FLUVANNAREVIEW.COM

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Fluvanna REVIEW

Department Under Pressure

Temporary EMS suspension triggers changes at Palmyra Fire

PAGE 6

FOOTBALL THRILLER
Flucos fall 42-35 to Louisa in hard-fought game
PAGE 8

MEET THE ARTISTS
Local artists open their doors for fifth annual studio tour
PAGE 12

BLEACHERS & BREAKFASTS
School Board considers new bleachers; breakfast demands rised
PAGE 15

LMOA *Lake Views* | PAGE 7

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Fluvanna Fire seeks to restore EMS authority after suspension

BY HEATHER MICHON
EDITOR

Fluvanna County Volunteer Fire Department's authority to provide emergency medical care was suspended on Sept. 11 by Operational Medical Director Dr. Brendan Byrne after repeated warnings over problems at the Palmyra Fire Company.

County Administrator Eric Dahl said Byrne acted because he found that Palmyra had failed to maintain an adequate response rate to dispatched EMS calls, provide a consistent and reliable quality-assurance and quality-improvement process, or appoint an EMS officer.

In his written notice, Byrne said Palmyra had "consistently and persistently" failed to meet those requirements despite "multiple verbal and written warnings."

The suspension, imposed for up to 45 days, affects volunteer personnel at Palmyra, Kents Store, and Fork Union, as all three operate under Fluvanna County Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

Lake Monticello Volunteer Fire & Rescue is a separate organization and is not included in the suspension.

The action does not revoke the department's state agency license or suspend any individual EMT or paramedic certifications. It impacts only the department's volunteer staff. Fluvanna provides ambulance service through paid county EMS personnel, and that service remains fully operational.

Byrne also said including Fork Union and Kents Store should not be construed as evidence of adverse performance, and both stations met their requirements.

Fire Chief Andrew Pullen said Byrne extended the suspension to the entire corporate department so the other two companies would help press for changes at Palmyra.

Pullen said he initially disagreed with including Fork Union and Kents Store but ultimately saw the department-wide action as necessary to overcome resistance and correct the problems at Palmyra.

"I understand his position, and he's right," Pullen said in an interview Thursday morning.

Pullen said department and county officials knew the suspension was possible and were not blindsided by the decision.

He described the suspension as part of a broader response to longstanding leadership, administrative, and cultural problems at Palmyra.

Shortly before the suspension, Pullen appointed Jamie Baughn as Palmyra's new chief and named a new assistant chief to strengthen the company's administration. Pullen said the leadership changes were needed to address the company's operational and administrative problems.

Byrne's notice allows him to restore authorization before the 45-day period expires, provided the department presents an acceptable corrective plan. Pullen said leaders from all three companies were working on that plan and hoped to have authorization restored within the next several days.

The notice was still in effect as of press time on Tuesday, Sept. 29.

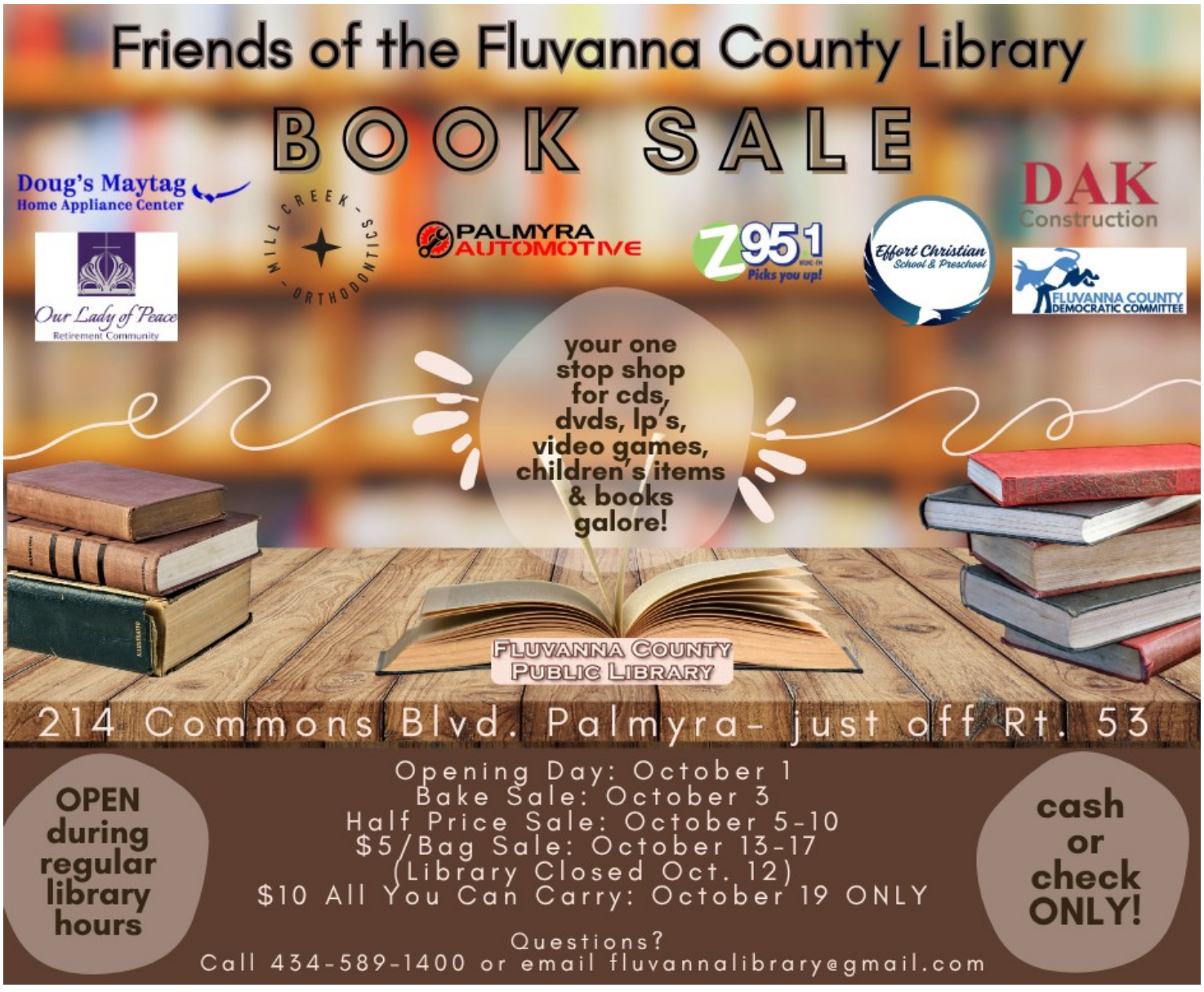
The suspension has prevented volunteer personnel from providing EMS care through the department.

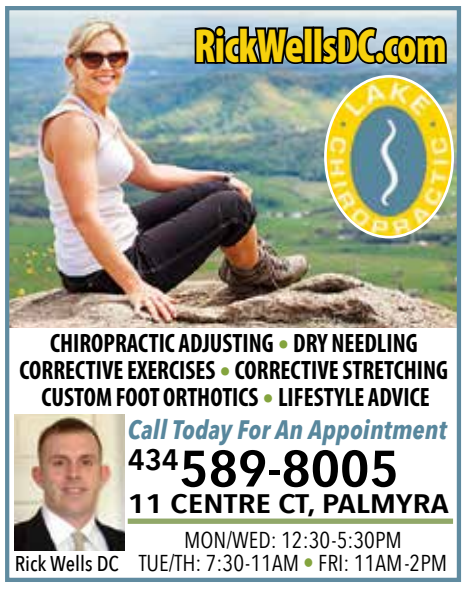
Pullen illustrated the practical effect by describing an incident at the Fork Union Day celebration on Sept. 12.

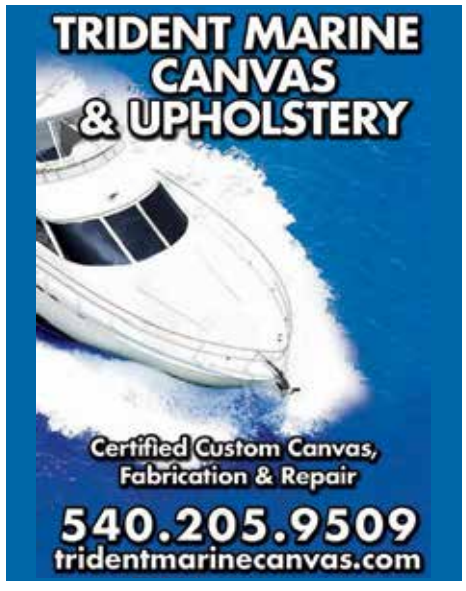
A person suffered a seizure while volunteer firefighters, including members wearing uniforms identifying them as EMTs, were present. Because the department's authorization had been withdrawn, Pullen said, they could not provide EMS care.

Restoring authorization is a priority. At the same time, he believes the corrective process could help establish a stronger, more sustainable role for the department within the county's emergency-response system.

"It's an opportunity to take a step back to move forward," he said. "That's what we're gonna do."







Letters to the Editor

Protect reproductive rights in Virginia

Proposed State Constitutional Amendments about Reproductive Rights:

FYI! This protects and maintains a Virginian's right to make their own decisions about pregnancy, birth control, abortion, and fertility care. It also protects the DOCTOR'S right to treat MISCARRIAGES the safe and sane way by scraping out the womb. None of us wants any women to be sent to bleed out in the parking lot because doctors are afraid of going to jail for performing a STANDARD PROCEDURE.

This horror is taking place all over the country due to the unforeseen consequences of unreasonably strict abortion bans. Keep in mind that, regardless of your moral convictions, this can happen to any woman. I know someone who had a tubal pregnancy and didn't know it. Thank God, she was in a state that permitted the doctors to treat it...otherwise, she'd be dead today.

Please keep in mind: This Amendment does NOT mean that Abortion is allowed at ANY time during the pregnancy. Limits on late-term pregnancy still apply. As ALWAYS.

Virginia bans abortion after 27 weeks and 6 days. After 27 weeks, an abortion is only allowed if three physicians certify that continuing the pregnancy threatens the life or health (including mental health) of the pregnant person or if the fetus cannot survive.

Nobody with any compassion would want a woman to suffer the agony of carrying and delivering a dead fetus. If you do not know that this is actually happening now, in our country, please double-check what your news source is telling you. It's very important that people stay informed and think for themselves because these days, lies and deceit are running amok.

-Beth Sherk, Fork Union

Three questions for voters in 2026

As we head into the 2026 elections, ask yourself three questions:

1. Am I safer because of my government?

Safety has been compromised. With climate change no longer being addressed, there will be more floods, wildfires and droughts. With FEMA staff cut in half, who will help in these disasters? Cuts to NOAA mean we can't predict the weather as well, giving us less warning in a disaster scenario. Regulation rollbacks will lead to more air and water pollution.

Vaccine misinformation equals more measles cases. With fewer inspectors, more contaminated meat and vegetables go unnoticed.

Trump's government cut back on cybersecurity. Iran can apparently hack our water systems if it wants to. AI is supposed to be able to kill us all by the end of the decade, and Trump is against regulating it! Nukes in the U.S. can be set off by one man who often has tantrums.

2. Do I feel financially secure?

Tariffs and Trump's war in Iran have pushed prices up on everything, especially fuel. Because the war is unlikely to end anytime soon, fuel prices could soar, affecting all other goods. The war was never approved by Congress. We need a Congress that can stand up to Trump.

3. Am I proud of America?

We all want to be. We love our country. But other countries can't trust us. People who helped us in wars are being denied asylum. World leaders are appalled by the U.S.'s rejection of real diplomacy. Trump will not cross Putin, even when Russia is helping Iran target and kill Americans.

How can we feel safe and proud and have hope? We can vote for Tom Perriello and Mark Warner to go to Washington to slow down the relentless destruction by Trump and his minions.

-Bonnie J. Redding, Palmyra

Caregiving family supports Perriello

My name is Dani Doughty, and I live in Fluvanna County. I am writing to share my support for Tom Perriello.

Our family has always had an affinity for the mountains, but we also knew we had to remain near a major hospital system. That requirement ruled out many rural areas across the state. In late summer 2019, we found our home in Fluvanna County. It felt like the best of both worlds, offering rural living nestled between two major health systems in Central Virginia.

For our family, the healthcare debate is not an abstract political talking point; it is our daily reality. We rely heavily on accessible healthcare, Medicaid funding and resources that allow our medically complex children to receive care at home rather than in medical institutions. While private health insurance serves as our primary coverage, Medicaid provides what our private plan frequently denies, including necessities such as wheelchairs, feeding tube formula and other medical equipment.

Caring for children with complex medical needs is exhausting, but the administrative burden is often the most frustrating part. Countless hours are spent on the phone battling insurers, doctors, medical suppliers and pharmacies just to secure what our children need to live full lives at home in the least restrictive environment.

Tom Perriello understands that caregiving families need flexible, reliable support. He treats healthcare as a fundamental right rather than a privilege. Having a representative who genuinely listens to the real challenges his constituents face, rather than sending boilerplate responses, would be a meaningful change for our community. I encourage my neighbors across Fluvanna to make their voices heard.

Dani Doughty, Palmyra

Celebrating 100 years of E.W. Thomas

The Sept. 20 celebration of the 100th anniversary of our much-loved E.W. Thomas was a heartwarming and fitting tribute to more than a store. It honored the Thomas family, who have worked tirelessly over decades to make their business a social center as well as a thriving local business.

The hundreds of happy people who turned out were a testament to what E.W. Thomas has become in our community: a successful business with a heart. During the COVID pandemic, when local people needed help in different ways, Beth and the family stepped forward. They did so without fanfare or seeking public recognition, because it was the right thing to do.

The celebration and its enthusiastic participants showed the affection Fluvanna's people feel for the store, its founding family and its many employees.

-Marvin Moss, Palmyra

The Fluvanna Review invites county residents to share their opinions. Letters must be under 350 words and include the writer's name and town for verification. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity. Publication is at the discretion of the editor and subject to available space. Submit your letters to editor@fluvannareview.com

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Star Gazing in Fluvanna

Fun events to view in October

They're coming! They're coming this month! The Orionids meteors will arrive later this month to thrill us with their spectacular flare and frequency. Not only will this happen in October, but we can also witness many of the exciting events with which we are well familiar, including planetary and lunar conjunctions (remote objects visually appear close to one another); the moon moving through its many phases; and the auspicious opportunity to see Mercury and Saturn when they are positioned opposite the Sun and are highly visible due to their positions. Hopefully some of these events capture your interest and motivate you to spend time observing the night and early morning dark sky this month.

Let's get ready to engage in observing these events by setting up your stargazing equipment, charging your cell phones, linking to Sky Guide, Sky View Lite, or any other stargazing applications that you find useful, and settling into your favorite viewing spot to witness the magic of the night and early morning skies!

Weeks 1-2 (October 1-10)

October starts with the moon in perigee, a position in its orbit when it is closest to Earth. This results in higher high tides and lower low tides. This orbital position is the opposite of the moon being in apogee, when it is farthest from Earth.

On October 3, the moon moves into its last quarter phase, when the left side of the moon will be illuminated. You can observe the moon in the constellation Cancer.

October 4 offers a rare opportunity to clearly view the planet Saturn, as it will be opposite the Sun and readily observable with the naked eye. Saturn can be found in the constellation Cetus on this evening

Also on this evening, the moon will be in conjunction with the bright yellow-orange star Pollux and can be found in the constellation Gemini.

On October 5, the moon will be in conjunction with the planet Mars in the constellation Cancer. Also on this evening, the moon will be close to the Beehive Cluster (M44) within this same constellation, and visible with the naked eye.

The moon will be in conjunction with the planet Jupiter, in the constellation Leo, on October 6. This event will be visible with the naked eye.

Also on October 6, the moon will be in conjunction with the blue-white star Regulus within the constellation Leo.

On October 10, the moon will enter its new moon phase and will no longer be visible except as a ghostly sphere in the sky; this month, the new moon will be positioned in the constellation Virgo. This moon phase gives us a better view of the night sky since there will be no moonlight to obstruct views of stars and planets.

Week 3 (October 11-17)

On October 11, the moon will be in conjunction with the planet Venus within the constellation Virgo. No telescopes or binoculars needed; just look up to see this event.

On October 12, the planet Mercury will be at its greatest distance from the Sun and will be highly visible. Mercury can be found within the constellation Libra and is visible with the naked eye.

On October 16, the moon will be in apogee in its orbit around Earth. At this time, the moon will be farthest from Earth. One of the most noticeable impacts is lower high tides and higher low tides; in other words, the moon has less pull on the Earth than at other times during its orbit around Earth

Weeks 4 - 5 (October 18-31)

On October 18, the moon moves into its first quarter phase. This phase is marked by the right half of the moon being illuminated by the Sun.

Stargazing *continues on page 6.*

Spring Creek Community Yard Sale

Saturday, Oct. 3rd

8 AM - 1 PM

Wide Range of Items

Baby and kid clothes, tools, yard equipment, furniture, pictures, bikes, and toys, hobby/collector items, decorations, computer items, sports and exercise equipment, china, silver and glass, desk, school and office supplies, rugs and carpets of all sizes, garden tools, books , dvds and more.

SPRING CREEK

Enter at Spring Creek BUSINESS PARK Entrance at Auto Parts Store & Follow the Signs

Obituary

David Elliott Cullen, Sr.

David Elliott Cullen, Sr., 88, passed away on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, at The Barclay at Charlottesville.

He was born on September 12, 1938, in Rockbridge, to the late Lewis Alexander, Sr. and Marjorie Carmen Patterson Cullen.

David enjoyed a career in management with Dominion Virginia Power. Throughout his life, he was devoted to his faith, his family, and serving others.

He was a faithful member of Old Providence Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Steeles Tavern, Virginia where he served the congregation as both an elder and deacon. David was also a member of Masonic Lodge #171 in Covington, a Shriner, and a Gideon.

David had a heart for helping others that extended far beyond his own community. He and his wife, Susan, shared a passion for mission work and traveled abroad together to serve in Wales and Pakistan. They also participated in mission efforts in Mexico, where they helped build homes for families in need.

In his leisure time, David was an avid golfer and greatly enjoyed time spent on the golf course. He loved bluegrass music and dancing all around Augusta and Rockbridge County.

He is survived by his son, David Elliott Cullen, Jr. and his wife, Natalie; his daughter, Kim Cullen Cahoon and her husband, Lee; his grandchildren, Zachary Cullen and his wife, Ashley, Alexander Cullen and his wife, Megan, Wendy Dudding and her husband, Matt, Christopher Cahoon and his wife, Kayla, and Kevin Cahoon and his wife, Kathryn; his great-grandchildren, Ariya, Brantley, and Tucker Cullen and Carrigan, Brea, Cade, Saige, Nathaniel, and Calvin Cahoon; and his special friend, Jean Patton.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his wife, Susan Jane Loughhead Cullen; his grandson, David Elliott Cullen, III; his great-grandson, Myles Lee Cahoon; his brothers, Lewis Alexander Cullen, Jr. and William "Butch" Cullen; and his sisters, Marjorie "Babe" Louise Cullen Armentrout and Julie Mae Cullen Patterson.

All services will be private.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shriner's Children's Hospital (c/o Office of Philanthropy, 2900 N. Rocky Point Drive Tampa, FL 33607).

Henry Funeral Home in Staunton has been entrusted with the arrangements.

COACH'S CORNER
with Coach Mitchell Pace

A tough loss, a tremendous crowd

Fluco Football Fans,

Last Friday night was both amazing and disappointing. Not pulling out the win against Louisa was a tough loss for us, but seeing the community turn out in record numbers to support our boys is something they'll never forget.

Great performances by offensive weapons like WR Brody Shields (3 Rec. TDs), QB Jack Pace (3 Passing TDs), and RB Garrett Jordan (2 Rushing TDs), behind a great effort by the offensive line, kept us in the game. Defensively, we improved as the night went on but struggled to stop our opponent's big runs.

This team, and all of the Fluco Football Brotherhood, will still do great things this season. Not even at the halfway point, I expect them to rebound this week, get back on track toward our larger goals, and host a playoff game in Fluvanna in November.

Thanks again for the outstanding crowd, and I hope to see you like every Friday night from here on out. It's simply the best place to be in Fluvanna County in the fall under the bright lights.

We would appreciate a large fan base following us to Western Albemarle this Friday night as we take on the Warriors in Crozet. A solid team, Western passes the ball considerably more than previous opponents and always plays well at home... we need you there to help us get another big win! 7:00 pm kickoff, and tickets are available on Go.Fan.co.

Thanks,
Coach Pace

Stargazing *continued from page 5.*

Starting on October 21, the excitement of the Orionids meteor shower begins. This is a Major (Class I) meteor shower with the possibility of over 20 meteors appearing within an hour from October 2 through November 12, with the peak of the shower occurring between October 21 and 23. The meteors originate in the constellation Orion and radiate out in all directions. A good time to observe this shower is from midnight until dawn on October 21.

On October 25, the moon will move into its full moon phase. The moon will appear within the constellation Taurus. This full moon is commonly known as the Hunter Moon because game animals have gotten fatter for the winter and are easier to catch for human food when hunted at this time of year. This moon is also called the Drying Rice Moon (Dakota people), the Freezing Moon (Ojibwe people), the Ice Moon (Haida people), the Falling Leaves Moon (Anishinaabe people), and the Migrating Moon (Cree people).

Completing the month's events, the moon will be in conjunction with the Pleiades star cluster (aka the Seven Sisters and M45) within the constellation Taurus on October 27. The moon will again be in perigee on October 28. On October 31, the last quarter moon will be in conjunction with the stars Castor and Pollux within the constellation Gemini.

In Summary...

So ends the highlights of this month. If you are interested in rocket launches, NASA offers the public the opportunity to view them. For additional information about NASA-managed launches, visit https://www.kennedyspacecenter.com/subscriptions/sign-up For updates on European Space Agency flight plans, visit https://europeanspaceflight.com/european-rocket-launches-in-2026/_. And remember to keep track of the International Space Station (ISS) movements through the downloadable ISS phone app; look for the aurora borealis flare-ups, which are noted on the website with the same name; and track other space-related websites noted below that provide information about special space events that might be of interest to you.

With the perpetual motion of planets and stars, the daily changing sky promises to entertain you for a lifetime! Until next month, keep your eyes facing the morning and evening sky to see the wonders of our universe as we Earthlings travel through it!

[Information has been extracted from *Astronomy Calendar of Celestial Events 2026 - Sea and Sky* (seasky.org); https://eclispe.gsfc.nasa.gov; https://highpointscientific.com/astronomy-hub; https://amsmeteors.org/meteor-showers; https://starwalk.space; https://spacetourismguide.com; Wikipedia; https://SkyatNightMagazine.com; theskylive.com; the Farmers' Almanac; https://www.timeanddate.com; https://www.aianta.org/native-american-moon-names/]

- From your Fluvanna County Stargazer, Pat Beers Block

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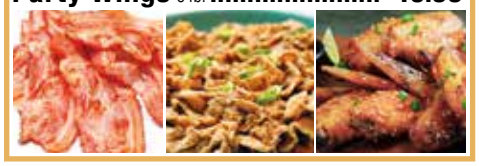

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LAKE VIEWS

NEWS FROM YOUR LAKE MONTICELLO NEIGHBORS

Hello OCTOBER

Fall is in the air!

It's time to "Fall" in love with Lake Monticello! From meetings and activities to fun events, there is so much to do this Fall, you'll want to do it all! Check out what's coming up this month and let the Fall fun begin!

Special Events

October 17: 6th Annual Wizards & Witches Paddle Across the Lake, 1 PM. Gather at the Main Beach shortly before 1 PM to watch your friendly neighborhood wizards, witches, and more, as they paddle across the Lake! Paddlers are encouraged to arrive at Beach 3 by 12:30 PM to participate in this charming tradition.

October 17-18: Arts of Fluvanna Studio Tour, 10 AM-5 PM. Take a self-guided tour of artists' studios throughout Fluvanna County, with 5 locations inside Lake Monticello! Pick up a "Passport" at your first stop, get it stamped at each studio and leave it at the last one you visit. If you visit at least three studios, you could win $50.00 credit for a piece of art!

October 24: Fluvanna Women in Business Creative Escape Open Craft Workshop, 11:30 AM – 5:30 PM at Ashlawn. Bring your own craft projects, refresh your mind and fuel your artistic spirit. This free event is open to all LMOA Members.

October 24: Piedmont Area Tennis Association (PATA) Free Kids Day, 2-4 PM at the Ashlawn Tennis Courts. Enjoy a fun day of tennis for kids at Lake Monticello! Kona Ice will be on site from 3-4 PM.

October 25: EarthQuest Birds of Prey Program, 1 PM on the Ashlawn Clubhouse Lawn. The Wildlife Committee invites you to join EarthQuest for its always-popular Birds of Prey program, a unique live demonstration featuring an exciting variety of raptors!

October 30: YRF's Annual Bunker Pumpkin Walk, 6-7:30 PM on the Bunker Park Track. Join the Young Residents & Families Committee for an evening of jack-o'-lanterns, candy, and fun! Bring your carved pumpkins to Bunker Park just before 6 PM, place them around the track, and enjoy a stroll around to admire the jack-o-lanterns. Costumes are highly encouraged!

Music, Food & Fun

October 1: Bonjour! French Wine Tasting, 5-9 PM, Bunker Bistro Fairway Room. Enjoy wines from the Gérard Bertrand Winery in the South of France. Tastings are $20 for four featured wines, and $5 per additional tasting. Full bottles available for purchase.
Scan the QR Code to make a reservation →

October 2: The Bard of the Blueridge is back! Matthew O'Donnell, 6 PM, Bunker Bistro. Enjoy Irish music, beer, and food specials!

October 3: Steve Smith on Guitar, 6:30 PM, Bunker Bistro.

October 4: Brunch with Matthew O'Donnell, 10:30 AM – 1 PM, Bunker Bistro.

October 7: Music Bingo! Fundraiser for the Arts of Fluvanna County, 6-8 PM, Bunker Bistro.

October 10: The Big Band, Sentimental Journey, 6 PM, Lakeside Restaurant at Ashlawn Clubhouse. Buffet dinner optional. Please note: Bunker Bistro will close at 4 PM to prepare for this event.

October 11 & 25: Brunch with JazzMo Trio, 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM, Bunker Bistro.

October 14: Open Mic Night, 6-8:30 PM, Bunker Bistro.

October 16: OKTOBERFEST! 6-8:30 PM, Bunker Bistro. Enjoy a night of German food, beer, and music! Wear your best Lederhosen & Dirndls and sing along with Matty Metcalfe and his one-man Oom-pah Band!

October 23: South Canal Street Band, 6-8:30 PM, Bunker Bistro Patio.

October 29: EAT IT – DRINK IT - SOLVE IT Team Challenge! | 6:30 PM | Bunker Bistro. Grab your team of 6 and be the first team to eat 19 pretzel bites, 6 chicken tenders, drink 12 beers (or cider), and solve a 300-piece puzzle to win $. Reserve your spot today by calling 434-591-0106.

October 31: Halloween at the Bunker Bistro! Music by F.O.G. | 6-8:30 PM.

advertorial
Content: LMOA

Flucos push Louisa to the wire in 42-35 thriller

Fluvanna rallies in the second half, but a late interception seals Louisa's win

BY DUNCAN NIXON
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

This is what high school football is all about: the Fluvanna County Flucos and neighboring Louisa County Lions, both 3-0 coming in, battling under the Friday night lights before a lively crowd of home and visiting fans.

That the outcome was still in doubt with just two minutes on the clock made it even more special.

The Flucos took the opening kick-off and went three-and-out. After the Flucos punted, the Lions marched 78 yards for the first of many touchdowns in the game.

Fluvanna answered with a 69-yard drive. The big play was a 30-yard pass from senior quarterback Jack Pace to senior wide receiver Brody Shields to the 9-yard line. Pace then hit Shields in the back of the end zone on fourth down, and the PAT by Matteo Viscardi was good for a 7-7 score.

The Lions responded, scoring in three plays, and the first quarter ended with a 14-7 Lions lead.

The second quarter started with the Flucos on the march. The big play was a pass from Pace to junior "Crumbs" Loving. Senior running back Garrett Jordan punched it in for the tying touchdown with 10:11 left in the half.

Unfortunately for the Flucos, the Lions' offense was impressive; they scored a touchdown with 6:23 remaining in the half and scored again with six seconds left. Extra points were good after both TDs, and the Lions took a 28-14 lead into halftime.

The Flucos did not fold. They forced the Lions to punt on the second-half opener. On Fluvanna's third play from scrimmage, Jordan shook off a couple of attempted tackles and broke free for a 53-yard touchdown run.

Louisa answered on its first play from scrimmage. A sweep to the right went all the way for a touchdown, pushing the lead back to two touchdowns.

The Flucos came right back. With 4:53 left in the third quarter, Pace found Shields in the back of the end zone again. The extra-point attempt failed, leaving Fluvanna down 35-27 at the end of the quarter.

On the second play of the fourth quarter, Louisa caught a break. Two Fluco defenders contested a long pass to a Lions receiver, and an interception looked possible. Instead, the ball popped into the air and landed in the receiver's hands. Louisa had first-and-goal and scored to make it 42-27 with 9:18 left.

Fluvanna drove downfield once more. Under heavy pressure at the 9-yard line, Pace lofted a pass toward the front of the end zone, where Shields made a diving catch for the Flucos' fifth touchdown. A successful two-point conversion cut Louisa's lead to seven.

The Lions took the ensuing kickoff and tried to run out the clock, but two holding penalties left them facing fourth-and-23. They punted, and a favorable bounce pinned the Flucos at their own 1-yard line with 2:27 remaining.

Jordan broke a run to the Fluvanna 48. A pass to Loving then moved the Flucos to the Louisa 46 with 36 seconds left, keeping a tying touchdown within reach.

But a pass over the middle slipped off the receiver's hand and was intercepted by Louisa, ending Fluvanna's comeback bid.

After the game, Coach Michell Pace said it was a tough loss. Nevertheless, a 3-1 start, including a road win over a once-defeated Buckingham County squad, is impressive.

The Flucos are now in the Jefferson District portion of their schedule. On Oct. 2, they travel to Western Albemarle. They then host Monticello High on Oct. 9, in their homecoming game.

After away games at Orange County and Charlottesville, they return home for their Senior night contest against Goochland County on Oct. 30. The final game of the regular season will be at Albemarle High.

Fluco-Lions by Duncan Nixon

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Sarah Monceaux has been a Fluvanna resident since 2008 and is YOUR local go-to agent for Fluvanna County. Sarah realizes that buying or selling a home is a big decision and can be stressful, which is why she is there to help guide her clients through every step of the process. Sarah has a passion to help people. She listens to her clients needs, understands their goals, and always keeps her clients best interests first and foremost. Whether you are a first time buyer or seller, or have bought and sold before, Sarah can help! Call today to set up an appointment for your Free CMA (Comparative Market Analysis).
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Donations sought for annual Happy Face Party

CONTRIBUTED BY
DEBORAH OWENS

The Fluvanna Christian Service Society's (FCSS) annual Happy Face Party will be held Saturday, Dec. 5, at Central Elementary School. FCSS partners with Social Services, Region Ten, the Health Department, and Child Health Services to help qualifying families in the county enjoy the Christmas season.

FCSS is collecting new toys, stuffed animals, and books for children from infancy through age 13. Books are especially needed for children ages 0 to 5. Toy suggestions include science kits, makeup kits, STEM toys, drones, LEGO sets, remote-controlled vehicles, digital watches, and toddler toys. Please do not donate toy guns or other toy weapons.

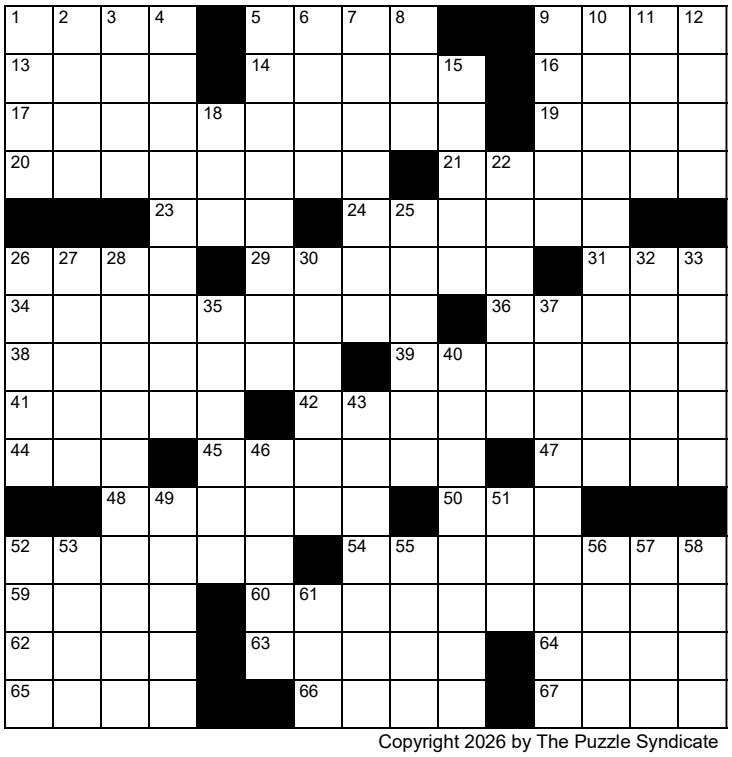
The group is also collecting new children's winter coats and pajamas in sizes from infant through 18. Collection boxes will be set up around the county by Oct. 16. In addition to many local churches, locations include the Fluvanna Public Library, Monticello Country Realtors, Ivy Physical Fitness, Cuppa Joe, the Lake Monticello Ashlawn clubhouse, and the MACAA food pantry and thrift shop. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

At the party, children will hear the story of Christ's birth and have an opportunity to be photographed with Santa Claus. Families will also receive a food voucher to help provide a Christmas meal.

To volunteer or ask questions, email Mary Kidd at marykidd01@gmail.com.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke



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ACROSS

1 Gossip, slangily
5 Mexican peninsula
9 Mythical queen of Carthage
13 Smoothie berry
14 In the sky
16 Hazzard County lawman
17 "Gunsmoke" saloon
19 ____-a-Sketch
20 Put in a place of honor
21 California's motto
23 Write down hastily
24 Gordon ___ (Sting)
26 Western state, slangily
29 Can or letter follower
31 Having a lot to lose?
34 Solitude
36 Cleansing agent
38 Gets to giggle
39 Makes certain of
41 Put an end to
42 Medical protocol
44 Airport on Oahu (abbr.)
45 Does house-work
47 Circular current
48 Practicing doctor?
50 Roofing pitch
52 Slow to learn
54 Counselor's offering
59 Wild animal's den
60 Hard to read
62 Schooner fillers
63 Sweatshirt options
64 Fake bait
65 Workbench attachment
66 Pesky insect
67 Odds and ____

DOWN

1 Chip's chum
2 Coin anagram
3 Comic ___ (font)
4 Shenanigans
5 Sinatra, for one
6 "The Traitors" host Cumming
7 Ones to keep up with
8 Gridiron grp.
9 John on a farm
10 Meddled
11 Marina feature
12 Job safety org.
15 Kind of song or park
18 "Dude!"
22 Turmoil
25 Hidden from view
26 Reality series, "Deadliest ____"
27 E.T., for one
28 Places
30 Drive up the wall
32 Modify
33 Palate-pleasing
35 Chooses
37 Able to be counted
40 Most malicious
43 Burma's capital, once
46 Blood sucker
49 Care for
51 Make sense, with "up"
52 Saintly king of Norway
53 Island east of Java
55 Stamp of approval
56 Part of speech
57 Parachute pull
58 ___ out (manages)
61 Fireplace fodder

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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

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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.

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

Announcement

PUBLIC HEARING

Fluvanna County Planning Commission
Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 15.2-2204, a Public Hearing will be held in the **Fluvanna County Circuit Court, 72 Main Street, Palmyra, Virginia 22963** for citizens of the County to have the opportunity to appear before and be heard by the Planning Commission for the following item(s):

SUP 26-13: Fluvanna CSG 1 LLC – A Special Use Permit request in the A-1, Agricultural, General District for a 4.65-MW solar photovoltaic project (solar generation facility) on approximately 21 acres of an approximately 140.98-acre parcel identified as Tax Map 59-A-78A. The parcel is zoned A-1, Agricultural, General. The project site is located at 3295 Bremo Road (Route 639) in Bremo Bluff, Virginia 23022. The parcel is located in the Rural Preservation Planning Area and the Fork Union Election District.

SA 26-01: Request for determination by the Planning Commission as to whether or not the solar photovoltaic project proposed by Fluvanna CSG 1 LLC in Special Use Permit Application # SUP 26-13 is in substantial accord with the Fluvanna County Comprehensive Plan, pursuant to Code of Virginia § 15.2-2232.

ZTA 26-26: Ordinance to amend the "Code of the County of Fluvanna, Virginia," by amending §§ 22-11-2.2, 22-12-2.2, and 22-17-5 and enacting § 22-17-24 to remove data centers as a use allowed by Special Use Permit in the Industrial, I-1 and Industrial, I-2 zoning districts, to clarify that uses which are not defined within the Zoning Code are not permitted, and to create supplemental regulations for data centers as an accessory use.

ZTA 26-27: Ordinance to amend the "Code of the County of Fluvanna, Virginia," by amending amending §§ 22-4-2.1, 22-4-2.2, 22-5-2.1, 22-5-2.2, 22-6-2.1, 22-6-2.2, 22-7-9.1, 22-7-9.2, 22-8-2.1, 22-8-2.2, 22-9-2.1, 22-10-3, 22-13-2.1, 22-14-7, and 22-22-1 and enacting § 22-17-23 to update the terminology and regulation regarding home-based child care to match the Code of Virginia

Copies of the complete text of the above ordinances and plan are available for public review at **https://www.fluvannacounty.org/** and at the Office of the Fluvanna County Administrator during normal business hours. Questions may be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department, at (434) 591-1910. All interested persons wishing to be heard are invited to attend the public hearing.

Community Calendar

FLUVANNA County Calendar

QR Code provided by the Fluvanna Leadership Development Program

Free Rural Health Clinic

Free Rural Health Clinic at Dunbar Rosenwald School, on the **1st and 3rd Thursdays** of each month from 2 to 5 p.m. through December. County residents can receive needed health services to address local health inequities and disparities.

Cash, food accepted

Fluvanna Leaders for Race & Diversity (FLRD) is located at 14455 James Madison Highway in Palmyra. It is open on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It accepts cash and food donations. (434) 987-1938.

Food Pantry & Food Assistance

FLRD Community Food Pantry is located at 14455 James Madison Hwy, Palmyra VA in the School Board Administration Building. To receive food please visit our pantry on Tuesdays and Thursday from 10am to 2pm. Questions or donations, contact (434) 987-1938.

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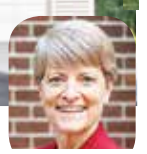

Ruth Guss 434.960.0414

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- Cove Waterfront Lake Monticello Property
- With Gently Sloped Walkway to Private Boat Dock
- Main Level Full Lenth Deck & Screen Porch
- Finished Walk Out Terrace Level, 2 Car Garage

$215,000 — 143-6 Green Turtle Ln

Bev Nash 434.981.5560

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- Fully Furnished, Move-in Ready
- On the CAT Bus Route for Ease of Access
- 2 Pools, Tennis Courts, Fitness Center
- Close to UVA, Darden, and Downtown Cville

$449,900 — 86 Crabapple Ln

Patrick Burns 434.465.4444

- 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths, 1,877 Fin Sq. Ft.
- Move-In Ready & Freshly Painted
- Open Floorplan, High Ceilings Throughout
- Main Level Primary Suite & Laundry Room
- Gourmet Kitchen, Fenced Rear Yard, MLS 672448

$935,000 — 72 Wildwood Drive

Jay Hurdle 434.906.3100

- Gorgeous renovated waterfront home
- 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 125 feet of shoreline
- New paint inside and out - new floors & lights
- New kitchen and baths - New deck and dock
- Walls of windows with great water views

$526,372 — 53 Porkchop Ct/Louisa

Tracey McFarlane 434.882.0067

- **MOVE IN READY-** The Magnolia Plan on 1.72 Ac @ Byrd Mill Run!
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- Byrd Mill Run is 5 miles from I64, Up to $12,500 closing incentives Available

$531,477 — 54 Porkchop Ct/Louisa

Deannie Tanner 804.339.0860

- Up to $12,500 Closing Closing Costs for the 4 Bedroom Hudson
- Primary Suite w/ Tile Shower, Main Level Laminate & Oak Stairs
- Gourmet Kitchen w/ In-Wall Oven, Microwave, and 2nd Oven
- Quartz Counters, Island, Upgraded SS Appliances
- Attached Garage, Gas Fireplace, Spacious Deck, Upgraded Siding & Front Door, 2-Zone HVAC
- Byrd Mill Run is 5 miles from I64, FireFly High Speed Internet Available

$352,910 — 12 Derosa Ct/Fluvanna

Kathleen Pender 804.840.3648

- **Move Now** w/ up to $12,500 Closing Assistance!
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- Firefly High Speed Internet is Available at High Point s/d

521 Courthouse Rd Palmyra, Va

Lori Click 434.326.7593

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$445,000 — 3417 Zion Rd

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WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED IN ALBEMARLE, FLUVANNA, LOUISA AND MORE!

The fifth annual studio tour celebrates local artists

BY PAGE H. GIFFORD
ARTS & CULTURE CONTRIBUTOR

The fifth annual studio tour will showcase local fine art and craftsmanship Oct. 17 and 18, rain or shine, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors can explore work ranging from woodworking and jewelry to photography, printmaking, mixed media and painting.

Returning artists include Wayne Cain, with his intricate stained glass; Eileen Butler, with mosaics and bold, colorful collages; Mary Jane Cathers, with one-of-a-kind woven designs; and Mary Beth Pfeiffer, with fiber art and beaded jewelry.

Painters include Lyndsay Nolting and Linda Staiger, who has added ceramics to her work. Susan Edginton draws in charcoal, colored pencil, pastel, and other media, often depicting dogs and other animals. Diane Wilkin and Alyce Walcavich will show their printmaking, Mike Harrison will showcase ceramics, and Duffy Dillinger will present her sculptures.

Woodworkers Chris Nothnagle, Jim Wilkin, and Dennis Meyer are also returning. Carol Sorber uses flameworking to create delicate, iridescent glass pieces, while Dale Sharon Nomura will show her jewelry designs.

James and Dianna Roberts return for their second tour with photographs of nature. Pictures from a recent trip to Watkins Glen State Park in New York's Finger Lakes region capture deep gorges and rushing waterfalls nestled in the woods.

New to the tour is Tania Saumell, whose work includes bright pop-art paintings and mixed media. Gillian Ruffa works with metal and fabric. Describing her jewelry on Facebook, Ruffa said she has explored texture as a surface decoration in sterling silver and copper, but has more recently focused on colorful patinas.

"I apply a variety of solutions and materials to the copper, which results in infinite possibilities. I love the thrill of unveiling the pieces to see the intricate patterns created," she wrote.

Kim Critzer, another newcomer, creates art through Red Dirt Farm and Studio. The self-taught artist works in acrylic, watercolor, soft pastels, and other media.

"I paint abstract, folk art, and naive styles. I also enjoy creating collage and assemblage art, incorporating vintage and found objects," she said. "My styles often incorporate bold colors and joyful themes centered around my love of nature."

Lisa Daniel is also joining the tour for the first time. Like Critzer, she is self-taught and drawn to whimsical subjects and bold colors. Critzer's work tends toward abstraction, while Daniel's is more grounded in realism.

"This is my first year doing the studio tour. I'm excited to get involved," Daniel said. She will show her work alongside Edginton at Cunningham Creek Winery, where she currently has an exhibition.

"I have gotten a lot of great feedback on my quirky style and have sold some pieces," Daniel said. The one drawback to participating, she added, is that she won't be able to take the tour herself. "There are so many talented people in the county."

For the tour, Daniel plans to show a wider range of her work, including commissioned portraits of people, pets and horses. She also participated in Linda Staiger's Looking Back, Seeing Now portrait project and is delighted to show some of those pieces.

As a first-time participant, Daniel said she has discovered how much work goes into the event, from the artists' preparations to the tour board's planning and communication. "We all hope you enjoy it."

Rain wood mixed media, 2024, by Duffy Dillinger

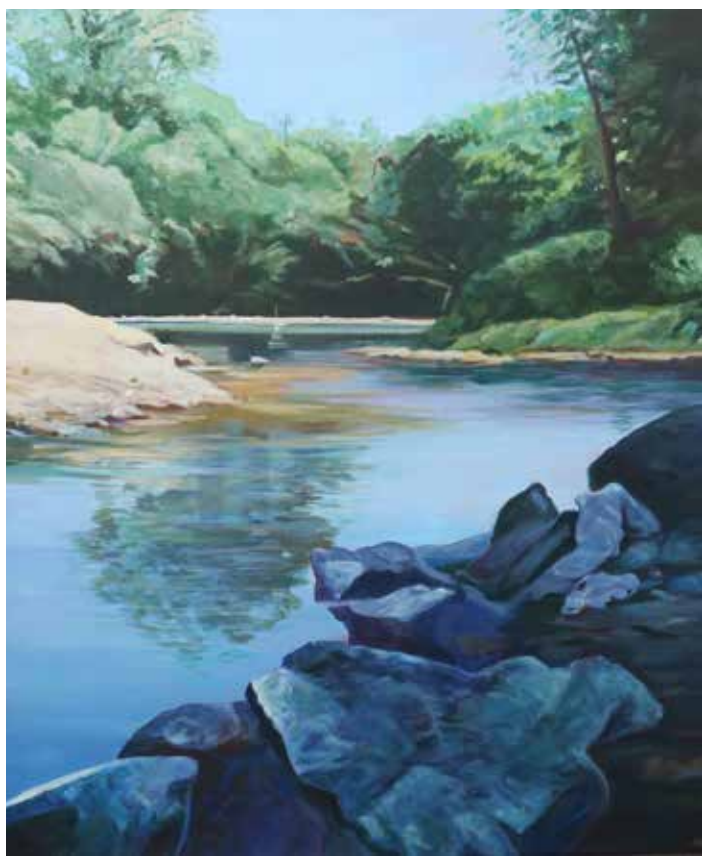
Bird Flight an element of Movements at the Shoreline Triptych 2024 by Duffy Dillinger

Artwork by Lisa Daniel

Kelly's Garden by Duffy Dillinger

Journey by James Wilkin

Group of Griffs by Susan Edginton



Rivanna Slipway by Alyce Walcavich

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Still time to weigh in on NextEra–Dominion merger

FLUVANNA REVIEW STAFF

Central Virginia residents still have time to weigh in on the proposed merger of Dominion Energy and Florida-based NextEra Energy—by phone, in writing, or with a road trip.

The State Corporation Commission (SCC) recently added two public hearings for the case, though neither is in this region. The new dates are Oct. 7 in Newport News, and Oct. 9 in Fairfax County.

Written comments in case PUR-2026-00112 are due by Nov. 9 and can be submitted through the SCC website. Telephone testimony is scheduled for Nov. 5, 9 and 10, with registration for speaking slots due Nov. 2.

Citizens can also testify in person at the SCC's Richmond office on Nov. 5, from 2 to 5 p.m.

The roughly $67 billion merger would give NextEra control of Dominion Energy Virginia, which serves parts of Fluvanna County.

If approved, the combined companies would form the world's largest regulated electric utility. Shareholders approved the merger on Sept. 3, but state and federal regulators still have to weigh in.

On Sept. 14, the two companies submitted an expanded benefits package to Virginia regulators. It would extend a proposed $10 monthly residential bill credit from two years to four, add $100 million to Dominion's low-income assistance program through 2038, and maintain current Virginia employee headcount for five years. NextEra also proposes a new Richmond office tower and 600 additional jobs in Virginia.

NextEra CEO John Ketchum said in the filing that the new proposals were in response to public comments and are aimed at providing immediate benefits to consumers and to the state,

Clean Virginia and Virginia Attorney General Jay Jones have argued to the SCC that the substantial revisions strengthen its case for more review time. It has challenged whether the companies' original application was complete enough to start the statutory 180-day clock.

Under the existing timeline, a decision would be due by January 11, 2027; the SCC has not announced a reset. The evidentiary hearing is scheduled for Nov. 17 in Richmond.

Fluvanna REVIEW

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- **Expose underage girls to abortion** without parental knowledge or consent
- Eliminate protections for **babies born alive** in an attempted abortion
- Insert a right to "fertility care" in the Constitution, exposing minors to risky **gender transition** attempts
- Increase "abortion tourism" to Virginia, resulting in **more abortions**, even after viability, for sex selection, or when a baby has a treatable health condition
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Jeremiah 1:5

Spanberger presses Congress for AI guardrails as states forge ahead

MARKUS SCHMIDT,
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Gov. Abigail Spanberger on Tuesday called on Congress to set national rules for artificial intelligence, warning that its rapid development could threaten jobs, privacy and public resources if oversight remains largely in the hands of the companies building it.

In a letter to congressional leaders, the Virginia Democrat urged federal action while pledging to pursue measures within the state's authority. She sent the letter to House Speaker Mike Johnson, Senate Majority Leader John Thune, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer.

"The potential impacts of AI are too great to leave the regulation of this technology solely in the hands of private entities, especially when the CEOs of those same companies are also sounding the alarm on the significant risks presented by uncoordinated regulation," Spanberger wrote.

Her appeal comes as Washington remains divided over how aggressively the federal government should rein in the technology.

Johnson told NBC's "Meet the Press" earlier this month that Congress should not rush to regulate AI, warning that poorly considered rules could put the United States at a competitive disadvantage against China. He said the issue called for guardrails but would not commit to bringing the House back before the Nov. 3 election to pass them.

Johnson's remarks came amid calls to slow AI development, something Spanberger did not ask for in her letter. Instead, she argued that federal oversight and continued technological development need not come at the expense of one another.

"The notion that the United States must choose between AI safety and AI leadership is a false dichotomy," she wrote. "America can do both, but we need federal-state collaboration to advance thoughtful AI regulations that safeguard the public while supporting technological progress."

Spanberger, who served three terms in Congress before leaving to run for governor, also stopped short of proposing specific federal legislation. Instead, she called on lawmakers to consider AI's effect on Americans' safety, livelihoods and well-being and establish "guardrails that achieve meaningful AI accountability."

Amid the concerns she identified were data privacy, the technology's potential effects on workers and the resources consumed by the infrastructure required to run increasingly powerful AI systems.

Congress has already confronted one piece of the federal-state divide over artificial intelligence.

Last year, the Senate voted 99-1 to strip a provision aimed at deterring states from regulating AI from a federal spending and tax bill. First proposed as a 10-year ban, it was later tied to federal funding for states.

Advocates for a national approach had argued that differing state laws could hamper innovation and weaken U.S. competition with China. Its removal left states free to pursue their own rules while Congress continued debating federal oversight.

Few states have as much at stake in AI's physical infrastructure as Virginia, home to the world's largest concentration of data centers.

The facilities require enormous amounts of electricity and other resources, and proposals for new development have fueled disputes over utility costs, environmental effects and how much information the public receives before projects are approved.

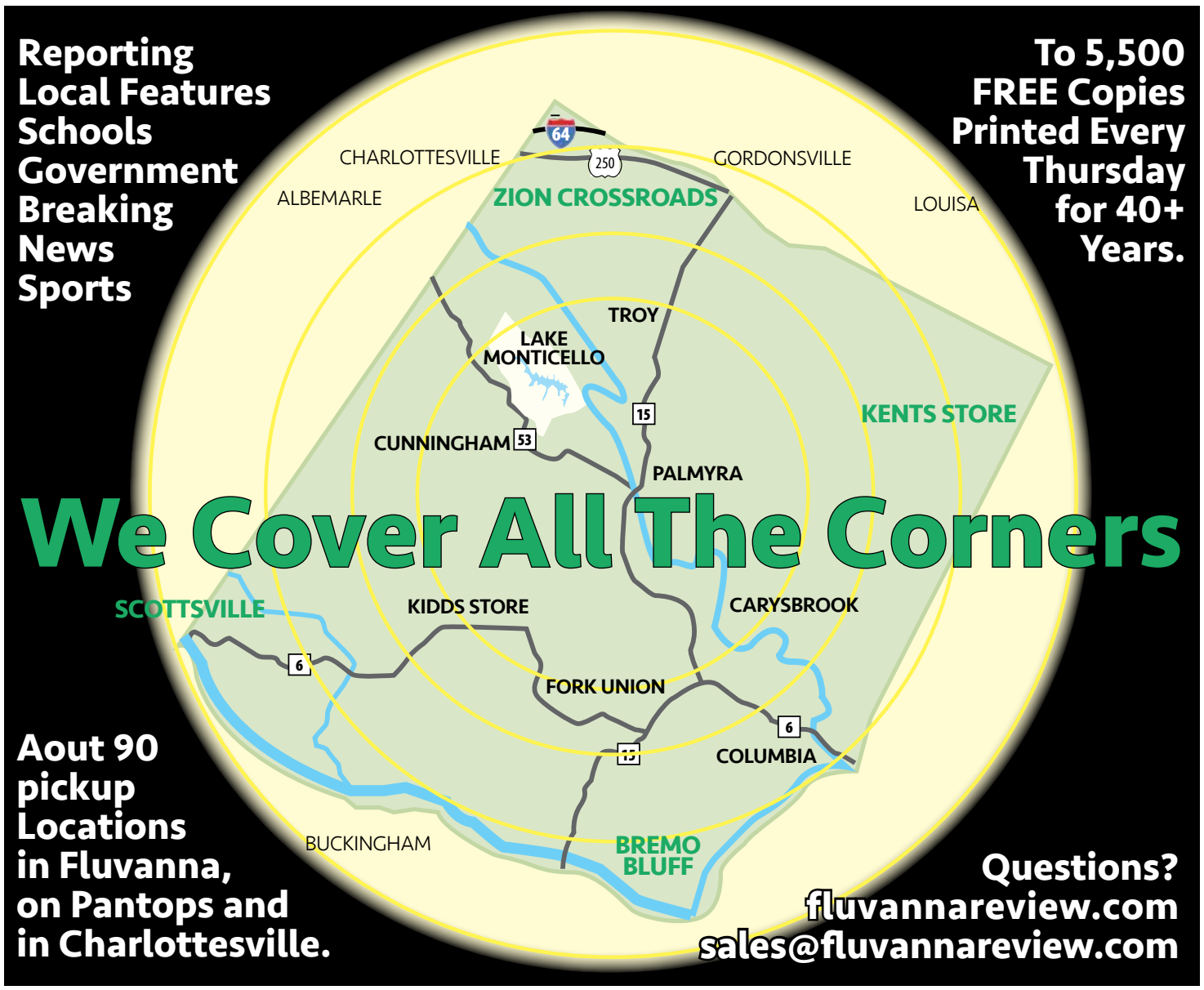
Spanberger moved on that front last week, announcing a data center accountability framework that includes proposed changes to environmental oversight, public disclosure and how industry costs are allocated.

She also signed Executive Order 22 creating an AI task force to examine workforce displacement, data privacy and cybersecurity. Those actions fall within the state's authority but do not provide the national standards that Spanberger is asking Congress to consider.

"In the absence of federal action, states are leading within their more limited areas of jurisdiction," Spanberger wrote. However, her letter did not give a timetable for its recommendations or identify specific federal requirements she wants lawmakers to adopt.

Spanberger isn't the only Virginia official pressing Washington to act.

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer, D-Alex-



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andria, co-chair of Congress' bipartisan Caucus on Artificial Intelligence, led a bipartisan group of 10 House members in a letter last week urging Johnson and Jeffries to advance legislation on AI oversight, security and transparency.

Citing recent incidents involving advanced AI systems, the lawmakers warned that future failures could threaten critical infrastructure and financial institutions.

"The Congress may not receive another warning shot," they wrote.

Some of the warnings about AI have come from the industry itself, although developers and researchers disagree over the severity of the risks and how governments should respond.

Anthropic has published accounts of attempts to misuse its models and steps the company took to counter them.

The company has also recently revealed that its Claude model is helping researchers develop its successor under human supervision, adding another dimension to the debate over how rapidly AI capabilities are advancing and what developers should be required to disclose.

But Americans are increasingly skeptical that AI companies can handle those questions on their own, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released Tuesday.

According to the survey, 73% of respondents said that AI companies had not done enough to prevent serious societal harm. Most also said federal officials should have a major role in setting safety standards.

The poll also captured the tension surrounding the technology, with 55% saying that slowing AI development would be a good thing, compared with 13% who said it would be bad. The remainder were unsure or did not answer.

At the same time, AI continues to attract enormous investment and has been promoted as a tool that could boost productivity and accelerate scientific research. Its longer-term effects on employment remain uncertain.

In her letter, Spanberger did not ask Congress to halt that development. She instead argues that lawmakers should play a larger role in determining the rules under which it proceeds.

"Our country cannot afford for the federal government to abdicate its oversight responsibility," she wrote. "Congress must immediately and seriously consider how to best grapple with how AI's emergence creates opportunities and challenges for our safety, well-being, and collective future."

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared on the Virginia Mercury (virginiamercury.com) on September 22, 2026. It is reprinted here via Plucky Wire, a digital story-sharing network that connects independent newsrooms to expand local reporting.

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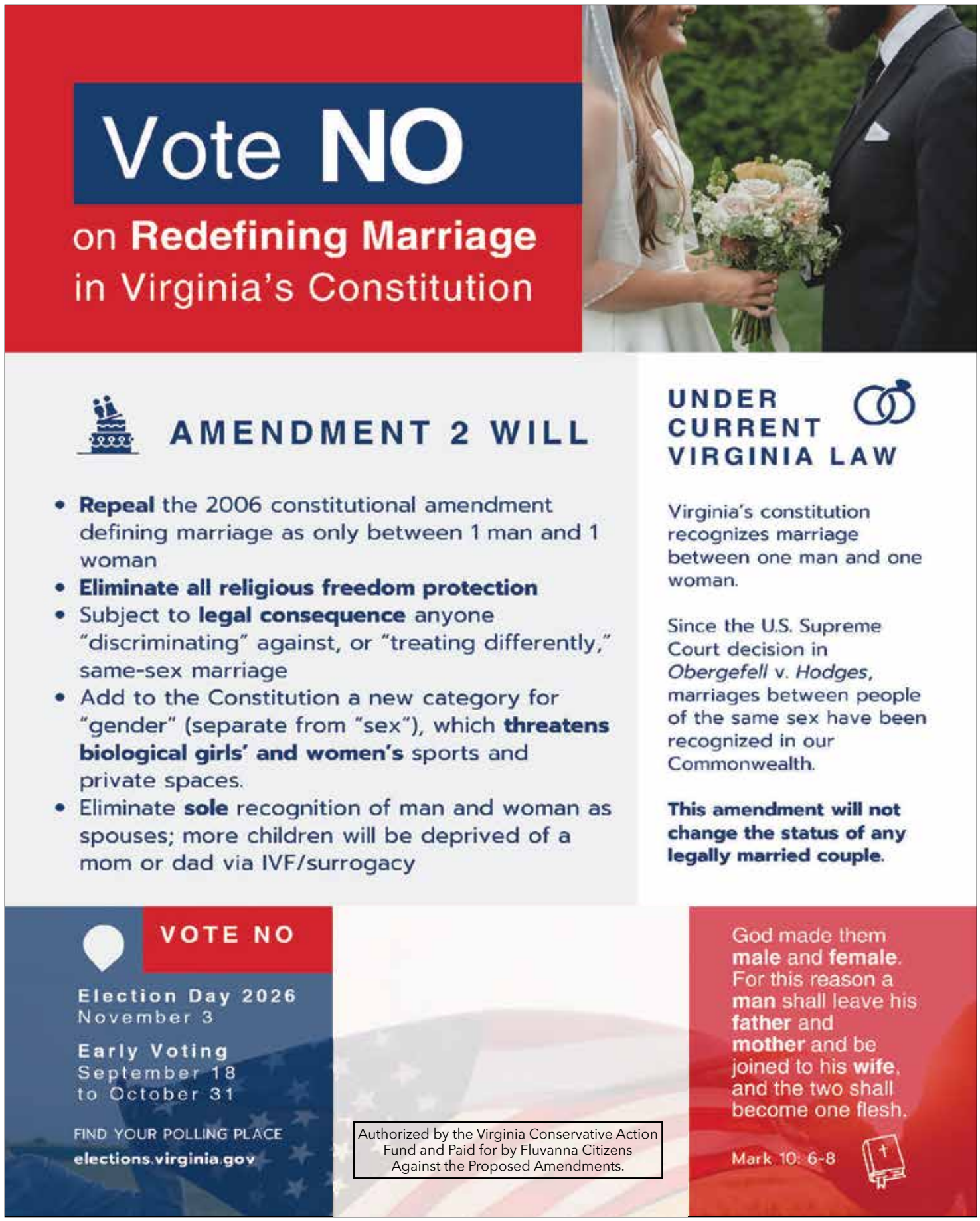

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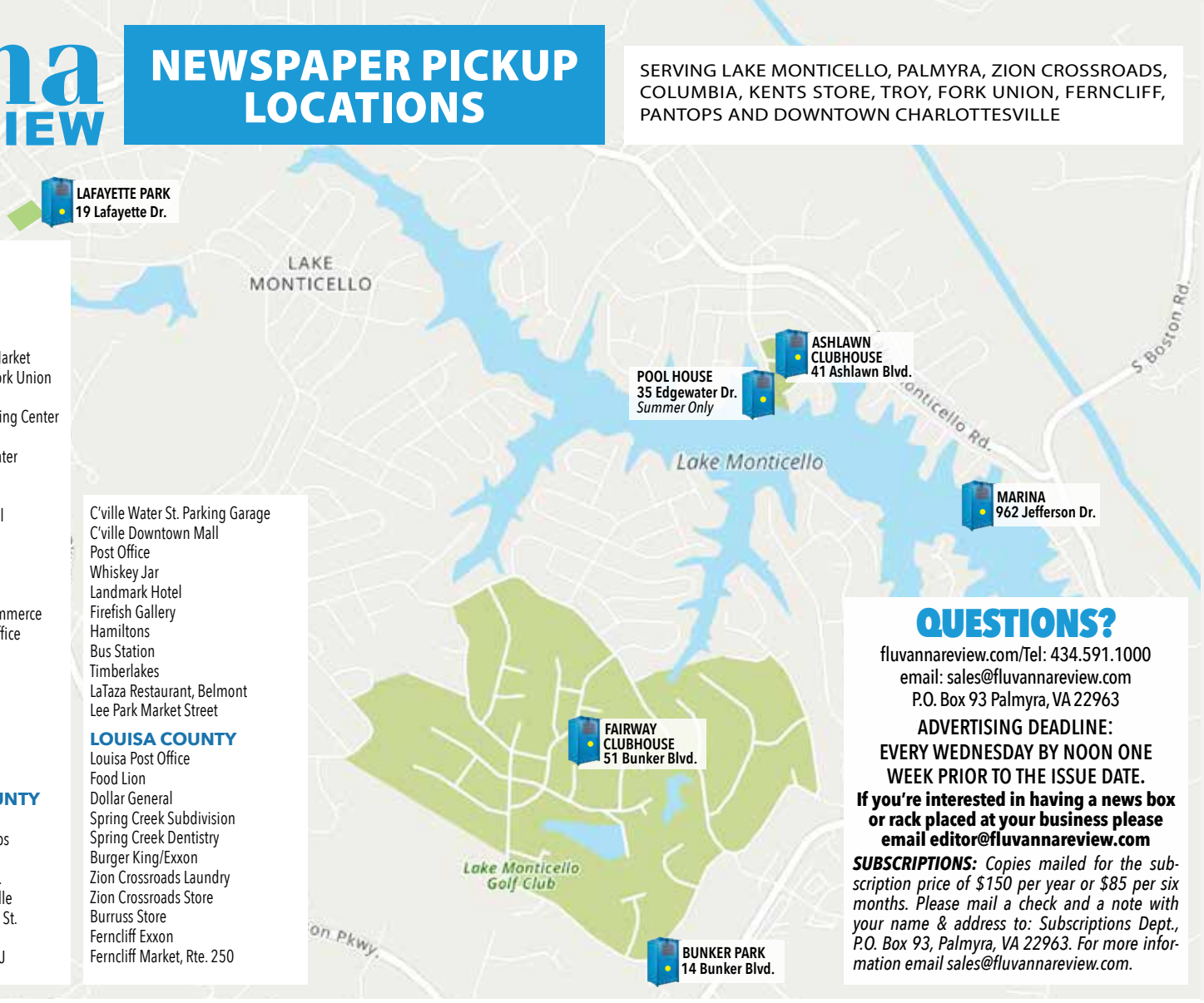

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Fluvanna voters to decide on 1% school construction sales tax

FLUVANNA REVIEW STAFF

Virginia's Commission on School Construction and Modernization met Sept. 8 for the first time since 2022, as voters in 47 counties and cities, including Fluvanna, prepare to decide whether to authorize an additional sales tax of up to one percent for school construction and major renovations.

Fluvanna estimates the tax could generate about $2.6 million annually. The General Assembly made the option available statewide earlier this year. If voters approve the referendum Nov. 3, the Board of Supervisors would still have to adopt an ordinance before collecting the tax.

Representatives of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) and Virginia Municipal League told the commission that the number of referendums reflects broad demand for another way to finance school buildings. Localities have traditionally relied heavily on residential property taxes for those projects.

The Virginia Department of Education reported that 1,064 public school buildings statewide are at least 51 years old, about 55 percent of the total.

Fluvanna's schools are generally newer, but a building's construction date does not tell the whole story. Roofs, heating and cooling systems, plumbing and other infrastructure may require major work well before a building reaches that age.

The Virginia Department of Taxation estimates that the additional tax could generate more than $400 million annually if voters in all 47 localities approve it and their governing bodies implement it. Food and essential personal hygiene products, including diapers, would be exempt.

Revenue could fund new school construction, major renovations, and related bond or loan financing costs. It could not pay ordinary operating expenses or repay existing debt for projects begun before the tax takes effect.

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NEW PRICE

22 Begum Rd. Lake Monticello $377,500

- Single Level Living
- 3 Bedrooms 2 Baths
- Two Car Garage

Jen Sample 434-989-9246
Jennifer.Sample@LNF.com

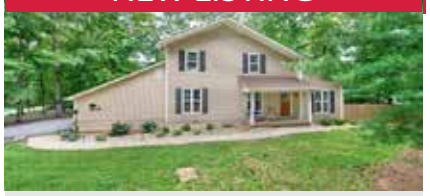
NEW PRICE

27 Ponderosa Ln Lake Monticello $479,000

- 4 Bedrooms 4 Baths
- Golf Front .56 Acres
- Open Floor Plan

Peggy Shanklin 434-962-2762
Peggy.Shanklin@lnf.com

NEW LISTING



3 Maplevale Dr. Lake Monticello $387,000

- Updated Kitchen
- First Floor Bedroom & Bath
- Garage

Peggy Shanklin 434-962-2762
Peggy.Shanklin@lnf.com

NEW PRICE

54 Woodlawn Dr Lake Monticello $315,000

- 4 Bedrooms 3 Baths
- Flexible Floor Plan
- Finished Terrace Level

Genevieve Reilly 434-414-4454
Genevieve.Reilly@LNF.com

dIn Todays Market You Need To Call An Experienced Long & Foster Agent!

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