Fluvanna Fluvanna REVIEW



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To our daughter Tess McCormick and the graduating class of 2019 Fluvanna High School!



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PHOTO OF THE WEEK

An eastern bluebird stops by for a visit. Photo by Valerie Luevano.

Cover: St. Nicholas Learning Center (SNLC) is a Harvard Project Zero school, using Montessori teaching methods, a Reggio-based environment, and a focus on STEAM learning. In this picture, SNLC students designed chameleon wheels and discussed how God made each of us special and unique. Submitted by Bethany Thomas.

The Honor Guard of the American Legion Post 2003 salutes Roy Schurmann at his memorial. Photo by Edee Povol.

Cover design by Amelia McConnell.

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Supervisors approve gun shop permit

BY HEATHER MICHON CORRESPONDENT

A public hearing on a special use permit for the construction of a new gun shop in Fork Union elicited vigorous questioning from Fluvanna County supervisors at their Wednesday (May 15) meeting.

The 10.5-acre parcel sits behind and to the side of the Fork Union Animal Clinic, near the intersection of James Madison Highway (Route 15) and East River Road (Route 6).

Michael Brookman told supervisors that he is a federally-licensed firearms dealer and has owned Albemarle County Firearms in Charlottesville for nine years.

He explained that gun shops, not surprisingly, are frequent targets for would-be robbers. "As a firearms seller, it's your worst nightmare," he said. He believes moving from a high-traffic location like Charlottesville to a more remote area and building his own shop will alleviate some risk.

Asked what security provisions he had planned, Brookman said the building would be constructed of steel-reinforced concrete with steel doors and lined with vertical posts called bollards, designed to prevent the building from being rammed by vehicles. Motion detectors and cameras would be mounted on both the interior and exterior.

The building will be mostly hidden from view of the main road by trees, and he will not have a gun range, minimizing the impact on his potential neighbors.

Candice Waycaster, manager of the Fork Union Animal Clinic, shared a list of the clinic's concerns with supervisors.

Access to the shop would come by adding an extension to the clinic's current driveway. Waycaster said her biggest worry was increased traffic along the shared stretch of driveway, which is often used by visitors as a dog-walking area.

"I don't have any issue with the nature of the business," Waycaster said.

She also raised questions about who owned the easement between the clinic and the proposed store. After looking at a drawing of the property, County Attorney Fred Payne said the clinic might have grounds to contest the construction of the driveway. However, the supervisors could only vote on the motion before

Supervisors passed the special use permit unanimously.

FSPCA

Some administrative housekeeping over the county's contract with the Fluvanna SPCA (FSPCA) unexpectedly spun off into a short debate over funding

The issue at hand was a revision to a section of the agreement over the baseline funding the county provides the FSPCA for acting as the public animal shelter.

County Administrator Steve Nichols explained that the previous baseline had been set at \$6 per capita based on the 2010 census data for Fluvanna County, or about \$150,000 a year.

In fiscal year 2019 (FY19), the county boosted funding to about \$200,000, in part to raise staff salaries to a minimum of \$10 per hour. This increased the baseline to \$8 per capita. The motion before

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the board would codify the \$8 per capita

Nichols added that the FSPCA is now designated as a department for budgetary purposes, and like any department could ask for funding above its baseline during annual budgeting discussions. In FY20, they were allocated around \$300,000.

"I still don't understand that," said Supervisor Don Weaver (Cunningham) of the additional \$100,000. "I don't see how vou do that."

Under state law, counties and municipalities have to provide public animal shelters. Nichols pointed out that contracting with the FSPCA and helping them increase staff salaries, services, and infrastructure was still far cheaper than building and running a separate county shelter - a project that could cost the county millions of dollars.

"We use that as an argument, that it's going to be more expensive," said Weaver.

He voted no on the motion, which passed 4-1.

Other business

Supervisors also approved an exemption from the \$33 license fee for volunteer sheriff's deputies.

On the recommendation of human resources manager Jessica Rice, they agreed to approve the county's participation in a voluntary group long-term care insurance program offered through the state. This would give county employees an option to sign up for insurance coverage expenses for recovery at home or at a facility for a period of up to four years. The county will not have to pay to participate in the program.



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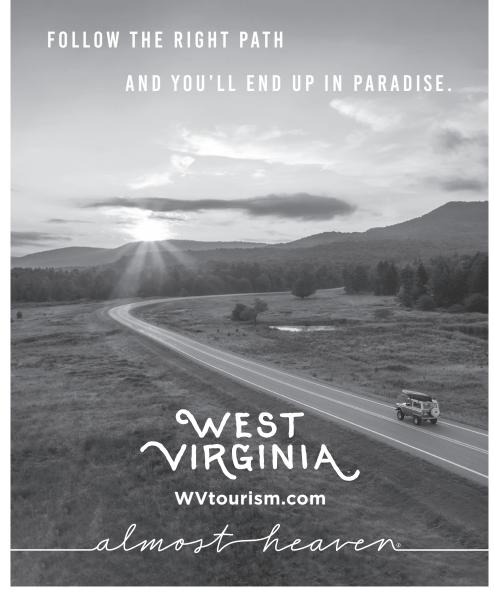
The Fluvanna Choraleers will present a Memorial Concert on Monday (May 27) at 11 a.m. at the Lake Room in the Lake Monticello Ashlawn Clubhouse. A special holiday lunch will be available in the Lakeside Restaurant after the concert.

The concert will feature choral and solo selections from our nation's past. In tribute to our veterans, our military service songs will be sung with each veteran standing as his or her song is performed. The audience

will also be invited to sing some of our favorite patriotic songs.

The speaker this year will be Alex Rucker, a retired U.S. Navy commander. Rucker also served as a pilot for many years with American Airlines.

The concert portion is free and all are welcome to attend. This program has become a favorite at Lake Monticello. We invite all to come and honor our veterans.





REWARD



Two concrete dog sculptures, pictured, disappeared from the front of our home in Fox Hollow Subdivision. Palmyra, VA, the first week in May. We are offering a reward to have them returned, no questions asked. Please call 434-589-2545 or 434-962-7819



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Bryan Rothamel, Fluvanna County Economic Development Coordinator

We hope you have enjoyed our tours vices, Palmyra Counseling & Therapeutic Services, Jefferson Centre Self Storage, ness communities. We've visited busiaround Turkey Sag Trail. We also are including Nahor in this stop.

In Nahor vou will find Ground Effects and Mulch Monkeys. The office building next door includes Debra Kurre CPA, PC's office, Style Studio, Wildwood Cottage, Promo Factory, and Country Rose. Dentistry at Nahor and LM Karate sit across Route 53 from each other.

Traveling east on Route 53 we see UVA Credit Union and then Atlantic Union Bank (formerly Union Bank). Behind the bank is Food Lion, Golden China, Subway, Evelyn's Confection and Ice Cream and Rudy's Dry Cleaners. In Garden Plaza we have Gary Albert's State Farm office, Lauterbach Chiropractic Acupuncture, Massage & Laser Therapy, Charles Allbaugh CPA PC's office, Henry Hudson Baking Company, Taekwondo Instructors Academy, Salon DeShano, Video by the Lake, Sal's Restaurant, Happy Tails Pet Food and Accessories and Jefferson Pharmacy.

Across Turkeysag at Jefferson Centre we have Pearls & Nails, Community Ripple, Rivanna Woods Financial Tax Ser-

Mailbox Express, Asian Café, Virginia ABC nesses in Zion Crossroads, Fork Union Store, AT&T, Blue 53, Villa Nova, Monticeland Crofton Plaza. Our next stop is lo Mattress & More, Tucker Griffin Barnes PC Law Office, and Sugar & Salt.

> On the corner of Turkey Sag Trail and Route 53 is the Exxon, Market at the Lake and Dunkin Donuts. Heritage Place is next door with Your Wireless Verizon, Anytime Fitness, Commonwealth Dentistry, Elephantz Trunk, Taste Budz and Papa Johns.

> The Goodwill store is on the way to Fork Union Family Medicine and Thacker Brothers Funeral Home.

> Whew. That's over 50 businesses in the area! You have your choice of purchasing groceries, getting professional service assistance, medical care, communication stores and restaurants! The road improvements also encourage easy pedestrian access across Turkey Sag Trail to visit many of these businesses.

> If we somehow missed your business or you are looking to expand into the Turkey Sag area, please contact Bryan Rothamel at brothamel@fluvannacounty. org. As always, make sure your business is on the county's business directory on YesFluvanna.org. Thanks for coming along on this tour!

CONTACTS

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Bryan Rothamel Economic Development Coordinator brothamel@fluvannacounty.org 434-591-1910

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

FUMA Interact Club celebrates 2,000 volunteer hours

BY MADELINE OTTEN CORRESPONDENT



Ahmed Khalil, Shereef Alkhateeb, Abraham Ullrich and Abdulraham AlBunnia.
Photo by James Kelley.

Most teenagers spend their weekends hanging out with friends, playing sports, catching up on the latest show on Netflix or even earning money by working. However, that is not the case for Fork Union Military Academy (FUMA) cadets, specifically those who are a part of the Interact Club. FUMA's Interact Club members spend their time on the weekends volunteering to help make an impact on society.

The FUMA Interact Club celebrated a year of success May 15 with its annual award ceremony. The ceremony kicked off with words from sponsors Command Sergeant Major (USA Ret.) Catherine Garcia and Rudy Garcia.

"When we started this club in October

2011, I never thought we would get to where we are today," said Rudy Garcia.

Last August the previous club co-presidents went to Catherine Garcia and proposed a goal of completing 2,000 community service hours. While the goal did not seem impossible, the cadets knew it would take up most weekends. This year the club exceeded its goal by completing over 2,000 community service hours.

In addition, the FUMA Interact Club has made a \$200,000 economic impact and has completed 8,000 service hours since the club began. They also raised \$900 toward polio vaccines, which, with the help of a two-for-one match, quickly became \$2,700.

"We are very proud to work with you.

It is an honor to be seen with you all and take you out to projects," said Catherine Garcia

During the ceremony, the top 10 volunteers were recognized. Additional members were acknowledged for their hard work and service within the community. The volunteers earned a pin of a ribbon or an oak branch symbolizing the number of hours they completed.

The top 10 Interact volunteers for the year are:

- Abdulrahman AlBunnia: 200.5 hours;
- Ousmane Dieng: 114.5 hours;
- · James Merriss: 104.5 hours;
- · Daniel Bartsevich: 100 hours;
- · Beomsu Hong: 100 hours;
- Donghyeok Kim: 100 hours;
- Shereef Alkhateeb: 90 hours;
- · Ahmed Khalil: 78.5 hours;
- Sungwoo Choi: 72 hours; and
- Jaemin Park: 61.25 hours.

"I did the math, and if you multiply the amount of hours this club has put in by the minimum wage, you have contributed about \$50,000 with your hands and heart," said Col. David Coggins, USMC (Ret.) and president of FUMA. "Pride that you helped someone should be shown on your uniform and over your heart."

Every year, members of the club participate in two big community service projects as well as smaller projects. Projects include Rise Against Hunger, helping out at Happy Face and Feeding Fluvanna, supporting Fluvanna Habitat for Humanity, fundraising for polio vaccines, helping out on Old Farm Day, Homework Helper, and Dining Facility Respite, a project where the cadets fill in for workers in the cafete-

ria, which was proposed by AlBunnia.

"This project helps our workers get home safely in case of snow or an unusual amount of rain," Coggins said.

AlBunnia received the FUMA coin, which reads "body, mind and spirit" underneath the symbol of the academy.

Another recipient of the FUMA coin that night was Shereef Alkhateeb. He was also awarded the \$2,000 scholarship from the Rotary Club of Fluvanna. Candidates must be seniors who have been in the club for at least two years and have completed 50 community service hours, 25 of which need to take place during their senior year. The decision was based on Interact involvement and leadership, hours volunteered, and GPA earned.

"I remember when I first joined Interact Club and since then, over time, it became a habit coming to the meetings every Wednesday," said Alkhateeb. "What you're doing out there, it is very important for the people here, but also in other places internationally. We help provide education and meals to others."

The FUMA Interact Club was chartered in October 2011; just one month after the Fluco Interact Club. In total, there are 20,372 Interact Clubs across the world with 159 countries involved. The club helps connect students with leaders in their communities and around the world so that they can take action, discover new cultures, and make a difference in the community.





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America. Warren will be discussing the significant impact of The American Chestnut Tree on our country, and how over 100 years ago it almost became extinct due to an imported fungus. In fact, four billion chestnut trees died at that time in one of



North America's worst environmental disasters. He'll tell us why this tree was so valuable to America and about the current efforts to restore it to its native habitat. Warren has been involved with The America Chestnut Foundation for 11 years and currently serves as Vice President of Education for the Virginia Chapter. This presentation will surely be a most interesting and educational experience for us all. Make your plans and reservations today.

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MAY 23–29, 2019 | FLUVANNA REVIEW | **7**

The American Legion: Still serving our warriors

SUBMITTED BY ANDREW M. LEON



The Honor Guard of the American Legion Post 2003 salutes Roy Schurmann at his memorial. Photo by Edee Povol.

Those who have served in the American military do not have to go to war to have the bonding experience of military culture. Yet certainly those who have gone, lost friends, or survived the terror of combat, are even more deeply affected by the bond. It is unspoken except in rare cases. It is as if no one could comprehend the feeling except another brother or sister under the cloth of the uniform. But the service experience eventually comes to an end. What then?

The American Legion was created after

World War I because so many Americans had participated in that great drama and had a need to make something positive of their experience. These were people who had learned the value of organized effort in obtaining an objective. The mission expanded to take in service to the veterans in need and the needs of the veterans' survivor families. Over the years, the American Legion has been at the forefront of advocacy for laws that support and enhance the status of our veterans who served and were ready to make the



ultimate sacrifice for their nation. The Legion has grown in membership and purpose to serve the veterans and their families, especially the survivors of the

Today the American Legion continues in its advocacy and representation of the veterans that our nation continues to create with every war our men and women engage in, especially since Sept. 11, 2001. In the present century, the American Legion has advocated for the improvement of medical services to veterans, especially in the VA system. It has successfully lobbied for extensions of the GI Bill to provide benefits to veterans of post-Sept. 11 service, especially for those with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury. The American Legion Legacy Scholarship was increased to cover children of the post-Sept. 11 veterans with greater than 50 percent disability. The Legion was in-

strumental in obtaining passage of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2017, which eliminates the cap on educational benefits for veterans.

Still, one of the most significant public services of the Legion is the military honor guard and firing squad that turns out to play Taps and give a final farewell to any veteran if requested by the family. In Fluvanna County, that service is provided by American Legion Post 2003 out of Fork Union.

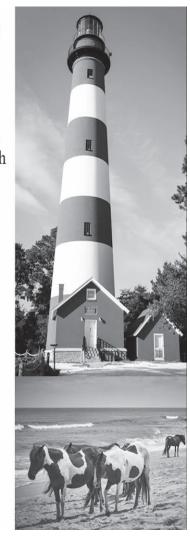
When we watch a parade on national holidays, we often see the "old men" marching in American Legion hats. It is important to remember that, once upon a time, they were the brave young people who were willing to go forward into danger for this nation. Newly created young veterans can be secure knowing that upon return to civilian life, the American Legion is a place where they will always be heard and welcomed.

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Blevins named high school teacher of the year

BY MADDY EUBANK FCHS JOURNALISM STUDENT



Angie Blevins, FCHS teacher of the year. Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Pellicane.

This year's Fluvanna County High School (FCHS) teacher of the year actually gave up classroom teaching for a few years to oversee something that most students fear: testing. For the past 23 years, Angie Blevins has been working in the Fluvanna County school system, with 18 of those years as a math teacher. But she gave it all up to take on the demanding job of FCHS Testing Coordinator in 2014.

Before working in Fluvanna, Blevins taught middle school math and algebra in Madison County from 1990-1996. Her interest in math began early, as she worked as a math tutor even before she graduated from high school.

Now, as testing coordinator, Blevins helps teachers prepare for tests, oversees the very complicated testing schedule each year, and helps administer tests to

students. Some of those tests include the learner's permit test, the PSAT, SAT, AP tests, and the career and technical edu-

"The best part of my job is seeing students work hard and reach their goals," Blevins said. "For some students, testing is not easy. I have to work with those students and get them to believe in themselves and pass the tests that they need." She added that her job is detail-oriented and that she has to be very organized to keep track of it all.

Blevins learned she had been selected teacher of the year on May 2. "There are so many good teachers in our school that could have been nominated for this honor. I am proud that I was chosen, but I am also proud to work with the teachers and students of our school," she said.

Tanner declared Fluco staff member of year

BY MADDY EUBANK **FCHS JOURNALISM STUDENT**



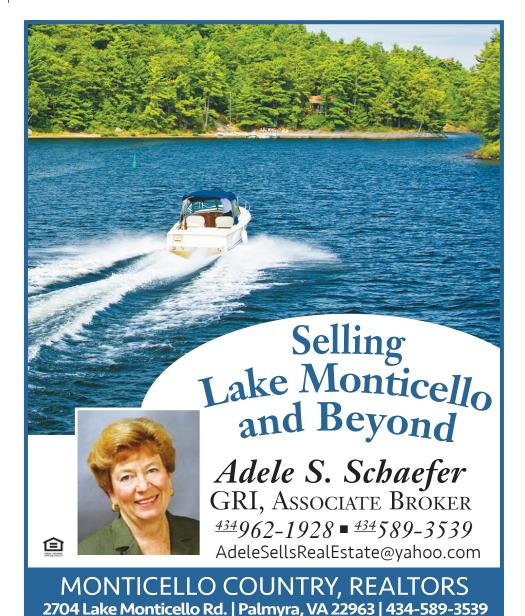
Doug Tanner, Fluco staff person of the year. Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Pellicane.

For the past 25 years, 2019 staff member of the year Doug Tanner has been working as a custodian for Fluvanna County High School. Every day Tanner can be seen throughout the halls of the school helping clean up after over 1,600 students and staff members who walk through the doors. He spends most of his time cleaning the floors, tables and bathrooms; he also helps straighten up the cafeteria between lunches. When not cleaning, Tanner changes light bulbs, makes sure that there is enough paper in the copiers in the teachers' lounges, and repairs equipment.

Though Tanner said that he would describe his typical day as "busy," he said that he still enjoys his job, adding that his favorite thing is being able to work around the other teachers and students. He said that he feels "very nice" about being selected as both high school and Fluvanna County staff member of the year.







Baseball, track and field

Fluco boys shoot for strong post-season

BY DUNCAN NIXON CORRESPONDENT



The Fluco baseball team is having a super season. Their record currently stands at an amazing 20-1 overall and 5-0 in Region play. Their pitching staff has recorded six consecutive shutouts.

Region play starts Thursday (May 23), with the Flucos hosting a regional opponent at home with a start time of 5:30 p.m. Attendance at Fluco games has been good this season. A large and highly enthusiastic crowd is expected on Thursday night, to cheer on a team that has State champion aspirations.

The Fluco boys' track and field team is also moving into the post-season with high hopes. Their performance at the Region qualifying meet held May 15 at Monticello High was impressive. The following athletes qualified in field events: Eli Hartzog, Alden Custer and Josh Elliot in shotput and discus, Christian and Cameron Holland and Colby Martin in the triple jump, the Hollands in the long jump, and Ethan Yancey and Jariq Henson

in pole vault.

The Flucos also qualified a host of athletes in the track events. These included: Ledric Reid, Jared Newman and Eric White in the 110 hurdles and the 300 hurdles, Dante Eddings and Kaiden Posati in the 100-meter dash, Aiden Girard in the 400meter, Rocco Calderone in the 800-meter and Eddings and Martin in the 200meter. Two relay teams also qualified for the Region meet: the 4X100 relay team of Prophett Harris, Christian Holland, Eddings and Martin, and the 4X400 relay team of Newman, White, Martin and Girard. As a result of all these qualifications the Fluco team under Coach Steve Szarmach is hoping for very strong Region showing.

Photo by Fluvanna Sports Photography.



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Gamage takes best in high school art show

BY PAGE H. GIFFORD CORRESPONDENT



Adora Gamage won best in show. Photos by Page Gifford.

Fluvanna County High School (FCHS) student Adora Gamage has had significant wins this year and last in both the FCHS art show and Fluvanna Art Association judged shows. Not only is Gamage's talent evident, but her consistency and commitment to her work shines through

Gamage's slightly off-beat watercolor won her first in the watercolor category and best in show. She also won second in watercolor. Her technique in watercolor shows her strength.

Her fellow students also showed good attention to detail and execution in all forms, from 3D to painting and photography. Bri Parker shows enormous potential for her work, placing first for her Medusa

and snakes drawing in mixed media 2D. Her drawing of a muscle bound male head turned skyward while reaching out to the onlooker was dramatic and garnered her an honorable mention in charcoal and conte crayon.

Abby Fuller is another student to keep an eye on. She won first place in watercolor resist and took second in the charcoal and conte crayon category for her humorous wide-eyed startled gentleman. She has a feel for bright colors and there is a wonderful looseness and flow in her

The pastel category showed a lot of student talent, but Jadyn Cook was the most original in his technique. He drew a dog on black paper with one half fading

into the black paper and the other half in bright pastel, to great effect.

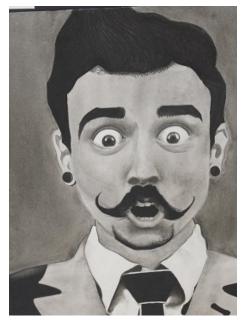
Leah Estes took first and second in oil painting and Brianna Parker took two honorable mentions for her work in the same category. Estes' first place winner told a story about a woman in a pensive mood and featured abstract elements.

Hunter Muddiman's colored pencil drawing of candy wrappers was vibrant and well executed. Young and adult artists alike can struggle with laying down color correctly in colored pencil, but Muddiman shows an understanding of his medium. Tyler Christian, who came in second, also deserves a mention for his rich, colorful work.

Miles Turner's first place mixed media was striking with a myriad of colors,

shapes and designs. Megan O'Dell nailed her ink wash technique with her dog. The lighting and angle of Amber Houseknecht's photo of a light bulb won her first place in photography still life. Zikayla Palmer's photo of a woman with flowers superimposed all over her body was a stunning first place win in digital

After her second year on the job, Michelle Coleman is proud of the accomplishments of her art students and continues to strive to bring their originality and imagination out in the open in a variety of ways and mediums. She continues to encourage them to explore, to look beyond the obvious, to discover new and innovative ways to use their mediums, and to see things differently.







Leah Estes





Abby Fuller



Mike Turner



Adora Gamage



Megan O'Dell



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Parents blindsided by closing of St. Nicholas **Learning Center**

Sts. Peter and Paul nearly \$1 million in debt

BY RUTHANN CARR **CORRESPONDENT**



They had no idea.

About 30 families who rely on St. Nicholas Learning Center to teach their children found out May 8 the school would close on May 24.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) President Christy Lynn Beck said the announcement took them all by surprise.

According to a letter from Father Gerald Musuubire, the priest at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church under which the school operates, the Diocese of Richmond decided to close the school because of financial troubles.

"It has become apparent that the sustainability of the Learning Center is no longer an option for our parish," Musuubire stated in the letter. "Regrettably St. Nicholas Learning Center will close May 24."

Musuubire did not respond to a phone call and email request for an interview.

More time

Beck said when she read the letter she jumped into action and asked for a meeting.

The diocese appointed Deacon Robert Griffin as the church's temporary business manager.

Griffin and Musuubire met with parents

Griffin "heard how passionate we were, the drive we had, and called the diocese and requested they come hear our families out," Beck said.

Five members from the diocese met with parents the next night and agreed to push the school closing back to June 28.

During that meeting Beck heard the financial troubles had been going on for a while. The parents, however, were kept in the dark, she said.

"They were just as much dumbfounded as we were that the information they were giving the school wasn't being relayed to us," Beck said. "I believe they did instruct the leaders of the school to instruct us about what was going on."

Finances

In a letter to the parish dated May 12, Musuubire got specific, stating Sts. Peter and Paul was \$950,000 in debt.

Pam Dempsey helped Musuubire start the school in 2015. Dempsey was in charge of curriculum, instruction and the school's

Dempsey was fired May 8.

When contacted, Dempsey said she did not want to speak on the record except to urge people to pray for the church, school, teachers, parents and students.

Beck didn't put the blame entirely on

"Father Gerald knew everything Pam did. He was cc'd on every email and letter we got," Beck said.

The Richmond Diocese is led by Bishop Barry C. Nestout. Sts. Peter and Paul operates under the direction of the Richmond Diocese. The diocese has authority over the school as well.

Griffin responded to an email containing several questions about the school closing with the following statement from the

"Any time we have to discontinue a program that promotes and upholds the teachings of the Catholic Church, in this case St. Nicholas Learning Center, is never a good day for the parish community. After years of operating deficits, this decision was necessary. Our immediate focus is to ensure the financial viability of the parish. A diocesan representative, Deacon Bob Griffin, is working closely with the pastor and the parish finance council to develop a concrete plan so the parish can meet its day-to-day financial obligations.

"We understand and share in the disappointment this challenge and hardship may cause for the school's parents and surrounding community. At the request of parents, we have extended the closing date of the school to June 28. Between now and that date, another review of this decision will take place. We hope to one day reopen the center.

"Right now, our attention is centered on how we can move the parish forward. Our energies are to ensure sustainability of Sts. Peter and Paul for future generations, so they may encounter the Gospel message, share our faith in charity and care for the marginalized and poor within our surrounding community."

Hope for the future

Beck said since becoming PTO president, she's focused on fundraising for and attracting more students to the school.

"We knew the school needed more students last fall because we had a bunch of students leave," she said.

The school has classes from prekindergarten for 2-year-olds through second grade.

"We'd been building back up. We had students signed up for summer and fall and thought we were on track to break even. Nine more students were coming in the fall. We had money coming in from fundraisers," Beck said.

Beck hopes the diocese gives families and teachers the opportunity ty to help the school flourish and thrive and "to be stronger and better than ever and to continue to see children's lives changed."

Everyday miracles

A few years ago Wendy Edwards and her husband, Robert, decided to become foster parents. Soon after they took in four siblings. They are in the process of adopting all four.

The children had all suffered trauma.

"When my kids came to me they didn't even know their own names," Edwards said. "We get intensive in-home care for all four. Each has specific needs and some schools can't meet that need. My 3-year-old has anger issues."

The school she attended sent Edwards' 3-year-old home daily, "until they finally said it wasn't a good fit," she said.

Edwards knew Dempsey and decided to check out St. Nicholas.

"I went on a tour with my 3- and 5-yearolds and when we walked into the classroom it was like walking into a massage room - there was soft lighting and the environment was quiet."

Edwards said the students were having fun, but "it wasn't so stimulating that kids were wired... They have a warm, comforting, no-drama discipline policy. It's a loving form of discipline."

Edwards said both of her children wanted to stay; however, her 3-year-old had a bit of a hard time when Edwards started to leave.

"The teacher took her hand and said: 'You are safe. You are loved and you're going to have a good day."

Even though her three youngest children have only attended St. Nicholas for about three months, Edwards sees positive change.

"They come home happy, filled. They're not thirsty for something. The environment has been very healthy for them and me," she said.

Edwards said her 3-year-old often bullies her 2-year-old brother. If someone comes to the door at home, he likes to run and get it. His sister, however, routinely pushes him out of the way and beats him to it.

"Just the other day someone came to the door and they both ran to it," she said. "Then my 3-year-old stopped, took her brother's hand and said, 'Let's do it together."

On one recent night, her 2-year-old son was spelling his name.

"He couldn't write it, but he knew how to spell it," she said. "That's just an example of the nurturing environment [at St. Nicholas]. Every day they learn something new. I feel like we see real miracles with these kids. It's a different environment. The discipline is so loving - they have the kids communicate with each other, hear each other. It makes such a difference in how they communicate

Edwards said she believes Dempsey is a good part of the reason why the school is a successful educational environment.

"I'm hoping the school will stay open and I'm hoping they'll re-instate Pam. But if not, that they'll bring in someone who embraces the same values and discipline as she did."

St. Nicholas is a Harvard Project Zero school. According to the website, Project Zero focuses on "understanding learning in and through the arts."

Beck said anyone interested in joining the school in the fall, or looking to comment on how St. Nicholas helped them in the past, should email Griffin at office@saintpeterpaul.org.

Lake fire department seeks community's help

Purchasing special hoods will help shield firefighters from cancer

SUBMITTED BY RICHIE CONSTANTINO

Did you know cancer is the leading cause of firefighter deaths in the United States? Surpassing heart disease, firefighters are succumbing to cancer-related deaths at a 14 percent higher rate than the general public.

A study conducted from 2002 through 2017 revealed 61 percent of all firefighter line of duty deaths were cancer-related. Furthermore, in 2016 alone that number rose to 70 percent. Why is that? Why has cancer been so prolific in firefighting over the past two decades? The answer is that firefighters are dealing with far more toxic soot and cancer-causing particulates than ever before.

Since this alarming increase, and the recent deaths of several local firefighters from cancer-related illnesses, the Lake Monticello Volunteer Fire Department (LMVFD) has taken a progressive and assertive approach to combat these frightening occurrences.

LMVFD has implemented procedures

in an attempt to minimize our firefighters' exposure to these toxic situations both at actual fires and on the training ground. As per department standard operating guidelines, when exiting contaminated atmospheres, all firefighters will immediately begin a decontamination process consisting of:

- Blowing away any smoke and cancer-causing substances from their turnout gear with ventilatio fans
- While still wearing their gear, the firefighters will be scrubbed fro head to toe with soap and water and then rinsed clean.
- After firefighters remove their hood, they must wipe their hands, face, neck, ears and under their arms where cancer-causing substances enter the body.
- Immediately upon their return to the firehouse, firefighters must place their gear into a special washing

machine-extractor to completely remove the suspicious materials.

Studies have shown the head and neck are the most susceptible areas where cancer-causing materials enter the body. The current hood worn by firefighters to protect these areas does very little to prevent the infiltration of these substances. To combat this alarming trend, a special particulate hood has been developed to block 99.9 percent of the potentially harmful particulates; however, the price per hood averages \$110 as compared to \$25 for the conventional hood. Our goal is to purchase these new state-of-the-art hoods for every member of LMVFD.

Budgets being as they are, LMVFD cannot afford to replace all current in-service hoods with new particulate hoods which provide your volunteer firefighters the best protection available. Understanding the immediate need for these hoods, our local State Farm Insurance

agent Gary Albert has partnered with LMVFD to help raise money to purchase these particulate hoods. "The volunteers at LMVFD put the community first," Albert said. "They give their time selflessly to help others. I want to raise money so the volunteers have upgraded hoods to protect their health while protecting our community."

You can assist us in reaching our goal of making your volunteer firefighters as safe as possible. All you have to do is visit Albert's office at 202 Turkeysag Trail, or call 434-589-0844, mention LMVFD and request a free quote. Each LMVFD quote for May and June will result in a \$10 donation from Gary Albert State Farm and State Farm's Neighborhood of Good.











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The Fluvanna Garden Club did some spring cleaning of the gardens in the patio area of Envoy Nursing Home in Fork Union May 7. The club members then planted a variety of annuals and perennials for residents and staff to enjoy. Submitted by Cheryl Parker.

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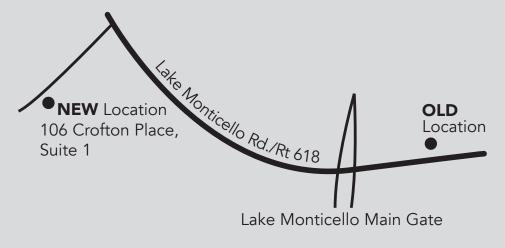


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FLUVANNA COUNTY TAXPAYERS 1st HALF 2019 TAXES DUE: June 5, 2019

Fluvanna County Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills for the 1st half of 2019 have been mailed. The **due date is June 5, 2019.** Payments received after the due date (June 5, 2019) will incur a penalty. There is no grace period for late payment and/or failure to receive a bill does not constitute relief of payment of taxes or penalty. All mail must be postmarked by June 5. If you have not received your Real and /or Personal Property **tax bill** and you know that you own land and/or have a vehicle, you need to contact the Fluvanna County Treasurer's Office immediately at (434) 591-1945

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Friday 8:00 am- 4:30 pm Closed on Monday, May 27, 2019 - MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY Extended Hours: Saturday, June 1, 2019 8:00 am - 12 noon

Deadline: Tuesday, June 5, 8:00 am -7:00 pm



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SHERIFF'S REPORT | MAY 10-16

NATURE OF INCIDENT / TOTAL

911 HANG UP 15 911 MISDIAI 11 911 OPEN LINE 7 ANIMAL CONTROL CALLBACK 6 ANIMAL CONTROL FOLLOW UP 1 ADULT WELFARE/PUB SAFETY CHK 3 AGGRESSIVE ANIMAL ANIMAL WELFARE 3 ASSIST OTHER AGENCY 3 ASSAULT W/ NO INJURY 3 **ASSAULT WITH INJURY** 1 **BE ON LOOKOUT** 15 **BOMB THREAT** 1 **BURGLARY PAST OCCURRANCE** 1 SHERIFF'S OFFICE CELL CHECK CHILD WELFARE/ABUSE/ENDNGMNT 1 **CIVIL INFORMATION REQUEST** 8 CIVIL PAPER RECEIVED CIVIL PAPER SERVICE 85 COMMERCIAL BURG ALARM 8 **COURTHOUSE SECURITY CHECK** 10 **DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY** 2 **DISABLED VEHICLE** 5 **DISTURBANCE** 10 **DRUG TAKE BACK** 1 ECOTDO CALL 1 **FALL FRACTURE** 1 **FINGERPRINTS** 6 **FOLLOW UP INVESTIGATION** 14 **FRAUD** 2 **GAS LEAK** 1 **GUN PERMIT RECEIVED** 4 **VCIN CHECK** 4 LARCENY/THEFT 5 PHONE CALL RETURN 45 LIVESTOCK CALL 3 MAGISTRATE WALK IN 8 MENTAL WELFARE CALL NO INJURY 1 MVC WITH INJ OR UNKNOWN INJ 6 MVC WITH NO INJURY 2 DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS OTHER LAW CALL 16 PEDESTRIAN IN ROAD/INTOX PEDES 2 **PRISONER TRANSPORT** 6 PROJECT LIFESAVER-RELATED CALL 1 LAW PUBLIC SERVICE 1 RADIO/911 SYSTEM ISSUE 3 **REPOSSESSION** 1 RESIDENTAL BURGLAR ALARM 4 SELECT PATROL 124 SEXUAL-RELATED OFFENSES 2 **SHOTS HEARD** 1 STRAY DOG 6 STRUCTURE FIRE 1 SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY/PERSON 22 TIPS/INFORMATION RECEIVED 2 DIRECT TRAFFIC/FUNERAL TRAFFIC 20 TRAFFIC HAZARD 3 70 TRAFFIC STOP TRESPASSING/HUNTING TRESPASS 1 VCIN HITS RECEIVED 4 **VCIN QUERY RUN** 1

TOTAL INCIDENTS 632

VEHICLE FIRE

WARRANT RECEIVED

OUT SERVING WARRANT

1

9

20

CRASHES

MVC INJURY/UNK 15:49:55 05/10/19 THOMAS JEFFERSON PKWY & SOUTH BOSTON RD MVC INJURY/UNK 15:22:39 05/11/19 COURTHOUSE RD & CARYSBROOK RD MVC INJURY/UNK 06:59:14 05/13/19 BROKEN ISLAND RD & SOUTH BOSTON RD 16:13:23 05/13/19 MVC INJURY/UNK LAKE MONTICELLO RD & SOUTH BOSTON RD MVC NO INJURY 07:24:42 05/14/19 1790 BLK RICHMOND RD 20:16:03 05/14/19 **MVC NO INJURY** 0 BLK FAIRWAY DR MVC INJURY/UNK 11:23:17 05/15/19 980 BLK DEEP CREEK RD MVC INJURY/UNK 21:16:00 05/15/19 THOMAS JEFFERSON PKWY & LAKE MONTICELLO RD

TOTAL CRASHES 8

ARRESTS

MAY 10 AT 2:46 A.M.

HOME ADDRESS: GORDONSVILLE DUI/DUID, POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

MAY 10 AT 12:52 P.M.

HOME ADDRESS: PAI MYRA CONTEMPT OF COURT

MAY 10 AT 5:48 P.M.

HOME ADDRESS: SCOTTSVILLE DUI/DUID

MAY 10 AT 10:15 P.M.

HOME ADDRESS: SCOTTSVILLE CONTEMPT OF COURT

MAY 11 AT 2:22 A.M.

HOME ADDRESS: LOUISA **CONTEMPT OF COURT**

MAY 11 AT 6:55 P.M.

HOME ADDRESS: BREMO BLUFF ENTERING A DWELLING WITH INTENT TO COMMIT LARCENY/ASSAULT, TWO COUNTS OF ABUSE/NEGLECT OF CHILDREN, DAMAGE TO REALTY/PERSONAL

MAY 11 AT 8:23 P.M.

HOME ADDRESS: PAI MYRA NO OFFENSE SPECIFIED

MAY 12 AT 1:13 A.M.

HOME ADDRESS: PAI MYRA

ASSAULT AND BATTERY OF A FAMILY MEMBER

MAY 14 AT 9:55 P.M.

HOME ADDRESS: POTOMAC, MD. VIOLATING A PROTECTIVE ORDER STALKING

MAY 15 AT 1:50 P.M.

HOME ADDRESS: KENTS STORE VIOLATING A PROTECTIVE ORDER

MAY 15 AT 8:37 P.M.

HOME ADDRESS: PALMYRA CONTEMPT OF COURT

MAY 16 AT 10:38 P.M.

HOME ADDRESS: TROY

ASSAULT AND BATTERY OF A FAMILY MEMBER

TOTAL ARRESTS 12

SUDOKU

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:

8 4 1
1
2
5
9
3
7
6

The weekly Crossword										by Margie E. Burke					
ACROSS	1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
1 Umpire's shout5 Carnation color	14					15					16				
9 Little hooter14 Scandinavian	17					18					19				
capital	20				21				22	23					
15 Math computation	24							25							
16 Poem property				26		27	28			29			30	31	32
17 Fight site18 Essence	33	34	35						36			37			
19 Raptor's roost 20 Riot-control	38				39						40		41		
substance	42			43		44						45			
22 Camping item 24 Trial partner	46				47			48							
27 mai partifei				49			50				51		52	53	54

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66

38 Arrival time, for

39 Oil source

short

25 Breadmaker's

26 Powerball, e.g.

29 Playground

mechanic

37 Gardening tool

fixture

33 Industrial

need

41 Naught

- 42 Jonathan Larson musical
- 44 AARP concern
- **46** Come to light
- 48 Sports complex
- 49 Jousting gear
- 51 Part of SSgt
- 55 Wrongdoing
- 58 Soft-shell clam
- 60 Pull strings?
- 61 June 6, 1944
- 63 Sandwich spot 64 Blackjack option
- 65 Vegas "lady"
- 66 Reed section
- member
- 67 Water-logged
- 68 Oxen's harness
- 69 McNally partner

DOWN

- 1 Special talent
- 2 Wickerwork willow

3 Of an arm bone 33 Nothing more 4 Backscratch, than

65

68

36 Next in line?

45 Bullfighter

_ enough...

- politically 5 Hemingway
- nickname 6 Tennessee's
- state flower
- 7 Fishing aid
- 8 Mexican painter
- Frida 9 Sherbet flavor
- 10 Choice word 11 Harp's cousin
- 12 Mideast bigwig
- 13 "Riverdale" target viewer
- 21 Weimaraner warning
- 23 Severely simple
- 25 Part of Canis Major
- 27 Ancient Greek ship
- 28 Fork feature

- 32 Ridge on skin
- 30 Fit to be tried 31 Similar (to)

- 52 Simple organism 53 Record holder? 34 Anagram of 54 Like some eggs "mite" **55** No ____, no fuss 35 Pool path 56 Digging, so to
- speak 40 None too brainy 57 Male deer 43 Kind of cards
- 58 Give a pink slip to 47 Moneygrubbing 59 Youngster
 - 62 Twosome

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:



Dues increase must be justified with offset expenses

I have been keeping up with articles regarding a Lake Monticello Owners' Association (LMOA) dues increase. I agree we need to keep our community and facilities in pristine condition. In the past I have voted for improvements and will continue to do so as it makes sense.

Increased fees, dues, special assessments and improved property costs continue to occur. On the other hand, cutting costs, spending less and staying within budget is not as obvious. Payroll seems to be an expense where savings could be an offset.

Looking at the LMOA organization chart it appears that opportunities for savings exist:

- · General manager;
- Executive assistant to general manager;
- Communications director;
- Assistant communications (open position);
- Member services manager;
- Member services front desk;
- · Amenities events coordinator;
- Contracts manager;
- Finance director;
- Bookkeeper/Accounts receivable;
- Accounts payable (2);
- Environmental control/compliance administrator;
- Bar codes
- Facilities administrator;
- Maintenance administrative assistant: and
- Not included: Golf, marina, pool, police and restaurant staffing, as they are amenity-driven.

LMOA should drill down and look at staffing, job descriptions and productivity. There is money to be saved. Reducing payroll, workman's comp insurance and payroll taxes could result in hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings.

The following numbers were taken from the LMOA website.

Payroll expense 2018 vs. 2017:

Payroll salaries

- 2018: \$3,252,906
- 2017: \$2,661,406
- Over: \$591,500

Supplies/cost of goods

- 2018: \$652,953
- 2017: \$376,821
- Over: \$276,132

General and administrative expenses

- 2018: \$1,120,590
- 2017: \$1,033,592
- Over: \$86,998

Total expense overage in these three areas alone: \$954,630.

Think about that; let that sink in. Almost \$1 million over in payroll and expenses from one year to the next. I was told that the restaurant start-up contributed to some of this overage. That may be a topic for a future article.

I share this information with the residents of Lake Monticello in hopes that a discussion will take place. A dues increase may be justified as long as there are appropriate offsets in expense. We vote in June.

Mike Stanke Lake Monticello

Justice involves a balance of powers

When government is based on the rule of law the term justice becomes an important factor. Our courts and constitution seek justice by ascribing to a standard interpretation of our laws. Righteousness, equitableness, and the maintaining of what is just as guided by truth, reason and fairness define the principle of justice.

I strongly doubt Donald Trump would subscribe to any of these principles. And neither would his Department of Justice under Attorney General William Barr. The redaction of the Mueller report and Barr's summary statement was an attempt to mislead Congress and the public. Now a Republican member of Congress, Michigan's Justin Amash, has read the full report and has called for Trump's impeachment. Amash points out that "impeachment, which is a special form of indictment, does not even require probable cause that a crime (e.g., obstruction of justice) has been committed; it simply requires a finding that an official has engaged in careless, abusive, corrupt, or otherwise dishonorable conduct." Amash also said "contrary to Barr's portrayal," Trump's actions "meet the threshold for impeachment" and that anyone without the unique legal protections of the presidency would be facing an indictment.

In fact, hundreds of former federal prosecutors have argued that Trump would have been charged with obstruction of justice if he were not president — a reference to the Justice Department's long-standing policy stating that a

sitting president cannot be indicted. But careless, abusive and corrupt conduct while in office? That basically sums up Trump's behavior as President of the United States.

It's important to remember that when America's founding fathers wrote the U.S. Constitution they lived in a world of kings and monarchs. A system of government with the crucial checks and balances was essential to their understanding of justice. It was John Adams who wrote, "It is by balancing each of these powers against the other two, that the efforts in human nature toward tyranny can alone be checked and restrained, and any degree of freedom preserved in the constitution."

Julius Neelley Lake Monticello



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Lakers question proposed dues increase

Ponder yearly \$50 restaurant subsidy

BY HEATHER MICHON CORRESPONDENT

With weeks to go before the final votes are cast, Lake Monticello residents met with members of the Board of Directors to discuss proposed dues increases in the second of two town halls at the Fairway Clubhouse on Thursday (May 16).

About 30 people attended the meeting, where directors Tom Braithwaite, Marlene Weaver and Mike Harrison made their pitch for the two proposals on this year's ballot: a \$180 dues increase to be phased in over three years, and a \$50-per-household annual restaurant fee.

Paying the piper

The directors argued that previous boards failed to adequately build up cash reserves for the future. "We are at an alltime low," Treasurer Marlene Weaver told the audience.

By their projections, major funds like major repair and renovation (MR&R) and the roads reserve are approaching critical levels. By one projection, Weaver said the MR&R fund could be "busted" within the next two years at the current dues rate of \$861 a year.

Under state law, homeowners' associations (HOAs) are required to conduct a "reserve study" every five years. Outside analysts look at everything held and maintained by an HOA and projects what the community might need in funding over the next 30 years.

The 2019 reserve study recommended a dues increase of \$404 annually.

When asked by Sunset Court resident Steve Smith why they chose to ask for

\$180 rather than the recommended \$400, Weaver explained that they didn't have the completed reserve study when they were debating the issue over the winter and hinted that they wouldn't have asked for such a steep increase even if they had had the figures. "We want this [increase] to pass," she said.

Braithwaite added that strategic reserve studies include hypothetical expenses based on standard depreciation and usage.

He gave the example of the new community pool: The 2019 survey anticipates that the HOA will need to spend several thousand dollars to replaster the pool in about eight years, but since it's a brand new facility, that may turn out to be unnecessary, freeing up those dollars to use elsewhere.

The cost of fine dining

Many of the residents' questions and comments focused on The Pub and the Lakeside Restaurant. Both have struggled to increase traffic, despite changes in management, menus and price points.

The proposed \$50 a year fee would provide an estimated \$225,000 in funding to support the two facilities. Each household would receive a card or voucher for \$50, redeemable at either restaurant.

Several people questioned why the community should support restaurants that can't turn a profit on their own.

Looking at the figures, they seem "more like an albatross than an amenity," said one Jefferson Drive resident.

The directors argued that residents were clear during the renovation of the clubhouses that they wanted fine dining as an amenity, so funding had to be provided to keep them afloat and to encourage more residents to use them.

A Chestnut Court resident who attended the planning sessions for the development of a new strategic plan said the potentially closing Lakeside Restaurant had been such a major topic of conversation that she had come away "under the mistaken impression that it would be put on the ballot in June."

Harrison said the board would be voting on that element of the strategic plan at an upcoming meeting, and all three directors said that Lakeside might eventually have to shift its focus to catering and special events.

At the beginning of the meeting, Weaver answered a question asked at the previous town hall: Why do people living in \$600,000 lakeside homes pay the same rate as someone in a \$150,000 home? She explained that the community's 50-year-old articles of incorporation explicitly prohibit tiered dues. Everyone has to pay the same rates.

The votes on both ballot issues and two new members for the Board of Directors will be decided at the June 29 annual meeting.





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