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Cover: Supervisors presented Donald Weaver with a framed photo of Pleasant Grove at his retirement ceremony on December 15. Photo courtesty of Kelly Harris. Cover design by Amelia McConnell.

The Fluvanna SPCA will be closed to the public until further notice. We are trying to do our part to help cut down on the spread of COVID-19, and with our animals' and employees' best interests in mind we are trying to reduce foot traffic to help keep our em-ployees healthy. The animals at the shelter will continue to receive wonderful care just as they normally do, so no need to worry. If you are interested in adopting or if you would like to drop off donations during this time that we are closed to the public, you can make an appointment to do so by contacting our shelter manager: manager@fspca.org We appreciate your understanding and sup-





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port during this difficult time for everyone, and we will be sure to keep you updated as soon as we will be open again to the public HIS WEEK'S PET: ROLY POLY She is super sweet

and boy is she a talker. She says hello a lot. This sweet angel only wants love and attention. If you are not giving her attention she will keep talking until you do. She likes to headbutt you when she wants attention as well. It seams she is uncomfortable around other cats, so she might do well in a home with no other cats or have the space to keep a distance.

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End of an Era – Weaver Retires After 32 Years as Supervisor

BY HEATHER MICHON CORRESPONDENT

Wednesday's meeting marked the end of an era: the last appearance of Donald W. Weaver as the supervisor from Cunningham.

Weaver announced his retirement earlier this year. He was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1998 and went on to serve eight consecutive terms, for a total of 32 years.

County Administrator Eric Dahl presented Weaver with a resolution recognizing his retirement and a plaque commemorating his service. Sheriff Eric Hess also presented him with a resolution thanking him for his service.

Finally, Weaver was given a framed picture of Pleasant Grove Park, which he had been instrumental in creating during his time on the board.

He told the audience that the park had grown out of a need for a new courthouse. The land had initially cost \$1.5 million, but he recalled that the county administrator at the time talked the seller down to just over \$1 million.

But then they learned that they couldn't build a new courthouse so far from the old one, leaving them with almost 1,000 acres and nothing to do with it. Eventually, they decided to turn it into a park.

"I think Pleasant Grove is one of the greatest places in Virginia," he said.

Current supervisors took a moment to recognize the role Weaver had played in their time on the board.

Tony O'Brien said he had heard a lot about Weaver when he first became interested in local politics and joked that "all the things I heard about him were wrong." He said Weaver had become "a mentor" to him during his time on the board.

Mozell Booker said she had probably known Weaver longer than anyone there, not just from her 14- year tenure on the Board of Supervisors, but from Weaver's time on the School Board while she was working in the school system.

She recalled when she was named principal at Cunningham school that Weaver had come to her office and given her a single longstemmed yellow rose. "Do you remember that?" she asked him.

"I don't," he replied, "but it sounds like something I would do."

"We've had a good time," Booker said. "We don't agree all the time, but we always can call each other and talk to each other, and it has been a pleasure to work with you."

Mike Sheridan said that the word that always came to mind when he was thinking about Weaver was "integrity," calling him "an example of a Christian gentleman."

Sheridan said Weaver was diligent in studying the mountains of material given to each supervisor and joked that he never knew anyone who could ask so many questions about 50 cents spent on a lightbulb.

"Chris, you got some mighty big shoes to fill," Sheridan called out to Chris Fairchild, who will take Weaver's seat in January. "You don't come up with a 50 cent question that first meeting, you're out of here."

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Supervisors choose to keep current districts

But boundaries of Columbia and Fork Union move west

BY HEATHER MICHON CORRESPONDENT

The Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 on Wednesday night (Dec. 15) to adopt Redistricting Map 5, Scenario 2.

This map keeps the current districts but moves the boundaries of Columbia and Fork Union west into the more populous areas around Lake Monticello.

Supervisors have been discussing several redistricting options since census and state data were received in late October. In November, county officials generated a set of five



maps, with two looking at different ways to hold at five districts, two looking at expanding to seven districts, and one looking at six districts.

Opinions differed widely among the five supervisors, with Chair Mike Sheridan (Columbia) strongly in support of seven districts, Vice Chair Tony O'Brien (Rivanna) and Supervisor Mozell Booker (Fork Union) in favor of five, and Supervisors Donald Weaver (Cunningham) and Patricia Eager (Palmyra) on record as supporting six districts.

Public comments, both during recent meetings and submitted through the county website's "My Two Cents" portal, have heavily favored Map 5-2.

Each supervisor shared their arguments as the final discussion got underway on Wednesday night.

Sheridan said he was concerned about the unintended consequences of redistricting without clarity from the state on some key issues, including what might happen to supervisor-elect Chris Fairchild of Cunningham and school board member-elect Gequetta Murray-Key of Rivanna if they ended up on the wrong side of the new district lines.

"I see no way we can move forward not knowing what the answers are," he said.

Assistant County Attorney Donna DeLoria said the state had not provided any guidance on those issues. However, the constitution was clear that the redistricting process needed to be complete by Dec. 31.

"We have a map that does not disrupt the people who have been voted in," said Supervisors Mozell Booker (Fork Union). "Map 5-2 and 5-1. We have heard from the citizens. So I don't have any desire to talk about six or seven right now."

Booker said the argument that they needed more districts for more equal representation "makes me question, have I been doing my work as a supervisor the wrong way these 14 years?"

She listed off the different committees, boards, activities that she and other members served on both locally and regionally as examples of how they had all proven they were more than capable of serving their constituents and the county as a whole with five members.

While she said she appreciated those

members of the public that had spoken in favor of the six- and seven-district maps, the majority had clearly been in favor of Map 5-2.

O'Brien said if the majority of the supervisors looked like they were going to move in the direction of six or seven districts, "I would strongly recommend we defer, given the unknowns."

But if a majority was in favor of five districts, "then I suggest we move forward, just to get this taken care of, meet the constitutional requirements, and eliminate the angst and discussion that's out there in the community."

Some of that angst had come from the sense by some within the community who felt that Map 6, in particular, was designed to keep Gequetta Murray-Key from taking her seat on the School Board as the member from Rivanna District.

This idea that supervisors were "diluting minority votes or Lake votes or representation on the part of the Lake" was an issue O'Brien said he believed was "unintentional" on the part of the supervisors, but one he took seriously.

O'Brien felt the benefit of the five-district maps was "that it leaves it to the voters to decide what the future of the county looks like. By bringing [the districts] in proximity to the suburban areas, it really leaves it up to who wants to run for that seat, what their vision is for that seat, and what their support is for that seat."

Eager said her support for Map 6 was grounded in a belief "that the Lake would want more representation and they would have two members on the board. But I guess the people don't really want that because many of the people at the Lake came before us and said they didn't want six."

Sheridan maintained his support for seven districts, saying the people he had talked to in recent weeks agreed that it was the best plan for the county.

He also reiterated his belief that it was best to defer their decision until the state provided clarity on seating members, because "I want those elected to serve."

For Donald Weaver, this was one of the last votes he would make as he completed his more than three decades on the Board of Supervisors.

He remained in support of six districts, which he felt gave citizens greater representation. He had served on the board when it had had six members and clearly believed it had been to their detriment when they reduced the number back to down five members in the 2011 redistricting.

One of the major arguments made by citizens supporting five districts was that it would

add to the county payroll and the famously fiscal conservative joked "this is the first time I've seen so many people want to save money." "I love you all," he said in conclusion. "Vote

for six."

When the discussion seemed to have reached an impasse, Eager made a motion to adopt Map 5-2. The motion was seconded by Booker and was quickly approved on a vote of 3-2, with Weaver and Sheridan voting nay.

The resolution will now be sent to the Attorney General's office in Richmond, which is likely to approve the plan sometime in January or February. Once approved, the district lines will be fixed until 2031.

Fluvanna is also likely to change Congressional and statewide districts if the Virginia Supreme Court approves a new redistricting plan submitted to them last week.

The court handed off the job of coming up with new maps to two "special masters" after a bipartisan redistricting commission found itself deadlocked.

Under the plan, Fluvanna would move from Congressional District 5 to a new Congressional District 1, which will encompass a group of counties north of I-64 to the Chesapeake Bay. This district includes the northern suburbs of Richmond and the city of Williamsburg as its main population centers.

On the state level, Fluvanna would no longer be split between districts in the Virginia House of Delegates. The entire county will be part of District 56, which includes Buckingham, Cumberland, and Appomattox counties, along with parts of Prince Edward and Goochland.

Fluvanna would also move to a new State Senate District 10, which includes Louisa, Hanover, Cumberland, Buckingham, Appomattox, Powhatan, Goochland, and Amelia counties.

As with most issues surrounding redistricting this year, what this means for those elected in the November elections remains unclear. The state Supreme Court should make its decisions before the end of the year.



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Because of the restrictions on the free tax filing program, we decided to offer a special pricing structure for those who would have been eligible for free tax filing for 2021 and have decided after talking to the program leader for that service to continue with that pricing structure once again.

As we head into 2022 and our 4th Tax Season, we are thankful to all of you for your support in helping us grow and thrive in spite of the circumstances brought on by the pandemic. We look forward to serving you again in 2022!

May you take this time at the end of the year to relax, reflect and reenergize while you enjoy the holiday season. See you in 2022! ~ Rudy



Individual

SAVE RURAL FLUVANNA

Thank you to our Planning Commissioners for listening to and clearly understanding our concerns. We appreciate the respect you showed us in the public hearings. Thank you for your recommendation that the Board of Supervisors should deny approval for Village Gardens.

Thank you to Fluvanna residents for your support keeping Fluvanna rural. We wish you a blessed, healthy, and prosperous time with family and friends this holiday season and into 2022.

Let Heaven And Nature Continue To Sing In Our Rural Fluvanna

Ad paid for by Donna D'Aguanno

Nearly \$6,000 raised at Festival of Trees

PRESS RELEASE

The Festival of Trees raised \$5,964 Friday and Saturday (Dec. 3-4) at Lake Monticello, said organizer Alan Stewart. The money will be used for the All-Inclusive Playground to be built at the Lake starting this spring. The Lake Monticello Community Foundation is raising \$100,000 for the project.

"We're already approaching nearly half of our \$100,000 goal" either contributed or committed for the playground, said Foundation President Nancy Parsons. The Foundation formally launched the fund drive about six weeks ago. The Festival of Trees included a benefit dinner/dance Friday evening and an all-day display of trees, raffle and opportunities to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus Saturday. "This wouldn't have been possible without the support of 16 sponsors who adopted trees for this year's event, as well as all the people who donated their talents and time for the event," Stewart said. "An event this size takes a community that cares, and we certainly have one here at the Lake." Sponsors included Long and Foster, Sweet Art Emporium, Broody Hen Bakery, Allied Concrete, Edward Jones Financial, Rivanna Therapy Services, Herbert's Wine Jelly, Happy Tails, LM Basket Weavers, Salon DeShano, Thistle and Stag Meadery, Angell's School of Dance, The Gifted Ladies, LM Art Groups, LM Community Foundation and Fluvanna Women in Business.



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Photographer to give talk on grizzly bears in Alaska

BY PAGE H. GIFFORD CORRESPONDENT



Ouch! You bit me! Photos by Harriette Browning Fishburne

The Friends of the Library will kick off their 2022 season with photographer Harriette Browning Fishburne. Fishburne will talk about her trip to Alaska and photographing grizzly bears in the wild.

A retired pediatrician, she didn't get her medical degree from the University of Virginia until she was 40 -- in 1991, three years ahead of her son. They even delivered a baby together. After raising three sons and starting a new career in her 40s, she opened a practice with her husband for 20 years and then retired.

Fishburne and her husband moved on to the next phase of their life and made a bucket list.

"We decided to start exploring the world with camera in hand. Alaska was on our bucket list," she said. They took a flight on July 4, 2017, landing in Anchorage, and stayed in



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Grizzly and cubs. Photo by Harriette Browning Fishburne

the Kenai Peninsula until the middle of September. It was then that she and her husband Cary decided to take a day trip in a small floater plane to Katmai National Park and Preserve.

"It is a wildlife preserve where generations of wildlife have never known humans as a threat. We followed a guide who introduced us to various groups of mama sows and coys, or cubs of the year, and we watched them, at a respectful distance, for hours on end while they did their thing." They returned to Katmai National Park and

Preserve in 2018 as part of a workshop with photographer Barbara Eddy for five days. The bears fascinated Fishburne who continued her photo essay on a day in the life of grizzly bears. She learned something from the bears as she watched them for hours on end. They have always been labeled as one of the most threatening bear species known to man.

"I can't tell you that I was not afraid because I was. I was always on guard but we were trained to follow the rules and respect their boundaries. The bears do not like to be surprised or be separated from their babies. Their demeanor imparts a great deal as to their moods and tolerance of others. They seemed to be more alert to the presence and possible danger of the opposite sex than any threat from us. We were simply guests in their world," she said and added that the Alaskan grizzly bear can seem quite threatening but, if one learns the rules and respects their boundaries, one can be drawn into the intimacy that they share with their family members.

"The experience for me was quite amazing, one that I will never forget. I had the opportunity to step out of my comfort zone and enter a world that was different from anything that I had ever known. It was truly an adventure on the wild side."

They are going back to Alaska and share the view that many do that one visit isn't enough to fully engage in its natural wide-open spaces

and stunning landscapes. For many it is the last remaining place in America of untouched wilderness and rugged beauty and Fishburne makes the visual statement with her photos.

"Both my husband and I found Alaska to be incredibly beautiful and welcoming. Since we spent periods of time in each location, we were drawn into the communities and made many friends. We could easily see ourselves moving there but were advised that we need to spend a winter there before making that decision."

It wasn't until COVID hit and she was separated from her three sons and five grandchildren, that she had the time to review her photos, edit them, and publish her book, "Our Family is So Special."

"It has become increasingly obvious to me how similar we all are in this world, humans and wildlife alike, in our desire to protect our family unit. The endearing behavior exhibited by the grizzly bears, despite their threatening press, are worthy of our respect."

Fishburne will give her talk on Jan. 5, at 10 a.m. For more information visit the Fluvanna County Public Library at https://www2.youseemore.com/fluvanna/ or call 434-589-1400.

Fluvanna Faces: Bradley N. Howdyshell

BY HARVEY J. SORUM CORRESPONDENT



Prior to becoming a funeral director for Thacker Brothers Funeral Homes, what was your profession??

Emergency Services - 911 dispatcher and volunteer EMT.

Why did you decide to become a funeral director?

When I was nine, my grandmother died at our home on Hospice care and my grandfather died when I was thirteen. The entire process was interesting to me...from the funeral home staff coming to the house, the arrangement process and selecting caskets, viewing them for a final time, watching the funeral directors handle the services, etc.

Thacker Brothers Funeral Homes was founded in Scottsville, Virginia in the mid-1960s. When and why did you purchase this business?

The funeral home actually dates to 1922 with origins from the Beal Furniture Company, which also sold caskets and began "undertaking" the task of burying the dead. (Visit the website for a more detailed history.) My wife, Yvonne and I purchased the funeral home in January 2009. It started with a dinner conversation and happenstance crossing of paths with a colleague who knew the then-owners were wanting to retire.

Since September of 2010, have you expanded your business?

In 2010, we opened the Lake Monticello funeral home and in 2014 installed a crematory in Scottsville.

When a funeral home is needed, how do people decide on which one to choose? Primarily by reputation, past experience, re-

ferrals from friends/family.

Nearly all businesses advertise in order to be successful. Is this also something you do? How are some of the ways you do this?

Print and digital/Facebook - but word of mouth is our best advertising.

Different religions have their own way of performing funeral services. Must you be familiar with all of them?

To some degree, but not as much as in a larger metropolitan area.

If a deceased person is from a different state, would the burial ceremony be performed locally or at a location requested elsewhere?

Many families have a service locally, and then we arrange/handle transportation to the final destination where services can also take place.

Are ministers in your area of operation aware of Thacker Brothers Funeral Homes and other funeral homes?

We have great relationships with clergy as well as other funeral providers in the area.

Many people do not know exactly what a funeral home offers. What services do you provide?

Burial and cremation services; monument sales; pre-planning; and yes...pet cremation services.

Do you find more people are prepared ahead of time for your services or do they wait until the last minute? What do you recommend and why?

While many families do not prepare ahead of time, more people are planning their services well in advance. This is a wise thing to do for many reasons. It allows you to make decisions in a more relaxed state of mind, without the intense emotions that are natural when a death occurs. Preplanning also lets you be in charge. The funeral director will take down your precise wishes and keep them on file so the surviving family members are not left wondering "what would he/she have wanted?" There are also financial benefits to prepaying, as many of the charges can be guaranteed not to increase over time.





Fluvanna couple travel using "nesting" concept

BY PAGE H. GIFFORD CORRESPONDENT



Sue and Allan Mink at balloon festival. Photo courtesy of Sue Mink

Sue and Allan Mink love traveling and in the past, they have visited places in England, Poland, and Asia, but not as quick trips to see few sites like most do but to soak in the culture by living in these places for three months. But COVID halted their Spain trip last year.

Getting the itch to travel again after experiencing pandemic isolation; they decided traveling in the U.S. would be a wiser choice at this time. Their lifestyle since 2015 has been to "nest" for three months in the spring and the fall in different places all over the world but like everyone else, COVID had kept them at home.

"We were in Lisbon, Portugal when COVID hit in March 2020 and had to come home after just nine days. We were eager to get back to traveling, but worried about overseas travel so we decided to do our first "nest" stateside," said Sue.

She said they chose Santa Fe because they had never been there, and it seemed as though it was a culture that was very different from Virginia.

"I had thought that "nesting" in the U.S. would be not as exciting or fun as an overseas trip, but I was completely wrong! Santa Fe is a wonderful place and we're so glad we chose it. Sadly, the Native American pueblos were still closed because of COVID but there was plenty else to see. Santa Fe was very strict regarding COVID which was reassuring to us. Masks were mandated inside everywhere despite vaccination status, and we had to show proof of vaccination to do many things there – even some restaurants required it."

Because it was not outside the U.S. much of it was familiar to them, including language, grocery stores, and other shops.

"Santa Fe is a convergence of three cultures – Native American, Spanish, and Anglo. Santa Fe was once the capital of Spain's northern Mexico region, and so it claims to have the oldest government building, the oldest church, and even the oldest house in North America – although I think the Native Americans might disagree," she said. "Surprisingly, it also has the oldest vineyards with excellent wine." She added that what most are familiar with is its well-known thriving artistic community. "You can find everything from Native American art to very avant-garde contemporary pieces in the hundreds of galleries all over town." Among the highlights was Chaco Canyon, "an incredible place," said Mink. A three- and half-hour drive from Santa Fe, with the last 14 miles being unpaved roads in a very remote area, it is one of the last remaining testaments to the history of native people in the area and a solitary place of reflection. Mink noted there are no hotels or grocery stores nearby, so they had to camp and bring in all their food.

"Native Americans lived there between 850-1250 AD, and it is still a sacred site today. It is the largest ruin complex in North America, comprising over nine miles of small groups of buildings. The largest, Pueblo Bonita, has over 600 rooms, and was the tallest building in North America before skyscrapers were built in Chicago," she said. Because it is so remote, they went in late October, when there were fewer visitors. "We were able to go inside and through these ancient ruins and walk the petroglyph trails, finding their art carved into the canyon walls."

She adds that Chaco Canyon is a designated dark sky area, and they had brought a telescope with them to be able to look at a star-spangled sky at night and even see the rings of Saturn.

"The ancients studied the sky and stars as well; the buildings are laid out in complex plans that exactly track the pathways of the sun and moon during solstice and equinox. Because of the lack of hearths and ancient garbage evidence, it's believed that very few people lived in these huge structures but that they were the center of religious activity for thousands of Native Americans who converged on the area to worship at these times."

Mink said Bandelier was more accessible and popular native American ruins, built into the cliffs near Los Alamos. The cliffs there have deep caves and they utilized them for their homes.

"There are paved pathways you can walk to see the cliff dwellings and even climb some ladders up into the higher rooms. It's a different feel from Chaco Canyon, it had a busy, utilitarian, community vibe instead of the stark feel of Chaco Canyon."

Mink says that for those who are hikers, one of the great things about the Santa Fe area is that there are miles and miles of hiking trails all around the area, open to the public. She and her husband took advantage of them, seeing incredible vistas and finding petroglyphs, mountain goats, and even a rattlesnake, which might be unsettling for some.

Food is always a cornerstone of any culture and in Santa Fe, it is the Santa Fe Cooking School.

"The food in New Mexico is different from the Tex-Mex I had been familiar with. It was more authentic to Mexico and also had native American influence. We took two classes and also a restaurant tour. I learned how to make both red and green chili sauce from scratch and am now a solid fan of green chili cheeseburgers. Not sure I'll want a cheeseburger any other way now."

Art is the key feature of Santa Fe and an expression of the culture, which is a mix of Mexican, Spanish, and Native American. Mink describes a place with a bunch of avant-garde artists with a free rein in an old bowling alley; a huge immersive art environment that is playful, surprising, and incredibly creative called Meow Wolf, funded by George Martin of Game of Thrones fame (who lives in Santa Fe). Mink sees this as an artistic trend overtaking the West. And something that may influence our culture as a whole.

"It has become so successful that two others have opened in Las Vegas and now Denver. We spent over three hours exploring the incredible environments created there."

Not far from their house, a walk away was the Folk Art Museum but unfortunately, the Native American Museum was closed for renovation. Mink loved it so much she went four times.

"One of the times I went was for the Day of the Dead celebration, which was a fascinating insight into the melding of cultures that takes place in Santa Fe."

Other highlights included the Albuquerque Balloon Festival, which she said they had to get up at 4 a.m. to see them launch but said the experience was spectacular and worth the effort of rising early.

Many festivals steeped in ancient Mexican and Native American cultures are often found in these areas of America, including the annual Folk Art Festival and the Festival of Zozobra, which Mink described as a cathartic moment when the community builds a 50-foot marionette, and like a pinata, stuffs it full of all the bad things that happen over the year and set it on fire, something like ancients purging their souls through a deity.

While they spent a short time there, they did become involved with the Rotary at Santa Fe. Though the people were fellow Americans, the Minks looked at them with new eyes.

"The people we met were wonderful. They introduced us to restaurants, hiking trails, and even a community service project at a community garden nearby. It was a great way to connect." Connecting with our fellow Americans is what it is all about.





Merry COVID Christmas, 2021

BY PAGE H. GIFFORD CORRESPONDENT

Because of the pandemic, Christmas was isolating and dismal for some last year. This year, many understand there is still a risk with the Delta and Omicron variants but are willing to take that risk if it means being with friends and family.

But COVID still hangs over the holiday season. Writer Leslie Truex tells the story of her dilemma regarding a lifelong holiday tradition.

"I am so behind myself this year. Last year, my husband and I ordered our Christmas cards and we usually have a family photo but because of COVID, we couldn't do it. So, we had photos of my son and his girlfriend in New York, my daughter in Caroline County with her cat, my parents in Virginia and in-laws in California, and my husband and I, all wearing masks. I like the card but what do I do with 2020? Friends suggested crossing out the zero and making it a big green 1. I need to get my cards out and if I order them, will they be here on time?"

Woody Cohen lost his wife three years ago, sees his children throughout the year, and so decided to spend it with friends at the Lake.

Others added their thoughts for a pandemic Christmas outlook.

Mo Cahill said, "My wife and I are going to a beach in Florida. Not sure which one yet but we want to avoid all the stress and drama."

"Things are looking up and I'm not dead," said Jerry Patchen, who went on to describe his newly built pergola decorated and lit with lights, a star, and a snowman. He is sincerely satisfied with enjoying it by himself. "I also added a dove of peace to the display." This had important meaning for Patchen at a time when peace

"Your Lady At The Lake"



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is needed and everyone seems to be yearning for it. "But here is what happened to the dove," he said. "I came out this morning and saw it mutilated, feathers all over the place, my cat just tore it up."

Peter Holmes shared his Christmas cat story.

"My cat sat staring at the tree and before I knew it all the balls (family heirlooms) disappeared, I couldn't find them, she hid them. Now she just stares at the lights." Holmes added he is going to Florida for Christmas.

"I'm getting married on New Year's so I'm spending the holiday preparing for a wedding," said Jake Feden. His best man, Nathaniel Kidd, added his thoughts about Christmas. "The value of spending time with family is important, this year is special."

For Mary Birkholz, president of Caring For Creatures, Christmases have always been about the animals.

"For years now, a good part of my Christmas Day includes work. I find I do more reflecting on the Christmases of my youth and the wonderful memories that will always be in my heart. I feel blessed and grateful for the love of family and how past Christmases were happy times," she said. "These days, my family consists of a lot of animals and the awesome people who are dedicated to helping them. I'm less caught up in the commercial side of Christmas for years now, but feel the pandemic has forced us to appreciate each moment and be grateful for that moment. To live life more from the heart and be more present perhaps - to get back to the true spirit of Christmas. Wouldn't it be great if we all could hold on to the spirit of giving, caring, and gratitude and live life that way all year long?"

Like Birkholz, Barbara Carey also sees the deeper spiritual meaning and the changes that the pandemic has brought.

"The pandemic changed everything. You think constantly of what is safe to do and where to go. I am more appreciative and humble because life is so different now. I know who God is and I continue to believe and trust in him. This is a time you may not have the money to give big gifts or as many gifts as in the past. Your love and time to share with others are free and plentiful. Love and time are two precious Christmas gifts that will always be cherished. The greatest Christmas gift is for everyone to be vaccinated so that we all can live safely."

"A package on the porch is no substitute for hugs and handshakes. Corny but true. Carpe diem in the best sense. Make time and space as often as you can for loved ones. After all, we can't bend time, can we?" said Warren Groeger. "And, be responsible! Follow the science. Be vaccinated. For those you love."

Christmas seems to be less about gifts, frantic shopping, partying, stress, and over-commitment and more about expressing the spirit in our hearts and being with those we love even our cats and dogs.

Unforgettable: Jackson P. Burley High School, 1951-1967

CONTRIBUTED BY EVELYN EDSON, PRESIDENT, SCOTTSVILLE MUSEUM



Jackson P. Burley High school. Photo by Maral Kalbian, courtesy of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Just out: a new book compiled by Lucille Stout Smith explores the history of Charlottesville's Black high school that opened in 1951, consolidating Esmont Colored High School, Albemarle Training School, and Jefferson High School in a grand new brick building on Rose Hill Drive.

Entering the school for the first time, Bernard Washington (Class of 1952) said, "I was awestruck by its size and brick structure. This reaction was the result of attending the six-room, wooden Esmont High School built in 1916." Lloyd Feggans (Class of 1956) noted that the Esmont School had no inside bathrooms or running water, "but happy students and caring teachers." Still, "to go from Esmont High School to Jackson P. Burley was quite a change for the better. I loved Burley High then, and I love it even more today."

Students praised the academic opportunities and the extracurricular activities, such as the music program and the famed sports team, the Burley Bears. The Bears played in the Virginia Interscholastic Association League that included all African-American high schools in the Commonwealth, and were champions in 1952, 1954, and 1957. The Smith Aquatic and Fitness Center on the Buford School grounds is named for Bob Smith, coach of the Bears from 1951 to 1960.

"Burley had the hottest band in Charlottesville ... For any local parade, the Burley Band would be front and center in the line-up. But, organizers would soon realize, they needed to place the Burley Band at the end of the parade, because, as they marched, the crowd would follow the band along the parade route and would not remain to support the other parade participants."

With desegregation, Burley's glory days came to an end, and students were transferred to Lane and Albemarle High Schools. There was considerable culture shock. One of the Burley cheerleaders found that tryouts had been held in the spring, and that she could not even be considered for the squad. After the warm, supportive atmosphere of Burley, student transfers tried mightily to adjust to the new, White-majority schools where, they felt, "they stuck out like a sore thumb." But Burley lives on in the heartfelt accounts here.

Unforgetful is packed with pictures and reminiscences of students and faculty. The first printing rapidly sold out, but new copies will be available soon at New Dominion Bookstore and the Jefferson Heritage Center. Contact the Burley Varsity Club at 434-825-6617 to order yours at \$35.

Fluco boys fall to Charlottesville in Jefferson District opener

BY DUNCAN NIXON CORRESPONDENT



Bobby Gardner at the top of the key. Photo by Duncan Nixon

The Fluco boys hosted the Black Knights from Charlottesville High on Dec. 14 and The Flucos came from behind early in the fourth quarter to take a 51-50 lead. However, the Black Knights rallied with back-to-back three point baskets and outscored the Flucos 28-10 in the rest of the final period.

In the first quarter, the Flucos had four players in the scoring column and they trailed at the end of the quarter by only two points 14-12. Kenyon Smith had a three-point basket and two free throws to lead the Flucos in the quarter.

In the second quarter, the Flucos outscored Charlottesville by a point, 15-14, so it was 28-27 in Charlottesville's favor at the half. Fluco junior guard Lance Bruce had seven points in the quarter including a three-point basket. Junior guard Bobby Gardner contributed five points.

In the third quarter, the Flucos fought hard to close the gap after Charlottesville scored

the first three points, but the score see-sawed back and forth. Late in the quarter, Charlottesville stretched its lead to five and the quarter ended with the Black Knights leading 48-43. Bruce had two three-point baskets in the quarter and senior guard Kobe Edmonds contributed five points.

Charlottesville scored first to open the final quarter and take a seven point lead, but the Flucos then put on a run. Edmonds made two free throws and then drove for a basket and was fouled. His free throw was good for an old fashioned three-point play. Bruce then drained a three-point shot for a Fluco run of eight points and a lead of 51-50. Two baskets by the Black Knights put them up by three, but senior forward Blaise Silverman dropped in a three pointer for a tie at 54-54. Edmonds made one of two at the line and the Flucos led again 55-54. Unfortunately, Charlottesville scored the next 16 points, including back-to-back three-pointers. Bruce ended the Charlottesville run with a three-point shot, but the game was effectively over by that time. In the quarter, Bruce had two threes and Edmonds had five points.

After the game, Coach Heath Bralley commented that Bruce had a good game. He also praised the strong play off the bench of juniors Tyler Coleman and Clayton Cannady, and noted that it hurt that Smith, who is a strong defender and rebounder, was in foul trouble late in the game. Bruce led the team in scoring with 15, while Edmonds had 14 and Gardner 12. Five different Flucos made at least one three-point basket in this game, so the team has some diversity in its offense.

On Dec.15, the Flucos bounced back from their loss to Charlottesville and ran their record to 4-1 as they trounced visiting Waynesboro High by a 79-40 score. The Flucos continued their heavy pre-holiday schedule by beating Goochland on Dec. 17, 68 to 57. On Dec. 18, the Flucos played Salem High, winning 63 to 36.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Veterans breakfast

The monthly Veterans breakfast meeting will not meet in December. We will be announcing the **January 2022** Saturday schedule next month. Have a happy holiday and best wishes for a brighter new year.

H.U.G.S. meeting

Hands United by God's Spirit (H.U.G.S) has begun meeting again at Cuppa Joe's coffee shop near CVS/traffic light (off of Rt. 618) **every Monda**y from 3 to 4 p.m. Members knit or crochet shawls and blankets for those in need or are ill and need a warm hug. Interested participants can be taught to knit/crochet. All are welcome!

Monthly hike

Bring the family and enjoy a Virginia Master Naturalist-led Monthly Hike on the **first** Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. Due to COVID restrictions, we will meet outside, masks required. Please register in advance: Eric Armentrout at 434-842-3150 or email earmentrout@ fluvannacounty.org or go online at Programs (recdesk.com) or just come and sign up!!

NOVEMBER PROPERTY TRANSFERS

PROPERTY TRANSFER DEEDS ARE PROVIDED BY THE FLUVANNA COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT.

11/1/21

- Crawford, Kimberly E. to Shafer, Tamilia and Edgar H. Morris. \$284,000.
- Ott, Gene F. to Anderson, Bruce Eldon and Kathleen Elizabeth Brunke. \$703,300.

Bruce, Wallace R. to Campos, Javier. \$268,500.

11/3/21 Ward, Simon to Jackson, Xavier Vanter. 2.065 Acres.

\$235,000. Harris, Megan S. to Lohr, Brian J. and Jessica Ann

Macgregor Clise. 28.37 Acres. \$300.000.

NVR, Inc. to Mitchell, Donald Eugene and Carol Ann Mitchell. Lot 81 Phase 3 Village Oaks Subdivision. \$371,475.

McIlnay, Larry A. to Parker, Nicola A. and Jeff T. Parker. Lot 33 Rosewood Manor Subdivision. \$365,000. Equity Trustees, LLC Su... to FFC Properties, LLC. 3.293 Acres. \$165,500.

Jeffrey A. Spence Family... to BDW Real Estate Ventures, LLC. Lot 5 Piedmont Village. \$580,000. 11/4/21

Sycamore Square, LLC to NVR, Inc. \$85,000. Towne District, LLC to NVR, Inc. Lot 6 and 13 Island Hill Subdivision, \$156,000.

Forsha, Kristopher R. to Frock, Teddie Jean. \$210,000. Grimes, Emily Warren to Childress, Krista E. Lot 132 Phase Twelve Edgewood LM> \$263,000. NVR, Inc. to Avlor, Oscar R. and Kathleen T. Avlor.

\$420,475. 11/5/21

Mapledale, LLC to 4 All Land, LLC. \$390,000.

Fluvanna Rentals, LLC to Vasquez, Norma Leticia. \$205.000. 11/8/21

Ganong, Stephen P. to Horstkotte, James Edward and Amy Goffman. 1.092 Acres. \$204,500.

11/9/21 Pardee Virginia Timber... 58.34 Acres. \$195,000. 11/10/21

Lively, Linda A. to Airslie, LLC. \$115,000. Webb, Kenneth O. to Robbins, John K. and Barbara M. Robbins. \$100,000.

Wells, Antoinette C. to Johnson, Johnny and Cindy Johnson. 2.13 Acres. \$110,000.

Town District, LLC to NVR, Inc. Lot 5 & 14 Island Hill Subdivision. \$156,000.

Sicard, Cortlandt Char... to Craghead, Steven L. and Patricia A. Craighead. Lot 135 Phase Four Fairway LM. \$330,000.

Harvery, Philip J. to Odgen, Michael M. and Vonda Ogden. Lot 39 Phase Eight Nahor LM. \$257,500. Ogilvie, Garrett K. to Linthicum, Shelley Ann. Lot 312 Phase Four Fairway LM. \$238,871.

Grant, Kenneth S. to Marks, Joshua R. \$575,000. 11/12/21

Liberty Homes, Inc. to Camper, Jamev and Valencia P. Pankey. Lot 289 Phase Two Shadwell LM. \$252,307. Caffrey, Debra to Rendon, Michael and Marissa Rendon, \$262,000.

Equity Trustees, LLC to SSW Holdings, LLC. \$256,000. Tyson, Blaine Abram to Dalia, Donald and Cynthia Dalia. \$359,000.

11/15/21

Frazier, Charles E. to Woodward, Kelly T. and George R. Woodward. See document for full description. \$505,000.

NVR, Inc. to Molinari, Joseph D. and Patricia A. Molinari. Lot 78 Phase 3 Village Oaks Subdivision. \$415.655.

Equity Shelter, LLC. To Selinger Homes, Inc. Lot 29 Phase Ten Cherokee LM. \$30,000.

Frederick, Samantha to Wellman, Alden Edwin and Victoria Camilla Wellman. Lot 52 Phase Five Tufton LM. \$277,500.

Burch, Derek Sr. to Atawneh, Majed . 2.410 Acres. \$70,000.

Mills, William G. to Armond, Margaret M. and Gregory W. Armond. 5.756 Acres. \$350,000. 11/16/21

Kleinhans, Debra Lynn to Virginia Solitude, LLC. 20.00 Acres. \$907,000.

Aspiring Developments... to Ross, Victoria Malone. Lot 313 Phase Three Montpelier LM. \$198,000. Fannie Mae to Persson, Daniel Phillip and Caitlin Grace Persson, \$235,000.

Perkins, Katelin Elizabeth...to Price, Michael J. and Stephanie A. Price. 35.537 Acres .\$185,000. NVR, Inc. to Cariens, David S, Jr and Janice Guthrie Cariens. Lot 59 Phase Three Village Oaks Subdivision. \$383,220.

Saleh, Eleftherios Ale... to Carroll, Christopher and Deborah Carroll. Lot 38 Phase Ten Cherokee LM. \$257,000.

11/17/21 Gordon, J. Faye to Miller, Paul Michael and Renata Miller . Lot 15 Phase Five Tufton LM. \$324,900. Kowalski, Gene M. Tr to Virginia Solitude, LLC . See

document for full description. \$170,000. Carr, Garland to Hadjoglou , Maria . 3.21 Acres. \$388,000.

Benco, LLC to Tyson, Glaine A. and Lindsey M. Tyson. Lot 11 Pitney Mountain Subdivision. \$109,000. Lilly, Dennis Scott, II to Gentry, Christopher. See document for full description. \$135,000. Towne District, LLC. To Ludwig, Dale. \$160,000. Signoretti, Raymond to Street, C. Murphy and

Elizabeth A. Street. Lot 60 Nahor Village Subdivision. \$338,000.

Maher, Juanita to Hagy, Emily Elizabeth and Mariellen M. Hagy, and Howard Hagy. Lot 215 Phase Eight Nahor LM. \$349,000.

11/18/21

Mallory, Eugene to Haught, Joseph Andrew. \$268,000. Taylor, Heather Hernd... to Herndon, Kenneth Wayne. \$7.201.

Hall, Karen to Reisser, James Philip, Jr. and Margaret L. Reisser and Judith L. Lindsay. \$58,000.

11/22/21 Gilbert, Mary Ann, Tr to Pmmer, Bryan D. and Tatiana

S. Pmmer. \$364,500. Wyndham, Linda C. to Campbell, Elizabeth Dianne and Lisa Kay Campbell. Lot 40 Nahor Village. \$365,000.

11/22/21

Crawford, Judith Christ... to Alvarez, Adan and Samantha Herring. \$263,000.

UA Delta Timberlands, LLC to Setliff, Leslie Dale and Delora Dawn Setliff and Anthony Dale Setliff. \$144,079.

Liberty Homes, Inc. to Barnhart, Edwin Dwight and Mary Alice Barnhart. Lot 115 Phase Three Montpelier LM. \$317,480.

11/23/21

Parr, Wayne L. to Alley, Jonathan D. and Gina M. Alley. Lot 216 Phase Six riverside LM. \$267,000. 11/23/21

Clingenpeel, William H. Jr to Liberty Homes VA, Inc. See document for full description. \$88,000.

Herndon, Frank to Herndon, Kenneth Wayne. \$21,761. Thompson, Vicky O. to Flanagan, Kathleen P. and Walter Barraclough, \$315,000.

Mead, Amy to Bousquet, Matthew and Maggie Farnin. 17.241 Acres. \$445,000.

Hargett, Stefan R. to Felts Rebekah Joseph. \$271,000. 11/24/21

Karen Marie Denale Trus...to Lewis, Patrick. 5.789 Acres. \$54,000.

Coruzzi, Lisa Mireille to Noblett, Taylor Y. and Brandon L. Harris. \$269,900.

11/29/21

Sycamore Square, LLC to NVR, Inc. \$85,000. Cary S. Walsh Living Tru... to Saunders, Thomas S. and Jana C. Saunders. \$440,000.

Dininick, Sean T. to Brown, Sherri L. \$315,000.

Testamentary Trust to Martin, Newton D., Jr and Vicky A. Martin. \$505,000.

11/30/21

Free, Donald Wayne to Beck, Susan S. \$255,000. Howard, Tillie Louise C. ... to Harris ALND and Timber Company. See document for full description. \$5,000. Miller, Phillip C. to BHL Group, LLC and Rural Land Tracts, LLC and Catlett Land Company, LLC. See document for full description. \$28,000. Benco, LLC. To Falgiano, Nicole and Brian Falgiano. See document for full description. \$109,000.

Kirtley, Joshua David to Thomas, Willis Levering, III.

5.085 Acres. \$28,000.

Sisak, Kyle to Ciulla, Jordan and Tiffany Ciulla. \$399.000.

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Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

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Difficulty: Easy



- 38 Throw off
- 40 Make a

- 46 Arkin, for one
- 48 "Gotcha!"
- 52



Christmas at Scottsville School in 1936

CONTRIBUTED BY EVELYN EDSON, PRESIDENT, SCOTTSVILLE MUSEUM



We recently received in the mail a copy of "Ripples on the James," Volume 14, No. 2, the literary magazine of the Scottsville High School. It was sent to us by Patricia Ingalls, whose mother, Juanita Rhodes, was in the class of 1937. Miss Rhodes contributed a book review of Charles Dickens' Christmas Stories to the issue. She observed that "all Dickens's descriptions are good but especially those which describe gloomy haunted-looking places."

Produced by mimeograph machine, the copy is faded but still mostly legible. Features include a Christmas message from the Principal, W.D. Smith, a list of graduates for the past

ten years and where they have gone, and a report of a faculty dance at the "Log Cabin" in Fluvanna. It was a fund-raiser to buy Christmas baskets for the needy. A large crowd attended, and \$24.50 was raised. The Music Club put on a Christmas concert featuring a piano solo by Jack Miller and a recitation by Grace Howard.

In a column of "Letters to Santa Claus," Noble Smith asked for some new neckties: "I lost all mine in the rummage sale." The high school requested that Mr. W. D. Smith get a clock that cannot be turned back. And the staff wished for more subscribers to "The Ripples."

An item in the gossip column: "Guess what

freshman boy bought a Christmas card for a senior girl only to find that the card was addressed to 'My Dear Wife.' Tip: the senior was Margaret H."

A reporter toured lower grades and found the children making Christmas decorations and stuffed toys to give away. The seventh grade had been working on a unit on cotton, in connection with which "they have made some lovely Christmas presents, including holders for hot mats, stove rags, boudoir chairs (?), and other useful and ornamental objects." The fifth-grade classroom was decorated with posters about Egypt. They had also had a visit from Mrs. B.D. Davis, their teacher from the previous year. A list of New Year's resolutions: "Not to blush anymore (Margaret Batten)," "Not to go riding with Breck McCormick on Sundays (Verna)," "To try to get to school on time at least once a week ("Pee Wee" Cohen)," "Not to go to the pictures with George Nicholas on school nights (Doris Blake)."



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