

ALERT TOP STORY

Spotsylvania man found guilty of stabbing his pregnant girlfriend to death in 2021

Keith Epps

Oct 20, 2023

A man who stabbed his pregnant girlfriend to death in 2021 while violating a protective order was convicted of second-degree murder Wednesday night.

Chris Lee-Thompson Stevens, 30, killed 33-year-old Jordan Diggins Nov. 28, 2021, at her home on Taney Drive. Diggins was stabbed 25 times while her small children, ages 8 and 4, witnessed parts of the brutal attack.

The jury decision came on the third day of a trial in Spotsylvania Circuit Court that had been scheduled for five days. Stevens was also convicted of multiple other charges, including two counts of abduction, two counts of child cruelty and two protective order violations.

He was acquitted of several offenses, including breaking and entering, and a first-degree murder charge was reduced.

According to the evidence presented by three county prosecutors, the attack stemmed in part from an incident two days earlier following which a warrant was obtained for Stevens' arrest. The incident involved a domestic altercation during which Stevens was accused of assaulting Diggins and stabbing her bed with a knife.

People are also reading...

- 1 **Work starting on Stafford road projects**
 - 2 **July 4th festivities begin Saturday in Spotsy (copy)**
 - 3 **Drunk driver who caused fatal accident while going the wrong way pleads guilty in Stafford**
 - 4 **Man surrenders following altercation in Spotsylvania that included assault on a deputy**
-

Diggins reported being scared to go back into the home, so she spent the next two nights in a motel with her children. She decided to return home Nov. 28, which was a Sunday.

Stevens had been contacted by police following the earlier incident and agreed to turn himself in once the weekend was over. He testified Wednesday that he spent the weekend in Diggins' home, where he had also lived, by coming through a window.

The children testified that shortly after they returned to the residence, they heard their mother screaming for help. They said they saw Stevens attacking the woman, leaving her dead along with his unborn child that she was carrying.

The boy called his mother's friend and told her Stevens was hurting his mother. The friend called the police, who went to the home and found Diggins' body. Stevens and the children were gone by then.

The boy testified that after hurting his mother, Stevens threatened to kill him and other family members if they didn't do what he said. He took them away on foot; the little girl didn't even have on her shoes.

During a subsequent search, Det. Tony Horn spotted the trio near Courthouse Road Elementary School. Stevens fled with the children after seeing Horn, but the children were recovered physically unharmed in the Crown Grant subdivision.

Stevens was arrested about 40 minutes later after he was seen coming out of the woods on Leavells Road and getting into a car. The car was stopped and Stevens has been in custody ever since.


Stevens testified that he woke up Nov. 28 with Diggins hovering over him with a knife. He quickly got the knife away from her, according to his story, but stabbed her in self-defense because he feared she was going for another knife. He denied threatening the children.

In his closing argument, defense attorney David Rouzzo argued that Stevens' story was plausible and the prosecutors hadn't proven his case. "Every tragedy is not a crime," he said.


But prosecutor Jeff Adams called Stevens' story "ridiculous."


"[Stevens] brutally murdered their mother and threatened them," Adams said. "Under no circumstances would stabbing a woman 25 times in her own home qualify as self-defense."

Stevens will be sentenced by Judge William Glover at a later date.



**Meteorologist
Joe Martucci**

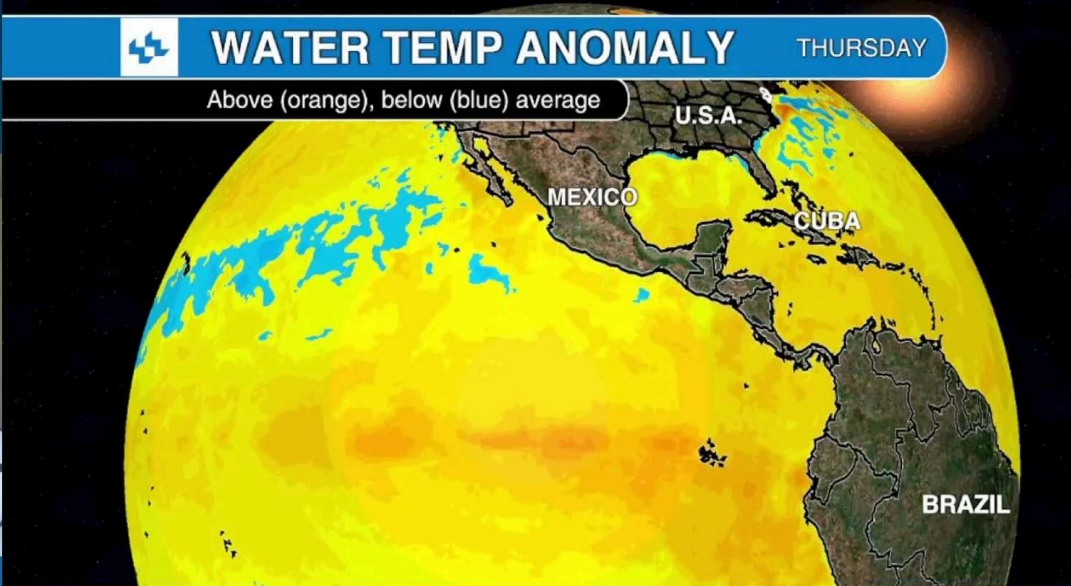




WATER TEMP ANOMALY





THURSDAY

Above (orange), below (blue) average




Lee Weather Team

@JoeMartWx

Subscribe



The first El Niño winter in four winters will likely bring a different set of weather conditions going into the season. The El Niño is caused by warmer than average waters off the coast of South America along the Equator. Meteorologist Joe Martucci looks into what drives El Niño and what that should mean for temperatures in the Eastern United States this winter.

Keith Epps: 540/374-5404

kepps@freelancestar.com

By Keith Epps

Covers crime for Fredericksburg region