons per day of treated water from the women's prison on Route 250. It will also route between 100,000 and 125,000 gallons per day of sewage back to the prison for treatment.

The system will be constructed with the ability to connect to Louisa County's water supply when the need arises. Louisa has pledged to provide 400,000 gallons of treated water to Fluvanna at Zion Crossroads.

# Sheridan and O'Brien to lead board

Supervisor Mike Sheridan was reelected as board chairman, a position he has held since 2016. Supervisor Trish Eager nominated Sheridan for the role and Supervisor Don Weaver seconded her motion. The vote passed 4-0-1 (Sheridan abstaining).

"I want to get this water line done," Sheridan said after the meeting. "I'm honored that fellow board members would see fit to choose me to sit in the chairman's seat again. It's very humbling."

Supervisor Tony O'Brien was elected vice chair, his first position of leadership on the board since he took office in 2013. Former Vice Chair Mozell Booker nominated O'Brien and Eager seconded her motion. The vote passed 4-0-1 (O'Brien abstaining).

"I think we're really excited about the



File photo

water projects that are coming to fruition. We're going to push hard so the water gets done," O'Brien said after the meeting. "I think it's healthy for the board to rotate its members in new positions of leadership as it allows them to develop relationships in the different committees that are run by chairs and mayors."

# Supervisors support redistricting efforts

The board approved a resolution to "support redistricting efforts in a different way than has historically been done in the past in the commonwealth," said County Administrator Steve Nichols, but not all supervisors agreed.

"This is not really our responsibility," said Supervisor Don Weaver. "I don't feel like I have enough knowledge on it, and I'm going to abstain on it."

Weaver said that his thoughts weren't motivated by political party. "I'm going to make my own decision and I want my own facts," he said. "I don't really feel qualified at this time to say yes or no."

"I think it's about time that we, Republicans and Democrats and Independents, work together, and I think this is a start," said Eager. "I think it's about time that we, Republicans and Democrats and Independents, work together, and I think this is a start," said Eager.

"There's so much evidence that gerrymandering is damaging to the health of our democracy and results in more partisanship and more division," said O'Brien. "I'm looking forward to Virginia finally getting this done."

"I'm totally committed to [redistricting reform] and I'm going to vote for it," said Booker.

Sheridan did not state his opinion. Supervisors voted 4-0-1 (Weaver abstaining) in support of the resolution.

# Volunteer efforts underway

Carol Tracy Carr told the board that her role as Fluvanna's community volunteer coordinator has a lot of moving parts.

"The first couple of weeks after I took the job I felt like I was trying to hold an octopus," she said.

Carr quickly got to work to meet with county agencies that use volunteers, publish an updated volunteer opportunity database, research best methods to connect with county residents, form a community volunteer advisory group, and participate in the 2019 Virginia Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards.

"I think the most significant thing I did was form the Community Volunteer Advisory Group," Carr said. "The octopus was getting a little out of control so I thought if I could get a half-dozen people to sit down with me, maybe we could each take a tentacle."

Carr has several volunteer initiatives slated for this year. She wants to launch community outreach on a broader scale, explore opportunities for increased student involvement in volunteer activities in the community, investigate collaborating with the newly formed Fluvanna Leadership Development Program Alumni Group and discuss possible coordination of information sharing between food organizations in the county.

"There's a lot of rich volunteer work going on in the county," Carr said. "My job is to basically coordinate the efforts. There are people who want to volunteer, and organizations that need the volunteers, and my job is to bring them together."

# Lake board discusses \$250 dues increase

BY HEATHER MICHON CORRESPONDENT

As Lake Monticello residents pay their 2019 annual homeowners association dues, the Board of Directors is looking toward a major increase for 2020.

The board members met in an open work session at Ashlawn Clubhouse Wednesday (Jan. 9) to discuss the need to raise the dues and shore up critical funds.

Finance Director Marlene Weaver gave a lengthy presentation outlining numerous issues facing the community: inadequate staffing and infrastructure, low salaries that make it difficult to recruit and retain quality staff, declining reserve funds for roads and major repairs, increasing insurance rates, and the need to replace the golf maintenance building.

In the view of Weaver and many on the board, the association has run on too lean a budget for too many years, as buildings have aged, infrastructure has fallen into disrepair, and costs have risen.

"Right now, we are living beyond our means," she said.

The bylaws allow the board to increase dues by 3 percent annually without member approval, but Weaver said this doesn't begin to cover the increasing costs of maintaining and improving the community.

She recommended an increase of \$250, with \$75 additional dollars allocated to staffing and operations, \$50 for major repairs, \$25 for roads, and \$50 to begin a new facilities reserve fund for buildings.

A final \$50 would financially support the Lake's two restaurants. Weaver and fellow director Tom Braithwaite said that members would receive a \$50 voucher redeemable at either venue.

A \$250 increase would raise annual dues from their current \$861 to \$1,111. Homeowners must also pay the yearly improved property fee of \$212 and are charged \$10 annually per car for barcodes to allow them into the gates.

Weaver noted that Lake Monticello has much lower annual dues than Lake of the Woods, a comparably-sized homeowners association in Orange County near Fredericksburg, where residents currently pay around \$1,500 a year plus an annual special assessment. The directors spent about an hour debating different proposals and allocations before tentatively settling on asking members for an annual increase of \$180. The \$50 fee for restaurants might be presented as a separate vote on the ballot at the annual meeting in late June.

Wednesday's meeting was just the start of a months-long process.

Discussions from the work session will be used to create a formal proposal for the regular monthly meeting Jan. 24, where there will be more discussion and debate. The final proposal will be voted on by early April, and members will cast their votes by June 29.

Once they have a final plan, the board will hold town hall meetings and informational sessions to make their case for increases to the membership.

About 30 people packed into the small meeting room on Wednesday, but as in any work session, were not allowed to ask questions or interact with the board during the meeting.

Any proposed increases are likely to meet strong resistance from the community.

Director Rich Barringer said he had violated his own rule and looked at what he called the "Facebook haters' page," during the session and "it was filled up with how bad we were."

He asked the audience to speak to board members directly about any questions they had about the increases or the process.

The next board meeting will be Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. in the Fairway clubhouse.





File photo

# Painter talks about artistic freedom

CORRESPONDENT

Jane Prete – or Janie, as she is known – might be considered an artist's artist. Her stylistic work is the essence of an artist who is unafraid to explore beyond her limits and make new discoveries. Prete, who examines things at different angles and executes them in different ways, creates art that an onlooker cannot help but notice from across the room.

Prete's work is soft but bold in her favorite medium of watercolor, which in itself is unusual, since watercolors are typically soft and muted. Her abstract approach to her subjects makes them fun and humorous. An example is *Soft Landing*, which was the result of a childhood memory of blowing bubbles.

Prete arrived at this present place in her artistic journey because her creativity was never restricted.

"Being an only child, my interest in art began very early in elementary school when I discovered I had an imagination. I was free to doodle, play with color and create masterpieces. No one ever told me that my tree did not resemble a tree or my people had no arms," she said. "My inspiration for art deepened as I realized this wonderful plaything that I discovered could be continued and improved as time passed. As I grew older, married and was working while raising my family, my imagination was always churning and manifesting itself in other ways."

An artist friend suggested she try watercolor.

"That began a process that propelled me into needing an art mentor, taking workshops and reading all I could to develop the tools I needed to continue on a journey I knew I loved immediately," she said.

Among her favorite artists who inspire her are Andrew Wyeth, one who seems to top every artist's list, and Carol Nelson and Maxine Masterfield. One can see the influence of the post-modernist flavor and abstracts of Nelson and Masterfield, particularly their fluid colors and seamless blending by allowing the colors to flow into one another.

"It is almost impossible to determine my favorite artists because of my appreciation of each discipline and genre fills me with love for their personal journey," Prete said. While she demonstrates a similar style to Nelson and Masterfield, she makes it unique to her with her flowing, drip method, in which the colors drip down the paper, bleeding into one another. This is the technique seen in her *Red Canyon*, with its bold and vibrant reds.

"My style is me, and I believe one's style comes from freedom from fear, love of color and allowing my inner reserve to



just go with it. I was once described as a chemist-artist since I use anything I can get my hands on to complete a project," she said. "Striving to control the paint becomes a fruitless endeavor for me. I enjoy the watercolor, inks, or even acrylics working in a partnership along with me so the painting does not appear forced."

She said she has been fortunate in her painting career and has enjoyed solo and group shows. Her work has been exhibited in many museums and galleries and she has won numerous awards. A new hospital outside Raleigh, N.C., commissioned Prete and other artists to submit work for the hospital's permanent collec-



tion. She is currently exhibiting in two galleries in Clayton, N.C., and Gallery 527 in Scottsville. She was president of Clayton, N.C., Visual Arts and is a current member of the Fluvanna Art Association. She added that teaching is a real joy for her and periodically she has a few artists meet in her home studio.

Regarding her painting journey, she said, "It is a joy, therapeutic and boundless fun to allow accidents, magic and the unexpected to happen. Painting styles evolve over time and my painting today has become a very different expression than years ago. Life is always changing, flexible and fluid."





Top left: *Soft Landing* by Jane Prete. Top right: Jane Prete. Left: *Red Canyon* by Jane Prete. Right: *Reds on the Hill* by Jane Prete. Photos courtesy of Jane Prete.

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# **SPORTS**

# Albemarle Warriors beat Flucos in fourth quarter

## BY DUNCAN NIXON CORRESPONDENT

The Flying Fluco boys' basketball team hosted a strong and athletic Albemarle Warriors squad Jan. 7. The unusual Monday game was a rescheduled game that was snowed out in December.

The Flucos under Coach Jason Davis played a tough and intense game. They were even with the Warriors 18-18 at halftime and only slipped slightly behind in the third quarter, trailing 26-30 with a quarter remaining.

Unfortunately, the Flucos simply ran out of steam and the Warriors ran up 24 points in the fourth quarter for a 33-54 win.

In the first quarter the Flucos got threepoint baskets from sophomore forward John Boy Rittenhouse and freshman point guard Kobe Edmonds. Albemarle recorded the final basket of the quarter on rebound put back for a two-point lead at 10-12.



The second quarter started with

Albemarle opened the third quarter with a seven-point run. The Flucos could have let the game get away at that point, but they continued to compete hard and they made a mini-comeback. Senior forward Drew Pace made a steal and was fouled. He made both free throws. Albemarle made one of two from the line and Edmonds again made a steal and took the ball to the basket for a lay-in. The Warriors made one of two from the line and junior forward Leukas Koczan scored on a lay-up and the Flucos were within three. Albemarle followed with three of four from the line to stretch the lead back to six. Edmonds ended the quarter by making a driving lay-up to cut the deficit to four.

In the first two minutes of the final quarter, Albemarle only increased its lead by a point. However, in the last six minutes the roof fell in for the Flucos. Albemarle started getting steals and fast break lay-ins and the Flucos were outscored 2-18 in those final minutes.

After the game, Davis noted that he was pleased with the intensity of his team's play. He commented that Albemarle is a very solid and athletic team. It would have been quite an upset if the Flucos had held on for a win.

Edmonds again led the Flucos in scoring. He had a well-balanced game with five in the first and fourth quarters and four in the second and third quarters. Rittenhouse contributed seven and Koczan had four. Davis said that junior center Walter Stribling, a strong rebounder, is out injured for the rest of the season.









Photos by Fluvanna Sports Photography

# Fluco swim and dive athletes set records

BY DUNCAN NIXON CORRESPONDENT

The Fluco boys' and girls' swim and dive teams have been very busy. The girl's and boys' swimmers competed in a three-way meet Jan. 4 at Chancellor High and both teams took first place. The teams then swam Jan. 8 in the Ben Hair meet, a mega-event held at the University of Virginia pool facility. The girls finished fourth out of 13 teams, while the boys were sixth out of 17 teams.

The Fluco divers, who Coach Feda Morton noted are all diving for the Flucos for the first time, competed in the Ben Hair event Jan. 9. They also dived in competition for the first time at the Blacksburg high school dive event.

At the Ben Hair event, Fluco athletes established four State qualifying times. Hunter Strickland completed the exhausting 200-meter individual medley in a school record time of 2:04.47, which was good enough for third place. The other three State qualifying times were all posted by Spanish exchange student Maialin Sudupe. Morton said that her time of 5:18.04 in the 500-meter freestyle "destroyed" the former school record. Sudupe also set a new school record in the 100meter backstroke with a time of 58:53. These times were both good for second place in the meet. Sudupe's third State qualifying time was 25:73 in 50-meter free sprint.

A host of other school records were established at the Ben Hair meet. Gus Jones broke his old school record in the 100meter breaststroke. Abby Harlow finished second in the 100-meter breaststroke and established a new school record.

Three relay teams set new school records. The girls' 200-meter free relay team finished first in a new school record time, as did the girl's 200-meter medley relay team. Both teams consisted of Sudupe, Harlow, Ally Lounsbury and Abby Fuller. The boys' 200-meter medley relay team also set a new school record. This team consisted of Jones, Jack Kershner, Hunter Strickland and Owen Strickland.

Last, but definitely not least, Fuller was the winner in both the 50-meter free and the 100-meter free. She holds the school record in both these events and was already State qualified in both.

According to Morton the girls and boys both "finished a dominating first place" at the Jan. 4 meet at Fredericksburg. The other schools competing were Chancellor High and Riverbend High. At this meet, State qualifying times were turned in by Fuller in the 200-meter IM and the 100meter fly. Sudupe swam a State qualifying time in the 500-meter free and also set a new school record.

The Flucos achieved numerous first place finishes. Sudupe was first in the 200meter free and the 500-meter free. Harlow was first in the 50-meter free and the 100meter breast. Fuller was first in the 100meter fly and the 200-meter IM. Megan Farist was first in the 100-meter free, and Emma DiFazio took first in the 100-meter back.

For the boys, there were also numerous first place finishes. Jones was first in the 200-meter IM and in the 100-meter breast. Hunter Strickland was first in the 50-meter free. Owen Strickland was first in the 100meter back. Connor Bridge was fastest in the 100-meter free.

The boys and girls both won the 200meter medley relay and the 200-meter free relay. Second place finishers for the Flucos were Owen Strickland in the 200meter IM, Kershner in the 50-meter free and the 100-meter back, Hunter Strickland in the 100-meter fly, and Olivia Strickland in the 100-meter breast. Both 400-meter free relay teams also came in second.

Each diver had 11 dives at the Ben Hair event held at Woodberry Forest. For the boys, Jason Dech finished fifth and qualified for the State dive meet. Kamden Shephard was ninth. For the girls, Lauren Davis was fifth and Logan Brophy was seventh.

At the meet at the Blacksburg High Invitational, which was a six-dive event, Dech finished third and Davis was sixth.

The Fluco teams have only two events remaining before the Feb. 1 Region swimin. They host a three-school event at Fork Union Military Academy Jan. 18, and on Jan. 25 they will be swimming at Harrisonburg high.





# **SPORTS IN REVIEW**



# BY **BLAKE BERRY** AND **SYERRA MILLIMAN** FLUVANNA COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALISM PROGRAM

# THIS ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN WITH THE OVERSIGHT OF JOURNALISM TEACHER **ELIZABETH PELLICANE**

## Wrestling

With the wrestling season well underway, the Flucos competed at Albemarle Jan. 5 for the Albemarle Invitational. Sophomore Shawn Metcalf, junior Jariq Henson, and senior Ethan Vernatter all went undefeated in their matches. Afterward, Henson and Metcalf were selected for the All Tournament Team. One of Vernatter's competitors, a wrestler from Fork Union Military Academy (FUMA), forfeited before their match, to Vernatter's dismay.

"The FUMA coach didn't want me to wrestle the 170 [pound student] because he was worried that his 170 would lose. I didn't realize until after the fact how close the teams' points were. So if I had been able to compete, we would have beaten the FUMA team overall," said Vernatter.

The Flucos will take on Louisa Jan. 16, followed by a home invitational Jan. 19.

## ACE

The academic team's most recent competition took place Jan. 11, where the team, led by Coach Luke Divine, traveled to Monticello. During the event, they competed against Albemarle, Orange, and Western. Originally, the team tied with Orange, but lost the tiebreaker to the opposing team. Although the team lost to Albemarle and Western, team captain Bayley Leyshon said, "We were very close to beating Western, which is a really big deal, because they are a really tough team and they almost always go on to States."

Leyshon, who has been on the team five years, said that this year's team is doing better than last year thanks to more experienced members.

The team's next meet is Jan. 16 at Powhatan, followed by a playoff match with Monticello Jan. 23 to determine which team goes to Regionals.

## **Indoor track**

The indoor track team competed Jan. 8 at Louisa. For the 4x200 relay, sophomore Kaitlin Bower, freshman Shea Hart, freshman Olivia Farruggio, and sophomore Tallon Solga all took second, while sophomore Emily Smeds took first in the mile. Thus far, junior Amina Wilson, senior Ashlee Pieno, Hart, and Smeds have all qualified for States.

With a solid season so far, especially with so many newcomers, long-time Coach Rose Brogan appears to be pleased with her relatively young team. "We look forward to seeing their progression over the season, and [in] years to come," she said.

As for the boys' team, this season's standouts include senior Colby Martin (hurdles, long jump, and relays), senior Dante Eddings (who qualified for States), and senior Christian Holland (who has made States for triple jump). According to team member Aydon Duenas, another player to watch out for is junior and fellow shot putter Eli Hartzog, who has been throwing 45 feet – well past the minimum needed to go to States.

## **Boys' basketball**

The varsity team traveled to Western Jan. 4. Although they played hard, they fell short and lost 38-69. The next game was at home against Albemarle Jan. 7, where they lost 33-54. Coach Jason Davis said the team really needs to "work on [their] offensive execution and rebound-ing" if they want to win games.

The Flucos traveled to Monticello Jan. 8. After a competitive game from both teams, Fluvanna was able to come out on top 68-53. Davis was pleased with the Flucos' performance, saying they "played as a team and out-hustled [Monticello]." This win improved their season record to 2-10.

JV made its way to Western Jan. 4, where the team lost 36-50. The next

home game was against Albemarle Jan. 7, where the Flucos ultimately fell short and lost 37-47. Coach Jason Barnett said that the team is young and while they are strong athletes, they "need to realize that [they] also need to execute offensively and defensively to be more successful."

The JV boys headed to Monticello Jan. 8 where they had a dominating game against the Mustangs, winning 31-7. This win improved the JV record to 9-3 for the season.

# **Girls' basketball**

The varsity girls played at home against Western Jan. 4, finishing with a difficult loss of 17-38. However, the loss did not appear to adversely affect them as they went on to beat Albemarle at home Jan. 7 by a score of 45-42. Coach Chad White said the Western loss "motivated [them] to go at it harder."

The Lady Flucos went on to play Mon-



ticello Jan. 8, beating the Mustangs 55-4. Albemarle and Monticello "were big wins for us because they were District games and it put us second in the District," said junior Nevaeh Ivory. As of Jan. 11, the Lady Flucos held a record of 7-6.

JV hosted Western Jan. 4 but lost a close game 26-31. Their next game was away at Albemarle where the Lady Flucos stayed focused and played hard to secure a 30-28 victory. "We struggled at first, but then we came out in the second half with great effort and we played together and stayed together as a team," said Coach Jamie Stafford.

Monticello hosted the Flucos Jan. 8, where Fluvanna lost 28-32. Eighth graders Aniah Webb and Abby Seal said the team had too many turnovers and needs to learn to make better passes in order to win. As of Jan. 11, the JV girls' season record is 5-7.





Photos by Fluvanna Sports Photography

# SERVICE DIRECTORY





# Farm Heritage Museum wins national award

PRESS RELEASE



The newly constructed Fluvanna Farm Heritage Museum at Pleasant Grove has been awarded national recognition for its design and construction. Both Fluvanna County and the Fluvanna Historical Society were notified last week that the museum has won second place in an annual national competition conducted by the National Frame Building Association (NFBA).

There were hundreds of entries in the Institutional Building category costing up to \$6 million. Criteria for the award included architectural design, engineering, color presentation, and intended use. The award will be made to the contractor at the NFBA's annual meeting in Louisville, Ky., in March.

The Farm Heritage Museum is a joint project of Fluvanna County and the Fluvanna Historical Society. Its construction was completed in early 2018 and was dedicated at that time. The total cost of the project was slightly over \$300,000, with \$287,000 of that amount coming from the historical society, its members and money raised from regional charitable foundations. The museum will display historic equipment related to Fluvanna's rich agricultural history, much of which is being donated by local farmer John May. Betty McGehee is chairing the committee designing and installing the museum's exhibits.

"This honor is well merited," said Marvin Moss, president of the historical society. "The museum building is an attractive addition to the Pleasant Grove museum and trail complex in the center of Fluvanna's property. We should all be proud that hundreds of citizens made the museum possible by their dedicated hard work and their generous contributions to its construction."

Once completed, the Farm Heritage Museum will be operated by the Fluvanna County Department of Parks and Recreation and will be open to the public.

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# SHERIFF'S REPORT | JAN. 4-10

## NA

NATURE OF INCIDENT / TO	) JAT
911 HANG UP	7
911 MISDIAL	12
911 OPEN LINE	3
ANIMAL CONTROL CALLBACK	9
ANIMAL CONTROL FOLLOW UP	2
ANIMAL CARCASS	2
ANIMAL WELFARE ATTEMPT TO LOCATE RECEIVED	8
BE ON LOOKOUT	6
CHEST OR CARDIAC PROBLEM	1
CHILD WELFARE/ABUSE/ENDNGMNT	3
CIVIL PAPER RECEIVED	3
CIVIL PAPER SERVICE	92
COMMERCIAL BURG ALARM	4
COMMERCIAL FIRE ALARM	1
COURTESY TRANSPORT	1
DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY	3
DISABLED VEHICLE	5
DISTURBANCE ECO TDO CALL	4
FINGERPRINTS	4 5
FOLLOW UP INVESTIGATION	6
FRAUD	4
GUN PERMIT RECEIVED	9
HARASSMENT PHONE/OTHER	2
VCIN CHECK	1
PHONE CALL RETURN	30
LOST ANIMAL	1
MAGISTRATE WALK IN	3
MENTAL WELFARE CALL NO INJURY	1
MISSING JUVENILE MVC WITH INJ OR UNKNOWN INJ	2
MVC WITH INJ OR UNKNOWN INJ MVC WITH NO INJURY	7
MVC WITTNO INJOINT MVC W/ ANIMAL	1
DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS	1
LOUD NOISE COMPLAINT	1
OTHER LAW CALL	7
OVERDOSE	1
PRISONER TRANSPORT	10
PROJECT LIFESAVER RELATED CALL	1
PROJECT LIFESAVER RELATED CALL LAW PUBLIC SERVICE	1 1
PROJECT LIFESAVER RELATED CALL LAW PUBLIC SERVICE RESIDENTIAL FIRE ALARM	1 1 1
PROJECT LIFESAVER RELATED CALL LAW PUBLIC SERVICE RESIDENTIAL FIRE ALARM RESIDENTAL BURGLAR ALARM	1 1 1 2
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PROJECT LIFESAVER RELATED CALL LAW PUBLIC SERVICE RESIDENTIAL FIRE ALARM RESIDENTAL BURGLAR ALARM SELECT PATROL SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY SHOTS HEARD STRAY DOG	1 1 2 39 1 4 6
PROJECT LIFESAVER RELATED CALL LAW PUBLIC SERVICE RESIDENTIAL FIRE ALARM RESIDENTAL BURGLAR ALARM SELECT PATROL SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY SHOTS HEARD STRAY DOG SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY/PERSON DIRECT TRAFFIC/FUNERAL TRAFFIC TRAFFIC HAZARD	1 1 2 39 1 4 6 15
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CRASHES
MVC NO INJURY 00:35:43 01/04/19
690 BIK LAKE MONTICELLO RD
MVC NO INJURY 00:18:32 01/05/19
2600 Blk WEST BOTTOM RD
MVC NO INJURY 14:21:52 01/05/19
1630 BIK KENTS STORE WAY
MVC NO INJURY 17:31:37 01/05/19 DEEP CREEK RD & JORDAN STORE RD
MVC W/ ANIMAL 17:51:01 01/05/19
HADEN MARTIN RD & WEST RIVER RD
MVC INJURY/UNK 09:01:31 01/06/19
530 Blk SAINT JAMES ST
MVC NO INJURY 20:02:47 01/06/19
PAYNES MILL RD & NORTH BOSTON RD
MVC NO INJURY 13:32:29 01/07/19
WEST RIVER RD & JAMES MADISON HWY
MVC NO INJURY 19:38:14 01/08/19
17000 Blk JAMES MADISON HWY
TOTAL CRASHES 9
ARRESTS
JAN. 4 AT 12:10 P.M.
HOME ADDRESS: PALMYRA
ASSAULT AND BATTERY OF A
FAMILY MEMBER
JAN. 5 AT 8:54 P.M.
HOME ADDRESS: PALMYRA
CONTEMPT OF COURT, PROBATION
VIOLATION CAPIAS
JAN. 6 AT 3:47 P.M.
HOME ADDRESS: FORK UNION
CONTEMPT OF COURT
JAN. 7 AT 1:33 P.M.
HOME ADDRESS: PALMYRA
USE PROFANE INDECENT TELEPHONE
JAN. 7 AT 4:23 P.M.
HOME ADDRESS: PALMYRA
DUI/DUID
JAN. 7 AT 5:10 P.M.
HOME ADDRESS: CHARLOTTESVILLE
PROBATION VIOLATION CAPIAS
JAN. 7 AT 5:38 P.M.
HOME ADDRESS: DILLWYN
FAILURE TO APPEAR FOR TRAFFIC
OFFENSE
JAN. 9 AT 8:03 P.M.
HOME ADDRESS: RUCKERSVILLE
CREDIT CARD FORGERY, EMBEZZLING
BUSINESS PROPERTY
JAN. 10 AT 12:02 A.M.
MANUFACTURING/SELLING
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, DRIVING
AFTER FORFEITURE OF LICENSE
JAN. 10 AT 10:28 P.M.
HOME ADDRESS: PALMYRA
VIOLATING A PROTECTIVE ORDER
TOTAL ARRESTS 10

## TOTAL ARRESTS 10

Difficulty: Easy

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

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70 Aesop's

band

also-ran

71 "Mr. Roboto"

33 "Star Trek"

creator

34 Stereo knob

Roddenberry

Edited by Margie E. Burke

## **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:								
9	7	4	5	2	3	8	6	1
6	1	5	7	8	4	2	3	9
2	3	8	9	6	1	4	5	7
3	5	7	4	9	2	6	1	8
8	6	2	3	1	7	9	4	5
4	9	1	6	5	8	7	2	3
5	4	9	8	3	6	1	7	2
7	2	3	1	4	9	5	8	6
1	8	6	2	7	5	3	9	4

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke ACROSS 10 11 12 13 1 Like some points 15 16 4 5 Desert Storm missile 18 9 Cries a river 20 22 14 Farm unit 23 15 Nonchalance 25 16 Work 17 Ground grain 30 32 29 31 33 18 Uno + dos 35 36 19 "All My Children" vixen 40 20 Buccaneer's 43 45 46 buddy 22 Excursion 47 48 49 24 Ledger entry 50 52 25 Buttercup's cousin 27 Search blindly 61 29 Makeup bag item 31 Greedy one 68 66 67 34 Grant 37 What hunting 70 71 dogs do Copyright 2019 by The Puzzle Syndicate 39 Teen spots? DOWN 35 Canyon effect 53 Parcel out 40 Facebook option 42 Indian bread 1 Musical "\_ 36 Wintry poem by 54 Presidential 43 Desktop icon, Mia!" Whittier nickname 2 Neptune's realm 38 Decorator's 55 Roaring Twene.g. 45 Crib plaything 3 Make a speech domains ties auto 56 Crowning point 47 Scatter seeds 4 Surveyor's tool 41 Super-secret 48 Starting point 5 Movie backdrop 44 As yet unsched-57 Bank offering 50 Impudent 6 OPEC, for one uled: Abbr. 59 Code starter 52 Go through 7 Manipulator 46 Over again 62 Hem and 8 Fashion bigwig 64 Barely make, 49 Stay a while again 56 Cream additive 9 Quilting party 51 Right-hand page with "out" 58 Comparative 10 Take (travel) word 11 1949 Cagney Answers to Last Week's Crossword: 60 Cunning ways film noir classic TEP ANEL ISS Ρ 61 Three-seater, 12 Scalp misery A B I D E T O N G A н A R IT 13 Cheat e.g. URGE TIDE 63 Hankering 21 Toy that does ΒE ECH TITLEDEED 65 GM make until tricks INSANE AERIE 2004 23 Past tense PARAGON OHM 66 Warm-water ray 26 Nightly TV fare NOMINE RIT L Α 67 Hunt for 28 Bobby of AVOCE Т LENTIL hockey 68 Took the train DE SERTS DI STORT 69 Furnish with a 30 Fit to be tied ERE LICENSE fund 32 Face shape ΡΑ ELLA URBAN

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# Legislators introduce journalist protections

BY SAFFEYA AHMED CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Two delegates, both former journalists, introduced legislation Monday (Jan. 14) to protect student journalists from censorship and shield reporters from having to disclose confidential sources.

Delegates Chris Hurst (D-Montgomery)and Danica Roem (D-Prince William) urged the General Assembly to pass such legislation.

"Journalism matters. Facts matter," Roem said. "We have to get this right."

Sponsored by Roem, House Bill 2250– introduced for the second year in a row –would protect members of the press from being forced by courts to reveal the identity of anonymous sources.

"The whole point of the shield law is to protect reporters from being jailed for protecting confidential sources," said Roem, a former reporter with *The Prince William Times*.

In 1990, Roem's former editor,Brian Karem, served jail time for withholding the names of anonymous sources while reporting in Texas.

"He did it to protect his sources' confidentiality," Roem said, "and to keep his word."

Virginia is one of 10 states that does not implement shield protections for members of the press. Roem also pointed out that a federal shield law does not exist. HB 2250 includes a clause requiring sources to be revealed when there is an "imminent threat of bodily harm," Roem said.

In addition to shield laws, Hurst said it's urgent the legislature also pass HB 2382, which he is sponsoring. The bill would safeguard the work of student journalists



Photo courtesy of Capital News Service.

from administrative censorship.

If the bill passes, Virginia would join 14 other states in providing protections for high school or college students. Half of the states with current protections for student journalists passed legislation in the last four years.

"Thorough and vetted articles and news stories in student media shouldn't be subject to unnecessary censorship by administrators," Hurst said.

Hurst has advocated for measures close to his heart since election to office in 2017. A former anchor and reporter for WDBJ 7 news in Roanoke, Hurst was dating Alison Parker, a fellow WDBJ reporter who was fatally shot on live TV in 2015, along with photojournalist Adam Ward.

The bill would create the freedom for student journalists to publish what they please without fear of administrative retaliation. The institution would be allowed to interfere only if content violates federal or state law, invades privacy unjustifiably, creates clear danger or includes defamatory speech.

While the current legislation focuses on implementing protections for student reporters in public schools and universities, Hurst said he wants the protections to eventually encompass private institutions. He said the legislation was "something that would, as fast as possible, put protections in place for student journalists at our public schools, our public colleges and universities."

These pieces of legislation come at a time when professional journalists are

increasingly targets of violence. A 2018 report by Reporters Without Borders –a nongovernmental organization that promotes journalistic free speech worldwide –found nearly 350 journalists were detained, 80 killed and 60 held hostage by November. More than 250 reporters globally were jailed in 2018, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.



# Virginians split on arming teachers

BY SAFFEYA AHMED CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Virginians are divided on whether they would support legislation to train schoolteachers and administrators to be armed on school grounds, according to apollconducted at Virginia Commonwealth University."It was almost split right down the middle," said Robyn Mc-Dougle, director for the Center for Public Policy in VCU's L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, which conducted the study.The 2018-19 Winter Public Policy Poll asked a random sample of 805 adult Virginians: "Would you favor or oppose a state law allowing localities to train teachers and administrators to be armed in schools?"

About 47 percent of Virginians are strongly or somewhat in favor of such training while 49 percent are strongly or somewhat opposed, the poll found. The survey's margin of error was 3.45 percentage points.Republicans were far more likely than Democrats to favor the legislation. A little more than half of white people responded that they would support training teachers and administrators to carry weapons, compared with 34 percent of minorities. Residents of western Virginia supported arming teachers more than any other region in the state, with 63 percent strongly or somewhat favoring the proposed legislation.McDougle said the results show that "the commonwealth is still very much a split state around the importance of Second Amendment rights." She said Virginia is "not a state where we're one side or the other -it's still a hotly debated topic."The idea of arming schoolteachers most recently circulated after the 2018

mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. The shooting killed 17 and injured 17 others. In 2018 alone, there were at least 24 school shootings resulting in 113 deaths, according toresearchconducted by Education Week.Arming teachers and administrative staff at schools is not an idea unknown to Virginia. In August, Lee County, in southwestern Virginia, approveda plan to arm teachers in an effort to increase security. Attorney General Mark Herring denounced Lee County's plan as illegal."Butwhen Parkland happened...the coach was shot while he was trying to protect his students," Brian Austin, superintendent of Lee County Public Schools, told NPR. "We had the incident in Indiana, where the young teacher was trying to defend his students and

got shot. And some school boards started issuing buckets of rocks and bats. And we thought we could do better than that."Inaddition to arming teachers, the poll also asked Virginians if they supported people carrying firearms at large public assembliessuch as concerts, protests or festivals. Sixty-two percent said they would favor maintaining public safety, even if it meant restricting people from carrying guns."It's two very separate conversations," McDougle said. "Many citizens look at arming teachers and school personnel as protection. I think that they look at individuals being armed at large, public events as potentially doing harm to others."





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