

Fluvanna

REVIEW



Details of Lake Monticello Killing Emerge at Bond Hearing

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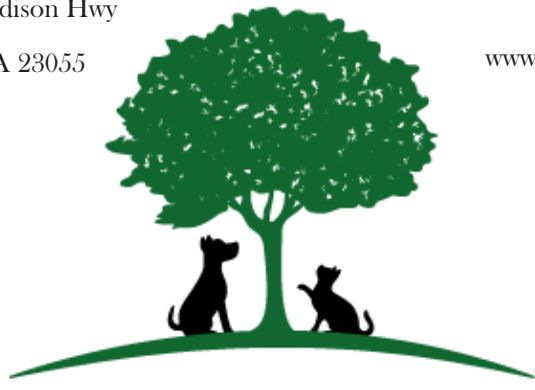
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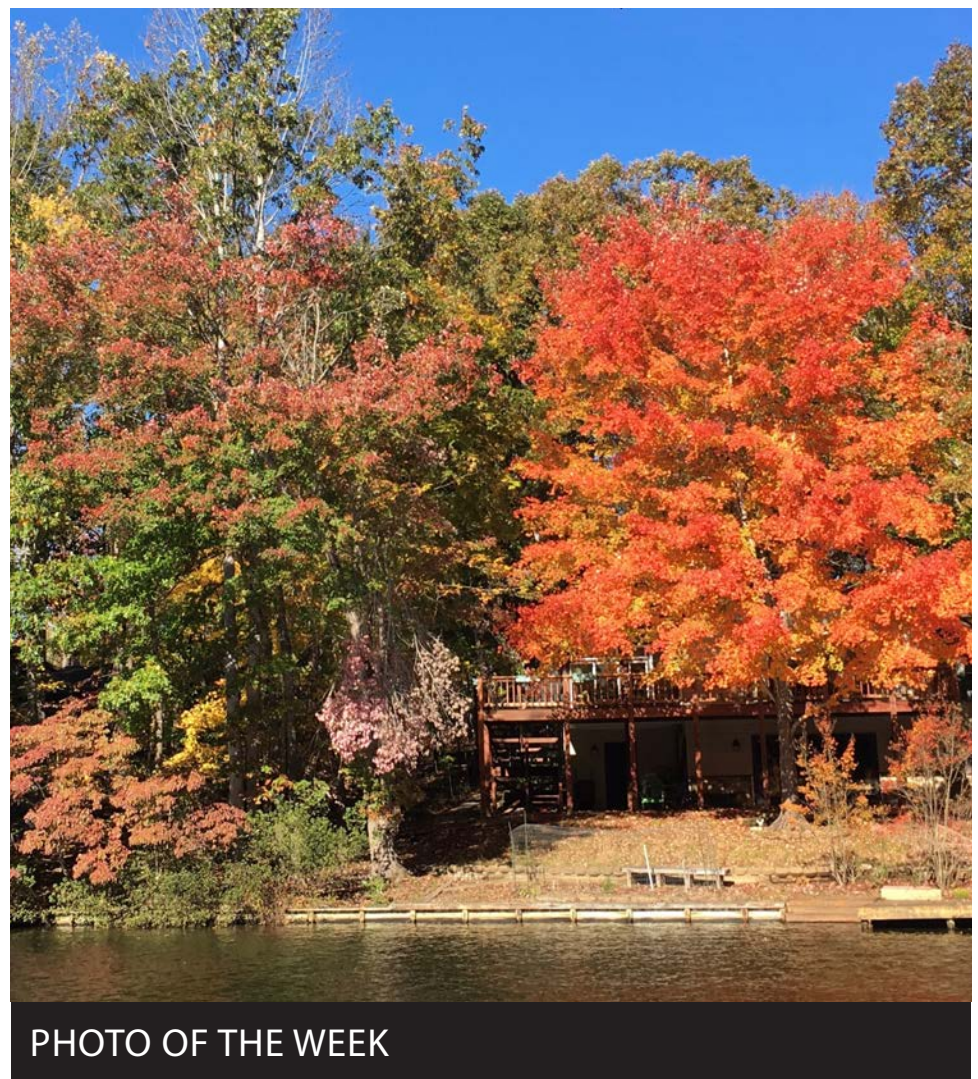


PHOTO OF THE WEEK

The famous orange tree of Lake Monticello. Photo by Cindy Stenz.

Cover: Cover design by Amelia McConnell.

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Details of Lake Monticello killing emerge at bond hearing

BY HEATHER MICHON
CORRESPONDENT

The first details of events leading up to the shooting death of a man at Lake Monticello emerged during back-to-back bond hearings at Fluvanna County District Court on Tuesday (Nov. 12).

Fluvanna County Commonwealth's Attorney Jeffrey Haislip told Judge Theresa Carter that their evidence indicated that Joshua Bentham-Ball, 44, and Jason J. Farren, 36, approached a home on Axle Tree Road at Lake Monticello after dark the night of Oct. 29 to "check on" a girl who lived at that address with her mother.

The girl's mother was working a night shift, but the mother's companion, Benjamin Camp, 37, was staying there overnight.

Bentham-Ball was allegedly carrying a "very large stick" that Camp later said looked like a bat, Haislip said.

Camp's attorney, Lloyd Snook, told Carter that his client awakened to find the two men already in the home. After a struggle, Camp got both of

them out of the house and called 911 to report that "two guys just tried to jump me."

While still on the line with a dispatcher, Camp said that the men had reentered through a side door. Haislip said the 911 recording picked up sounds of shouting, scuffling, and finally, gunshots.

Police arrived to find Farren had been shot three times. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Camp explained to the judge that he believed both men had weapons: Bentham-Ball with the stick and Farren with "an ax handle or something with a blade." At the time of the shooting, Bentham-Ball was crouched behind Farren and "they both were coming at me."

Bentham-Ball fled the scene, dropping the stick as he left.

Camp said he had known Bentham-Ball for about a year and a half and had seen Farren, although he said they had no prior dealings.

During his bond hearing, Ben-

tham-Ball's attorney argued that his client, a sous chef, was the sole breadwinner for his wife and child. They had been living with Bentham-Ball's parents at Lake Monticello for over a year before the shooting. Bentham-Ball's father told Judge Carter "we'll do whatever the court orders" if his son were released to his home.

Haislip argued that Bentham-Ball had a long record of skipping out on court-mandated supervision meetings stemming from previous run-ins with the law.

Carter denied bail, saying she was "concerned that he doesn't have a good track record" on following the rules.

Camp's case was much more difficult to decide.

Snook argued that this "was a very clear case of self-defense," and Haislip himself said there was a "compelling" argument for self-defense. He added that Camp had "been very open with the police" during the investigation.

Both Camp's adoptive parents and

his birth mother spoke to the judge on his behalf. "We have a community of people here to support Ben," she said, as about a half-dozen people stood up.

She described her son, a longtime DJ and board member at WVAI 101.3 in Charlottesville, as "an honest, authentic individual."

Carter said she found this to be "a very unfortunate situation," and that generally, given his minimal criminal record "the court would lean heavily toward bail." But the gravity of the charge and the use of a weapon gave her pause.

"It's a close call," she said. "I'm here wrestling with this."

In the end, she decided against bail. However, she told Camp the court would be willing to hear arguments again at his next court date.

Both men are currently set to return on Jan. 21, Bentham-Ball for a preliminary hearing and Camp for a status update. They will remain at Central Virginia Regional Jail until that time.

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BY RUDY GARCIA, OWNER, RIVANNA WOODS FINANCIAL / TAX SERVICES

Last-Minute Tax-Savings Ideas

Action you can take before time runs out

Here are six tax saving ideas that can be used by most taxpayers. But act soon, there's not much time left until our tax year comes to an end.

1. Make late-year charitable donations. Consider making donations with appreciated stock you have owned over one year. You can typically receive the higher value donation without paying capital gain taxes. Also consider non-cash donations of items in good or better condition. But pay attention to your total deductions. With higher standard deductions, you should use your charitable giving to ensure you can maximize your tax savings. This may mean making next year's donations this year!

2. Make contributions to your qualified retirement plans. Remember there is still time to make contributions to traditional IRAs, SEP IRAs and 401(k) accounts to reduce your taxable income this year. While you're at it, take a look at next year's limits and plan to increase your contributions to make next year's tax obligation even better than this year's.

3. Take distributions from your retirement accounts. If you are over 70 1/2 years old you will need to take required minimum distributions. The penalty for not taking minimum distributions is 50%. But if you are over 59 years old you should also be taking distributions from tax deferred accounts in the most tax efficient way possible.

This may mean taking some money out, even if you do not quite need it now.

4. Take any final investment gains and losses. Capital losses can be used to net against your capital gains. You can also take up to \$3,000 of capital losses in excess of capital gains each year and use it to lower your ordinary income.

5. Consider making any final gifts to dependents. You may provide gifts of up to \$15,000 per year per person. Remember all gifts given (birthday, holiday and cash) count towards this total. This can provide a future source of possible investment income for your kids. While the "kiddie tax" may ultimately come into play, this can be avoided by using the gifts to fund a 529 college savings account.

6. Set an appointment with us to review your situation. With the new tax rules in place beginning in 2018, tax planning is more important than ever. You still have time to lower your tax bill, but the clock is ticking. Call us, we are ready to help!

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Fluvanna Business Corner

Meet Emerging Business of the Year Local Eats Owner Amy Myers

Rudy Garcia, President Fluvanna Chamber of Commerce

Fluvanna County has long been home to businesses with a "Local" flair. From roadside produce stands, to eateries, to bakeries, to grocery stores, to local retail, we have seen it all.

But it is a rather recent phenomenon to gather all those disparate businesses under one roof. That is what local entrepreneur Amy Myers has accomplished with "Local Eats". Local eats grew out of Amy's desire to serve quality local food in a nice and relaxed atmosphere.

To understand why "local Eats" has been such a success, we would do well to understand more about the driving force of nature that is its founder, Amy Myers. Amy has been an entrepreneur for a very long time. She started out gardening when she was only 12 years old. She worked in the restaurant business for almost 3 decades. Most of the time she was working in the restaurant business she was still gardening as a side business.

Amy had wanted to open her own business for a number of years but was (as most of us are) hesitant to take the leap. But, about three years ago the stars aligned and she made the decision in early spring of 2017 to take the plunge. By July of 2017, she had done all the necessary legwork and the Fluvanna Chamber was on hand for her ribbon cutting.

It has been nothing short of an example of timing and preparation coming together to equal success. Since her opening, Amy has continued to tinker with the business model and now has what is probably one of the most unique businesses in Fluvanna County.

When she opened, Amy had a vision to provide the best food in a relaxed, home-like at-

mosphere. As a result, Local Eats has become the place to go for anyone interested in eating a good meal. She has done that in spades. In addition, she now supports the effort of over 65 local farms who provide fresh herbs, vegetables, eggs, dairy, beef, lamb, chicken and occasionally some goat!

She is also a major supporter of numerous artisans and makers who provide specialty food products, soaps, chocolates, coffee and even dog treats! Going inside "Local Eats" is like stepping into a local cornucopia!

As if that weren't enough to keep her busy, this past spring she launched a weekly farmers market that ended the season with nearly 10 vendors. Keep your eyes open for news about the 2020 Farmer's Market.

In case you haven't visited yet, "Local Eats" is located at 74 Joshua Lane and is open Monday-Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

As Amy says: "My passion is to serve the highest quality, local food possible. I have been in the restaurant business for over 26 years. I've been a vegetarian for nine years and grow most of my food. Growing mushrooms has been a side hobby for a few years and I love sharing that experience with others. My goal is to live a simple, clean, healthy lifestyle and leave the world a better place."

Amy's entrepreneurial spirit and dedication to serving well-prepared, good food is one of the reasons the Fluvanna Chamber of Commerce awarded her with its first-ever Emerging Business of the Year.

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School board talks budget

BY RUTHANN CARR
CORRESPONDENT



The Fluvanna County School Board talked about three budget years – last year, the present and Fiscal Year 2021 – at its meeting Wednesday (Nov. 13).

As for last year's budget's \$932,000 surplus, the Board voted to give the surplus back to the county. However, they gave Superintendent Chuck Winkler the guidance (or permission) to ask for \$250,000 of it back to buy two new school buses.

Shirley Stewart (Rivanna), Brenda Pace (Palmyra) Andrew Pullen (Columbia) and Charles Rittenhouse (Cunningham) voted for; Perrie Johnson (Fork Union) voted against.

Johnson said she didn't want to put the Board of Supervisors in the position to have to deny or grant the request.

Initially, Stewart made a motion to give back the surplus, but to ask Supervisors to return \$250,000 for two new buses and \$200,000 to equip buses newer than five years with air conditioning.

In October, Winkler said with increasing temperatures and those temperatures lasting well into the fall, he wanted the Board to consider air conditioning buses for the youngest students and those on the bus the longest.

Temperatures taken on some of the buses during hot days exceeded 100 degrees, Winkler said.

All new buses come equipped with air conditioning.

The Board voted down Stewart's motion with Pullen and Rittenhouse joining Johnson's no vote.

Then Stewart made another motion leaving out the request for \$200,000 for air conditioning.

That, too, was voted down with the same people voting against.

After some discussion, Pullen made the motion that passed.

Acknowledging it was essentially the same motion as Stewart's second motion, Pullen said he was concerned about the "process."

During Winkler's report, he said the Carysbrook roof is awaiting final in-

spection.

Report cards were available online via a parent portal. About 80 percent took advantage of that.

Winkler said parents can always request a paper copy.

"Several students, staff, and the SGA from FCHS are working with Mrs. Bruce (principal) to possibly change how we do senior week and graduation," Winkler said.

Among other changes, the group is looking into having graduation on Friday evening to free up the Memorial Day weekend. Winkler said he will keep the Board updated.

When Winkler didn't give a report on E-Sports that was listed in his packet, Johnson asked for clarification.

E-Sports is online gaming competition.

Winkler said it costs about \$64 per game per semester. It's possible faster gaming monitors that cost \$700 each might be needed for the 20 students interested to compete at the highest level.

Johnson said she researched the games suggested and two of the three – "Rocket League and League of Legends" – are rated T for Teen.

That rating warns of "violence, blood, potential nudity and alcohol use," she said.

"I hesitate to endorse that," Johnson said.

Winkler said he would have more detailed information at a future meeting.

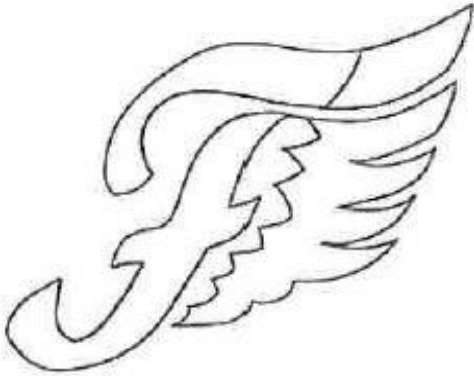
Executive Director of Instruction and Finance Brenda Gilliam said this year's budget is on target.

Among the things to consider as the Board plans the 2021 budget:

- Potential loss of \$225,000 because of drop in enrollment;
- A change in the Local Composite Index could result in \$65,000 less in state funding;
- Revisions in the Standards of Quality;
- Increased special education student enrollment;
- Health insurance costs.

Schools own Fluco "F" trademark

BY RUTHANN CARR
CORRESPONDENT



sion," Winker said. "We purposefully kept the color blank (neutral) since we know there are a variety of colors in use now and maybe in the future (i.e. camo, blue, yellow, rainbow, etc.). In essence, we own the rights to the "F", so any changes will go through FCPS."

In October 2018 the High School Alliance Club asked the Board for permission to alter the colors of the logo from the blue and gold to those of the rainbow.

The group, who said they are allies to Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender and Questioning people, did not ask to permanently change the logo.

Students said they wanted to print the rainbow F on stickers, t-shirts and other items to show support for those students who are often maligned by society.

Over a course of three months the community expressed its concerns about the issue to the School Board.

The debate illuminated:

- Others changed the logo without asking. One used the American flag colors; others camouflage and pink;
- The schools did not own a trade-

mark on the logo;

- Many LGBTQ students suffer mental, emotional and physical harm, which seemed to surprise some Board members.

On Jan. 9, the Board voted to allow the rainbow color change. Three Board members abstained: Charles Rittenhouse (Cunningham), Brenda Pace (Palmyra) and Andrew Pullen (Columbia). Shirley Stewart (Rivanna) and Perrie Johnson (Fork Union) voted for.

That debate sparked a renewed interest in trademarking the logo.

Before the Board meeting on Wednesday (Nov. 13) Winkler said if the Board decides to take up the issue of other altered logos, they can.

"From now on if someone wants to modify the logo they must put in a request to the superintendent, who will then present it to the Board," Winkler said.

The Board will have to determine what metrics it will use to grant or deny changes, Winkler said, and will likely take up the issue either in December or January.

Spurred by last year's debate over the "Rainbow F," Fluvanna County Public Schools sought and now legally own the logo.

On Nov. 12 the schools notified the press it trademarked the Fluco "Flying F."

Superintendent Chuck Winkler said only the shape of the "F" is trademarked, not the colors.

Any use of the "Fluco F" outside of district sponsored items, activities, or student projects will require permis-

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Obituary

Thelma Alice Belanger Stowell

Thelma Alice Belanger Stowell, 93, of Palmyra, passed away on Thursday, November 14, 2019. Born in Lowell, Massachusetts, she was the daughter the late Wilfred J. and Beatrice Caron Belanger. She was also preceded in death by her beloved husband, Matthew J. Stowell; a son, Mark J. Stowell, II.; twin sister, Theresa Larose (Morris); brother, Wilfred E. Belanger; and brother-in-law, Frank Coughlin. Thelma was very outgoing in her 93 years. She was a world traveler. She was an avid golfer, tennis player, snow skier, ice skater, and dancer. Thelma was a member of the tap dance group, The Silver Steppers, and a community theatre group, The Persimmon Tree Players. She was a founding member of Saints Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church, Palmyra, and former member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Petersburg. She was a talented seamstress who enjoyed making clothes and costumes. She was especially proud of making liturgical garments and leading the banner ministry at church. Thelma is survived by 6 children, Matthew J. Stowell, III. (Olga Glykis); Caron M. Stowell, William L. Stowell (Stephanie), Christopher R. Stowell; Amy C. Stowell Blaha (John), and Patrick J. Stowell (Donna); 21 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; sister, Doris B. Coughlin; daughter-in-law, JoAnne Stowell; sister-in-law, Jacqueline Belanger; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at Saints Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church, Palmyra. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be donated to Saints Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church, 4309 Thomas Jefferson Pkwy, Palmyra, VA 22963. Condolences may be registered at www.jtmorris.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Veteran Outreach

HOV (Holistic Outreach for Veterans) Monday, **Nov. 25**. 6:30 - 8:30pm. Salon DeShano. Free holistic care for all veterans and current military. Fourth Monday of every month. Contact: Kim Munson at 434.249.1806 or Roy Hughes at 434.202.9703.

Byrd Chapel UMC

Byrd Chapel UMC will be preparing for the season of Advent as it celebrates the Hanging of the Greens Worship Service on **Dec. 1**. The worship service will be at 11 a.m. Byrd Chapel is located at 5371 Venable Road (Route 601) Kents Store. For further information call 434-589-2142.

Happy Face Party

Fluvanna Christian Service Society is collecting toys and food for their annual Happy Face Party. Collection boxes are located at the Fluvanna County Library, Spectrum Fitness Center, Monticello Country Realty, both LMOA Clubhouses and many local churches. Volunteers are also needed for party set-up on Friday, **Dec. 6** and the day of the party **Dec. 7**. Call Mary Kidd 434-589-0910 to volunteer or with any questions.

Community Singers concert

Fluvanna Community Singers Christmas Concert will be held Friday evening, **Dec. 6** at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, **Dec. 7** at 3 p.m. at the Carysbrook Performing Arts Center, Rt. 15, Palmyra. The 65 Voice chorus will present "Let's Have a Christmas Celebration." The Concert is free- a gift to the people of Fluvanna County. Questions? Call Frank Saurman (434) 589-3456.

Beautification Corps fundraiser

Lake Monticello Beautification Corps major fundraiser is back! From 12 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, **Dec. 7**., come visit five delightfully decorated homes for the holidays. Tickets are only \$10 and will have the house addresses listed. Some homes have water views and each home is unique. Lots of raffle prizes. Tickets available now! Questions? Call Nancy (434) 589-3720 or email: nhqpainter@comcast.net

Obituary

Francis John Persico



Francis John "Frank" Persico, 78, of Palmyra, passed away on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at his residence under the care of Hospice of the Piedmont.

He was born on May 16, 1941 in Manhattan, New York, the only child of Italian Immigrants, Fernando and Giada (Gambera) Persico.

Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Rebecca "Becky" Persico; his son, Michael Persico and his wife, Jill and their daughters, Gabrielle and Alycia; his daughter, Theresa Altherr and her husband, Brian and their children, Vaile and Alexander.

Frank's early education began with New York City Catholic Schools including Our Lady of Solace and Mount St.

Michael High School. He also attended Manhattan College in Bronx, NY, and graduated in 1963 with a BS in Biology. He continued at Adelphia University, Garden City, NY earning an MS in Microbiology. Following his Master's Degree, he attended the University of Houston where he was awarded a competitive NASA grant to complete his PhD in Microbiology. Finally, Frank was granted a post-doctoral assignment at The Waksman Institute of Microbiology at Rutgers State University in New Jersey. Throughout his years of postgraduate work, Frank's dad had two primary questions for him: 1) When are you going to get a haircut (it was the '60s); and 2) When are you going to get a job?

Frank worked in research development with Johnson & Johnson for 30 years. His career began at Ortho Diagnostics as a Research Fellow, and soon thereafter he was promoted and transferred to other Johnson and Johnson subsidiaries where he made significant contributions in the field of genetic research. Throughout his career, Frank worked on projects that were instrumental in paving the path for the developments in genetic testing that we experience today. His most notable contribution was his work on the Human Genome Project, a collaborative international scientific effort led by James Watson and Francis Collins. This project brought scientists together to determine all of the base pairs that make up human DNA and to identify and map all the genes of the entire human genome. Another distinguishable assignment Frank had was to meet with Sally Ride, America's first female astronaut to discuss possible projects in space. Although Frank

accomplished a great deal as a research & development leader, he was a humble leader who preferred to allow his staff to take credit for his team's achievements.

In his retirement years, Frank spent time giving back to the community while continuing to educate himself and to teach others in an informal fashion. He logged many volunteer hours at Streamwatch and conducted a workshop for Blue Ridge Governor's students one summer to teach students how to identify bugs to check the health of the Rivanna River. He was also a Tree Steward. He served as President of the Fluvanna Master Gardeners and was involved with many projects such as the first Children's Garden at Central Elementary, which was later moved to Carysbrook Elementary. He ran several hypertufa workshops in Fluvanna and Louisa. He was one of the original volunteers to establish the Fluvanna Community Garden. Volunteers used cedar trees from the construction site of the new high school to set up the first fence. He spent many hours on an archeological dig behind the manor house at Pleasant Grove in order for the Fluvanna Master Gardeners to create a demo garden. And, of course, there were many years of participation at Old Farm Day.

His hobbies included reading (he always had two books going at once), fly-fishing, and amateur photography for which he won several 1st place ribbons at local events. He jokingly referred to himself as MAWP (Multiple Award Winning Photographer). Frank also had a lifelong passion for cars. He especially loved going to Ferrari meets at Watkins Glen in the Poconos. His most recent pride & joy was winning Best of Show with his Lexus LC500.

The way that Frank led his life was rooted in values that were based on his love of the Lord, whom he held in the highest regard. Ever the intellect, Frank had a thirst for knowledge, especially when it came to his Savior, so he spent a great deal of time praying, reading the Bible, and engaging in other forms of religious education. If a family member or friend had a question about a Bible passage, Frank could immediately give a discerning, insightful response based on his in-depth knowledge as well as the personal relationship he built with God over the years. Frank was a devout Catholic who taught CCD, RCIA, and served as an usher. Although he would never refer to himself as a Biblical scholar, people who knew him would consider him to be not only a Biblical scholar, but also a true child of God.

A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11:00 am, on Saturday, November 16, 2019 at Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church, 4309 Thomas Jefferson Pkwy in Palmyra. The family received friends immediately following the Mass for a luncheon at the Parish Center.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the following: Hospice of the Piedmont, 675 Peter Jefferson Pkwy, Suite 300, Charlottesville, VA 22911; The Lake Monticello Volunteer Fire & Rescue, 10 Slice Road, Palmyra, VA 22963; or Saints Peter & Paul Cemetery Maintenance, 4309 Thomas Jefferson Pkwy., Palmyra, VA 22963; or a charity of your choice.

Thacker Brothers Lake Monticello Funeral Home handled the arrangements. Family and friends may share memories and photos at www.thackerbrothers.com.

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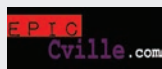
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Fluvanna Meals on Wheels seeks donations for emergency bags

BY MADELINE OTTEN
CORRESPONDENT

Fluvanna County experienced chilling temperatures last week as it dropped into the low 20s. Community members had to scrape frost off car windshields and dig out winter coats. As December approaches, frost, freezing rain, and snow pose a threat to the county, which can impact those who are unable to drive or cook.

In the face of that, Fluvanna Meals on Wheels is now collecting donations for its emergency bag program (E-Bag). The E-Bag program contains nonperishable, entirely prepared food in case of inclement weather. The program is accepting proteins, vegetables, and fruits; donations are single serving sized with easy open containers and low sodium and low sugars.

For proteins, low sodium soups or stews, tuna, chicken, and salmon in cans or punches, beans, peanut butter (low salt or unsalted variety), and cans of unsalted nuts are greatly appreciated. Fruit in fruit juice cups or cans such as mandarin oranges, pears, peaches, and mixed, dried fruits like bananas, cherries, apricots, and raisins, and applesauce are accepted. As for vegetables, green beans, peas, carrots and corn in cans that are low sodium or no added salt. And finally, the program also accepts a box of Saltine or Ritz crackers, a box of Graham crackers, granola bars, and cereal bars and packs of six or 12 of 100 percent fruit juice in single-serving sizes.

The bags are for use in emergencies only when Meals on Wheels cannot deliver on their usual schedule. The drivers are all volunteers and most of them are retired, and since the program follows the Fluvanna County School System meaning if the schools close due to the weather and conditions, Meals on Wheels considers the conditions too dangerous for its volunteers to drive and deliver meals. This is where the E-Bags are crucial.

Since the bags are delivered ahead of time, each bag contains

PROTEIN - Choose 5 food items from the following list:

- Low Sodium Soups or Stews
- Meat – tuna, chicken, salmon in cans or pouches
- Beans
- Peanut Butter (low salt or unsalted variety)
- Jars or Cans of Unsalted Nuts



4
Fruit
Bowls



FRUIT - Choose 5 food items from the following list:

- Fruit in fruit juice (mandarin oranges, pears, peaches, mixed, etc.) cans or fruit cups
- Dried fruits (banana, cherries, apricots, raisins, etc.)
- Applesauce

VEGETABLE - Choose 5 canned food items that are Low Sodium or No Salt Added:

- Green beans
- Peas
- Carrots
- Corn



Please choose 2 items from the following list:



- Box of Saltine or Ritz crackers
- Box of Graham crackers, granola bars, cereal bars
- Packs (6 or 12) of 100% fruit juice (in single-serving sizes)

NO CANDY OR COOKIES PLEASE

Be sure to check the expiration dates on canned goods. The expiration dates should be any time after July 2020.

five full meals, just in case deliveries cannot be made for an extended period of time. The first round of deliveries was made on the week starting Nov. 18. Fluvanna Meals on Wheels has teamed up with the sheriff's office, which has made the first round of deliveries the past two years and will continue the tradition this year.

"This time of year, the number of clients increase," said Office Manager Cindy Wilson. "Our clients are homebound with limited or no ability to drive as well as those who cannot cook. There is no age

limit and we try to make sure to get food to those who cannot go out and get it themselves."

And just because the first round has gone out to clients, does not mean they have enough to supply for the rest of the winter season. In a recent interview with NBC 29 News, chair of Fluvanna Meals on Wheels Lisa Hines stated they had 65 bags donated so far out of the 75 clients they serve.

"We are still collecting for the rest of winter," said Wilson. "When it snows, sometimes it sticks for a couple of days and while Lake

Monticello might be clear, some of our clients who live out in the county are hard to reach. The E-bags are a great source of food in case we cannot get to them."

Donations can be dropped off at their Crofton Plaza headquarters on Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For further questions and additional information about donations for the E-Bags, please call 434-589-1685.

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The mountains in the distance frame the rolling farm fields and convey the feeling that rural life is exceptional. The centrally located recreation area includes a playfield and picnic pavilion with bathrooms and kitchen. The quaint pavilion creates the perfect gathering place for community meetings, birthday parties, or weddings. Come see why more people are finding that the Meadow Brook Community is the perfect place to call home.



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Fluco football falls to Spotswood Trail Blazers in play-offs

BY DUNCAN NIXON
CORRESPONDENT



Photo by Deborah Nixon.

For the second year in a row, the Fluvanna Fluco football team qualified for the Class 3 Region C play-offs. Unfortunately, as the last team in, the Flucos were matched up with the number one seed, the undefeated Spotswood High Trail Blazers.

On Nov.15, the Flucos traveled to Penn Laird to take on the Trail Blazers in the shadow of the Massanutan ski resort. The Flucos moved the ball well between the thirty yard lines but were unable to spend much time at all in the red zone (inside the other team's 20 yard line.) Meanwhile, the Trail Blazers unveiled a devastating offense, with long passes and powerful runs. The outcome was never in doubt, as Spotswood scored two touchdowns early and rolled to a 48-8 win.

The game started with the Flucos at the Spotswood 32-yard line. A twelve-yard run by junior Keontae Hearn gave the Flucos a first down. Senior Gabe Stoy gained four to mid-field. Freshman Jaden Ferguson took a pitch-out from sophomore quarterback Kobe Edmonds and ran 22 yards to the 28. There was some grumbling in the stands on the Spotswood side. But, the Spotswood defense stiffened and the Flucos tried to be first on the board with a long field goal. However, the attempt was blocked and the Trail Blazers took over at the Fluco 27 with 8:16 left in the quarter. On the Trail Blazer first play, they went for pay dirt and succeeded. A long pass hit the receiver perfectly on stride and the Trail Blazers were

on the scoreboard. The extra point was good for a 7-0 score.

On the ensuing kick-off the Flucos fumbled the ball away. Spotswood started at the Fluco 41-yard line. Three plays later a 28-yard pass play put the Trail Blazers in the end zone again. The PAT was good, and the Blazers were up 14-0 very early. The Flucos ran for three first downs on their next possession, but Edmonds was sacked on a third down pass play attempt and the Flucos were forced to punt. After a couple of Spotswood first downs, a long punishing run by the Trail Blazers took the ball to the Fluco one-yard line as the first quarter ended.

On the first play of the second quarter the Trail Blazers scored on a dive into the end zone. The extra point made it 21-0 and the Flucos were too far back to have much hope. The Flucos were still fighting though and Edmonds hit senior wide receiver Cameron Holland with a short pass and Holland broke several tackles for a 41 yard gain to the Spotswood 32 yard line. Edmonds then ran a keeper and behind a crushing block by Walt Stribling got a first down at the 19-yard line. But, the Flucos were unable to overcome a ten-yard holding penalty and went four and out. A 47-yard touchdown run by the Spotswood quarterback in the middle of the second quarter upped the score to 28-0 and that was the half time score. An exciting play for the Flucos came when junior punter Rocco Calderone took

off running right on a fake punt for a first down.

The Trail Blazers took the opening kick-off of the second half and marched down the field for their fifth touchdown. With 9:48 remaining in the quarter. The extra point try was wide, so the score was 34-0. The Fluco offense was now having trouble making first downs and Spotswood added touchdowns late in the third quarter and early in the fourth for a lead of 48-0.

After the Spotswood's fourth quarter touchdown, the Flucos started at their own 46-yard line on a kick return by junior Travis Morris. Hearn covered the 54 yards needed to reach the Spotswood end zone in only three carries. His touchdown run was a 28 yard sweep to the left. Edmonds then hit Ferguson wide open in the end zone for a two point conversion. The final score was now

in place, 48-8.

After the game Coach Mike Morris acknowledged that Spotswood was very tough competition, noting that the Trail Blazers ran a number of difficult formations. They obviously were fast and tough and deep. Morris noted that the unfortunate fumble early took some steam out of his squad. It was the type of break the Flucos needed, but the Trail Blazers forced instead.

The Flucos ended their season with a 5-6 record but making the play-offs two years in a row is a huge accomplishment for a program that achieved very little success for a number of years. Morris noted that although he has some excellent seniors graduating, he believes that he has a good crop of younger players moving up.

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Fluco volleyball standout signs to play at UVA-Wise



Photo by Duncan Nixon.

Signing ceremonies are always happy events. On Nov. 13 Fluvanna County senior Eynne Stafford signed a commitment letter to play volleyball for the Division II University of Virginia at Wise Cavaliers. It is becoming a regular event for a Fluco volleyball player to sign to go on to the next level. Fluco Coach Christi Harlowe-Garrett has sent a string of young athletes on to college programs in the East.

Stafford stated that she felt "very comfortable" with Wise when she took her official visit, noting that she connected right away with the

coaches and players. Accompanying Stafford at the ceremony, were her parents Michelle and Jamie Stafford

Michelle Stafford said that although her daughter played soccer from young age, she only took up volleyball in 8th grade. She clearly took to the sport very well. Stafford was an outstanding libero on the Fluco team and expects that she will continue at that position at UVA- Wise. The libero is the player who is responsible for "digging" the kill attempts of the opposition, in order to keep the ball in play.

THIS WEEK'S PET

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Spraggs-Key Auditorium Dedicated

BY RUTHANN CARR
CORRESPONDENT



Fluvanna County residents gathered Sunday (Nov. 17) to honor two former Central Elementary heroes: Paul Spraggs and Elva Key.

Spraggs was principal from 1958-1982. Key worked full-time as Central Elementary's secretary from 1962-2001, then part-time until 2012.

The singing group "Odyssey of Soul" performed and Fluvanna School Education leaders past and present spoke to close to 200 people who attended the ceremony.

After the event, Paul Spraggs Jr. spoke of his father and the "unique spirit" that ruled at Central Elementary.

"He was the principal, but also a minister and a lot of us who were in his parish also attended Central," Spraggs Jr. said. "It was a great dynamic. Back then, teachers in school were highly regarded. The community worked together and knowing teachers and parents worked shoulder-to-shoulder commanded the respect of the community. It would be good to get back to that."

Karen Bland Cooper echoed that sentiment.

"Not only was Mr. Spraggs my principal, he was my pastor (Byrd Grove Baptist Church) so his posture commanded my attention not just five days a week, but seven," Bland-Cooper said, laughing. "He stood out in the county. It wasn't just his posture. He was a smart man; an intelligent man. This is a wonderful honor bestowed on him."

Fork Union's representative on the County Board of Supervisors, Mozell Booker, said she worked with both Spraggs and Key.

"I was a teacher here and this is where I practiced being a principal," Booker said. "I talk about Mr. Spraggs every time I give my presentation to the Fluvanna Leadership Development class."

School Superintendent Chuck

Winkler attended the ceremony.

"It's an honor and a privilege to know two Flucos who have done so much for the county and the students over the years," Winkler said.

Key's daughter, Cheryl Key Stewart, perhaps knows her best.

"She's worked long and hard and the remarks people said about her are true," Stewart said. "She was the disciplinarian at home and an excellent mother and friend. She and Mr. Spraggs worked hand-in-hand together. This is an extreme honor."

Linda Staiger met Elva Keys in 2017 and the pair had an instant bond.

"Simply put, I love her. She's my friend. She's the most courageous woman I've met and she's guided by her faith. I think one of the funniest and truest things that were said today about her is: 'She was the Google of Fluvanna before there was a Google. She knew everyone. She knew every student. She touched more lives in our community than anyone else.'"

After the ceremony, Key stood on the stage surrounded by her family and Paul Spraggs Jr., posing for pictures under the Spraggs-Key Auditorium banner. The Rev. Spraggs died in December of 2001.

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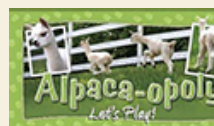
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PUBLIC NOTICES



FLUVANNA COUNTY TAXPAYERS 2nd HALF 2019 TAXES DUE: Dec. 5, 2019

Fluvanna County Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills for the 2nd half of 2019 have been mailed. The **due date is December 5, 2019**. Payments received after the due date (December 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 December 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
Extended Hours: Saturday, November 30, 2019 8:00 am – 12 noon
Deadline: Thursday, December 5, 8:00 am -7:00 pm



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- Keep letters under 350 words.
- Refrain from personal attacks.
- No letters that have been sent to other newspapers.
- Include your name, address & phone # for verification.
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You will get an email confirmation that your letter has been received. If you don't, contact the editor directly.



IF YOU SEE NEWS HAPPENING, EMAIL US

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VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF FLUVANNA

JASON SCOTT WATSON,

Petitioner,

v.

Case No.: 19CL615-00

JOIE LEIGH WATSON,

Respondent.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this action is to obtain a divorce from the bond of matrimony from the Respondent on the ground of having lived separate and apart for a period exceeding one year, without cohabitation and without interruption.

It appearing by affidavit that the Respondent is not a resident of this Commonwealth and that the Respondent's last known residence and domicile was 1700 Riverwalk Place, Apartment 132, Frederick, Maryland 21701, but that the Respondent no longer resides at her last known address and the Respondent's present whereabouts are unknown, and diligence has been used by or on behalf of the Petitioner to ascertain in what county or city the Respondent is without effect, and it is ORDERED that the Respondent appear before this Court on or before **December 6, 2019 at 9:45 AM** and protect her interests herein.

And it is further ORDERED that the above paragraphs be published once a week for four successive weeks in the Fluvanna Review, a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Fluvanna. The Clerk of this Court shall post this Order at the front door of the courthouse, and shall mail a copy of this Order to the Respondent at the last known address, if any, given in the affidavit of the Petitioner filed herein.

Richard E. Moore

Judge of the Circuit Court

ENTER: October 4, 2019

Jason Scott Watson
67 Jefferson Drive
Palmyra, VA 22963

Fallen journalists deserve a memorial

BY BARBARA COCHRAN
CORRESPONDENT

Journalists relentlessly pursue the truth in order to provide citizens with the information they need to be self-governing. And yet, for journalists, doing that work can be risky, dangerous and even cost lives.

Just 15 months ago the deadliest attack on journalists in U.S. history took place at the office of the Capital Gazette, the local newspaper in Annapolis, MD, when a gunman shot and killed five employees and wounded two others.

It is an all too frequent and unfortunate reality that reporters and photojournalists must face and even run toward danger when seeking the truth. That's why so many have died while covering war and conflict, from Ernie Pyle in World War II, to Francois Sully, Larry Burrows and Dana Stone

in the Vietnam War, to David Bloom, Michael Kelly, Elizabeth Neuffer and Daniel Pearl in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It is also why so many have died around the world when the powerful wanted to silence them. Jamal Khashoggi was murdered in the Saudi consulate in Turkey just over one year ago. Anna Politkaya was killed after her reporting on the Russian war in Chechnya angered those in power.

Washington, D.C. has many monuments honoring those who have sacrificed their lives to protect our freedoms; yet, there is no memorial on public land to recognize the journalists who have made the same sacrifice. Such a memorial would demonstrate to our citizens and to visitors from around the world that our country

values a free press, honors the sacrifices of journalists and supports the family, friends and colleagues of the fallen.

To make this memorial a reality, federal legislation is needed but federal funds will not be used. The Fallen Journalists Memorial Act of 2019 would authorize the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to lead the effort to design, develop, construct and maintain a memorial on federal land in Washington, D.C. The memorial would be funded entirely by private donations and without the use of any taxpayer funds.

Once completed, the Fallen Journalists Memorial will serve as a reminder of the sacrifices that have been made – and that will continue to be made – to preserve a free press. It will also be

a source of education, awareness and pride for our entire nation.

This important effort is only beginning. We need the help of newspaper readers and others who value the role that journalists play in our democratic society. We encourage you to contact your representatives and senators in Congress (202- 224-3121) and ask that they co-sponsor the Fallen Journalists Memorial Act of 2019 and help us make this memorial a reality. Barbara Cochran is the President of the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation

NATURE OF INCIDENT / TOTAL

911 HANG UP	16
911 MISDIAL	7
911 OPEN LINE	3
ANIMAL CONTROL CALLBACK	5
ANIMAL CONTROL FOLLOW UP	1
ADDRESS SIGN REQUEST	1
ADULT WELFARE/PUB SAFETY CHK	3
AGGRESSIVE ANIMAL	2
ANIMAL CARCASS	3
ANIMAL WELFARE	5
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	2
ATTEMPT TO LOCATE RECEIVED	4
BE ON LOOKOUT	5
BURGLARY IN PROGRESS	2
CARDIAC ARREST	1
SHERIFF'S OFFICE CELL CHECK	1
CIVIL INFORMATION REQUEST	3
CIVIL PAPER RECEIVED	5
CIVIL PAPER SERVICE	51
COMMERCIAL BURG ALARM	5
COURTHOUSE SECURITY CHECK	2
DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY	5
DIFFICULTY BREATHING	1
DISABLED VEHICLE	13
PAST DISTURBANCE	1
DISTURBANCE	12
FINGERPRINTS	7
FOLLOW UP INVESTIGATION	6
FRAUD	1
GUN PERMIT RECEIVED	15
HARASSMENT PHONE/OTHER	2
LARCENY/THEFT	8
PHONE CALL RETURN	56
LIVESTOCK CALL	5
LOST ANIMAL	3
MAGISTRATE WALK IN	3
MENTAL WELFARE CALL NO INJURY	2
MISSING ADULT	2
MISSING JUVENILE	1
MVC WITH INJ OR UNKNOWN INJ	2
MVC WITH NO INJURY	2
MVC W/ ANIMAL	8
OTHER LAW CALL	14
PEDESTRIAN IN ROAD/INTOX PEDES	2
POWER LINE DOWN	1
PRISONER TRANSPORT	9
PROJECT LIFESAVER RELATED CALL	1
RESIDENTIAL BURGLAR ALARM	3
SELECT PATROL	48
SHOTS HEARD	1
STRAY CAT	1
STRAY DOG	1
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY / PERSON	18
DIRECT TRAFFIC/FUNERAL TRAFFIC	22
TRAFFIC STOP	48
UNRESPONSIVE	1
VCIN QUERY RUN	1
WARRANT CHECK IN/OUT	4
WARRANT RECEIVED	6
OUT SERVING WARRANT	12

TOTAL INCIDENTS 476



CRASHES

MVC W/ ANIMAL	11:02:56	11/14/19
90 BLK CANAL VIEW LN		
MVC W/ ANIMAL	05:27:12	11/14/19
4220 BLK RICHMOND RD		
MVC NO INJURY	12:32:45	11/13/19
15700 BLK WEST RIVER RD		
MVC W/ ANIMAL	18:03:07	11/12/19
630 BLK COURTHOUSE RD		
MVC INJURY/UNK	08:23:58	11/12/19
13020 BLK JAMES MADISON HWY		
MVC W/ ANIMAL	06:35:38	11/12/19
420 BLK SCLATERS FORD RD		
MVC NO INJURY	10:56:22	11/11/19
TROY RD & RICHMOND RD		
MVC INJURY/UNK	12:55:11	11/10/19
CENTRAL PLAINS RD & WEST RIVER RD		
MVC W/ ANIMAL	13:49:12	11/09/19
THOMAS JEFFERSON PKWY & TAYLOR RIDGE WAY		
MVC W/ ANIMAL	00:12:59	11/09/19
FRIENDSHIP WAY & JAMES MADISON HWY		
MVC W/ ANIMAL	23:06:09	11/08/19
BEAVERDAM RD & RICHMOND RD		
MVC W/ ANIMAL	22:26:34	11/08/19
HUNTERS BRANCH RD & RICHMOND RD		

TOTAL CRASHES 12

ARRESTS

ARREST DATE: 22:59:00	11/10/19
ADDRESS: PALMYRA	
DUI/DUID	
ARREST DATE: 19:29:20	11/12/19
ADDRESS: BREMO BLUFF	
ASSAULT AND BATTERY OF A FAMILY MEMBER	

TOTAL ARRESTS 2

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SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Medium

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

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

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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 "No ___ luck!"
- 5 Concoct, as a plan
- 10 Scoundrels
- 14 The Bee Gees, e.g.
- 15 Lincoln Center offering
- 16 Kind of thermometer
- 17 RSS reader, for one
- 19 Low card in pinochle
- 20 Long (for)
- 21 Enchant
- 23 Way past ripe
- 25 Bowling lane button
- 26 After-dinner wine
- 28 Brownish hue
- 31 1973 film, "Live and ___ Die"
- 32 Pencil part
- 34 Pretzel topping
- 38 Quaker product
- 40 Hanging-basket flower
- 42 "Not guilty", e.g.
- 43 Bees collect it
- 45 Mischief maker
- 46 China cabinet
- 48 Hitchcock made many
- 50 Contrail's makeup
- 53 Refuse receptacle
- 55 Service station job
- 58 Make into law
- 61 Bread for gyros
- 62 Easy to reach
- 64 Computer screen symbol
- 65 Foot the bill
- 66 Mathematician Turing
- 67 Contradict
- 68 Sled dog, often
- 69 Word on a penny

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
17				18					19				
20					21				22				
		23		24					25				
26	27					28	29	30					
31				32		33				34	35	36	37
38			39				40		41				
42				43		44				45			
				46	47				48	49			
50	51	52					53	54					
55					56	57			58			59	60
61					62				63				
64					65					66			
67					68					69			

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DOWN

- 1 Command to Rover
- 2 Goad
- 3 Camel, e.g.
- 4 Stephen King's forte
- 5 Harley Davidson, slangily
- 6 Quickly
- 7 Rusty nail danger
- 8 Corn or wheat, e.g.
- 9 "B.C." creator
- 10 Shoe company acquired by Nike in 2003
- 11 Met highlights
- 12 "Divine Comedy" author
- 13 Winter weather
- 18 Menu selection
- 22 Intense anger
- 24 Ruthless ruler
- 26 Hog food
- 27 Be on the mend
- 29 Cheesy sandwich

- 30 Bring up, as a subject
- 33 Oscar winner Guinness
- 35 Able to be transferred
- 36 Car with a bar
- 37 Memorial Day solo
- 39 Furniture wood
- 41 Orthodontist's offering
- 44 1957 Mathis hit, "___ Are"
- 47 Coffee holder
- 49 "Flashdance" hit
- 50 Lacking zest
- 51 Linda Lavin role
- 52 Mountain climbing spike
- 54 Porterhouse, e.g.
- 56 S.A.T. section
- 57 Light beige
- 59 Tartan sporters
- 60 Circus structure
- 63 Pig's digs

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

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EVENT

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Men's Gray Foxes golf group ends another season

BY DUNCAN NIXON
CORRESPONDENT



The Gray Foxes senior men's golf group at Lake Monticello has an eighteen-hole group that plays every Thursday morning and a nine-hole group that plays on Friday morning. Some players compete in both groups.

The eighteen-hole group is under the leadership of Dan Atkinson. A number of friendly competitions take place throughout the year. Each week whoever is playing kicks in \$5 to the pot and based on that week's play the money collected is distributed to the top performers, often with the awards made to the top performers in three flights based on respective handicaps. This allows all players to have a reasonable chance of winning some of the store credits that are awarded.

Once a month, the game of the day is "ringers." This is a year round competition in which each player's best score on each hole is recorded for the whole season. This means that if a player birdies a hole in April that may be his ringers score for that hole for the entire year. Similarly, if he birdies a different hole in October after never doing better than bogie on the hole all year, his ringers score for that hole is a birdie. A ringers score is kept for all players on a net and a gross score basis.

In the eighteen-hole group the best ringers score on a gross score basis was a 62 by Bob Lamb. Tied for second at 65 were Bill Scanlon and Karl Bergstresser. John Stenz had the best net basis score with 45. He was closely followed by Steve Wormington at 46 and Duncan Nixon at 47.

A fairly new and fairly complicated competition for the eighteen-hole group is the Majors. In this competition, over a six or seven week period competitors must complete four rounds that will be included to make

up their score in the Major that is being played. As on the pro tour, there are four Majors during the season (i.e. The Masters, The PGA, the U.S. Open and the British Open.) The event is based on net scores so that all players are competitive. Real money is involved as the buy in for each Major is \$20 and the winner of each major takes home \$100 or more in cash, not store credit.

This year there was a different winner in each of the four Majors. Jim Beach was the winner in the Masters. Peter Ferensak won the PGA. Paul Schmidt won the U.S. Open and John Roeder was the winner of the British Open. Beach, Schmidt and Roeder are all fairly new to the Gray Foxes, so the eighteen-hole Gray Foxes is gaining some needed new blood. The overall winner of Cup that is awarded to the player with the most points in all four Majors was Jim Beach. His 1,175 points easily topped Roeder's second place finish of 980 points.

The Gray Foxes nine-hole group is headed by Dan Foley. They play a different game each week in the same manner as the eighteen-hole group with store credits awarded to the best performers each week. The nine-hole group has a year-long ringers competition that works the same way as the eighteen-hole ringers competition. This year the winner of the low gross score competition was Stacey Barnard with a 34. He was followed by Ned Long at 38 and Doug Caron at 39. In the low net competition, the winner was Burt Marks with a 23. He was closely followed by Steve Wormington at 24 and Al Colville at 25. The nine hole Gray Foxes have a Most Improved Golfer award each year and this year's recipient was Mark Chase.

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Pastors talk about women in the ministry

BY PAGE H. GIFFORD
CORRESPONDENT



Amy Grant pastor of Cunningham Methodist, Meredith Williams. Lutheran minister.
Photo by Page Gifford.

Women in the ministry may still be alien to some but in Fluvanna, it is an idea that has grown wings in past years with the emergence of pastors like June Clifford, who founded Beautiful Gate Church with her husband Tom.

This year, two new pastors arrived to head up their churches, Meredith Williams of the Lutheran Church and Amy Grant, of the Cunningham Methodist Church. Both are happy to have the opportunity to get to know their parishioners and to help in the community.

Both women are enthusiastic about their new roles in their churches but have also witnessed the barriers for women taking the lead in what has always been a male-dominated profession. Both she and Grant are encouraged that nearly half (40 percent) of those entering the ministry are women. Episcopalians had finally accepted women as priests over twenty years ago and that was a milestone. But according to Williams, there is still more to overcome in all areas of organized religion.

Williams referenced a YouTube video that featured comments from parishioners and other pastors in a Lutheran Church in North Carolina, regarding women in the ministry. Most were offensive. It also showed that only a handful of women were paid equally, and one was in a leadership role of the hundred women who served in the church. What was heartening was the support these women had from their fellow male pastors who recognized how special they were to the church.

"Women have always had the gifts for ministry, we have more options that we didn't have before," said Williams. "But things are changing, women can be strong and men can be nurturing." Both agreed that men had often headed up churches, women had always been behind the scenes, fostering community outreach, managing, organizing, and in administration. It is a good fit and has taken a long time for recognition in a profession where women bring a natural talent.

Both entered the ministry for different reasons.

"I came in the back way through youth ministry and then went into the seminary," said Grant. "I love being around people."

Williams had a more surprising answer about her pathway.

"I was majoring in chemistry and got through calculus but I realized I could approach it scientifically but I was not mathematical. God was telling me I should consider something else. I was confused and then I talked with my pastor who said to me 'I knew you'd always be a pastor.' I then switched my major to sociology."

To a current generation, it is commonplace and acceptable to see women in roles that were otherwise occupied by men -- medicine, law, engineering, the military, and now religion. This view helps them to settle in and secure a solid relationship with their parishioners and the community.

Their visions for their churches are similar. Through discussions and other

communication with her parishioners, Williams sees a different version of the church taking shape.

"Getting to know the people is important, then seeing what develops and how to grow spiritually." Williams utilizes her sociological background in her work.

Grant believes in being all-inclusive and accepting of all worship styles. They realize that nowadays people are searching for hope, spiritual growth, and stronger relationships in an environment of social volatility. They starting to address these and other issues with their congregations. A large part of the problem is relationships.

"We no longer seem able to form deep relationships like we had even 30 years ago," said Williams. They reference the lack of acceptance of our vulnerability that makes us afraid and unable to make those deeper connections with others. Both Grant and Williams agree that over time, congregations have changed with evolving demographics and diversity, and there is a new way of seeing the churches' role through the eyes of their parishioners.

"Thirty years ago, things were very different compared to what they are now and how have they changed?" said Grant, who points out that looking at all these factors influences how they can best serve their parishioners.

Forgiveness has always been the cornerstone of any Sunday sermon but nowadays people find forgiveness difficult.

"People can forgive, they just can't forget," said Williams. Both discussed the part that social media plays in people's lives and whatever is posted is likely to remain forever. In the past, a transgression would fade with memory and time and forgiveness was possible,

but the reminder is always there on social media.

With the holidays coming, both are looking forward to their first Christmas season in their new churches and talked about Chrismon, decorating Christmas trees with religious symbols. Frances Kipps Spencer at the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville started the tradition. She also thought of the word, Chrismon, which is a combination of Christ and monogram (symbol). Chrismon brings everyone together to celebrate the season by combining the secular with the Biblical in a personal and meaningful way and is unique and encompassing. Christmas trees are decorated with white and gold ornaments.

"Hanging of the greens, people are asked to tell why they used a certain ornament," said Williams.

"I love the festivity," said Grant. Williams and Grant are also supportive of the current trend to get away from buying things at Christmas and focusing on other ways to give.

"Make dinner for a friend and in return a friend, will do something for you or give to a charity or many are creating experiences and memories together, but this kind of thing can be practiced throughout the year," said Williams.

Both pastors want their churches to be friendly, welcoming places of worship where everyone can come. They see their ministries as nurturing spirituality and giving help where needed in the community.

"Find a church that fits you," said Grant.

"If you don't worship with us, worship with somebody," said Williams.

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Surtax proposed for millionaires

BY DAN NOVAK
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON - The richest 1 percent of Americans control more wealth than the entire middle class combined, according to the Brookings Institution - a striking sign of income inequality that has accelerated since the Great Recession.

A bill introduced last week by Sen. Chris Van Hollen, D-Maryland, and Rep. Don Beyer, D-Virginia, aims to narrow the wealth gap by adding a surtax on millionaires.

Under the proposal, a 10 percent surtax would be levied on households that earn more than \$2 million annually and on individuals that make more than \$1 million. The tax would generate an estimated \$635 billion in revenue over ten years, according to the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center. "The point here is to ask the very wealthiest Americans to do more to invest in the success of the rest of the country," Van Hollen said in a Nov. 7 MSNBC interview. "Ninety-nine-point-eight percent of taxpayers will not pay an additional dime."

The tax would apply to all forms of income, including salaries, investment income and long-term capital gains, giving the measure a degree of comprehensiveness that Van Hollen said is essential to a successful tax on the wealthy.

"Right now very wealthy people make a lot of money off their money and we don't see any reason why people who earn a paycheck should be penalized relative to them," he said.

Van Hollen's bill, which also is co-sponsored by Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, comes amidst a slew of plans to tax the rich from 2020 Democratic presidential hopefuls.

Joe Biden, the former vice president and centrist frontrunner, has a plan to raise the income tax on capital gains from 20 percent to 39.6 percent for those earning more than \$1 million annually.

Sens. Bernie Sanders, D-Vermont, and Elizabeth Warren, D-Massachusetts, have made their plans to radically alter the tax structure central tenets of their campaigns, billed as ways to pay for their ambitious social programs.

Warren would increase taxes on households earning \$50 million or more, which is roughly 75,000 households, according to her campaign. The senator's plan is to tax each dollar of income above the \$50 million threshold at 2%. Billionaires would pay an additional 3 percent tax.

"A thinner and thinner slice of the top has taken a massive amount of wealth

while America's middle class has been hollowed out," Warren tweeted Tuesday. "We need a... big, structural change so that our economy and our government works for everyone."

Sanders's plan taxes the so-called "super rich" even more aggressively. He proposes a progressive tax structure, starting at 1 percent for earners with \$32 million or more in income, and going up to 8 percent on incomes over \$10 billion.

Sanders, a Democratic socialist, has stated bluntly that billionaires should not exist in the United States.

"We cannot afford to continue this level of wealth and income inequality and we cannot afford a billionaire class whose greed and corruption has been at war with the working families of this country for 45 years," he said in an October Democratic debate.

Economists Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman from the University of California-Berkeley, who helped the candidates draw up their plans, estimate that Warren's tax plan would generate \$2.75 trillion over a decade, and Sanders's plan \$4.35 trillion, though other leading economists have disputed those figures.

Depending on who is asked, higher taxes on the rich are either the solution to an ever-expanding wealth gap and a way to pay for a stronger social safety net or a strain on the economy that hampers growth and kills the motivation of individuals to become millionaires and billionaires.

"You're going to completely disincentivize capital investment, which is going to be very, very bad for economic growth," said Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin in a September interview with The New York Times. "Taxing capital is not a good thing for creating economic growth, and if anything we should be looking at how we create more incentives for economic growth."

According to an analysis by Saez and Zucman, if Warren's and Sanders's tax plans had been implemented in 1982, the combined wealth of the 15 richest Americans today would be cut by 54 percent and 79 percent, respectively.

Jeff Bezos, the wealthiest person in the world, is worth approximately \$160 billion, but would be worth \$86.8 billion today if Warren's tax plan were in place for the last 37 years. Under Sanders's plan, he would be worth \$43 billion.

Skeptics of a wealth tax point to Europe, where several nations have abandoned a tax on extreme wealth. In

1990, 12 European countries had wealth taxes, but now it's down to four: Belgium, Norway, Spain and Switzerland.

Americans for Tax Reform, led by the highly influential conservative tax policy advocate Grover Norquist, called Warren's wealth tax, "a nightmare to administer, would double the size of the IRS, would fail to generate revenue that supporters claim, and has failed every time it has been tried in the past."

Saez and Zucman argued in a recent Washington Post op-ed that the failure of any tax is not the fault of the tax itself, but the fault of government to allow the tax to succeed.

"Governments can choose to make them work or allow them to fail, and European governments made wrong choices, letting tax avoidance fester," they wrote.

A poll by Politico and Morning Consult earlier this year found that more than three-quarters of Americans favor

raising taxes on the rich.

The marginal tax rate for the wealthiest Americans reached 91 percent in 1944, according to the Tax Foundation, but has steadily declined since then. In 2017, the Republican-controlled Congress and White House cut taxes on the top earners by more than 2 percent to 37 percent, which will exacerbate income inequality, according to the Tax Policy Center.

"Trump's Tax Scam helped the rich and left workers behind," Van Hollen tweeted Nov. 7.

But his, or any other Democratic plan to raise taxes on the wealthiest Americans will require bipartisanship, at least as long as Republicans control the Senate.

The 2017 cuts led by President Donald Trump and former House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wisconsin, passed without a single Democratic vote.



The FYSA U19 boys' soccer team traveled to Manassas on Nov. 16 and 17 to play in the 2019 NVSC Mid-County Fall Classic Travel Tournament. The boys went undefeated in the tournament. This team consists of players from Fluvanna and Louisa counties. Congratulations to Tom Beckham and the FYSA U19 boys' soccer team on their 8th tournament win!

Top left - Team Manager Jamie Dennis, Brandon Lucas, Finn McGlothlin, Elijah Bullock, Brad Holtz, Caleb Dennis, Ford Devault and Coach Tom Beckham. Middle left - Aaron Evans, Mitch McCotter, Gabe Carlton, Tyler Seal, James Payne. Bottom left - Emory Davis, Ethan Hartung and Goalie Ryan Holman

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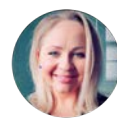


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