

# Fluvanna

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## REVIEW

# *A Year in Review*

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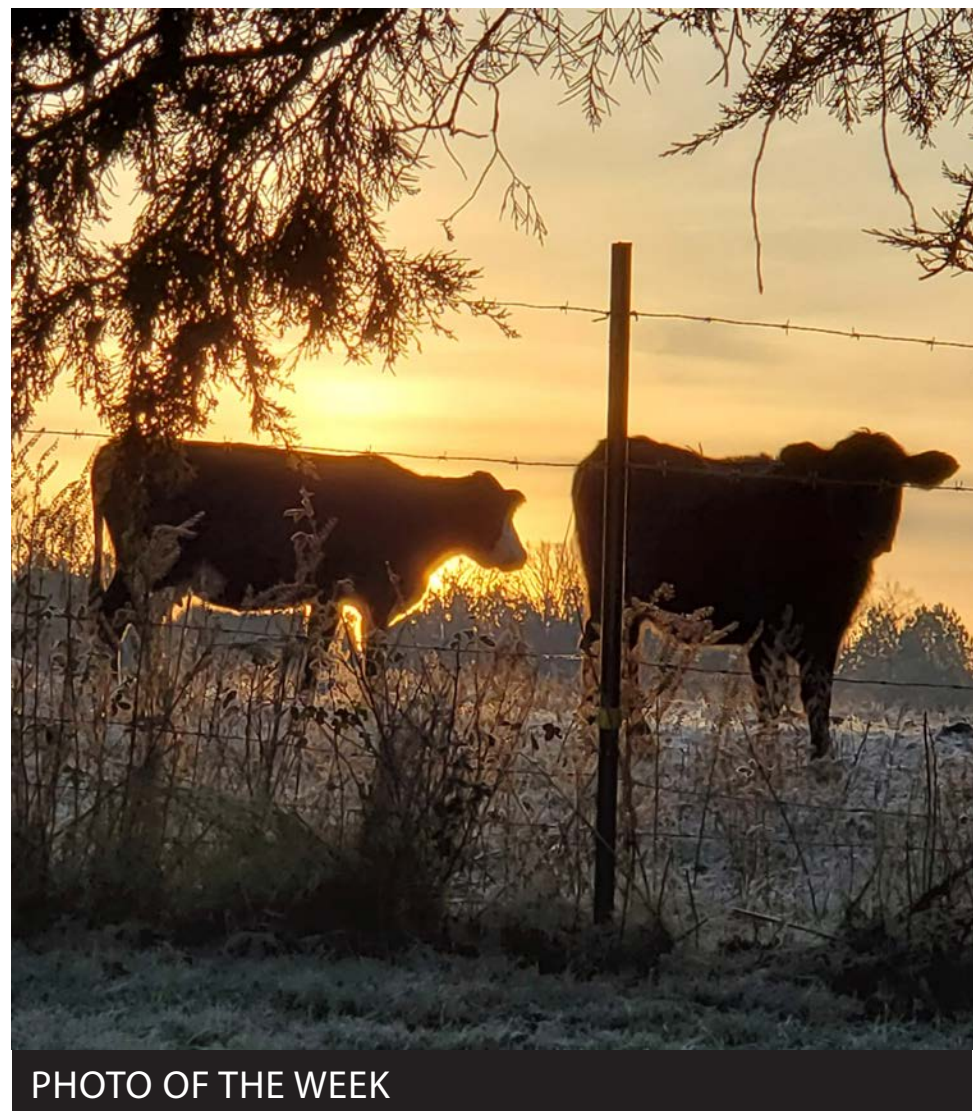
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#### PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Christmas sunrise in Fluvanna. Photo by Sandra Parrish.

Cover: Cover design by Amelia McConnell.

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# Top ten news stories of 2019

BY HEATHER MICHON  
CORRESPONDENT

## 1. The Flying F

After months of debate and controversy, the Fluvanna County School Board voted to allow the high school's LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer) Alliance Club to alter the "Flying F" school logo with rainbow colors, traditionally used to signify gay pride. The club's seemingly routine request turned into an emotional, long-running drama that exposed the discrimination faced by LGBTQ teens. At one point, a letter containing the name and



email of one LGBTQ student was leaked and published on a right-wing blog. In the end, three board members -- Andrew Pullen (Columbia), Charles Rittenhouse (Cunningham), and Brenda Pace (Palmyra) -- abstained from voting, and the motion to approve the use of the logo passed 2-0-3 by Chair Perrie Johnson (Fork Union) and Shirley Stewart (Rivanna). In public comments after his abstention, Rittenhouse called it "an abomination to anybody who

graduated from Fluvanna high school."

## 2. Zion Crossroads water and sewer systems

Work on the long-anticipated Zion Crossroads Water and Sewer Project began in March 2019. By December, a substantial part of the work was completed, including the construction of a water tower near the Rt. 250/Rt. 15 intersection. County Administrator Eric Dalh told supervisors that the project remained within the projected budget and on track for completion by October 2020. The water and sewer line will run for four miles along Rt. 250 and about a half-mile down Rt. 15. When operational, it will allow for more business and residential growth on the Fluvanna County side of Zion Crossroads.

## 3. Supervisors approve 3.6 percent tax rate

The Fluvanna Board of Supervisors approved a 3.6 percent tax hike at their April 24 meeting -- but they made it clear they weren't happy about it. Four of the five supervisors gave impromptu speeches ahead of their vote, venting different frustrations from multiple viewpoints. Chair Mike Sheridan (Columbia) pushed back against public perception that the county was shortchanging core services like fire and rescue and the schools; Mozell Booker (Fork Union) advocated for more funding for schools, especially buses; Don Weaver (Cunningham) and Tony O'Brien (Rivanna) clashed over the concept of taxation itself. When it finally came to a vote, they set the overall budget at \$82,838,139 and the tax rate at 92.5 cents by a vote of 3-2,

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# TAX TIPS

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

## Fail-Proof Your New Year's Resolutions

New Year's resolutions get a bad rap — and for good reason. They are wildly unsuccessful. Millions of people have well-intentioned aspirations for the new year, but only about one in 10 actually accomplish their goal, according to the Statistic Brain Research Center.

If you dig a little deeper into the reasons why they fail, you find it's usually not the resolution itself, it's in the execution. Here are three popular New Year's resolutions and how to avoid messing them up:

**Resolution #1: Becoming healthier.** The most popular resolution can take on many forms — losing weight, getting in better shape, eating healthier etc. It usually fails because to be successful, it takes a major lifestyle change.

**Make it fail-proof:** Start with smaller, simpler goals like not eating after 8 p.m., or exercising for 20 minutes a day for three times a week. Hitting manageable goals will build momentum and create good habits.

**Resolution #2: Spending less money.** Depending on how much you spent on Christmas, this one might take care of itself for a few weeks. But if you don't have a spending plan or budget, old spending habits will re-emerge.

**Make it fail-proof:** Start at the beginning of the year and jot down some long-term spending and savings goals. Then work backwards to figure out how those goals will affect your weekly purchases. As the year goes on, continue to track your progress and evaluate your purchases.

**Resolution #3: Spending less time on electronics.** If this resolution is important to you, odds are you've had some trouble controlling your usage keeping. With so many games, social media and streaming options at our fingertips, our brains are now conditioned to be engaged electronically at all times.

**Make it fail-proof:** One way to start to break this habit is to change the accessibility you have to your devices. Remove apps from your phone and keep your devices out of reach when you don't need them. Another way to curb electronic usage is to form a different habit, such as reading.

Resolutions, whether at New Year's or any other time, are a good thing. To be successful, more planning and attention are required than most people think. And if you slip up, don't quit! Learn from your mistakes and keep going.

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## Fluvanna Business Corner

**Doing Good in the Community: LMOA Communication and Marketing Team up with Local Businesses to celebrate "It's a Wonderful Life" in Fluvanna County**

Alan Stewart, LMOA Communication & Marketing Committee

This year, the Lake Monticello Owners Association Communication and Marketing Committee worked with the Fluvanna Chamber of Commerce to produce the first ever successful "It's a Wonderful Life" in Fluvanna County celebration.

We want to heartily thank all the Fluvanna County businesses for sponsoring the many beautiful trees that transformed the Lake Room into a magical holiday setting this year. We would also like to thank the many volunteers who supported this year's First Annual Festival of Trees event which was a part of the countywide celebration.

This year's event not only put smiles on the faces of over 400 visitors, it also kicked off the holiday season in a wonderfully charitable way and raised a substantial amount of money that will support many wonderful and worthy Fluvanna County organizations in the coming year.

Because of all of you, we raised nearly \$3000, collected many toys for both the Masons as well as Happy Face, and collected several hundred pounds of food for MACAA. The money raised this year will benefit Fluvanna County's SPCA, Caring for Creatures and Peaceful Passings.

So, from all of us, to all you who supported this year's First Annual Festival

of Trees to paraphrase Tiny Tim: **Thank you and "God Bless Us, Every One!"**

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with Weaver and O'Brien voting no.

#### 4. Flucos baseball wins first state championship

The Flying Flucos baseball team won its first-ever state championship when they defeated the Tabb Tigers in a 16-10 blowout game on June 14. Coach Joel Gray noted that his squad demonstrated all year that it can come back after a low scoring game and "tear the cover off." As the season ended, junior pitcher Andrew Ward and senior catcher Jacob Critzer were named first team All-State. In addition, Critzer was named Player of the Year in Class 3. Coach Gray was similarly honored, as he was selected as Coach of the Year in Class 3.



of Directors asked the members to approve a \$180 dues increase to be phased in over three years and an annual \$50-per-household restaurant subsidy. It is relatively rare for a due increase measure to fail, and many took it as an indication that the membership feels the Association should adapt to a tighter budget. Annual dues for most Lake residents in 2020 will be around \$1,100, with \$887 going to dues and \$220 for trash and recycling. Lakers also selected two new board

members, with Jay Hinkle and Johnny Williamson replacing Marlene Weaver and Larry Cormier.

#### 7. Permitting problems plague James River Water Project

Members of the Monacan Indian Nation and their supporters appeared

before the James River Water Authority on Aug. 13 to protest a planned water pumping station atop what they believe to be the site of the historic settlement of Rasawek. Monacan Chief Kenneth Branham told members "I don't think any of you gentlemen would like to see your grandparents and great-grandparents dug up," and indi-



#### 5. Changing of the guard

After seven years as county administrator, Steven Nichols stepped down on July 5 and handed the reins over to his deputy administrator and Finance Director Eric Dahl. Nichols was widely praised for bringing greater efficiency and transparency to the county government, along with his work on major projects like the E911 system, the Columbia Area Renewal Effort (CARE) task force, and the James River and Zion Crossroads water projects. Although retired, Nichols was asked to serve as an unpaid project consultant on the James River Water Project and will continue in that capacity until at least the end of June 2020.

#### 6. Lakers reject dues increase

Lake Monticello residents voted overwhelmingly to reject proposals designed to build up the HOA's reserve funds and subsidize its beleaguered restaurants. The Board

cated that the tribe is ready to go to court over the matter. The meeting was just one of several issues to plague the project. Later in the summer, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources informed the Authority that the archaeologist hired to survey the area lacked the proper credentials, and a short time after that, a whistleblower came forward with a report about mismanagement of the survey. In late December, representatives for the Monacan tribe demanded an investigation of the circumstances surrounding the survey.

#### 8. A killing at Lake Monticello

On the night of Oct. 29, Lake and county law enforcement were called the scene of a shooting on Axle Tree Drive in Lake Monticello, where they found Jason J. Farren, 36, dead from multiple gunshot wounds. Benjamin Camp of Charlottesville told police that Farren and another man, Joshua Bentham-Bell of Lake Monticello, had broken into the house and attacked him just before the shooting. Camp was arrested for second-degree murder and Bentham-Bell for assault and battery. Both are being held without bond at Central Virginia Regional Jail.

#### 9. Lenherr wins reelection

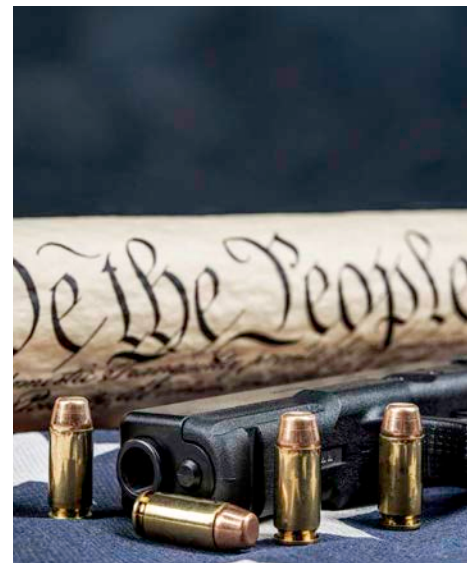
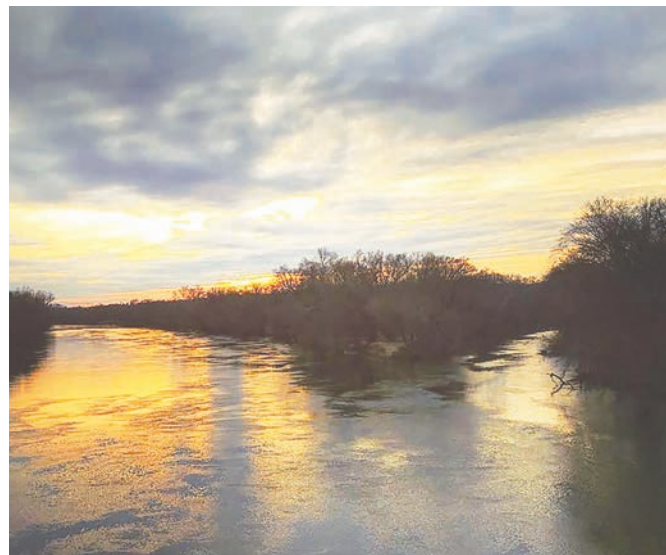
There were few surprises on Election Day 2019, with Fluvanna's state representatives and constitutional officers retaining their seats. The one nail-biter was the treasurer's race, where long-time incumbent Linda H. Lenherr found herself facing two opponents, Ben Hudson of Palmvra and Kim Oliver-Hvland

of Scottsville. In the final weeks of the campaign, Lenherr and Oliver-Hyland sparred on social media over delinquent tax collection rates and other issues, while Hudson stayed out of the fray. Oliver-Hyland and Hudson ended up with a little over 2,400 votes each--not enough to defeat Lenherr, who won with 3,000 votes total.



#### 10. Fluvanna becomes a second amendment sanctuary

Fluvanna joined more than 80 Virginia localities when the Board of Supervisors agreed to declare the county a "Second Amendment Sanctuary." Hundreds of people attended two special sessions and dozens give public comments, focusing on fears that the new Democratic majority in the General Assembly will pass restrictions on firearms in the upcoming session. Supervisors approved the resolution by a vote of 3-2, with Mike Sheridan (Columbia), Donald Weaver (Cunningham) and Patricia Eager (Palmyra) voting for it, and Mozell Booker (Fork Union) and Tony O'Brien (Rivanna) voting against.



# Monacans call for investigation of water authority

BY HEATHER MICHON  
CORRESPONDENT

The Monacan Indian Nation is calling on the Fluvanna and Louisa Boards of Supervisors to begin a third-party, independent investigation into claims of mismanagement of the archaeological survey at Point of Fork.

Point of Fork, at the confluence of the James and Rivanna rivers, is believed by many historians and archaeologists to be the site of Rassawek, the main Monacan settlement at the time of the English arrival in Virginia in 1603. It is also the proposed site of a multi-million-dollar joint venture between Fluvanna and Louisa to carry water into Zion Crossroads and other parts of Louisa—water vital to the continued economic growth of the area.

The Monacan tribe, now based in Amherst County, is critical of the location of the project, which they believe will disrupt tribal artifacts and, potentially, the remains of their ancestors. In 2019, they retained Cultural Heritage Partners, a law firm that frequently works with tribes on the protection of their material heritage.

Marion Werkheiser of Cultural Heritage Partners wrote to chairs Mike Sheridan of Fluvanna and Toni Williams of Louisa on behalf of the Monacans to investigate whether the James River Water Authority (JRWA) used taxpayer dollars to pay for “illegal and unethical practices” by Circa Cultural Resource Management, an archaeological survey firm hired by Timmons Group.

In her three-page letter, Werkheiser highlighted several issues her firm helped bring to light in since the summer of 2019.

In September, Julie Langan of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) informed the JRWA that Carol Tyrer, owner of Circa Cultural Resource Management, did not meet the professional qualifications needed under Virginia law to conduct valid archaeological surveys. Langan denied the project a permit for the excavation of human remains. At the same time, William Walker of the Army Corps of Engineers indicated that, because of the invalidated survey, his department would have to reevaluate the project and require JRWA to apply for a more stringent permit.

Then, in October, a former Circa em-

ployee claimed that work conducted at the Point of Fork site was “illegal, unethical, and unscientific.”

## 700 hours

Along with the call for an independent investigation, Werkheiser also released a letter sent to the Army Corps of Engineers on Dec. 16 including a set of work orders on Faulconer Construction letterhead but signed by Carol Tyrer.

The work orders indicate that between Dec. 1, 2017 and Jan. 22, 2018, Tyrer signed off on over 700 hours of labor by Faulconer workers at the site. “The workers are clearly identified not as cultural resource field technicians, but as ‘laborer[s]’ and a ‘[backhoe] operator,’” said Werkheiser. On a dozen occasions, notations on work performed include references to digging and sifting.

In a sworn statement released in Oct. 2019, Eric Mai, a former field technician for Circa, described Tyrer “enlisting unoccupied construction workers” to perform archaeological work at Point of Fork, even though they had no training to do that type of sensitive work. The workers allegedly told Mai “they had no idea what they were looking for,” as they sifted the soil. He said he witnessed them using post-hole diggers and other heavy equipment that could damage artifacts and destroy ground features.

The work orders indicate Tyrer was on-site at these times, with two invoices noting no work was done “due to Carol not being presents.”

However, in his statement, Mai said Tyrer spent most of her time at the site doing paperwork in her car, and despite his attempts to supervise the Faulconer crew, he was often dispatched to work in other areas of the dig site. “There were many times when these construction crews were excavating and screening with no supervision whatsoever,” he alleged.

The work orders were in the records of the JRWA’s March 6, 2018 meeting. Werkheiser said in her letter that these documents “establish that JRWA itself knowingly authorized the payment of taxpayer dollars for this purposefully incompetent approach to testing.”

## JRWA conflicted

In her letter to Sheridan and Wil-

liams, Werkheiser noted that it had been seven weeks since the JRWA issued a statement saying they took Mai’s allegations “very seriously” and would conduct a thorough review.

But on Nov. 11 they filed a petition in Fluvanna County Circuit Court to try to get a judge to compel the Commonwealth to accept Tyrer as a qualified consultant. They have also retained another company, GAI Consulting, to review Tyrer’s report on the Point of Fork dig.

“The time has come to acknowledge that JRWA is not in a creditable position to investigate Circa and Timmons,” she concluded, “because in doing so JRWA is conflicted by a desire to protect its plans to locate the water pump station in a place that would destroy Rassawek, and because of JRWA’s direct involvement and culpability.”

Lake Monticello Fire & Rescue

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Crystal O’Connor Field Research Manager at Monticello. They will be discussing the critical role that Monticello’s Department of Archaeology plays in understanding the lives of enslaved laborers, as well as analyzing Jefferson’s plantation management strategies. They will also outline the department’s research goals, using one recently excavated site, an early 19th-century quarter site for the enslaved field laborers, as an example. It’s sure to be a fascinating look into the everyday lives of the enslaved laborers and an exploration into how Jefferson himself lived and ran the plantation. It’s definitely a great and interesting way to start the year. **Don’t miss it!**

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# 2019 arts and animals in review

BY PAGE H. GIFFORD  
CORRESPONDENT

While we embark on a new decade of speculation, uncertainty, and innovation, looking back at 2019 had its inspirational moments. In the arts, we lost our “Renaissance Man,” artist and musician Troy Weidenheimer; re-



Troy Weidenheimer

membered for his infinite curiosity and exploration of life translated through his passion for painting and music. And long-time member of Persimmon Tree Players Thelma Stowell, is remembered for her unwavering dedication.

The arts, particularly theater and music, influenced a student with Asperger’s, a form of autism. Through her interactions with Empowered Players and music lessons, she improved many emotional aspects of her life as well as her academic work. Logan Anne Davis is living proof that the arts can make a difference through engagement.

Other than the arts, there was another area that emerged as strong in passion and

dedication and that was volunteers and advocates working with animals. Mary Birkholz, president of Caring for Creatures for over 30 years, won the Hometown Hero award for her tireless work caring for homeless, abandoned and abused cats and dogs. Birkholz has never given up on any animal and believes every animal deserves love and a good home and there is the perfect person out there to provide it. Her goal is to continue to educate the community regarding ways everyone can help make life better for those who depend on us but also gives us so much more in return and more than we can ever imagine.

One of the ways Birkholz educated her volunteers was to introduce them to animal communicator Kat Berard. Berard discussed the deeper connections animals have with us but also in understanding those deeper connections we come to understand ourselves as well. Volunteers learned not to project their thoughts onto the animal but to listen on another level and to understand the animal in a different way.

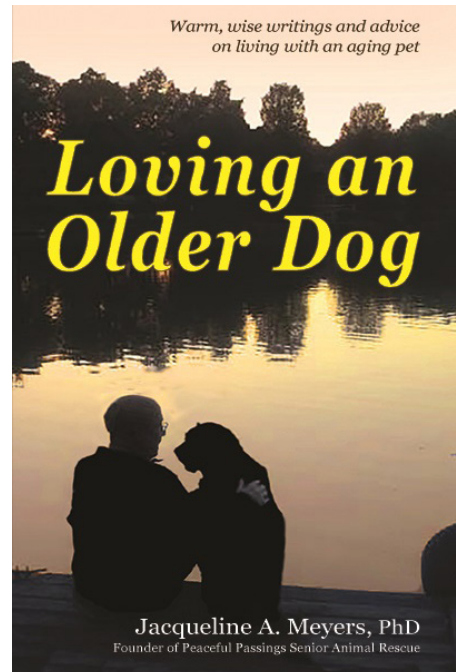
She did this through a demonstration with a dog. The volunteer realized her unawareness and shortcomings



Mary Birkholz

in communicating with the dog and was struck by her thoughts about him. A lot of what Berard spoke about was the source of the unconditional love we all feel when we are around our animals.

Recently, Jackie Meyers, who manages Peaceful Passings with her husband Dave Sagarin, wrote a book about “Loving an Older Dog.” Her feeling for senior dogs and their welfare has never wavered.



Photos courtesy of Jackie Meyers and Dave.

On the other end of the spectrum, are the advocates, who pursue the same goals as Birkholz and Meyers but in different ways. Rose LeMaster’s rage about puppy mills and sympathy for the victims is evident when she speaks of the horrors of the living conditions and the suffering all in the name of designer dogs. She understands that the consequences of their lives lived in sometimes horrific conditions and through patience

and love she too has made that profound connection with dogs that have never known real love.



Lori Brown

Lori Brown, once a horse show mom, manages a refuge for standardbred horses (trotters) that have been abused, sold, and face slaughter when they are no longer fit for racing. She cares for these beautiful, majestic animals in the same way Birkholz cares for her cats and dogs. All of them advocating, sharing, reaching out into the community, and educating, hoping that one day the horror ends.

It would seem that the arts and animals may not have an obvious connection, but these stories do have something in common. They are the stories of life and love, of passion, whether it is saving the life of an animal or of painting the natural beauty around us; it is understanding our humanness through the eyes of our animals or feeling it through the interaction with others for the first time in a theater group.

These stories leave behind a legacy of hope, determination, and a deeper spiritual meaning that is often overlooked but hopefully inspire us in the decade ahead.



Rumors cast of Persimmon Tree Players.



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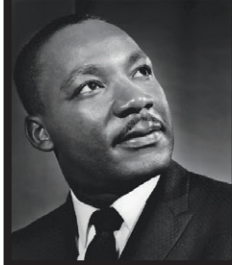
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## Nine traffic deaths in five days on Virginia's highways

PRESS RELEASE



With increased traffic volumes on Virginia's roadways anticipated for the remainder of the week and throughout the weekend, the Virginia State Police is encouraging all drivers to increase their attention to safe driving. Since Saturday, Dec. 21, through midnight Christmas day, Dec. 25, nine people lost their lives in six traffic crashes on Virginia's highways.

The six reported crashes occurred in Goochland, Loudoun, Richmond and Rockingham counties, and the cities of Chesapeake and Newport News. Three died in the Goochland County crash and two died in the Rockingham County crash. The Newport News crash claimed the life

of a pedestrian. Half of the crashes occurred on Christmas Eve day.

The state police are reminding all drivers to be alert and drive distraction free at all times while behind the wheel. Sharing the road responsibly with pedestrians, bicyclists and motorcycles, complying with speed limits, driving sober and always wearing a seat belt are required by law of all drivers in Virginia.

Year to date, preliminary data reports 800 adults, teenagers and children have been killed in traffic crashes across Virginia. Alert and safe drivers can help keep this number from increasing within the final days of 2019.



### The Barns at Layz S Ranch

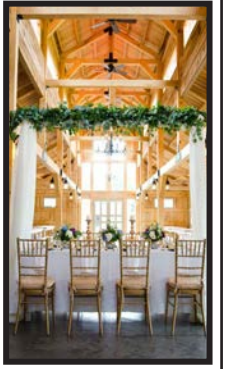
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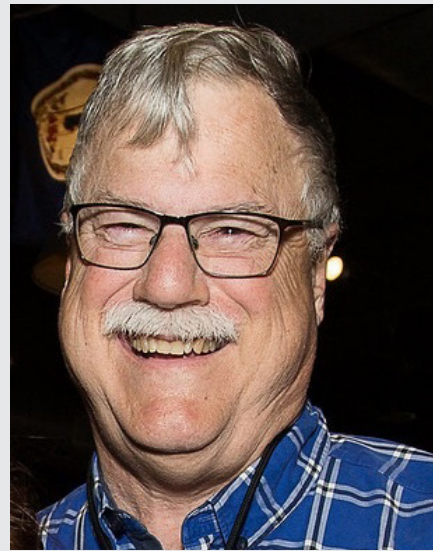
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## Obituary

### Richard Lynn Fraker, Jr.



Richard Lynn Fraker, Jr., a retired Army Corp of Engineer Major, lost his seven-year battle with prostate cancer on December 27, 2019. Lynn is survived by his wife of forty years, Glynn Griggs Fraker; his daughters, Shannon Shelburne (Matthew) and Devon Gatewood (Roger); his grandchildren, Natalie, Molly, and Carl Shelburne, his sister Martha Kersh, several cousins, nieces, nephews and many friends. He is predeceased by his mother, Elizabeth Fraker, and his father, Richard Fraker, Sr.

Lynn was born in northwestern Ohio on February 8, 1952. He graduated from Western Kentucky University in 1975 with a degree in Geography. He was immediately commissioned into the Army and later the

Pennsylvania Army National Guard serving our country for over 22 years. He also obtained a Masters in Contracts Management from Penn State which he utilized in civilian employment with Scirex (clinical drug trial agency) and Church Housing Corporation (low income housing for the elderly and disabled). After retiring to Virginia three and a half years ago, he found a new passion serving his community as an ambulance driver with the Lake Monticello Rescue Squad.

Lynn was a devoted father, dedicated track and field throwing coach and an avid supporter of the 2nd Amendment. He enjoyed skeet shooting and wandering the "bourbon trail" sampling various varieties of Kentucky's finest. He will be deeply missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

No funeral service will be held. A wake is being planned for early 2020. In lieu of flowers, please donate in his memory to the Lake Monticello Rescue Squad at 10 Slice Road Palmyra, VA. Sheridan Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



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# Capital Gazette Shooter was Concerned about Sanity

BY HANNAH GASKILL  
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

A thread that pulled the gunman responsible for the June 2018 murders of journalists Wendi Winters, Rob Hiaasen, John McNamara and Gerald Fischman, and advertising assistant Rebecca Smith, closer to The Capital Gazette newspaper through the years is one that the justice system now has its eyes focused on: His sanity.

Whether Jarrod Ramos is sane — and therefore criminally responsible for the murders and associated acts — is a question that attorneys on both sides have spent months preparing to answer.

Looking back through his court history shows a man who in 2012 sued the paper for libel, particularly aggrieved because, he said in court documents, a column it published implied he was insane.

Now, a ruling of legal insanity may keep him out of prison.

That trial is scheduled to begin in March.

"You've crippled my life for a year, and now I'm going to cripple your company forever," now-convicted murderer Jarrod Ramos wrote in an October 2012 letter to former Capital Gazette editor and publisher Thomas Marquardt.

Ramos was referencing a July 2011 column published by The Capital, headlined "Jarrod wants to be your friend," that detailed circumstances behind a guilty plea in a harassment suit levied against him by a former Arundel High School classmate. The piece describes messages he sent to his harassment victim, whom Capital News Service is not naming,

in a months-long cyber-barrage that the column reported "caused her to live in fear for her safety."

Ramos represented himself in a lawsuit against the paper in 2012, claiming that the column reported a "multitude of extraneous, false and defamatory statements," according to March 2013 court transcripts. His complaint stated the editorial conveyed that he was "literally, clinically insane," "a threatening and dangerous person," that he "has and continues to actively seek out people on the Internet ... with predatory motives and criminal intent" and that he is a "cowardly and dishonorable person."

In that March 2013 hearing, Ramos focused his attention on one piece in particular — which he said he considered to be "the single most defamatory statement of the entire column." It reads: "His messages rambled... saying 'Expletive you, leave me alone' though she hadn't written him in months."

Ramos argued that the notion that he was answering non-existent messages would cause readers to assume that he was mentally ill.

"That carries a clear implication that something is wrong inside my head, that I'm insane," he said, according to the records.

Though first referenced in a January 2011 court document penned by his harassment victim, in both his complaint in the suit against The Capital and in court transcripts, Ramos claimed that the message was never exchanged.

In a transcript, Prince George's

County Circuit Court Judge Maureen Lamasney, who presided over the defamation suit, asked Ramos whether he felt the harm he was alleging The Capital to have caused would lead readers to think "there might be some mental imbalance," to which he responded in the affirmative. He also said that in "addition to a number of other things," the phrase and headline insinuated that he was also "dangerous" and "threatening."

"It portrays me as some sort of internet predator," Ramos said in court. "And the headline basically says he's coming for you next. Any person who reads that, I expect, would be horrified."

Lamasney dismissed the case in March 2013, saying that because the statement came from a public record it was not defamatory. According to the transcript, Ramos countered that the column didn't reference the record, leaving readers with no clue of where the statement was pulled from.

"I understand that, but that does not make it false," said Lamasney.

"But it makes it unfair," said Ramos.

The case was appealed and dismissed again.

In a 2015 unreported opinion filed in the Court of Special Appeals, Judge Charles Moylan Jr. wrote that Ramos was "aggrieved" because he "wanted equal coverage of his side of the story."

"He wanted a chance to put the victim in a bad light, in order to justify and explain why he did what he did," Moylan wrote. "That,

however, is not the function of defamation law."

Nearly three years later, on the day that he shot through the glass doors of the Capital Gazette and proceeded to kill five employees, Ramos wrote letters to multiple people. One of them was Moylan.

Before the defamation suit was ultimately dismissed and while other suits Ramos was engaged in raged on, the paper and its staff members, among others, were frequent targets of vitriol on a Twitter account in his name until in 2016, when the posts appeared to have ceased.

One final tweet was sent from the account on the afternoon of the shooting. It read "(Expletive) you, leave me alone @judgemoylanfrnd." The tagged account bearing Moylan's name also appears to belong to Ramos.

Public defender Elizabeth Palan, a defense attorney for Ramos in the murder case, stated in court that he tweeted from inside the Capital Gazette newsroom.

Ramos originally entered a plea of not guilty.

He pleaded not criminally responsible, Maryland's version of an insanity plea, in late April — 10 months and one day after the shooting occurred.

On Oct. 28, two days before jury selection for the trial to determine his guilt was set to begin, he entered a guilty plea to all 23 counts against him.

Cases determining criminal responsibility, also known as pleas

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of not criminally responsible — or NCR — in Maryland are bifurcated, or split in two, with the phase that would determine guilt being argued first. Had Ramos not pleaded guilty, that portion of the trial would have begun in early November.

Supervising Attorney for the Forensic Mental Health Division of the Maryland Office of the Public Defender Mary Pizzo — who said she cannot comment on any specific cases — said that guilt must be established before criminal responsibility can be determined.

In cases where the court is trying to determine criminal responsibility, it's the job of defense attorneys to prove that, at the time of the crime, their client was so incapacitated by mental illness that they did not understand the criminal weight of their actions or that they were unable to refrain from behaving in a criminal way. The burden of proof is by the preponderance of evidence — a legal term that Pizzo described plainly as "more likely than not that it happened," or "a hair over 50%."

In contrast, to prove criminal guilt, the prosecuting attorneys must establish that an individual is guilty of a crime beyond a reasonable doubt — a much higher burden of proof.

In order to establish a defense of not criminally responsible, attorneys investigate their client's mental health history, consulting a number of experts to prove that their client was experiencing a severe mental health deficit at the time of the offense.

If the individual is found not criminally responsible, they are taken into the custody of the state's health department and placed in a state forensic psychiatric hospital until it's decided that they are no longer threatening to themselves or their community, which Pizzo said could be a long time.

After being held at the state hospital for 50 days, an evaluation and first hearing may be conducted to determine whether continued psychiatric commitment is necessary.

Pizzo said that securing a finding of not criminally responsible doesn't happen often because there's a lot that goes into proving it: Lawyers must show the severity of their client's mental illness at the time of the incident — not just that they are or have been mentally ill. She said to see such cases litigated in court

is rare.

"NCR cases are not frequent," she said.

Pizzo went on further to explain that whenever there's a case where a defendant seems to have a mental illness or a history of mental health issues, "a prudent attorney will always investigate whether or not they were criminally responsible at the time." She said it depends on the amount of access to mental health history, facts surrounding the event, along with expert opinion and other information that determines whether it's a viable defense.

"I think people are misled that it's a frequent thing."

Ramos pleaded guilty on Oct. 28. The trial determining Ramos' role in the slayings was delayed on Oct. 30 so that defense attorneys could review documents provided by the prosecution's expert witnesses — the same day that potential jurors reported for duty at the Anne Arundel County Circuit Courthouse.

That day, Anne Arundel County State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess filed a motion to keep private records that may contain information pertaining to his mental health, among others.

Many other court files that had been kept confidential became public, including a correspondence between state and defense attorneys describing an incident at Rocky Gorge Animal Hospital in Laurel, Maryland.

According to the records, Ramos brought his starving cat to the animal hospital, where he told veterinary technicians that his "cat wasn't eating and that he wasn't feeding the cat." One employee took this to mean that Ramos did not understand that his not feeding the animal led to its starvation. The cat was ultimately euthanized, and Ramos took its body home in a bag.

The email exchange detailing this incident occurred on April 24, 2019. Ramos entered a plea of not criminally responsible on April 29.

Attempts to contact Ramos' family; his attorneys in the case; and the harassment victim and her family were unsuccessful. A spokeswoman from the Anne Arundel State's Attorney's office offered no comment. He is still left to face his plea of not criminally responsible, at a trial now set to begin on March 4.

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# Fluvanna County 2019 sports in review

BY DUNCAN NIXON  
CORRESPONDENT

The most impressive Fluvanna County sports performance of 2019 took place in Salem, just outside of Roanoke, not in Fluvanna County. On June 14 and 15 the Fluvanna County High School baseball team won the State Class 3 semi-finals and the State Championship at Kiwanis Field in Salem. When the baseball squad returned to Fluvanna, it received a rousing escort from Fluvanna County's first responders.

The Flucos State championship run included amazing individual performances and great team play. In their first play-off game, the Flucos' junior pitcher Andrew Ward did the unbelievable. In a seven-inning game, he walked one and struck out 21 batters. He

recorded every out by strike-out. This was against a play-off qualified team. In the semi-final game at Salem, it was senior catcher Jacob Critzer who stole the headlines. In the bottom of the seventh, with the score tied, with one out and nobody on, Critzer crushed a low fast ball deep over the left field fence for a walk-off home run. Critzer scored three of the Flucos' five runs in the game.

In the State Championship game, the Flucos batted around in the top of the first inning to score five runs and take a lead that the Tabb Tigers could never overcome. The Flucos won relatively easily by a 16-10 final score. Andrew Ward was five for six with 3 RBI, Kevin Ward was three for four with a

home run, a walk and four RBI. Critzer was two for three with a home run and three walks. It was the Flucos' first ever State Championship in baseball.

In the winter sports season, the Flucos competed successfully in Swim and Dive and Indoor Track and Field. Both squads had a large number of stand-out performers. The wrestling squad was very young and did not have a lot of success, but it successfully hosted the third annual Billy Wensel Invitational tournament.

In basketball, the Fluco girls' squad was led by Juniors Nevaeh Ivory, Mya Wright and Jules Shepherd and freshman Khamara Steppe. The team had an excellent season, winning a Class 3 quar-

ter-final game on the road, and falling one game short of making it into the State semi-finals. The boys' basketball team came back from an off-season. Led by freshman guard Kobe Edmonds and forwards Drew Pace, a senior, and John Rittenhouse, a junior, the team won a play-in game to make it into the Class 3 play-offs.

Although the Fluco baseball team was the big story in the spring sports season, a number of Fluco athletes stood out in other sports. The girls' tennis team was led by senior Adora Gamage and junior Sara White. The softball team was led by Catera Marsh. The girls' track and field team had a number of standouts. Amina Wilson and Ashley Pieno were outstanding in



Andrew Ward.  
Photo by Fluvanna Sports Photography.



Jacob Critzer.  
Photo by Fluvanna Sports Photography.



Coach Gore applauds Billy Wensel.  
Photo by Duncan Nixon.



Nevaeh Ivory.  
Photo by Fluvanna Sports Photography.



Boys Basketball celebrates a big win.  
Photo by Fluvanna Sports Photography.

pole vault. Delany Reed and Jules Shepherd excelled in discus and long jump respectively, and Emily Beckman was a top 1600 meter runner. In boys' track and field, Eli Herzog was excellent in discus and shot put. Christian Holland excelled in the triple jump, while Ledric Reid was a top performer in the 110 hurdles.

In soccer, the boys' team almost made it to the Region semi-final. Standouts were: Emory Davis, Kamden Shephard, Finn McGlothlin, Ethan Albaugh and Bradley Holtz. The girls' team did not have quite as much success, but it was led by Kelsea Herring, Christina Valladares, Allyssa Hanson and Runa Scales.

In the fall, Fluco sports fans turn

to football. In 2019 the Fluco football team made it to the play-offs for the second year in a row, after a long play-off drought. The team was quarterbacked by sophomore Kobe Edmonds. A host of running backs piled up running yardage, as the team emphasized a powerful running game. Senior offensive linemen Walt Stribling (a recent East Carolina signee) and Alden Custer led the blocking. The volleyball team had a decent season. It was led by libero Eynne Stafford, who has signed to play for the University of Virginia at Wise. The girls' 2019 cross country team was led by Emily Smeds, while the boys' team standout performer was Troy Stephens.

A number of non-Fluvanna High

sports events of note also occurred in 2019. The U.Va. rowing team competed at Lake Monticello again. The rowing event is the only Division 1 sports event to take place in the county. A new event for elite young women golfers came to the county for the first time. The Peggy Kirk Bell Golf tour event was held on the Lake Monticello golf course on March 30 and 31. This is an event for very low handicap young golfers. The event may return to the Lake course in 2020, as the organizers were reportedly very impressed by the treatment they received at the lake.

In golf, the Falconer tournament was contested at the Lake course again, with Brian Bassett

winning on a rainy Sunday in May. The traditional men's Member-Guest tournament finished with a long play-off in the rain. The lowest handicapped team in event, Eric Parlet and Boston Craddock, were the winners. The Lake Monticello women's golfers captured the Jefferson Cup for the second year in a row, topping teams from other prestigious courses around central Virginia. The mens' Gray Foxes ended another season in November with Bob Lamb, Jim Beach, Pete Ferensak, Paul Schmidt and John Roeder winning honors.



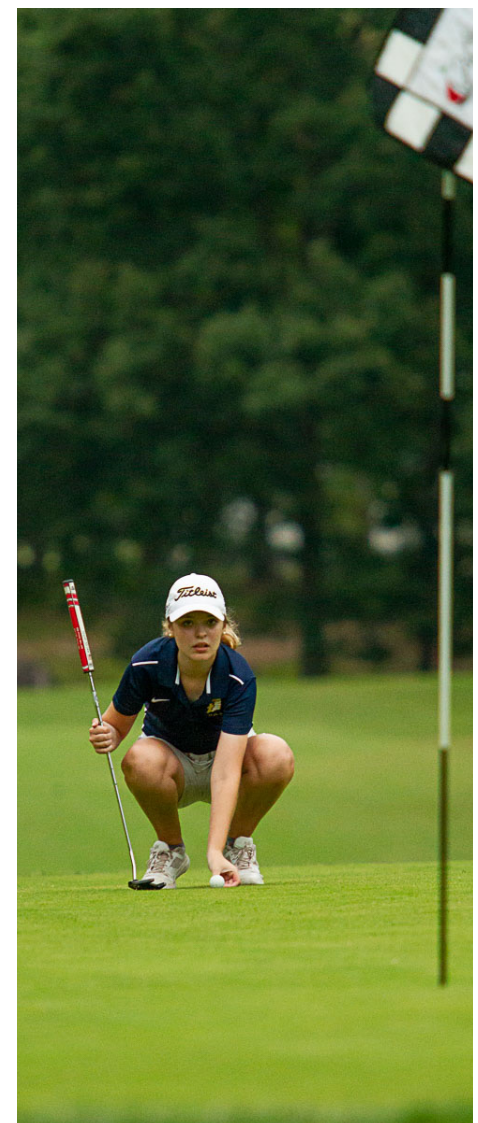
Adora Gamage.  
Photo by Duncan Nixon.



Eli Herzog.  
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Flucos win over Nelson.  
Photos by Fluvanna Sports Photography.



Fluco Golf team member.  
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## Rabid dog spreads ripples through Fluvanna

BY HEATHER MICHON  
CORRESPONDENT

Some deputies and civilians sought treatment after being exposed to a rabid dog that was captured and euthanized in Scottsville shortly before Christmas.

"Several deputies and civilians sought treatment for possible rabies exposure," according to Capt. David Wells of the Fluvanna County Sheriff's Office.

It later emerged on social media that, before it could be euthanized, the dog attacked a young girl and severed one of her fingers. In the email to the Fluvanna Review, Captain Wells explained that since the case involved a juvenile, he could not disclose any details of the incident.

Everyone who came in close contact with the dog in its final days, including the owners, the injured girl, the animal control staff and others, would potentially be at risk, according to authorities.

The black pitbull was reported as running loose in the Branch Road area on Dec. 19 and was showing aggression

towards other animals and humans, according to the sheriff's office.

"Due to the dog's aggressive action, it was euthanized and samples were sent for testing," said Wells in a press release. Test results confirmed on Dec. 23 that the dog was suffering from rabies.

"The [Thomas Jefferson Health District] works all the time to monitor possible rabies exposure," said District Epidemiologist Marcia Hornberger, often conducting interviews with potentially exposed people to assess their risk and recommend treatment.

The rabies virus lives in the saliva of mammals, often raccoons, foxes, bats, and other wildlife. It remains active as long as the animal is alive.

Rabies is commonly transmitted through a bite, so "a bite is a clear exposure," said Hornberger—but any contact with infected saliva could potentially pass on the virus through broken skin or membranes. The level



A total of 34 Fluvanna deputies and 16 reserve deputies were sworn in on Dec. 27 as Sheriff Eric Hess starts his second term.



of risk “can be a little gray,” she added, depending on the circumstances. When in doubt, the health officials generally recommend people receive the post-exposure protocol.

Untreated, rabies will travel through the nervous system and eventually cause the brain to swell. It is almost invariably fatal. But early treatment, Hornberger said “has never been known to fail.”

Rabies injections “are no longer given through the stomach,” assures Hornberger. That form of treatment ended in the 1980s.

Today, many animal workers receive a pre-exposure series of three doses of vaccine. For those who start out unvaccinated, post-exposure treatment is a little more rigorous, involving multiple intramuscular shots over a two-week period.

Post-exposure treatments begin with a shot of human rabies immune globulin (HRIG), which is made from the plasma of people already vaccinated for rabies. Giving patients these already-formed immunities, Hornberger explained, prevents the spread of the virus almost immediately.

The best way to stop rabies is to vaccinate the animals closest to us.

“Vaccinate your dogs, vaccinate your cats, vaccinate your ferrets,” Hornberger stressed. That way, if they do come in contact with rabid wildlife, they won’t get sick and they won’t pass it on to humans. “By vaccinating our pets, we are protecting ourselves.”

Local shelters have banded together to host a free emergency rabies clinic at Pleasant Grove Park on Saturday, Jan. 4 from 9 a.m. to noon. Dogs must be leashed and cats in carriers and vaccinations will be given in your car.

Human cases of rabies are extremely rare in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that only 1 to 3 Americans contract the virus each year.

The last recorded human death from rabies occurred in the Charlottesville area in the spring of 2017. In that instance, the victim was nipped by a dog during a trip to India and fell ill six weeks later, after her return to Virginia.

The woman’s death highlights the ripple effect a single bite can have on the community. According to the CDC, 250 people who had come in contact with the woman were screened for possible exposure to the virus and 72 ended up being referred for post-exposure prophylaxis, or PEP.



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## LMOA’s new partnership with Billy Casper Golf

BY MADELINE OTTEN  
CORRESPONDENT

On Dec. 17 the Lake Monticello Owner’s Associated (LMOA) announced on Facebook of their newest partnership with Billy Casper Golf who will manage the food and beverage operations at Lake Monticello. This partnership took effect January 1, 2020 and they will have complete autonomy in the day-to-day management of all outlets, which include the Pub, the Lakeside, the pool snack bar, and the golf course beverage cart.

Bill Casper Golf is one of the largest privately owned golf course management companies in the United States with nearly 150 properties in 29 states. It’s headquartered in Reston and has more than 30 years of result driven expertise. Billy Casper Golf has managed Lake Monticello’s golf course maintenance operations for the past nine seasons and helped restore the course.

“We have enjoyed a long-standing partnership with Billy Casper Golf, over eight years,” said LMOA’s general manager Steve Hurwitz “Andrew

Koerper has done a fantastic job for the community and Billy Casper Golf will be able to expand on these successes and offerings utilizing their infrastructure and expertise.”

Before the New Year, Billy Casper Golf began the process of hiring a new food and beverage manager, a banquet sales manager and additionally has a process that is in place for current staff which has been communicated with them.

“We are most excited to see Billy Casper Golf take our food and beverage operations to a new level of service for our members and the community,” said Hurwitz. “The ultimate goal is consistent and friendly service, along with an increase in catering and private events.”

Responses from the community on the LMOA’s Facebook page have been positive so far and have expressed excitement for the new change. The Lake Monticello Golf Course is located at 51 Bunker Blvd and is open daily.

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**BINGO:** Closed for holiday break. See you all in the New Year 2020. Opening again Thursday, January 9. Have a happy New Year. Bingo, Fire and Rescue Building at Slice Gate (off of Rte 600/traffic light). Questions? (434) 591-1018.

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# SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Medium

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

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### 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:

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

## The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

### ACROSS

- 1 A Golden Girl
- 5 Office honcho
- 9 Draft holder
- 14 Kind of hygiene
- 15 Decomposes
- 16 Bygone Ford
- 17 Cutting the mustard
- 18 Like a slap
- 20 Reveal
- 22 Take over, as a loan
- 23 Radio problem
- 24 Body shop application
- 26 Asthmatic's device
- 28 Research sites
- 31 Full of pep
- 34 Coveted role
- 35 URL ending
- 36 "Death at a \_\_\_\_\_" (2010 comedy)

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		

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### DOWN

- 1 Lines on a map
- 2 Circle around
- 3 Spicy dip
- 4 Optional course
- 5 Scarf securer
- 6 "My bad!"
- 7 Church topper
- 8 Tax form ID
- 9 Muscle malady
- 10 Silvery strands
- 11 Stamina
- 12 Doohickey
- 13 Connection point
- 19 Bun, for one
- 21 Jacket feature
- 25 Juice extractor
- 27 Joined by treaty
- 29 Lugosi of horror fame
- 30 Peony part
- 31 Many miles off cheddar
- 32 Fishing item
- 33 Trespass
- 37 Autumn blossoms
- 39 Civil rights org.

- 40 Arrowhead material
- 43 When soaps usually air
- 46 Wintertime airport supply
- 48 Willie Mays' team, mostly
- 50 Old-fashioned rewards
- 52 Second longest African river
- 53 Valuable veins
- 54 Lose ground?
- 55 "What've you been \_\_\_\_\_?"
- 56 Battleship shade
- 58 Stir up
- 60 Match, in poker

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

# SHERIFF'S REPORT DECEMBER 20-26

## NATURE OF INCIDENT / TOTAL

911 HANG UP	9
911 MISDIAL	7
911 OPEN LINE	6
ANIMAL CONTROL CALLBACK	16
ANIMAL CONTROL FOLLOW UP	4
ADULT WELFARE/PUB SAFETY CHK	4
AGGRESSIVE ANIMAL	1
ANIMAL CARCASS	2
ANIMAL WELFARE	11
ATTEMPT TO LOCATE RECEIVED	3
BE ON LOOKOUT	18
CARDIAC ARREST	1
SHERIFF'S OFFICE CELL CHECK	1
CHEST OR CARDIAC PROBLEM	1
CHILD WELFARE/ABUSE/ENDNGMNT	1
CIVIL PAPER RECEIVED	3
CIVIL PAPER SERVICE	29
COMMERCIAL BURG ALARM	18
COURTESY TRANSPORT	1
DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY	1
DISABLED VEHICLE	8
DISTURBANCE	8
ECO TDO CALL	2
FINGERPRINTS	5
FOLLOW UP INVESTIGATION	8
FRAUD	3
GUN PERMIT RECEIVED	2
LARCENY/THEFT	6
PHONE CALL RETURN	42
LIVESTOCK CALL	2
MAGISTRATE WALK IN	2
MVC WITH NO INJURY	4
MVC W/ ANIMAL	5
NUISANCE DOMESTIC ANIMAL	1
OTHER LAW CALL	18
PRISONER TRANSPORT	2
PROJECT LIFESAVER RELATED CALL	3
RADIO/911 SYSTEM ISSUE	1
RESIDENTAL BURGLAR ALARM	2
SEIZURE	1
SELECT PATROL	77
SEXUAL RELATED OFFENSES	1
SHOTS HEARD	3
SICK CALL	1
STRAY DOG	10
STRUCTURE FIRE	1
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY / PERSON	15
TIPS/ INFORMATION RECEIVED	1
DIRECT TRAFFIC/FUNERAL TRAFFIC	1
TRAFFIC HAZARD	1
TRAFFIC STOP	58
TRESPASSING/HUNTING TRESPASS	2
UNRESPONSIVE	1
VCIN HITS RECEIVED	1
WARRANT CHECK IN/OUT	4
WARRANT RECEIVED	5
OUT SERVING WARRANT	6

TOTAL INCIDENTS 450



## CRASHES

MVC NO INJURY	11:14:50	12/25/19
800 BLK SCLATERS FORD RD		
MVC W/ ANIMAL	00:05:55	12/25/19
16640 BLK JAMES MADISON HWY		
MVC NO INJURY	18:50:37	12/23/19
0 BLK NAYLOR LN		
MVC W/ ANIMAL	17:16:07	12/22/19
190 BLK TURKEYSAG TRL		
MVC W/ ANIMAL	01:52:28	12/22/19
OLIVER CREEK RD & KATHYS LN		
MVC W/ ANIMAL	05:19:15	12/21/19
10240 BLK JAMES MADISON HWY		
MVC NO INJURY	17:28:53	12/20/19
20 BLK TROY RD		
MVC NO INJURY	09:53:41	12/20/19
4090 BLK JAMES MADISON HWY		

TOTAL CRASHES 8

## ARRESTS

ARREST DATE: 20:14:00	12/21/19
ADDRESS: CHARLOTTESVILLE	
POSS OF MARIJUANA	
ARREST DATE: 03:20:00	12/21/19
ADDRESS: PALMYRA	
DUI/DUID	
ARREST DATE: 03:27:33	12/25/19
ADDRESS: CHARLOTTESVILLE	
ASSAULT BATTERY FAMILY MEMBER	
ARREST DATE: 17:50:19	12/20/19
ADDRESS: SCOTTSVILLE,	
FRAUD USE OF LOTTERY MONEY	

TOTAL ARRESTS 4

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Rivanna Master Naturalist applications

Rivanna Master Naturalist is accepting applications to the 2020 Basic Training Class. The class will meet Wednesday mornings from February to May. Applications are due Jan. 3. Application forms as well as details about the program and how to apply are available at <http://www.vmn-rivanna.org/training/>

AETNA  
 ALBEMARLE COUNTY FAIR  
 ALL THE ABOVE MARINE DETAILING  
 ELIZABETH ALCORN FOR 58TH  
 ALVIS FARMS  
 AMY ROSE MILLER BLAIS  
 ARC OF THE PIEDMONT  
 ARMSTRONG LANDSCAPING  
 AQUA VIRGINIA  
 ASBESTCO  
 ASIP FOR DELEGATE  
 ASSE STUDENT EXCHANGE  
 AVENUE REALTY - GERRI RUSSELL  
 BARBARA GOSHORN PC  
 BARBERS LAWN CARE  
 BEALE, DAVIDSON, ETHERINGTON &  
 MORRIS, PC  
 BEAUTIFUL GATE MINISTRIES  
 BELTONE AUDIOLOGY  
 BEN HUDSON CAMPAIGN  
 BEV GIBBENS ESTATE SALES  
 BILL SYKES/RADIO FLYERS  
 BLAIR CARTER PC  
 BYBEE'S ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH  
 CAMPBELL FAMILY  
 CENTRAL VIRGINIA FENCING & POWER  
 WASHING  
 CENTRAL VIRGINIA HEALTH SYSTEMS  
 CENTURY LINK  
 CHARLES ALLBAUGH CPA  
 CHARLOTTESVILLE DOGWOOD FESTIVAL  
 CLIP & GAILS  
 COBB CONSTRUCTION  
 COLUMBIA GAS  
 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR  
 OF FLUVANNA  
 CONCERNED CITIZENS OF LAKE  
 MONTICELLO  
 COUNTRYSIDE UPHOLSTERY  
 CP MUSIK STUDIO  
 CUNNINGHAM UNITED METHODIST  
 CHURCH  
 D & L REMODELING  
 DAY ELECTRIC  
 DEBRA KURRE CPA  
 DETAIL ME NOW  
 DODSON BROTHERS EXTERMINATING  
 DOGWOOD RESTAURANT  
 DOGWOOD VILLAGE OF ORANGE  
 DOLLAR GENERAL  
 DOLLEY MADISON GARDEN CLUB  
 DR. STEPHEN FRAITES, DDS  
 DR. WEISS OPTOMETRY  
 EFFORT BAPTIST CHURCH  
 E.W. THOMAS GROCERY  
 EAST COAST HARDSCAPES & DESIGN  
 ERIC HESS  
 EVELYN'S CONFECTIONS  
 FIELD DAY OF THE PAST  
 FIND HOMES TEAM  
 FIRST VIRGINIA HOMES RENTALS  
 FLUVANNA ACE HARDWARE  
 FLUVANNA AQUATICS SWIM TEAM-FAST  
 FLUVANNA COMMUNITY SINGERS  
 FLUVANNA CORRECTIONAL CENTER  
 FLUVANNA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION  
 FLUVANNA COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION  
 FLUVANNA COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL  
 FLUVANNA COUNTY BOARD OF  
 EQUILIZATION  
 FLUVANNA COUNTY BOARD OF  
 SUPERVISORS  
 FLUVANNA COUNTY CHAMBER OF  
 COMMERCE  
 FLUVANNA COUNTY ECONOMIC



DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
 FLUVANNA COUNTY HABITAT FOR  
 HUMANITY  
 FLUVANNA COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL  
 FLUVANNA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 FLUVANNA COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES  
 FLUVANNA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION  
 FLUVANNA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION  
 FLUVANNA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
 FLUVANNA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD  
 FLUVANNA COUNTY REGISTRAR  
 FLUVANNA COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE  
 FLUVANNA COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES  
 FLUVANNA COUNTY TREASURER  
 FLUVANNA EMERGENCY SERVICES  
 FLUVANNA MASTER GARDENERS  
 FLUVANNA MEALS ON WHEELS  
 FLUVANNA NAACP  
 FLUVANNA REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE  
 FLUVANNA SELF-STORAGE  
 FLUVANNA SPCA  
 FOOD LION  
 FORK UNION ANIMAL CLINIC  
 FORK UNION BAPTIST CHURCH  
 FORK UNION MILITARY ACADEMY  
 FORK UNION SELF STORAGE  
 FOUR COUNTY PLAYERS  
 FOX MEMORIAL BAPTIST  
 FREDERICK W. PAYNE ESQUIRE  
 FRIENDS OF THE FLUVANNA COUNTY  
 LIBRARY  
 FRIENDS OF ROBERT LEE WARE  
 FROEHLING & ROBERTSON  
 GARDENKEEPERS OF VIRGINIA  
 GLASS SLIPPER  
 GLENDA HOWARD REALTOR  
 GOOSEHEAD INSURANCE  
 GRACE & GLORY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 GRAND HOME FURNISHINGS  
 GRAYBAR  
 GREEN APPLICATIONS  
 HAIRSTYLES BY MICHELLE  
 HAWTHORNE & HAWTHORNE PC  
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 HOME RECOVERY INC.  
 INNSBROOK LAW GROUP  
 INSIDE/OUT PAINTING PLUS  
 J. RANDOLPH PARKER  
 JABA  
 JAMES RIVER BREWERY

JAMES RIVER REELING & RAFTING  
 JASON SCOTT WATSON  
 JENUINE JEANS NAILS, LLC  
 JEFFERSON CENTRE SELF STORAGE  
 JEFFERSON PHARMACY  
 JLK INC.  
 JOHN DAVID GIBSON LAW  
 KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY -  
 DONNA PATTON  
 KIM HYLAND FOR TREASURER  
 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
 KURT LEHNERT  
 LAKE CHIROPRACTIC  
 LAKE MONTICELLO BINGO  
 LAKE MONTICELLO FIRE & RESCUE  
 LAKE MONTICELLO SWIM TEAM  
 LANDSBERG HOME IMPROVEMENT  
 LAYZ S RANCH  
 LINDA LENHERR FOR TREASURER  
 LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA  
 LIGHT ACADEMY  
 LIFE LINE SCREENINGS  
 LODGE AT OLD TRAIL  
 LONG & FOSTER REAL ESTATE -  
 GUNNELS GROUP  
 LONG & FOSTER REAL ESTATE -  
 MIKE HIMES  
 LONG & FOSTER REAL ESTATE -  
 TOM MORACE OFFICE  
 LOREN TUCKER FINE CARPENTRY  
 LOUISA ARTS COUNCIL  
 LOUISA COUNTY AG FAIR  
 LOUISA NAACP  
 LOWES  
 MAGNOLIA LANE PROPERTIES  
 MAX & WANDA HASLIP  
 MELISSA BUTLER TAX SERVICE INC.  
 MILLENIUM SECURITY CO.  
 MICHIE HAMLETT ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
 MICHIE TAVERN  
 MILLER LAW GROUP  
 MINERAL FARMERS MARKET  
 MONTICELLO  
 MONTICELLO COUNTRY REALTORS -  
 VICKI WILSON OFFICE  
 MONTICELLO COUNTRY REALTORS -  
 ADELE SCHAEFER  
 MONTICELLO COUNTRY REALTORS -  
 RANDY WHITE  
 MONTICELLO MULCH

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 MOUNTAIN LAUREL LANDSCAPING  
 NATIONAL COMMUNICATION TOWERS  
 NEST REALTY GROUP -  
 ROXANNE CARTER-JOHNSTON  
 NEST REALTY - JACQUES GATES  
 OLD FARM DAY  
 OLLI - LIFELONG LEARNING, UVA  
 ORME FAMILY FITNESS  
 OUR LADY OF PEACE  
 PALMYRA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
 PATRICIA BURKETT  
 PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATES OF  
 CHARLOTTESVILLE  
 PERSIMMON TREE PLAYERS  
 PHENIX KITCHENS  
 PHYSICAL THERAPY AT ACAC  
 PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
 PRECISION LAWN SERVICE  
 PRISON FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES  
 PURPLE MARTIN FIELD DAY  
 RAYMOND BISHOP MD FAMILY MEDICINE  
 REAL ESTATE III - LAURIE PARTNER  
 RE/MAX REGENCY - LISA CAMPBELL  
 RE/MAX REALTY SPECIALISTS -  
 RUTH GUSS  
 RE/MAX REALTY SPECIALISTS -  
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 ROSENBERG & ASSOCIATES  
 ROY WHEELER REALTY -  
 DAN & SUE ANN CONQUEST  
 SACRED ACRES FARM  
 SALON DESHANO  
 SENIOR SOLUTIONS  
 SETH E. TWERY, P.C.  
 SPECTRUM FITNESS CENTER  
 SPRING CREEK COMMUNITY GROUP  
 SPRING CREEK FAMILY DENTISTRY  
 STEPHEN FRAITES DDS  
 STRONG TEAM REALTY  
 SAINTS PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH  
 SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
 SPRINT  
 SUPER SHOES  
 SWEET ART EMPORIUM  
 T-MOBILE  
 TENASKA  
 TAVERN ON THE JAMES  
 TAYLOR LYN HOMES  
 THISTLE GATE WINERY  
 THOMAS JEFFERSON HEALTH DISTRICT  
 TOM MASCHI  
 TRACTOR SUPPLY  
 TRI COUNTY REALTY - SHAWN BOLDEN  
 TUCKER, GRIFFIN & BARNES  
 VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
 VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION  
 VERIZON WIRELESS- LOUISA  
 VILLAGE SCHOOL  
 VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION - 4H  
 VPS-STATE FARM  
 WEBER CITY BP  
 WENDY'S INTERNATIONAL  
 WEST HOMES  
 WESTMINSTER CANTERBURY  
 WILSON READY MIX  
 WILLIAMS MULLEN PC  
 YOUR MAN FRIDAY  
 ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND  
 SCHOOL

# Town Administrator's Vietnam Sojourn

BY PATRICK HEALY  
CORRESPONDENT



Matt Lawless sits in on an English language class at a local school.

Scottsville has a long history as a trading center. But this year the town did a deal like no other, when Town Administrator Matt Lawless was traded for Vietnamese Agricultural Consultant, Thai Van Nguyen. (Mayor Nancy Gill remains mum on the matter of future draft choices.) Recently, Lawless invited the Scottsville Monthly into his office to explain the ins and outs of it all.

In October of 2018, the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) held its annual conference in Baltimore, Maryland. The convenience of this location attracted Lawless, who attended the four-day conference to hobnob with his peers and improve his administrative chops. One of the opportunities he brought home was a program which would provide exchange arrangements between American city managers and members of the Young South East Asia Leadership Initiative (YSEALI). The town's application was accepted, and Scottsville became the smallest jurisdiction in the 2019 class, joining Dallas, Minneapolis, and Oak Ridge, Tennessee among other cities and towns.

In May of this year, Thai Van Nguyen joined the town staff for four weeks of

immersive administrative experience, James River Valley style. "He worked on our Small Area Plan," says Lawless. "He was especially helpful directing our focus groups."

Mr. Thai hails from the Mekong Delta region in Vietnam. According to Lawless, "He was quite taken with the area. He's an avid cyclist and photographer, so we went running and cycling together. Everywhere he went he would take pictures."

Lawless and Thai day tripped down to Richmond, and also over to Amherst to attend a Monocan Pow-Wow. Day to day, Thai worked on town business, strolled the streets, popped into the shops, and supped and sipped in the local cafes. Nights and weekends were for backyard and front porch sitting; get-togethers including a Game of Thrones themed party, the farmers market, local church services and, always, the river.

"Everything here is completely different from his home," says Lawless. "The hills, the biodiversity...the river is narrow." On the other hand, the Mekong Delta is an alluvial plain of some 15,000 square miles, where tropical mudflats and rice paddies sprawl among numberless bayous, tidal creeks, and the river's nine major

channels. The word Mekong derives from an ancient phrase meaning Nine Dragons.

Lawless went to Vietnam for two weeks over September and October. He was just as struck by the Mekong vistas there as Thai was by our James River scenery here.

"I never figured out which was the main channel," says Lawless of the Mekong River. "I would look across a great river, and just past the far bank was an even greater river. The creeks were running the wrong way. It took me a while to figure out what was going on." Around here residents know how creeks are supposed to work. The water runs down the hill, and into the river. What looked like creeks to Lawless are really just backwaters of the Mekong River; the river water pushing out into its flat, tidal marsh surroundings.

Lawless accompanied Thai on his

daily rounds, meeting with farmers, village councils, governmental officials, and women's groups. Thai pointed out the importance of his meetings with this last category. Though he is an agricultural specialist - men's business - he must also attend meetings about women's health, child rearing, home economics, and the like. If he doesn't, he'll miss at least half of the local Ag story. As Lawless explains, "In mixed company, Vietnamese women will defer to the men, who then do all of the talking."

One of the biggest changes the Vietnamese government has implemented in the Mekong Delta is the rationalization of land use. The old ways had created a hodgepodge of individual or village paddies which had come about through complex webs of social, cultural, and agricultural traditions. Some of those traditions are, to one degree or another, still around.



We're not in Kansas anymore, Toto. Thai Vann Nguyen and Matt Lawless go boating to examine a farmer's field.

To explain the melding of tradition with central planning, Lawless points to the Communist government's approach to religion. "In theory, there is no religion in Vietnam. In practice it is more of a soft atheism. Over the years, government officials have seen that it is easier to implement a program if they can get the local Buddhist monks on board."

A big change is the replacement of traditional agricultural practices with modern, agri-business methods. "There is no biodiversity," says Lawless. "None. The use of pesticides means there are no fish, no birds, no small animals; nothing but rice." The new strains of rice, and accelerated growing methods produce higher yields which, of course, command lower prices. Traditionalists have argued that the older methods work better overall.

"There has been some push back," says Lawless. "There are some organic farms here and there." Farmers used to raise fish in their flooded paddies and have harvests of both fish and rice. And the rich river silt, in which the rice grew was fertilized by the fish droppings. According to Lawless, "Thai is helping farmers find markets, and better prices, for traditionally raised crops."

Another major change came with the more linear approach to the way paddies should be laid out. In a wetland world, the tops of the rice paddy dykes are where the most reliably dry land is found. Since the dawn of rice cultivation, the dykes

have served as pathways among the paddies. Optimum usage of these paths is not found in a garden-maze pattern, zig-zagging among the flooded rectangles of rice, but in more of an urban grid pattern of dykes. Thus, a short stretch between small paddies can still serve as a farm lane. But by taking a Delta wide approach to the lay-out, the dykes can also serve as both inter and intra-village roads, feeder roads, and main arteries. Not surprisingly, transportation has improved using the newer methods.

Says Lawless, "Most days, Thai commutes about ten miles to work by biking along one of these dyke roads."

So, was anything gained by this administrative, cross-cultural pollination? Lawless is enthusiastically affirmative. "My strength is in surveys, not focus groups. They don't do surveys in Vietnam, but use a focus group approach instead."

Which makes sense, given the cultural differences between the U.S. and Vietnam. Americans are comfortable with the rat-a tat-tat of the love it or hate it list of questions, and its instantaneous statistical result. The Vietnamese are not. It is said that Americans reinvent themselves every day, while they revere tradition; snap, crackle, pop vs. a languid discovery of body language nuances.

"Not only did he run the focus groups [on the Small Area Plan], but he created a manual of procedures for us, covering group organization and direction. We will be using it as we

move forward."

Lawless says he was able to offer some administrative guidance to his hosts, as well. "I stressed the importance of diversity, when planning." Vietnam, like most places, has ethnic minorities, and indigenous tribal groups within its population. And, as in most places, those people have not often fared well in the decision-making process.

"No corruption." was another point Lawless stressed. A lofty goal, certainly; but America's offended demand for accountability is preferable to the Vietnamese's casual acceptance of the practice. "I really stressed local au-

tonomy," says Lawless.

On the whole, this trade looks like a win-win. The Ag consultant from the small market state taught us - the digitally driven denizens of the global colossus - how to talk to one another.

Going back the other way, our own buried-in-paperwork bureaucrat shared with a centrally planned, but traditions bound group the high-concept secrets of our own unbound culture:

each of us counts; rule of law; and, less-is-more governance.

Hats off to Mr. Thai, and Mr. Lawless!



Organic farmer Thanh Dat goes over some details with Thai and Lawless.



Mekong Delta Vista. This Buddhist monestary sits on a piney knob above the floodplain. Looks like it's laundry day on the patio.



Channeling on the Mekong River. Photos courtesy of Matt Lawless.

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- Golf Front
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  - Oversized Garage
- Genevieve Reilly 434-414-4453  
genevieearlinereilly@gmail.com

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77 Riverside Dr, Lake Monticello \$274,900



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  - Vaulted Master
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1368 Rivanna Woods Rd, Fork Union \$475,000



- Pristine River Front Property
  - Australian Cypress Flooring Throughout
  - Two Oversized Master Suites
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Morace@sprintmail.com



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4 Ponderosa Ln, Lake Monticello \$279,900



- Four Bedrooms
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DianeMiller@earthlink.net



454 Jefferson Dr, Lake Monticello \$265,000



- Large Eat In Kitchen
  - First Floor Master
  - Two Car Garage
- Diane and Larry Miller 434-960-5856  
DianeMiller@earthlink.net



39 Forest Drive, Lake Monticello \$264,900



- 5 Bedrooms and 4 Bathrooms
  - Updated Kitchen
  - Master Suite w/ Sitting Room & Fireplace
- Gunnels Group 434-960-8987  
Maggie@GunnelsGroup.com



714 Gale Hill Road, Fork Union \$249,000



- Brick Ranch On 3.49 Acres
  - Large Living Room With Fireplace
  - Updated Kitchen
- Nina Monroe | 434-825-5298  
Nina.Monroe@longandfoster.com



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