Fluvanna REVIEW



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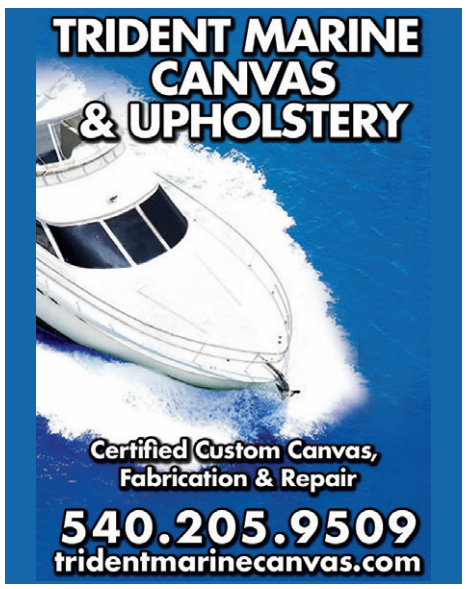
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Planning for pot: Fluvanna weighs zoning rules ahead of Virginia's retail cannabis rollout

HEATHER MICHON, EDITOR

The Fluvanna County Planning Commission is considering zoning changes to prepare for retail cannabis sales expected to begin in Virginia in July 2027.

The Virginia Cannabis Control Authority, established in 2021, currently oversees the state's medical cannabis program and is preparing to license and regulate adult-use businesses.

Former Gov. Glenn Youngkin vetoed legislation establishing a recreational retail market in 2024 and 2025, delaying its development.

Now, under House Bill 30, the authority may begin accepting applications as soon as Feb. 1 and issuing licenses May 1, with adult-use retail sales allowed to begin July 1, 2027.

"This one snuck up on us a little bit," Planning Director Todd Fortune told commissioners at the Nov. 10 meeting.

Fortune said Fluvanna needs zoning regulations in place by Feb. 1 to preserve its ability to object to license applications on local ordinance grounds.

After a lengthy discussion, the commission voted 4-0, with Ryant Washington absent for the evening, to advertise a Dec. 8 public hearing on the proposed zoning changes.

The proposed ordinance would direct different cannabis businesses to specific zoning districts and require special use permits for all uses it would allow. That process would provide public hearings and allow the county to impose conditions before a business could open.

Cultivation facilities would be permitted in the A-1 agricultural district with a special use permit. Cannabis dispensing facilities, marijuana microbusinesses and retail marijuana stores would be eligible for permits in the B-1 and B-C business districts. A broader range of cannabis businesses would be eligible in the I-1 industrial district.

No specific cannabis business application was before the commission.

Much of the discussion centered on whether the county could keep marijuana businesses away from churches and other places commissioners considered sensitive.

The draft included a 1,000-foot school separation requirement, but commissioners questioned why it did not establish a similar buffer around churches.

Planning for pot, *continues on page 5.*

Fluvanna REVIEW

Let's all enjoy the holiday!
Our deadline is earlier.

NOV. 26 ISSUE

- **Ad Booking Deadline** Monday, Nov. 16, 5 p.m.
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- **Classifieds Due** Monday, Nov. 30, Noon
- **Printing** Tuesday, Dec. 1, Noon

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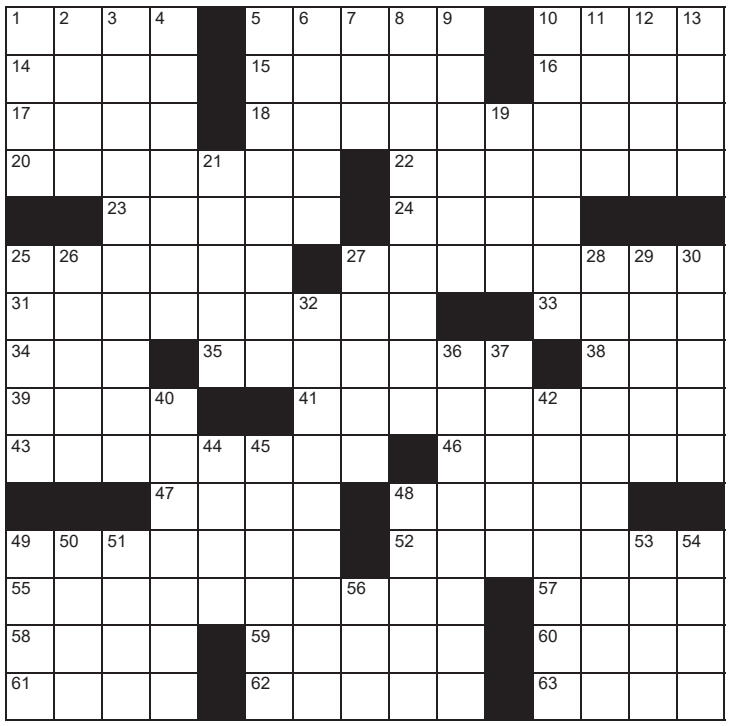


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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke



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ACROSS

1 "___ girl!"
5 Not to be missed
10 Deal with
14 Safari hat
15 Reluctant
16 Actress Perlman
17 Gulf V.I.P.
18 Slideshow creator
20 Spoiled
22 Cyanide and arsenic, e.g.
23 "Pride and Prejudice" suitor
24 First name in fairy tales
25 Hebrew name for God
27 Drummed, as raindrops
31 Poetic Emily
33 Seedy joint
34 FBI operative, briefly
35 Harder on the ears
38 Clinch, with "up"
39 Cape of ____ Hope
41 Take another look at
43 Signed up
46 Sharp
47 Like some meat
48 Served, as hash
49 Moves skyward
52 Colt's spot
55 Red Cross contributor?
57 Turner or Fey
58 Azerbaijan's capital
59 Nonsensical
60 Do magazine work
61 Beat anagram
62 Encouraged, with "on"
63 Ohio team

DOWN

1 "… ___ a puddy tat!"
2 Large book
3 Public relations pro
4 Reef diver's need
5 "Serpico" actor
6 Apt to pout
7 Detroit labor gp.
8 Zimbalist of "Remington Steele"
9 Frog's place
10 Risked the wrath of
11 Buckeye State
12 Famous Quaker
13 Consumes
19 Pub serving
21 Pinky's pal
25 Old saying
26 Enjoy, slangily
27 Sat for a shoot
28 It lifts all boats, in a saying
29 It may be blessed
30 ____ Decimal System
32 Alluring tune
36 Examined closely
37 The Phantom's rival
40 Dispense
42 Large church, in the UK
44 Give temporarily
45 Highland boy
48 Excelled
49 "Fernando" group
50 Building pad
51 Rum partner
53 Tennyson lady
54 Sewer dwellers
56 Hound

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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

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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:

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

Planning for pot,
continued from page 3.

Staff explained that the county's authority to impose specific distance requirements was constrained by state law. Adding restrictions without clear authorization could expose the ordinance to legal challenges.

Commissioners explored whether broader language about land-use compatibility could support decisions involving churches, residential neighborhoods, parks, child care facilities and other gathering places.

One concern focused on Colonial Circle, where a planned retail development would sit between high-density housing and one of the county's largest churches. Commissioners questioned whether the proposed rules would give the county sufficient authority to prevent a marijuana store from opening there. No cannabis business has been proposed for the site.

Staff distinguished between imposing a blanket church setback and considering surrounding uses when reviewing an individual special use permit.

Commissioners also discussed strengthening the comprehensive plan's treatment of sensitive land uses, potentially giving the county additional support for future permit decisions.

Another proposed restriction would require cannabis establishments to occupy lots with frontage on a public street.

Staff demonstrated how that language could affect existing shopping centers, particularly where commercial buildings occupy parcels served by private roads. Depending on parcel boundaries, some locations might not qualify even when the shopping center itself connects to a public highway.

Commissioners discussed keeping businesses visible from public roads, including locations routinely passed by law enforcement. Staff said some frontage questions could require further legal interpretation.

During the regular meeting, members also raised screening requirements and whether



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cannabis businesses should be visible along major entrance corridors.

Staff recommended addressing screening through individual permit applications, allowing conditions to reflect each property's circumstances.

The draft also contemplated separation between certain cannabis establishments. Staff said the proposed 1,000-foot distance reflected the direction of developing state regulations and included language intended to prevent the county's requirement from exceeding the state's eventual standard.

The commission advanced only the zoning provisions. Proposed taxation and miscellaneous-offense provisions were separated for further work.

The Dec. 8 hearing will give residents an opportunity to comment before the commission makes a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. Additional revisions could be necessary as the state completes its licensing regulations.

Fluvanna REVIEW

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Flucos ground the East Rockingham Eagles, 53–14

BY DUNCAN NIXON
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR



Photos by Duncan Nixon

Playing their first home playoff game in more than 40 years, the Fluvanna County High School Flucos gave their fans plenty to celebrate on Friday night, with a commanding 53-14 win over the East Rockingham Eagles in the Region 3C quarterfinals.

The second-seeded Flucos dominated the seventh-seeded Eagles, building a 29-7 lead before scoring two touchdowns in the final minute of the first half. Their 43-7 halftime lead set up a running clock in the second half.

The Flucos were strong in the first quarter, but the blowout to come was not yet apparent. They took the opening kickoff and drove downfield for an eight-yard touchdown run by senior halfback Garrett Jordan. Dawson Raines' extra-point kick was good, as usual. The drive consumed almost half the quarter, and the Flucos' second possession began with only 1:37 remaining.

The first play of the second quarter was another Jordan touchdown run. He swept outside behind good blocking, shook off a defender, and dashed 48 yards for the score. The extra point was good, and the Flucos led 14-0.

The Flucos regained possession immediately when the Eagles fumbled on their first play from scrimmage after bobbling the kickoff. Fluvanna took over at the Eagles' 20. After a quarterback sack pushed them back, the Flucos went with a trick play on third down. Jordan threw a halfback pass to wide receiver Brady Shields, who pulled it in while diving into the end zone. A successful two-point conversion made the score 22-0 with 10:21 left in the half.

The Eagles returned the kickoff to near midfield, and a 10-yard penalty gave them the ball at the Fluvanna 31. They punched it in four plays later, and their extra point made it 22-7.

The Flucos were far from done. Starting at their own 35, they moved into Eagles territory on two first-down runs by Jordan. Senior quarterback Jake Pace then found Shields for a 43-yard touchdown pass. Raines kicked the extra point to give the Eagles a 29-7 lead.

The Eagles went three-and-out. A Fluvanna punt return for a touchdown was called back because of a block in the back, leaving the Flucos at the Eagles' 49. Runs by Dhani Cook and Jordan took the ball to the four, and the Flucos called their first timeout with 43 seconds left in the half. Jordan then took it in for another touchdown.

The Eagles threw an ill-advised screen pass, and Dedric Cooke intercepted it and returned the ball to the 10 with 13 seconds left. A short run was followed by a timeout. Jordan then carried it in as time expired, giving the Flucos a 43-7 halftime lead.

It was another impressive first half for Jordan, who had four rushing touchdowns and a touchdown pass. Opposing defenses simply cannot contain him.

The second half moved quickly on the run game. The Flucos scored a third-quarter touchdown on another pass to Shields. The Eagles scored their second touchdown with 1:52 left in the quarter, making it 50-14 heading into the fourth. The only scoring in the final quarter came on a 37-yard field goal by Raines.

The Eagles were probably a stronger team than the final score indicated, but Fluvanna head coach Mitchall Pace said afterward, "Good teams take advantage of their opponents' mistakes." That is what the Flucos are doing.

The Flucos now advance to the Region 3C semifinals. They will host Turner Ashby on Friday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m. Turner Ashby is also 10-1 and has scored more than 35 points in 10 of its games.





COACH'S CORNER
with Coach Mitchell Pace

Fluco Football Fans,

What an amazing week last week... winning a home playoff game and experiencing something few of us have been part of in our sports lives. Beating East Rockingham 53-14 was a wonderful accomplishment for our young men, and something they can positively recall for a long time.

But we are not finished. We are not content.

Highlights from the game include some amazing stats, such as... Garrett Jordan's 184 yards rushing and 4 TDs (plus 1 passing TD on a trick play), Jack Pace's 104 yards passing and 2 TDs, Brody Shields ' 102-yard receiving and 3 TDs, Dakota Drumheller leading the Fluco defense in total tackles, including 2 sacks, Dedric Cooke's key INT that led to us extending our lead before halftime.

This week... the regional semifinals... will be at home again. We play host to a very good Turner Ashby team with a recent history of big, strong, physical, successful football. We are very capable of winning this football game, but we'll need to play our best. We could definitely use the help of all of Fluvanna County! Please show up and support these young men as they take another big step toward our goals. Game time 7:00 pm at FCHS; tickets are available on GoFan.co.

Coach Pace

Healthy pets, stronger families

BY PAGE H. GIFFORD
ARTS & CULTURE CONTRIBUTOR

The Fluvanna SPCA has been selected to participate in the Duffield Pet Wellness Days, a BISSELL Pet Foundation initiative supported by the Dave and Cheryl Duffield Foundation.

"What makes this especially meaningful is that FSPCA will participate in both components of the program: veterinary wellness support for animals in our shelter and community wellness services for pets belonging to local families," said FSPCA Board President Catherine Bruse.

This partnership addresses two important needs in rural communities: improving the health of animals awaiting adoption and making preventive veterinary care more accessible to families who may struggle to obtain it.

FSPCA's campaign will promote "Healthier Pets. Stronger Families. Compassionate Animal Care for Fluvanna County."

The grant supports preventive care for shelter animals, more accessible care for community pets, efforts to keep pets and families together, and stronger local partnerships.

Through the Shelter Wellness component, FSPCA will have opportunities to connect with contracted veterinary professionals who provide approved preventive care for animals in the shelter's care. These services will support FSPCA's commitment to animal health, responsible shelter medicine, and preparing animals for successful adoption.

The Community Wellness component will allow FSPCA to organize approved veterinary wellness services for eligible community-owned pets, provided free of charge to participating pet owners. This will help Fluvanna County families who may face financial or geographic barriers to care.

The goal is to keep pets and families together by reducing potential owner surrenders, supporting medical needs and helping residents maintain the health of pets they already love.

The initiative will also build stronger relationships among FSPCA, veterinary professionals, volunteers and community organizations to support long-term animal welfare.

"Every animal deserves access to compassionate veterinary care, whether they are waiting for a new home in our shelter or already part of a loving family," said Bruse. "This partnership allows us to strengthen the care we provide inside our shelter while extending vital wellness resources to our neighbors throughout Fluvanna County."

The initiative aligns with FSPCA's broader commitment to strengthening shelter operations, expanding community partnerships, improving animal health outcomes and supporting responsible pet ownership.

"This is an important step forward for our organization and the community we serve," she said. "We are grateful to BISSELL Pet Foundation and the Dave & Cheryl Duffield Foundation for investing in an approach that supports both homeless animals and the families who love their pets. Stronger access to preventive care benefits our entire community."

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November 20: South Canal Street, 6 PM Ashlawn Clubhouse Lake Room. Enjoy a soup, salad & baked potato bar at 5 PM ($19.95), followed by live music and dancing! Cover: $10 with dinner or $15 for the band only. Beer & wine available for purchase.

November 21: Inclusive Playground Meet-Up, 1–2:30 PM, Lafayette Park Playground. Students of all ages are invited to play, explore and connect! Thank you to Fluvanna County Public Schools for organizing this county-wide initiative.

Chicken Wing Platters To-Go, Saturdays & Sundays: 12–5 PM, Lakeside Restaurant (take-out only). 12 wings for $15 or 24 for $30. Choose from BBQ, Buffalo, Garlic Parmesan, Honey Sriracha or Dry Rub.
Call 434-591-0106 to order.



Leaf Collection

A Seasonal Reminder for Lake Residents

As the trees continue to drop their leaves, here's a quick reminder about GFL's leaf collection guidelines. When your trash tote (not your recycling tote) is full, you may place up to five additional bags of leaves alongside it for weekly collection. A few important things to remember:

- GFL will not collect bags of leaves if your trash tote is empty or not completely full.
- If you have bagged leaves, place them inside your trash tote first to ensure its full before setting out any additional bags.
- Up to five extra bags may be placed next to your full tote each week.



Have a larger pile of bagged leaves? Contact GFL directly at 434-296-6000 to arrange a special pickup outside of the regular collection schedule.

Thanksgiving Dinner To-Go

Let the Bunker Bistro do your cooking this Thanksgiving!

Order your holiday meal to-go by November 20 at:

https://order.toasttab.com/online/lakesideto-go

Dinner for Two includes a 10-14 lbs. turkey (big enough for more than 2!), mashed potatoes, gravy, sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, cranberry sauce, stuffing, dinner rolls & butter, and a 6″ pumpkin pie. Plus options to add more sides or a tossed salad to serve even more of your guests!



Pick up your pre-ordered feast on Wednesday, November 25 at the Ashlawn Clubhouse between 12-5 PM.



Coming in December

Save these fun dates!

- **December 5:** YRF Ugly Sweater & Karaoke Party
- **December 10-13:** Pleasant Grove Community of Lights
- **December 11:** Festival of Trees Dinner Dance
- **December 12:** Five-Oh! Club Holiday Market at Ashlawn
- **December 12:** Santa & Mrs. Claus at Ashlawn
- **December 31:** New Year's Eve Red Cross Blood Drive



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Veterans Honored

CONTRIBUTED BY MIKE FEAZEL

Four Lake Monticello veterans were honored with Military Honor Quilts during a ceremony Saturday, Nov. 14, at Cunningham Creek Winery. The Lake Monticello Piecemakers hosted the event.

Pictured from left are honorees Bill Randall, Jacquelyn Nasca, and William Heuser. A fourth Quilt honoree, William Davis, was unable to attend.

Each Military Honor Quilt, handmade by the Piecemakers, honors those who have served our country. It is meant to offer comfort, healing, and gratitude for their years of service.



LOCAL NEWS

IF YOU SEE NEWS HAPPENING, EMAIL US

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Toy Drive & Santa at Papa Jim's!

MONTICELLO COUNTRY REALTY LLC

PAPA JIM'S Ice Cream

Join Monticello Country Realty & Papa Jim's Ice Cream for a holiday fundraiser at the Lake Monticello location on Saturday, November 28.

We are accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys for the Fluvanna Happy Face Toy Drive.

Bring the littles!
SANTA will be visiting from 1-3 p.m.



Community Calendar

FLUVANNA
County Calendar

QR Code provided by the Fluvanna Leadership Development Program

Fluvanna Christian Service Society would like to invite you to our Annual Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, **Nov. 22** at 3:00 at New Fork Baptist Church, located at 16 New Fork Church Lane in Palmyra. The Speaker will be Pastor Daniel Burch from Palmyra United Methodist Church and the musical offering will be from the choir of that church.

The annual Lake Monticello Memory Tree will be lit Nov. 25 at the Bunker Bistro. To remember a loved one with a light on the tree, a donation of $10 per light to the Lake Monticello Community Foundation is suggested. Lights can be ordered at www.lakemonticellocommunityfoundation.org/2026-memory-tree. The tree will remain lit until Jan. 6.

FCSS Happy Face Christmas Party
is Saturday, **December 5** at Central Elementary School. FCSS is collecting new toys ($15-30) and books for children from infant to 13 years; also collecting new winter coats and PJs, sizes infant to 18. Collection boxes are set up at various locations. End of donations is **Nov 23.** To volunteer or have questions, email Mary Kidd at marykidd01@gmail.com

Donations Needed
FCSS Happy Face Christmas Party 2026 will be held Sat., **Dec. 5** at Central Elementary. FCSS is collecting new toys ($15-30) and books for children, ages infant to 13. A collecting new winter coats and PJs, sizes infant to 18. Collection boxes are set up at various locations. To volunteer or have questions, email Mary Kidd at marykidd01@gmail.com.

Parents' Day Out – As a Christmas gift to the community, Beulah Baptist Church in Kents Store will host a Parents' Day Out for children ages 3-12 on Saturday, **Dec. 12,** from 9 am to 3 pm. Snacks and lunch will be provided. **Registration required by Dec. 5** at beulahchurchonline.org.

Free Rural Health Clinic at Dunbar Rosenwald School on the **1st Thursday 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.

Lake Monticello Gray Foxes wrap up another successful season

BY DUNCAN NIXON
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

The Lake Monticello Gray Foxes held their 2026 year-end banquet and awards dinner on Nov. 9 at Cunningham Creek Winery. The Gray Foxes is a senior men's golf organization that holds weekly nine-hole and 18-hole competitions from March to November.

Each week, there is a different game. Some games are standard, and some are unique. The 20 nine-hole competitors who play on Tuesday mornings can score points each week for various accomplishments. Coordinator John Stenz tabulates the points, and at the awards banquet, he announced the top point winners. Ted Foor was the easy winner with 13 points over the season. Mark Moritz was next with 10 points. Tom Sullivan, Jim Davis and Joe Esposito each accumulated nine points.

The 18-hole group keeps very detailed records for a variety of competitions. Competitors pay a fee each week, and that money is distributed in store credits to the top performers. The top three winners over the course of the season all accumulated more than $200 in store credits. Ben Stoppe was in first place, Paul Schmidt was second and Dan Atkinson was third.

There is a yearlong competition called ringers. In this competition, a record is kept of each player's best net and gross scores on all 18 holes. It helps to play often, as the more chances a player gets to lower his score on a hole, the better. The best gross ringers score for the year was posted by Shawn Chen with a 62. Second best was Marc Hogan with a 65. The best net ringers score was a 47 by John Stenz, who won this competition for the second year in a row. Right behind Stenz was Ted Foor with a 48.

The lowest gross score for a single round was a tie between Shawn Chen and Les Tinsley, who both came in at an even-par 72 on their best day. Dave Gallagher shot a one-over-par 73 on his best day. The best net score for a round was a 63, posted by Mitchell Moon. Second best were Dan Atkinson and Dave French, who each recorded a net 64. The Lake Monticello track is no easy course, so these are impressive scores, even from the gold tees.

There is also a match-play competition held over the entire season. Dan Atkinson had the best average score, with Jack Mudd right behind.

Gray Foxes President Paul Schmidt reported that the number of competitors continues to rise, and he anticipates that there will soon be more than 100.



Photo by Duncan Nixon

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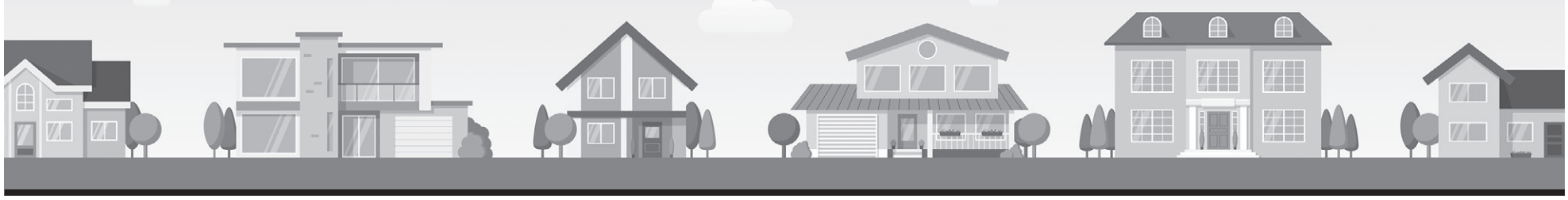
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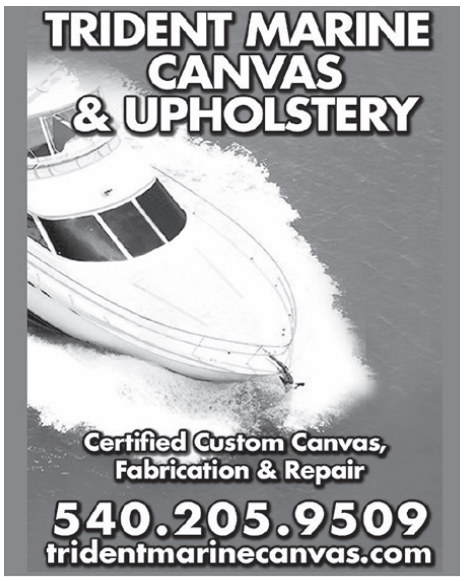
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EVENTS

PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA — Saturday, Dec. 5, 8:30–10:30 a.m., Lake Monticello Fire and Rescue, 10 Slice Road (across from CVS). $15 for ages 10+; $10 for ages 4–9; free under 4. Free photos with Santa.

BINGO IS BACK! at Lake Monticello Volunteer Fire & Rescue Squad, 10 Slice Road, every Friday night. Doors open at 5 p.m. First game at 6:30 p.m. Progressives, pull tabs, and a $1000 jackpot every week! Cash only. No one under 16 allowed. All others welcome!! Join us for a fun & Friendly night out.

CRAFTERS and VENDORS WANTED FOR DEC. 12TH: Lake Monticello Holiday Market 9:30–2:30 at Ashlawn Comm. Ctr. I have spots for 5 more Vendors. Email: FiveOhClub@gmail.com

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CANE CORSO PUPPIES FOR SALE: Male and female Cane Corso puppies available! Born September 21; ready for their new homes November 23. Dewclaws removed and tails docked. First set of shots administered and wormed. Contact us for more information and photos. Call (434) 394-4797 or email stockandsaddleco@gmail.com.

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MACAA FOOD PANTRY NEW HOURS: Monday: 1 to 6 pm., Tuesday: NO food pick-up, Wednesday: 10 am to 2 pm., Thursday: 1 to 6 pm., Friday: 10 am to 2 pm., Saturday: Every 3rd Saturday of the Month from 10 am to 2 pm. Location: 8878 James Madison Hwy., Fork Union, VA. Phone (434) 842-2521.

VIRGINIA DEPT. OF VETERANS SERVICES: Need Help? Attention Veterans and Dependents! Visit us at the Fluvanna Community Center, 5725 James Madison Highway > by appointment only. Call Jeannette Flint at (434) 529-6431 to schedule your appointment. www.dvs.virginia.gov.

MASTER GARDENER REGISTRATION: Deadline for Class of 2027 is November 30. Visit the website for course curriculum and requirements, complete the application, and prepare to join a community dedicated to your favorite pastime as it supports the local environment. www.fluvannamg.org.

WANTED

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VOLUNTEERS FOR MACAA FOOD PANTRY: We are seeking enthusiastic volunteers to help support MACAA's work in the Fluvanna community. Tasks: food pickups, sorting donations, stocking, packing boxes, checking in visitors, and other minor tasks. Volunteer hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., M–F. No prior experience needed – training will be provided. Call (434) 842-2521 or email foodpantry@macaa.org.

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School safety review calls for earlier officer involvement

HEATHER MICHON, EDITOR

Fluvanna County Public Schools is reviewing how it evaluates potential threats to student safety, including bringing student resource officers into the process from the start.

The changes, presented at the Nov. 10 School Board meeting, would combine behavioral and mental health assessments into a more coordinated process, further define shared terminology, and streamline documentation and follow-up.

Capt. Von Hill, who developed the proposed revisions with the division's Mental Health Coordinator Kaitlyn Harlow-Burner, said these changes reflected updated state requirements and guidance.

Under the revised approach, SROs would be central from the start, working alongside administrators and counselors to assess the needs of students who may be a threat to themselves or others.

"Our SROs have an immense amount of training when it comes down to identifying threats," said Hill.

SROs also have access to a potential threat's past criminal histories, although Hill stressed that officers would "not going to come in with a document" and hand that to the team, but instead share "highlights and information."

Hill also addressed parental notification regarding concerning behavior, saying there would be "an immediate parent notification at the onset of that information," or at least as early as practicable.

Hill was asked how parents should assess law enforcement's involvement when the student hasn't necessarily formally been evaluated as a threat.

He emphasized that the SROs would be part of a multidisciplinary team, not acting alone. He added that parents should always feel free to ask questions about the process and the roles of team members.

Budget and facilities

With about $1.4 million in local unspent funds, members looked at how to allocate the funds to pending projects, subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Among the allocations, members considered several capital improvement projects, including $500,000 to replace bleachers at Fluvanna Middle School, $226,500 for paving projects, and $300,000 for exterior door replacements.

The carryover request is separate from other types of appropriations, including the Abrams School renovations, Project Return, and the Governor's School. Those items will be taken up at a separate county hearing.

Finance Director Gemma Soares said that approximately 29% of the fiscal 2027 budget has been spent, compared with about 25% at the same point last year.

Activity buses

During public comment, Cunningham District resident Sarah Johnson asked the division to consider restoring after-school transportation.

Johnson said students without reliable rides home can miss tutoring, athletics, music and other activities. Even limited routes to central pickup locations could help families, she said.

Several board members recalled relying on activity buses themselves, and said they were open to further discussion.

Separately, Superintendent Peter Gretz outlined concerns he plans to raise with elected officials about state school accountability calculations–particularly the effects of small student subgroups and test participation requirements.

"Statistically, that just doesn't make any sense," he said.

Fluvanna Review

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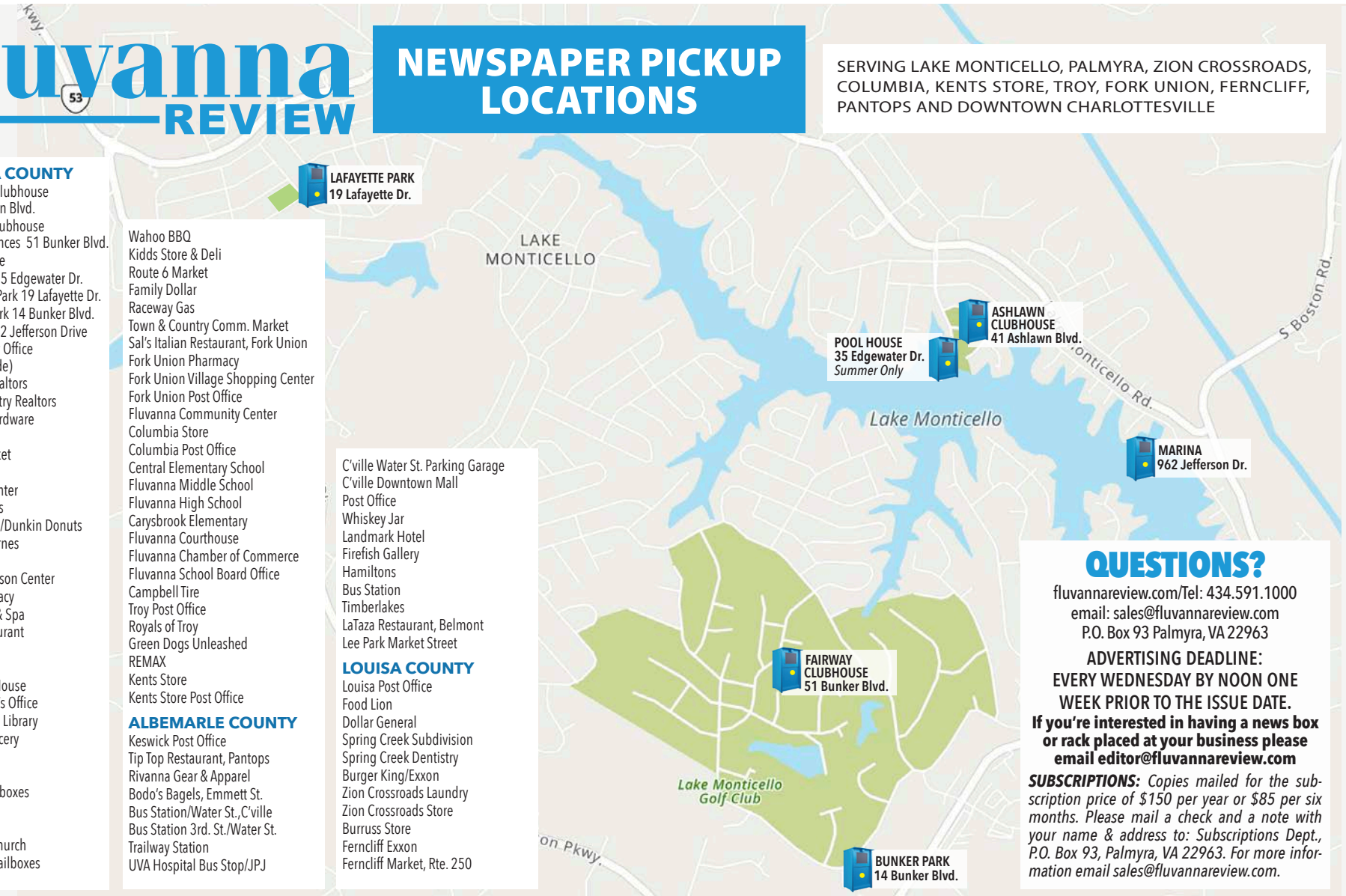
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Mailboxes/Jefferson Center
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Salon DeShano & Spa
Gia Italian Restaurant
T-Mobile
Food Lion
Pleasant Grove House
Fluvanna Sheriff's Office
Fluvanna County Library
E.W. Thomas Grocery
El Vaquero West
Cuppa Joe
Lake Centre Mailboxes
Hometown Grill
Tractor Supply
Beautiful Gate Church
Broken Island Mailboxes

Wahoo BBQ
Kidds Store & Deli
Route 6 Market
Family Dollar
Raceway Gas
Town & Country Comm. Market
Sal's Italian Restaurant, Fork Union
Fork Union Pharmacy
Fork Union Village Shopping Center
Fork Union Post Office
Fluvanna Community Center
Columbia Store
Columbia Post Office
Central Elementary School
Fluvanna Middle School
Fluvanna High School
Carysbrook Elementary
Fluvanna Courthouse
Fluvanna Chamber of Commerce
Fluvanna School Board Office
Campbell Tire
Troy Post Office
Royals of Troy
Green Dogs Unleashed
REMAX
Kents Store
Kents Store Post Office

ALBEMARLE COUNTY
Keswick Post Office
Tip Top Restaurant, Pantops
Rivanna Gear & Apparel
Bodo's Bagels, Emmett St.
Bus Station/Water St.,C'ville
Bus Station 3rd. St./Water St.
Trailway Station
UVA Hospital Bus Stop/JPJ

C'ville Water St. Parking Garage
C'ville Downtown Mall
Post Office
Whiskey Jar
Landmark Hotel
Firefish Gallery
Hamiltons
Bus Station
Timberlakes
LaTaza Restaurant, Belmont
Lee Park Market Street

LOUISA COUNTY
Louisa Post Office
Food Lion
Dollar General
Spring Creek Subdivision
Spring Creek Dentistry
Burger King/Exxon
Zion Crossroads Laundry
Zion Crossroads Store
Burruss Store
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Ferncliff Market, Rte. 250



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Local summer camps earn "parent-approved" recognition

Winter may be upon us, but it's never too early to think about next summer.

Camp Friendship in Palmyra and Oakland School and Camp in Troy are among nine Virginia camps to receive the inaugural Parent-Approved Camp seal from VirginiaSummerCamp.com.

The statewide camp directory awarded the recognition based on reviews submitted by parents whose children attended the camps.

Camp Friendship offers overnight camp, while Oakland offers both day and overnight programs. Other Central Virginia recipients include Rocky Top Summer Camp and Triple C Camp in Charlottesville and Sugar Hollow Day Camp in Albemarle County.

"Choosing a camp is a leap of faith for a lot of families, especially the first time," said Jennifer Bryerton, publisher of Virginia Summer Camp. "Parents trust other parents. These reviews come from families who packed the duffel bags, did the drop-off and heard every story at pickup. When that many of them say a camp was worth it, other families pay attention."

The other recipients are Camp Carysbrook in Riner; Music Camps at Mosley Music in Ashland and Williamsburg; Nova Fencing and Archery Club in Falls Church; and Passages Adventure Camp in Richmond and Midlothian.

About 228,000 Virginia children attend summer camp each year, according to Virginia Summer Camp. The organization reports typical weekly costs of $350 to $750 for day camps and $1,190 to $2,800 for overnight camps.

For the complete list and parent reviews, visit VirginiaSummerCamp.com/parent-approved-camps.



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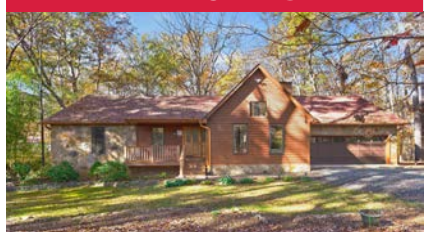
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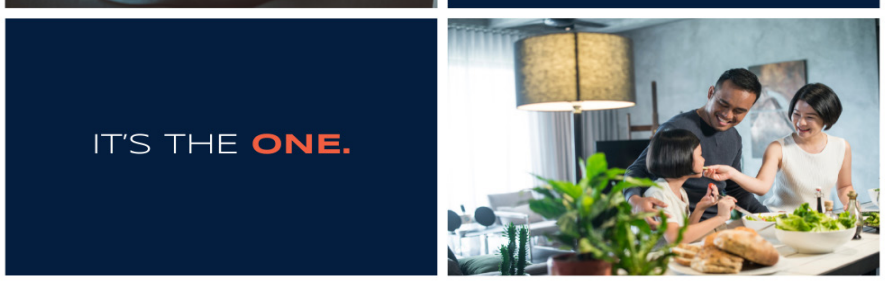
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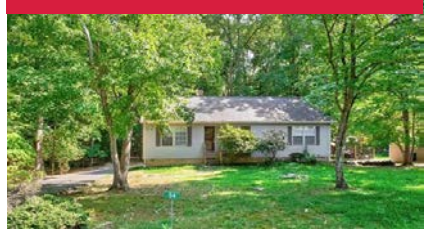




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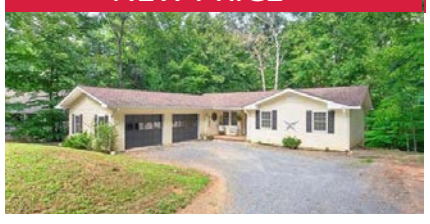
6 Edgewood Ct. Lake Monticello $350,000



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- 3 Bedrooms 2 baths
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