

CULPEPER POLICE JOIN RECRUITING INITIATIVE



ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION, CULPEPER STAR-EXPONENT

In March, women with the Culpeper Police Department gathered to discuss working in law enforcement, including, from left, Officer Torrence Miller, Detective Ashley Parker, Lt. Brittany Jenkins, Officer Ashely Sain, Sgt. Norma McGuckin, Master Police Officer Julia Cole and Officer Madison Healy.

Officers weigh in on working in male-dominated field

ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION
Culpeper Star-Exponent

The Culpeper Police Department intends to double its female officers by the end of this decade as a recent sign-on to the nationwide “30x30 Initiative,” seeking to establish 30% women working in law enforcement across America by the year 2030.

Culpeper Police Sgt. Detective Norma

McGuckin is the most senior of seven sworn women officers currently employed by the small town agency on the southern edge of the D.C. -Metro area. She and the six other officers sat down in March for Women’s History Month to talk about joining 30x30 and their experiences as females policing in the 21st century.

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Officers

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Nationally, women represent 12% of law enforcement. At the Culpeper police department, it's 15%.

McGuckin, a Mexican-American who is bilingual and attended high school in Crenshaw, California, started at the local department in 2001 as a volunteer interpreter.

"They gave me an application for a job, so I started as a parking attendant, working my way up to investigations and got more involved with translations," she said.

Exciting and fulfilling is how she described the past 20 years on the job. The fact that McGuckin can speak English and translate in Spanish has been very helpful, in general, to anyone who walks into the police station with questions or concerns, she said.

The growing Hispanic population in Culpeper "adds a feel of a different culture, very family-oriented, hardworking people," McGuckin said.

A strong leader among local female officers, she recalled few challenges being a woman in a male-dominated field.

"I haven't experienced that here," McGuckin replied. "This department has been very good to me. I have the opportunity to move up and improve myself."

The detective said she supports joining the 30x30 Initiative.

"It's a good goal to have, absolutely support it," said McGuckin. "The more the merrier — we're going to need a bigger locker room, but we can work on that."

30x30 Initiative: Recruiting women

Maureen McGough, chief of staff at the Policing Project at New York University School of Law, is one of the founders of the initiative. So far, over 300 agencies, including Culpeper, are participating in this work, she said in a recent email.

Signing the pledge are major metropolitan departments like the NYPD and LAPD, state agencies, mid-sized and small departments across the country, along with federal agencies, including FBI, CBP and USMS, according to McGough. Her previous work experience is with the National Police Foundation and in various roles with the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of State.

The 30x30 Initiative is really catching on, she said.

"I have been working in policing and police reform for over a decade," she said, "and I have never seen such widespread adoption across agency size and region — it's a testament to the field's belief in the critical importance of women officers in improving public safety outcomes."

"Their belief is built on a foundation of scientific evidence that demonstrates the unique value of women officers — they use less force and excessive force, they use their discretion to make fewer arrests for misdemeanor non-violent offenses and, instead, use social solutions to inherently social problems. They're associated with better outcomes for crime victims, they're named in lawsuits less often, they're perceived as more trustworthy and compassionate — the list goes on."

In order to participate, departments must commit to prioritizing implementation of the elements of the 30x30 pledge and report progress in six-month increments. The pledge is a series of no- and low-cost actions departments can take to remove inherent bias and ensure the unique needs of women are met.

In exchange, departments get access to diversity and inclusion experts, research summaries, model policies and procedures, training and monthly webinars and newsletters.

"We're also working on advocacy to advance legislation that addresses inherent bias and promotes inclusive workplaces to advance public safety," McGough said.

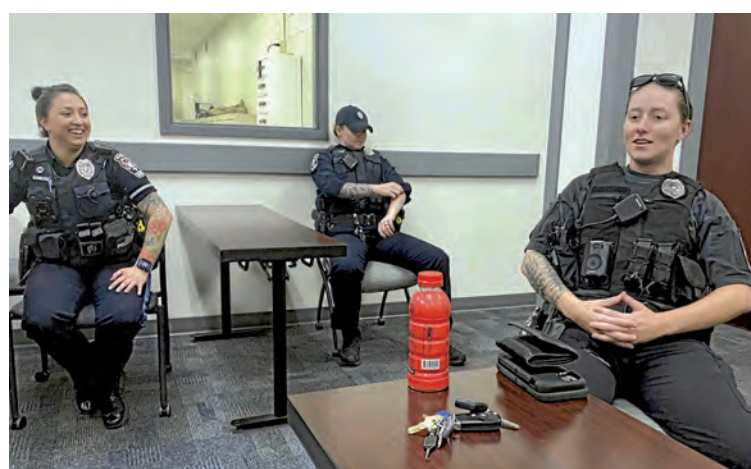
Meeting benchmarks

"If you sign it, you are going to be all in," Culpeper Police Chief Chris Settle said at the meeting in March. "It means all officers have equal opportunity to advance, based on years of service, looking at command and supervisors — are women represented?



CULPEPER POLICE

Culpeper Police Department mental health co-responder Tracy Ford, front, poses for a photo with the women officers at the agency.



ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION, CULPEPER STAR-EXPONENT

Culpeper Police Officer Madison Healy, left, smiles while talking about women in policing with colleagues, Officer Torrence Miller, center, and Detective Ashley Parker.

If not, you might have to take a hard look at your processes."

Of the Culpeper PD's female officers, two are supervisors, one serves with the Blue Ridge Narcotics & Gang Task Force, another won a MADD award last year, one is a multi-generational cop whose father is a captain at the Fauquier Sheriff's Office, and another came from Virginia Beach and is the only female member the Emergency Response Team, the chief of police said.

The department is agreeing to meet benchmarks for female recruitment by joining 30x30, Settle said, including examining policies related to zero tolerance for harassment, provision of nursing stations and flexible family time schedules, among many other aspects.

"It's a recruitment step to show women that this is a workforce they can exceed in," Settle said. "We have to have a workforce that's representative of our community. We want a police department that looks like our community. Same with African Americans, same with Hispanics — we are constantly looking for those minority officers as well. When you get a police department that looks like the community, I think our citizens appreciate that."

Since signing the pledge four months ago, the Culpeper PD has recruited another female officer.

'I could have left'

Lt. Brittany Jenkins has been in law enforcement for nearly 14 years and is the first female in the local department to achieve her rank. She's wanted to be a cop since she was young.

"You see someone in uniform and you idolize them, you know what they represent," Jenkins said. "As a little kid, I really looked up to them ... I knew I wanted to be part of making the community a better place."

Female police officers handle things a lot calmer, she stated. A colleague called it the "velvet hammer approach."

"We're more soft-toned, a little bit better at the de-escalation, I think, because we innately read people better. It's easier to pick up on something escalating, more motherly when we interact."

She opened up about being treated differently earlier in her career in the male-dominated profession, compared to female officers of today.

"We had a huge culture shift in the last 15 years," Jenkins said. "When I first came into law enforcement I had a lieutenant tell me that women don't belong in

this job. I've had men on shifts tell me I was the token female. ... I've had people turn their backs on me on a call and I've had people yell blatantly in the parking lot that I didn't deserve the position I'm in, so to say that we don't face those issues — we have come a long, long way."

Those negative experiences are engrained in the soul and it was really hard getting to this point, she stated.

"It sticks with you because I had wanted to do this since I was a kid then you have a boss telling you, well your gender does not belong in this job. It was disheartening... I could have left — what would I have missed out on in life? I have an incredible job."

And she has other women to look up to, like McGuckin, with whom she can talk through problems and figure out how to overcome issues.

'You have to prove yourself more'

Master Police Officer Julia Cole has been with the Culpeper PD for a decade, after planning to major in English at James Madison University. She got a job working with the college police department, comprised of retired officers with lots of experience. That was all it took.

"They had all these great war stories. My major was not meeting that need to do something fulfilling in life. I was listening to pursuit stories — 'he baled so I baled and we were running through the woods? I was like, that's what I want to do,'" Cole said.

The week she told her mother she was switching majors, a police officer was shot three blocks from her house.

"He survived, but she was like, 'Have you considered the military? Because that seems safer,'" Cole said "I was like 'No, I would rather do law enforcement because I don't want to bounce around."

"She countered, 'OK, what about fire department? Everybody loves firefighters.' I said, 'I don't want to run into burning buildings. Law enforcement is it.' I ended up getting my major in criminal justice, started applying around for jobs and Culpeper was the first one that said, 'We're interested,'" Cole recalled.

She came to Culpeper, a smaller agency with around 40 officers, because she wanted the opportunity to try everything. She has served in community policing and is responsible for social media updates and providing information to the media and the public.

"I became the jack of all trades," Cole said. "I would not have these opportunities with other agencies. This is home. This is where I'm happy."

Asked about challenges of women in policing, she said they were just talking about that at breakfast.

"Women make up 13% of law enforcement nationally, so you are dealing with a lot of engrained, male-dominated ideas, philosophies, attitudes, perceptions and the ego, where it's, 'Oh no, we the men will go handle this.' And you have to fight against that," Cole said. "You have to prove yourself more."

The Culpeper police department also cultivates women helping women, she added.

"There is no backstabbing — I will be the queen bee. Norma paved the path for us. She pulled Brittney up. Brittney pulled me up, we're pulling them up, and the guys are working with us."

"Like Chief Settle said, the studies are out there that women police differently and it's a good different," Cole said about participating in 30x30. "Women are half of the world's population. Your agency should reflect your population and your community so more diversity is always a good thing."

Gender shouldn't matter

Officer Ashley Parker came to Culpeper two years ago from the King George County Sheriff's Office. She works full-time narcotics with the local task force. Her mother is a longtime federal law enforcement officer who she's looked up to forever.

"She was worried for me, choosing to be a cop, but now that I've been in it almost five years, she's super proud of me, I'm going to cry," Parker said. "That was a huge life moment for me, making her proud in the aspect of law enforcement and making a difference in the community."

Asked about the 30x30 Initiative, the young officer said she doesn't think gender matters.

"A good officer in the end is what I want as my backup, male, female, purple, yellow, green, doesn't matter, as long as it is a good person who is here to do the job," she said. "Someone I know is going to have my back when we're in a sticky situation, that's all I care about. If that happens to be more women, absolutely, let's do it, but if not, that's just the way the cards have been dealt. At the end of the day, I want everybody here be able to go home."

Parker said female cops don't want to be seen as women.

"We want to be seen as an officer or a detective or a sergeant. I get promoting women's rights, but at some point, look at me as another officer, not as a female. Are we there yet?" she said. "Here I think we are because nobody treats me differently."

Officer Miller Torrance came to Culpeper a year ago from the Virginia Beach Police Department, a very large department with five precincts where you're just like a number, she said. Torrance had family in this area and was given the opportunity to work patrol, which she said is the best foundation starting out in policing.

"All types of calls: on the road try to find narcotics, deal with mental health ... traffic stops, back to back calls depending on the day," she said.

Being a police officer gives her purpose, Torrance said, and it's something different every day. It keeps her on her toes, she added.

"Females communicate differently," she said. "They don't start a conversation with ego. I know some guys who do that and they just go head to head right away. You have to approach it differently."

Community-oriented: Do the job right

Officer Ashley Sain, a 2016 graduate of Eastern View High School, has been with the department since late 2020, after graduating college with a psychology degree during a pandemic.

"COVID sort of cut my college experience short," she said. "I saw what was happening in the world with policing and mental health — a huge topic not talked about enough. I wanted to go into a field where I was going to help people, but not on a couch. I feel like this is a great profession where I can get out and do something different every day. Different people and situations and learning something new every single day and I wanted to make a difference in my community."

Sain always said she would never work in her hometown and went away to college in Mississippi.

"I saw that policing was changing and I like the change — de-escalation, being able to sit down and have a conversation with somebody, rather than use force. I have found a lot of times your words go way farther than having to be physical," she said. "Women are able to have that patience and just that female presence as an officer is different than having a big macho man come up to you."

People don't realize how much police officers counsel people, she added.

"That's kind of our job, turn a simple civil matter into talking on the phone with somebody for 20 minutes, they're telling you their life story. I definitely like the way policing is going, especially here in this agency. We are very much community oriented, 95% of the people we deal with, love us because they know we're going to come out and do the job right."

Officer Madison Healy was born into law enforcement and has been in the field for more than three years. Her father is a captain with the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office, a brother is a deputy at FCSO, and a younger brother is currently employed by Culpeper PD as a park attendant with the intention of joining law enforcement once he's old enough.

Healy's grandfather is retired Fairfax PD and retired Fauquier County Sheriff's Office Captain, and her great-grandfather was a West Virginia State Trooper who died in line of duty. In spite of the statistics, Healy said she does not see policing as male-dominated.

"I am able to do the same things as anyone else in this field. This career is a family tradition, I was born and raised into it, therefore I see myself as an equal to the men in this line of work," she said.

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Drug court graduate honored

Local man is the first to successfully complete program

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The first graduate of Culpeper County Drug Court knows about lost time, having spent 18 years incarcerated for drug crimes in the DMV region.

William "Bill" Joseph Green Jr., 57, said he eventually reached the limit where he was done using PCP, his drug of choice.

"My buddy who is here, one

day I was at his house, something just come across me ... I took the drugs and gave it to him, said 'Man, you can have that,' and that's the last day I got high," Green said.

The father of a 3-year-old, he realizes the stakes are high.

"My son was born, I still didn't get it, but one day I just woke up, was looking at him, that's enough for me," Green said of going cold turkey in 2021. "I did it on my own, but (drug court) helped me get the tools to go out there in society and say, OK enough is enough. It's a whole lot different this time."

People filled the Culpeper County Circuit Courthouse May 9 to celebrate the drug court graduate, the first to successfully complete the more than year-long program the county launched in March 2022 as an option to incarceration for non-violent drug offenders. A way out for people stuck in addiction and the legal system, drug court provides more treatment than punishment, with strict accountability and peer support. "Participants agree to a 14-month intense program

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ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION, CULPEPER STAR-EXPONENT

Bill Green holds up his certificate for being the first Culpeper County resident to complete the 14-month Drug Treatment Court program.

Graduate

From A1

to achieve recovery and success in their lives, become productive citizens of Culpeper County,” said drug court Judge Susan Whitlock. “Mr. Green is seated at counsel table and he is our recognized graduate today. Mr. Green has over 400 days of being totally drug free so we are very happy, proud to be here.”

Green’s aforementioned “buddy,” a longtime friend from Washington, D.C., Ronald Ward, spoke on his behalf at the ceremony in the courthouse.

“I was there when he stopped and he never did it again,” said Ward. “I saw the transformation.”

The friend distanced himself at one point.

“I wasn’t babysitting a grown man — that’s what it boils down to with PCP and I didn’t want that burden,” Ward said.

“People say it’s hard (to stop), but you got to want it and he wanted it. I see the change in him, he talks different ... We from the same area and when you grow up you kind of grow up quick. You can’t just sit back ... put it like this, you’ll get swallowed up.”

While his friend was in jail all those years, he didn’t have a chance to see his other, now adult, son grow up, Ward said, describing what it’s like to have a loved one in jail, “You dead, but you not dead, because everything else going on. With this son, he’s here, so it’s a change. I see that and I’m proud of that. I love him to death for that. He like my brother,” Ward said.

Green’s son, like a typical toddler, ran around and laughed, occasionally crying and calling for his dad during the graduation ceremony, and at a reception afterwards in the county administration building. The little



ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION PHOTOS, CULPEPER STAR-EXPONENT

Culpeper County Criminal Services Director Andrew Lawson hugs Bill Green, the first graduate of drug court, during a ceremony on May 9.

boy ran up to the cake decorated with, “Congratulations,” and stuck his finger in the icing.

Green got emotional describing the route that took him to graduation day.

“I hope I don’t cry, but it’s been a long time since I felt this good about myself. I’m proud because I got all these people out here that care about me,” he said. “That’s the reason I cry, this is tears of joy.”

Green said he has a long rap sheet. The system didn’t have to give him another chance, he added.

“But they did and if it wasn’t for them, I wouldn’t be standing here right now,” Green said.

Culpeper County Drug Court Coordinator Donna Frazier is a former probation officer who has couple years history with Green.

“You’ve inspired us to start the program, continue the program,” she said at the graduation ceremony. “You’ve inspired others. We’re excited for your future. It’s been an absolute pleasure to work with you. Your son is beautiful, so thank you for helping us

get it off the ground and get it started.”

Frazier added the growth she has seen in Green has been amazing.

“Your attitude, your perseverance, motivating other people, being there for people when they need your support—it means a lot,” she said.

Green said his former probation officer has been with him since the beginning.

“This lady over here she talked me off the ledge ... I could tell her anything.” With others, there were a lot of secrets, Green added, as he worked on a false front of being the coolest dude in the group.

Green said he has lived the drugging life and it’s not an option anymore.

“I can never do it again and I know it in the back of my head.”

Green, a trained barber, said he would rather worry about having to pay his bills legitimately than do anything to risk ending up back in jail, waiting on somebody to answer the phone or somebody to come visit.



Green gestures to his fellow drug court participants during his graduation ceremony from the 14-month program at Culpeper County Circuit Court.

“A penitentiary is the most degrading thing a human being can go through because you got to stand up every five hours to be counted like cows,” he said. “Five o’clock in the morning you got to jump out of bed, ain’t even brushed your teeth and they’re counting.”

If you know better you do better, Green said, turning to his fellow drug court participants, seated to his right in the historic courtroom.

“If you go through what I did, you’d be a crash dummy just like I am, but God, I get it, it’s a reason for me to be here because he could have killed me a long time ago. I used to run through streets of D.C. high as I don’t know what. God got a plan,” he said.

Green turned to the drug court committee seated in the jury box. They are members of the local bar, law enforcement, counselors and mental health professionals.

“I got real good people on my team ... you saved my life,” Green said. “I don’t always get the love I need from my family because I think they revert back to how I used to be, still hold that against

me, but I am trying to show every day I am a better man and I’m going to teach my son better.”

Drug court participant Boulton Chase spoke up for his friend.

“You know I love you, Bill. The first time I met you, man. I did not like you,” he added, laughter erupting in the courtroom. “I saw arrogance, he always said he had the gift of gab, he’s still arrogant. But I do think you have changed a lot since I first met you and I am just proud of who you are today. You did it.”

Culpeper County Criminal Justice Services Director Andrew Lawson embraced Green as he handed him a tree of life placard signed on the back by all the members of the drug court team.

“This is why we want to do this ... because you can be there for your son,” Lawson said. “You affect a lot of people. Your son’s going to affect a lot of people. That’s a lot of affects for society and we’re proud of you and you should be proud of yourself.”

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Woman gets 5 years in DUI death

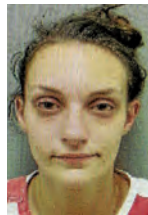
John Morse killed by intoxicated driver while on morning prayer walk

ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION
Culpeper Star-Exponent

A Culpeper woman will spend five years in jail in last summer's DUI death of a pedestrian who was on an early morning prayer walk.

Lindzi Jo Crane, 29, was sentenced to 10 years of incarceration with six years suspended in the involuntary manslaughter of 55-year-old John Holland Morse.

Culpeper Circuit Court Judge Durrer additionally sentenced Crane to 12 months in jail



Crane

for DUI second offense at the June 30 sentencing hearing.

According to court testimony, Crane was driving to the methadone clinic in the Town of Culpeper following a night of heavy cocaine use when she dozed off. She pleaded guilty earlier this year. The maximum sentence was 10 years on the manslaughter charge and 12 months for the DUI.

Crane was driving on the wrong

side of Inlet Road when she hit Morse, a husband and father of six, at 6:41 a.m. on June 25, 2022.

At sentencing, Durrer additionally ordered she pay \$15,000 restitution to the family for Morse's funeral expenses, in increments of \$265/month within 60 days of her release from jail.

The judge ordered Crane

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complete 150 hours community service through Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and participate in therapeutic community drug treatment. Crane will lose her driver's license for three years.

Several family members spoke at the emotional hearing about the far-reaching impacts of his death. Morse's wife and oldest son both told Crane they forgave her.

The Culpeper man was just a few miles from his home exercising and praying when he was hit and died at the scene. Morse was an engineer and owner with the Northern Virginia firm of ATCS, PLC. He was an ordained minister active at Stevensburg Baptist Church and a graduate of the Citadel.

Deep belief in their Christian faith centered the extensively religious testimony heard in the courtroom at Crane's sentencing. All six of Morse's children were in attendance, including the youngest, a 9-year-old, along with his sister, Tali Craven, in town from South Carolina.

More than two dozen church members were also there. Crane's mother took the stand as well and other family members of hers attended sentencing.

Craven said her brother was brilliant, selfless and did everything in life with intention for people. His job brought him to Culpeper 15 years ago from his native South Carolina, where he was helping his sister take care of their elderly father, Craven said in her victim impact statement.

"He has not been well since he found out my brother died," Craven said. "A veil went over my father."

She said her brother was one of Culpeper's most contributing citizens and that it was tragic the loss of everything else he would never contribute.

"We all lost our lives as well," Craven said. "We are gone as people."

The grief has caused health issues and stress, she said. "It has broken us."

Defense attorney Amy Harper repeatedly apologized for her client's actions, and asked the

sister if she could forgive Crane.

Craven said no. She said she did not know if she could ever forgive the defendant for killing her brother.

The deceased's oldest son, Jackson Morse, 24, said on the stand his father was his best friend, his scout master, deacon, counselor, confidant, workout partner and reading companion. Processing things has become harder since his father died, he added.

"Everything I did, I ran it by him," Jackson Morse said.

His mother is not the same person, he said. The stress of the death put his brother in the hospital, the oldest son said. Jackson Morse said he did not return to seminary where he is studying to be a pastor after his dad died so that he could stay with his mom.

Bitter pain, sleepless nights, feeling awash and adrift are all impacts of his father's death, said Jackson Morse, stating, "The darkest clouds also contain the deepest wells of mercy." He went on, he did not know if the defendant understood the depth of the wickedness she inflicted on his family.

"God works all things for good for those who love him," Jackson Morse said in court. He turned to Crane and told her he wanted her to know the God his father knew.

"I offer you love and forgiveness," Jackson Morse said.

Crane, crying, replied, "Thank you."

Morse's wife of 25 years, Katherine, in her victim impact statement, said it would be impossible to list all the impacts of his death. He was an only son, project manager of a multibillion dollar NOVA road project, a teacher, sole financial provider and her spouse.

"I feel as though I have died, too," said Mrs. Morse.

Her husband rose early every day to read the Bible and pray, she said. He took their daughter out on dates and wrestled with their boys.

Mrs. Morse said she can't eat since her husband died or sleep. Some days, she said, she can barely move or breathe. Morse said she has new irrational fears



Morse

about walking and driving.

She turned to Crane, "I want you to know I have compassion for you. It must have been a horrible thing to go through. I forgave you right away." The wife said she had been praying for Crane.

The defendant, crying, replied, "Thank you."

Mrs. Morse she hoped Crane would come to know God and that she would go to rehab for her addiction.

"Yes, we've been wronged by you. The sentence will not be just, it will not reflect what you deserve," said Mrs. Morse in the courtroom. "God alone dispenses true justice."

She said her husband was not afraid to die because he knew where he was going.

The wife turned to Crane again, "I want you to know he would lay down his life for you to know Jesus and I hope that is what he did."

Harper presented three letters to the court written on her client's behalf, as well as proof of "Pathway to Achieve" classes she had completed while in jail the past year awaiting trial.

The defendant's mother, Dee Crane, got on the stand, saying she thinks about the Morse family every day and prays for them. Her daughter has changed since the fatal incident, said Dee Crane.

"She's broken, like we all are," she said. "Her family is broken, too. She does not know how she will go on."

Lindzi Crane is a good person who got straight As and had perfect attendance in high school, said her mother. She said she was sorry the Morse family would have to suffer for the rest of their lives.

"Lindzi needs recovery," said Dee Crane. "She needs it badly. She needs an extensive program to get her back on track. She wants to give back."

The mother said her daughter got hooked on drugs by using prescribed Percocet given to her boyfriend for a headache. It led to illegal hard drugs like heroin.

The mother said Crane had been going weekly to the methadone clinic to get off heroin for the past five years. The defendant had two previous stints in rehab, but relapsed.

Harper called her client to the stand. A diminutive, Crane, her

curly hair pulled back, wore a red and white striped jumpsuit from Culpeper County Jail, with shackles on her hands and feet.

She recalled using drugs the night before the fatal incident and the ride to the clinic early the next morning.

"Did you doze off?" Harper said.

"I feel like I did, but I don't really know," Crane said.

"Did you see Mr. Morse walking on the road?" Harper said.

The defendant replied, yes, after she struck him. Crane said she stopped her vehicle, got out, called 911 and tried to help Morse.

"This is a life sentence for me also," said the defendant. "A wake up call in terms of my addiction."

Crane said she started using again after rehab and then started taking methadone to get off the illegal drugs completely. The methadone clinic would not cut back her dosage, she said, "They said I wasn't stable."

Crane said she was enrolled in classes at Germanna Community College when she struck and killed Mr. Morse.

"It was my fault and their life is damaged because of my choices and it's not fair," she said at sentencing.

Crane said when she gets out of jail she wants to work as an addiction peer recovery specialist.

"I had the tools before, I just never used them," she said. "The least I can do is use my time productively."

On cross examination by Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Travis Owens, Crane stated she started using heroin at age 20 and cocaine the past two years. She was convicted on felony possession and still used after, the prosecutor said.

On cross, Crane admitted to using powder and crack cocaine at her home the night before Morse died.

"Why do you want help?" Judge Durrer asked Crane before handing down sentencing.

She said she wanted a better life and purpose.

Sentencing guidelines called for a range of one year and three months in jail to three years and three months, said Owens in closing. He said those guidelines were not appropriate in the case.

"The tragic events of that early

morning will have long lasting effects on the family and the community," the prosecutor said.

Owens noted the volume of cocaine consumed the night before by the defendant, who also has a prior DUI conviction.

"She took the life of a man everyone seems to have great admiration and love for," the prosecutor said.

Owens asked the court to impose a greater sentence to honor Morse's life.

Harper in closing asked the judge to impose the high end of the guidelines. She expressed great admiration to the victim's family for their forgiveness.

"Lindzi takes full responsibility and has great remorse," Harper said. "She has learned a hard lesson and does not want to continue drugs ... I do believe this was a wakeup call and she will do what needs to be done."

Durrer, announcing sentencing, said it was a tragic case on all levels.

"There's nothing this court can do to Mr. Morse back," he said.

Crane's vehicle was in the wrong travel lane when she struck him from behind, the judge said. Mr. Morse was walking facing traffic, as safety prescribes.

Police at the scene reported Crane had slurred speech and droopy eyes, the judge recalled. She initially denied using drugs, Durrer said.

Yet the presentence report was "chilling," showing the large amount of cocaine she ingested hours earlier, the judge said. "Then she made a choice to drive," Durrer said, calling the vehicle a weapon, something sentencing guidelines did not take into account or impact to the family, he said.

The judge gave Crane credit for pleading guilty in the case without any agreement with prosecutors. She has taken responsibility for her actions and took classes while in jail, including Rick Warren's, "The Purpose Driven Life."

Addiction and substance use are not victimless crimes, Durrer said.

"This proves it is not—it has consequences," he said.

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