

Fauquier Times

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SPORTS
Boys soccer, girls lacrosse, boys and girls tennis previews. Pages 19, 20, 25

Community comes together to remember 'Trip' Bopp

By Robin Earl
TIMES STAFF WRITER

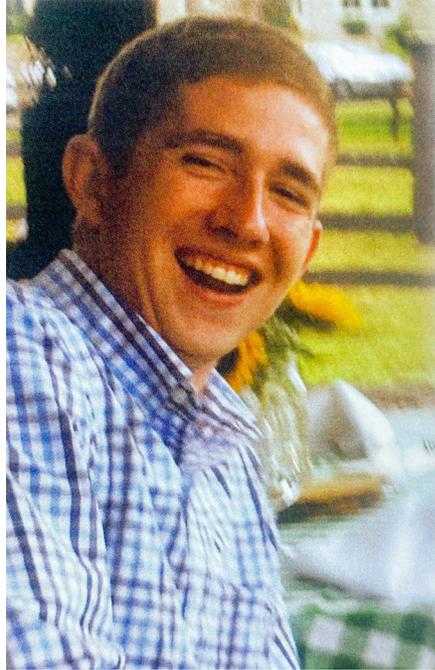
He was named Charles William Bopp, III when he was born. But to the 400-plus family, friends, neighbors and law enforcement officers who gathered to celebrate his life Friday, he was just "Trip."

To the father who remembered holding him and talking to him in the first hours of his life, the mother who advocated for him, the friends he laughed with and those he worked beside, he was Trip. They described him as a laughing, loving, hard-working farmer.

See COMMUNITY, page 14

"If you had the opportunity to spend any time with him, it was good for you, and it was good for Trip."

KENNY SMITH



"Trip" Bopp of Remington is remembered by friends and family as a passionate farmer and a good friend to all.

Location tracking data central to investigation

By Coy Ferrell
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Cell phone tracking data and data from a court-ordered ankle monitor placed three suspects at the scene of an April 22 homicide in Remington, charging documents filed by investigators allege. Charles "Trip" Bopp, III, 24 was shot and killed outside his home after arriving at his residence while a burglary was in progress, according to the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office.

José Vidal Pereira, 31, of Manassas, was wearing a court-ordered tracking device as he awaited trial in two felony drug cases in Prince William County, the criminal complaint filed with his arrest alleges. "The GPS location from his ankle monitor shows him at [Bopp's residence] at 5:26:54 p.m.," the document says, which is "consistent with the time frame that the mur-



(Clockwise from top left) Darren Nathaniel Davis, 36; Jury Beatrice Guerra, 28; José Vidal Pereira, 31; and Martin Anuar Martinez, 30.

der took place."

He had been released from the Prince William-Manassas Regional Adult Detention Center on Sept. 2, 2020, on "intensive" pre-trial supervision, according to court records.

Another lead was decidedly low-

See SUSPECTS, page 16

From tracking to takedowns, county's K-9s are invaluable part of the team

By Robin Earl
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Like school children released from classrooms for recess, the K-9s of the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office -- after being let out of police cars before a twice-monthly training session recently -- spent five minutes getting their wiggles out. They ran around the training enclosure, dashing from one corner to another, stopping for a sniff before tearing off again.

It was a reminder that no matter the important and sometimes dangerous work they do, in addition to being K-9s, they are also canines.

As in other parts of police work, there seems to be a hierarchy of respect. Katie, the team's bloodhound, is recognized as the premier tracker of the five dogs. "We take patrol dogs in for an apprehension. Katie is



Ladee is one of five dogs with the Sheriff's Office K-9 unit.

TIMES STAFF PHOTO/ROBIN EARL

a tracker," said her handler Chris Snyder. He refers to Katie as "a princess" with a nose unrivaled in the region.

Katie, who turns 5 years old this year, can track the unique scent of a single person over a long period of time, said Snyder. Other breeds have trouble maintaining a track for more than 30 minutes, he said.

See K-9s, page 4



TIMES STAFF PHOTOS/COY FERRELL

(From left) Savannah Lerch, Emma Fishback, and Riley Hines show their hogs Sunday, part of the 62nd annual Fauquier County Livestock Show and Sale hosted by the Fauquier County 4-H Club. This year, 27 local 4-H'ers participated, raising 10 steers, 18 lambs, 26 hogs and 4 goats over the course of the past year; an online auction for the animals brought in almost \$80,000.



Fauquier Times wins Virginia Press Association Sweepstakes. See page 11.



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PHOTO BY BETSY BURKE PARKER

'Here we come Tokyo'

Horse and rider pairs, set to represent the U.S. three-day event team at the upcoming Tokyo Olympics, completed a dress rehearsal at Great Meadow in The Plains last week, a final test before stepping onto the world stage. Pictured here, U.S. team member Boyd Martin jumps boldly over a cross-country "skinny" with Tsetserleg at Great Meadow on Thursday morning. The event was not open to spectators, only competitors and essential personnel.

See page 17

Former Fauquier High drama teacher charged with sex crimes



Kevin Mettinger

Kevin Mettinger, 50, of Warrenton, was arrested Tuesday, June 29 by Warrenton and Fauquier County law enforcement officers, a Warrenton Police Department press release announced last week.

He was charged with carnal knowledge of a child and two counts of taking indecent liberties with a child under his supervision, all felonies. He has been released on a \$300,000 secured bond.

Mettinger was arrested after a search warrant was executed at a residence on Old Meetze Road in Warrenton, according to the press release; the search warrant was obtained as part of an "ongoing investigation." Public Information Officer Chai Fuller confirmed last week that Mettinger was the target of the investigation.

See **METTINGER**, page 6

Levi Norwood admitted to killing his mother and brother, search warrant affidavit alleges

By Coy Ferrell
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Levi Norwood admitted to killing his mother and brother in February 2020 when he was interviewed by investigators, a search warrant affidavit dated Feb. 24, 2020, alleges. Norwood also allegedly communicated "about homicide" with fellow students at Liberty High School, according to the affidavit. Norwood was 17 at the time of the homicides.

Levi Norwood, charged in connection with a double homicide in Midland, was



Levi Norwood

apprehended in Durham, North Carolina.

See **NORWOOD**, page 6

Fauquier Fair opens Wednesday, July 14. See page 7.



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This photo was taken by Ruth Rosati of Herndon a few minutes after the terrorist attack on the Pentagon, on Sept. 11, 2001. © 2001 Ruth Anne Rosati

Fauquier High School remembers shock, confusion – then unity – on Sept. 11, 2001

By Christopher Connell

PIEDMONT JOURNALISM FOUNDATION

Veteran teacher Dave Smith had risen before dawn that September morning to prepare what he called “News Notes” to spark discussions among the seniors in his U.S. government classes. The choice for the Sept. 11, 2001, Compendium of Civic and Political Developments class was easy. It was primary day in New York City, to choose a successor to Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

His classroom was in the school annex. When the phone rang in his small office, “I thought it was the principal but it was my older son, Joey, who’s an electrician. He said, ‘Dad, I’m alright.’ I said, ‘That’s wonderful.’”

“I was supposed to go to the Pentagon this morning but they sent me to the Naval Yard in-

stead,” he said. I still had no clue. ‘You don’t know what I’m talking about? Turn on the TV.’ I had gone through one entire class without knowing anything that was going on,” said Smith.

News of the earlier attacks on the World Trade Center had reached the front office, but there had been no school-wide announcement yet.

“It’s kind of like it was yesterday,” said Kraig Kelican, then assistant principal and now principal.

“I got to school about 6:30 (a.m.) and did the normal things – answer emails and go through some paperwork -- then we started outside duty, talking to and greeting kids as they were coming into the building. It was such a gorgeous day,” Kelican said. The principal and his team gathered for a regular weekly meeting during the first block of classes.

See 9/11, page 6

Black smoke over the gravestones

The limousine driver had not turned the radio on as he drove the Moreau family from Herndon to Arlington National Cemetery that morning for the funeral of retired Navy Chief Petty Officer and systems engineer Raymond Moreau. His son Ray – at age 62, still “Little Ray” to his family – was in the limo, on his way to saying a last goodbye to his father.

The first inkling that something was amiss was when he noticed a former coworker of his dad’s holding a radio to his ear as they walked to the chapel.

“What are you listening to – the game?” the son quipped.

See ARLINGTON, page 6

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