

# Two arrested for murder

The Chesterfield Police Department has arrested two county men for the murder of 25-year-old Esteban León Lopez, who was shot and killed on Dec. 22 in front of his apartment in the 4900 block of Burnt Oak Drive.

Charles R. Fleming III, 19, and an unidentified juvenile were arrested last week for the homicide.

## NEWS BRIEFS

Both have been charged with murder, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony and robbery.

Fleming is being held in the Chesterfield County Jail pending a pretrial hearing in general district court. The juvenile will appear in Chesterfield County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court on Jan. 23.



Fleming

Police continue their investigation into this homicide and area robberies.

Anyone with information about these crimes is urged to contact the police department at 748-1251 or Crime Solvers at 748-0660.

### Murder rates down

Murder rates in Chesterfield are down for the fourth straight year. In 2006, Chesterfield reported six homicides compared to eight in 2005.

### School board fires art teacher

Stephen Murmer, an art teacher at Monacan High School, was fired last week after the Chesterfield School Board took issue with the artwork he creates off the job.

School board members determined Murmer can't be a role model for students because he paints with his buttocks and genitals.

The issue surfaced last month when a student found a video of Murmer demonstrating his painting technique online. He was suspended with pay in December until the school board decided the fate of his job last week.

Murmer has already contacted the ACLU about the matter and is considering legal action against the school system.

### Inmate faces terrorism charge

A prison inmate facing a terrorism charge in Chesterfield appeared in circuit court last week. Calvin Perry, 49, allegedly sent an envelope containing a white powder and a threatening letter to the Virginia State Police Headquarters in August 2005.

Perry is currently serving time in the state's Keene Mountain Correctional Center, and is scheduled to face trial for the terrorism charge on May 1.

### Barricade situation ends in arrest

Police arrested a man after he barricaded himself inside his home in the 10100 block of West Providence Road for about 12 hours on Jan. 8.

Police initially responded to the home at about 9:30 p.m. the previous night after receiving a call that Robert C. Barker, 41, was threatening to kill himself following a domestic dispute. One shot was fired after officers arrived on scene, but no one was injured.

Police continued to attempt negotiations with Barker throughout the night. He was taken into custody by police the next morning without further incident.

Barker is charged with reckless handling of a firearm.

# Potato chip thieves arrested

After midnight last Wednesday, Chesterfield police arrested two men for allegedly stealing potato chips, office equipment and other items from the Utz Potato Chip building in the 7800 block of Midlothian Turnpike. Police report that 21-year-old Jason Darrell Crow of Amelia County and 19-year-old Douglas C. Nightingale of Midlothian broke into the building and were then spotted inside one of the company trucks.

They face charges for breaking and entering with intent to commit a felony and grand larceny.

## CRIME WATCH

In other police reports:

**Coldstream Drive.** The victim's 2001 Toyota was stolen after he left it running in the parking lot of his apartment complex around 8:30 a.m. on Jan. 9. It was later recovered behind the Family Dollar store in the Meadowbrook Shopping Center.

**Cogbill Road.** The victim awoke shortly after 4 a.m. on Jan. 6 when the alarm on his 2000 Honda Civic activated. Someone broke into the car and attempted to drive away, but wrecked the car a short distance away in the 3600 block.

**Harrowgate Road.** The suspects entered the James Mart store in the 14000 block shortly after 9 p.m. on Jan. 8. One suspect stayed at the door acting as a lookout while the other suspect, armed with a handgun, demanded money from the register and the clerk's wallet. The clerk gave him the store's money but refused to give him his wallet. The suspects fled on foot.

**Indian Hill Road.** The victim and a female checked into the motel in the 2200 block early on the morning of Jan. 5. The female then left the room and never returned. The victim reported that his 1991 Dodge van, money and other items had been taken, but the van was later returned to his residence.

**Jefferson Davis Highway.** The victim met a woman at a bar on Jan. 6 and gave her a ride home to the 6800 block. When they exited the vehicle, three suspects pointed their guns at him and took his wallet and keys. The victim escaped the suspects by running away.

**Marquardt Road.** The victim's Honda Civic was found on fire with a gas rag hanging outside of its gas tank. The incident occurred at 12:30 a.m. on Jan. 10 in the 3700 block in front of the residence.

**Mall Court.** On Jan. 4 at 5:20 p.m., as a result of road rage, shots were fired into a vehicle in the 11300 block, but no one was injured. The incident began near Pocono Green Shopping Center on Midlothian Turnpike.

**Midlothian Turnpike.** The suspects entered the Jewel Palace in Cloverleaf Mall shortly before 11 p.m. on Jan. 5. They asked to see a ring, and when the clerk opened the display, they pushed her back, took the display tray and ran out of the store.

**Woodpecker Road.** On Jan. 5 at 11 p.m. in the 20800 block, the victim asked for a ride to Petersburg. Those with the vehicle asked if he had any money to pay for the ride. When he said he wouldn't pay for the ride, the suspect displayed a gun and took the victim's money and beer.

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