

The week in review

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Worst 4th of July casualty: Alexandria resident Matthew John Kelleher, 23, drowns in the Rivanna River when he's swept over the Woolen Mills dam. He's found July 6 about a mile downstream near the Luck Stone Quarry.

Best fireworks: McIntire Park, thanks to private organizers coming to the rescue at the last minute.

Best fireworks stash: Charlottesville officials bust Elbert Williams for allegedly storing 39 boxes of forbidden flash in a storage locker off East Market Street, the *Daily Progress* reports.

Worst change in rank: The Charlottesville area no longer has the lowest unemployment rate in the state. Thanks to Technicolor layoffs, local out-of-work numbers rose from 2.4 percent in April to 2.9 percent in May. Nationally, the unemployment rate jumped to 6.4 percent in June.

Worst ranking for a national park: 7th most dangerous, which is how the U.S. Park Rangers Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police ranks Shenandoah National Park because of its antiquated radio system and spread-thin staff.

Worst dam situation: Route 20 south is closed July 3 when a private earthen dam south of the Mill Creek subdivision is weakened by heavy rainfall.

Worst news for U.S. troops: Liberia.

Worst news for electricity consumers: Dominion Virginia Power is asking for a \$441.7 million fuel-rate increase that could translate to increases of between \$4.66 and \$7.18 in monthly electric bills starting January 1.

Best break for a teen murder suspect: Prosecutors drop charges against Tygue Herrmann, one of four suspects in the Crozet death of Nola Charles and her three-year-old son.

Best letter to the editor on the teen murder suspects: Sue Woodson writes the *Progress* about a June 16 article on the two Fugett teens who've been charged in the Charles killings, noting that "computer pictures of torture and execution," studying Wicca, convictions of trespassing in a church, and leaving a dead bird on a church altar are not normal behavior, and in fact are "blatant warning signs."

Best tennis performance by a former Charlottesvillean: Martina Navratilova wins a record-tying 20th Wimbledon title by taking the mixed doubles championship with partner Leander Paes on July 6. The 46-year-old superstar shared a house with author Rita Mae Brown in the posh Flordon subdivision from 1980 to 1982.

Best Wimbledon sister act: For the second year in a row, Venus and Serena Williams face off in the finals, and Serena takes home another Wimbledon trophy.

Worst loss to cement pond aficionados: Buddy Ebsen, actor best known for his portrayal of patriarch Jed Clampett on *The Beverly Hillbillies*, dies July 6 at age 95.

Worst loss of a crooner: Velvet-voiced Barry White dies from kidney failure at age 58 on July 4.

Best looking website redesign: Albemarle County's albemarle.org.

Worst performing redesigned website: Albemarle County's albemarle.org is sloooowwwwww.

Best protest: 21 interns for environmental groups fire up chain saws on the Washington Mall across from the U.S. Forest Service to draw attention to an administration the protesters say "has never seen a tree it didn't want to whack," according to the *Post*.

Best fundraiser: For \$100 each, the struggling Walton's Mountain Museum is sending a busload of gamblers to Atlantic City August 9.

Best ad: "Pepsi denies child labor law violation" celebrates Agnes Garver's 50 years working for Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company of Central Virginia on July 3.