

# Warren/Frederick County Report

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**INDICTMENTS**



# Blue Ridge Singers present 'Sweeter Still' to celebrate the season



The Blue Ridge Singers' Artistic Director and Conductor Dr. Jeffrey Alban was at the piano for an interview at their rehearsal to say how thrilled they all are to be back after the 2020 holiday and 2021 spring concerts were canceled due to Blue Ridge Singers Covid-19 precautions.



The Blue Ridge Singers gathered on November 2 to rehearse for their Winter concerts at the Front Royal United Methodist Church at 1 West Main Street. All were eager to sing again after the concerts were canceled because of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions of 2020-2021.

By Carol Ballard  
Warren/Frederick County Report

Artistic Director and Conductor Dr. Jeffrey Alban stood in the center of a community hall at Front Royal's United Methodist Church with the Blue Ridge Singers arranged in the room-wide circle around him.

These people who like to sing were rehearsing for the upcoming Christmas and holiday season concerts to be held in December

this year.

"You must fill the room," his voice boomed out. "I couldn't understand that last refrain!"

Slightly chastised, and with renewed purpose, (and enunciation?) the choir members repeated their last verse, "Little Child, whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart," of the carol The Dream Isaiah Saw.

All were masked, yet their voices could be easily heard. And the music was lovely, even in rehears-

al, causing this writer-guest to feel fortunate to be given a small preview of the concert.

Alban addressed the men in the group of 24, "This is the heroic line! Gentlemen, please sing! Breathe energetically!"

He appeared to be telling a story, or directing a play, letting performers know when and how to appear.

Later, during a break, Alban talked about their process and the

effects of the Covid-19 enforced break.

To be safe, "We will be wearing masks in concert," he said.

"But I'm ecstatic to be back directing since March 11, 2020," he said. "We've been rehearsing this season since September 7."

He added, "I've been chanting since 2019, referring to the ancient Gregorian chants he has been doing himself and then with a small Gregorian Choir at St. John's

Catholic Church since October.

He added that there will be a "snippet" from a chant included in a Renaissance piece by William Byrd (Puer natus est nobis) they'll be singing at the December concerts.

He promised that there will be something for everybody on the program with a "rehash of all they have done in the past" in a familiar carol setting

In the title "Sweeter Still" he

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Members of the Blue Ridge Singers were arranged in a circle around their Artistic Director and Conductor Dr. Jeffrey Alban at a rehearsal to polish their singing to prepare for their annual Holiday concerts.

italized the word Still, he said, because singing continues to be a major part of our experience, whether as a singer or listener.

When asked if any of the members would like to comment, he

pointed out Jim McCord and Pat Spory.

McCord, a tenor, said, "It's been great-I've really missed it, but I wish we could do it without these things." He held up his mask and

went on to explain that he had joined the group and sang for 1 ½ years, then they were out for the same amount of time because Covid-19 caused everything to close. "But we're back now."

And Pat, who, along with her daughter Beth Whitney, had a vision for a new community-based choir in Warren County, then created and started the group in 2009.

According to the Blue Ridge Singers website, "They wanted an auditioned choir that would represent local talent they knew was available, spanning generations from teens to senior adults...and an opportunity to perform a broad range of choral music that reflected a diversity of genres while drawing from the best in choral repertoire.

And Pat, at the rehearsal said, "I

am thrilled to be back, very happy, we've all been missing this."

Also, if anyone is interested in joining the group, information about auditions can be found on their website at <https://blueridgesingers.org/> and the following message to all.

"The Blue Ridge Singers is thrilled to come back to the performance

stage with our program, "Sweeter,

Still"... Emphasis is given to the word "still" as choral music and singing is still a deeply affective component of our lives.

The concerts are thematically designed around Eric Barnum's elegantly simple work, Sweeter Still: A Holiday Carol, Blue Ridge Singers will present a collection of pieces that have been a part of our repertoire since Dr. Jeffrey Alban

See SINGERS, 4

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**SINGERS, from 3**

became artistic director and conductor of the choir, and we hope will be a cause for consolation, encouragement, and joy as we enter the Christmas and holiday season.

From a curious setting of Deck the Halls, to a Renaissance motet by William Byrd, to a dramatic setting of the Tyrolian carol "Kling Glockchen, Kling," to an exciting

Christmas spiritual, the program is sure to fit everyone's choral palate."

*Concert Performances include:*  
December 5, 2021, 4:00 p.m.,  
First Baptist Church, Winchester (masks encouraged for attendees)

December 10, 2021, 7:30 p.m.,  
Front Royal United Methodist Church Choir members are fully masked, and masks are required

for attendees.

December 12, 2021, 4:00 p.m.,  
Trinity Episcopal Church, Upper-ville (masks required for attendees)

Blue Ridge Singers is now offering a Student Scholarship and a continued dedication to Senior Living in the area. Admission is free of charge. A \$10 donation is requested. For more information, please visit [www.blueridgesingers.org](http://www.blueridgesingers.org) and find them on Facebook.

org and find them on Facebook.

Sunday, December 5, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Winchester

205 West Piccadilly St., Winchester

COVID-19 Guidelines: Masks are encouraged for attendees

Friday, December 10, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.

Front Royal United Methodist

Church

1 West Main Street, Front Royal  
COVID-19 Guidelines: Masks are required for attendees  
Sunday, December 12, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church  
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				3				9
		3	6		1			
	6		9	4			7	
			8					
2	4		7	9				
	8			6				
6			1			4		
4		8						3
	7			2			6	1

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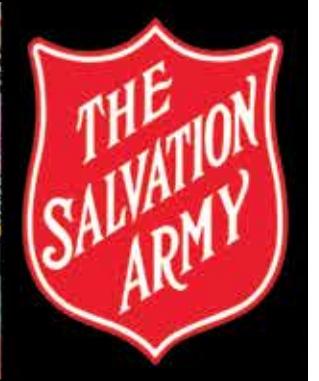
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# Discovering Warren County: Hear the bells ringing



By Ken Thurman  
Warren County Report

Ah, the sound of the bell ringing ushering in the 2021 Salvation Army Kettle Campaign in Warren and Page Counties!

This year's kickoff featured a ribbon cutting courtesy of the Front Royal-Warren County Chamber of Commerce, live music provided by Ben McClaren, everyone singing Christmas carols and of course an introduction about what donating to the Salvation Army means to the residents of both counties. You can find the bells ringing at Rural King, Walmart (Front Royal and Luray) and Big Lots.

A community resource for 65 years in Front Royal, the Salvation Army provides food, clothing, utility, and rental assistance to hundreds of those in need every month in addition to spiritual

guidance.

I spoke with Captain Ann Hawk and several of the Advisory Board members. Of course, I am proud to be a member of the board myself. I was introduced to the Salvation Army by my father who was a first responder in Illinois when I was a young teenager and I have been a supporter ever since.

I got my first opportunity to ring the bell when I first moved to Front Royal. Volunteering to ring the bell and the donations collected stay in the community and help provide the services and programs that the Salvation Army is known for and as with last year the Jeanne Dixon Children to Children Foundation has provided matching funds for the first \$50,000 in donations.

You can volunteer to ring the bell online by going to [registertoring.com](http://registertoring.com) on the web, by calling the

Salvation Army at (540) 635-4020 or by visiting their offices/chapel at 357 Cloud Street in Front Royal.

The Salvation Army will provide Thanksgiving dinner to those in need Wednesday November 24th from 4-6 p.m. at their chapel. Last year they were able to serve nearly 200 meals.

Once again Costco, Apple Mountain Exxon and Devaux Farms along with local churches and volunteers provided food and distribution help. The dinner will be served carry-out style to be compliant with Covid-19 safety precautions.

Another program, Angel Tree, has 372 children signed up to receive Christmas gifts this year in Warren and Page counties. Thanks is due again to the Warren County Economic Development Authority (WCEDA) for donating the facility to collect and distribute

the gifts and to all those who have donated gifts.

Helping children to have a Christmas is what the season is all about.

Distribution will occur December 17th in Luray and December 20th in Front Royal.

The Salvation Army continues to expand its outreach in the community pairing with other churches and civic groups. You too can help the Army continue to "Do the Most Good" by volunteering, donating, and even by joining the Advisory Board.

For those that do not know, the Salvation Army is also a Christian based church with services every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. I routinely attend the services myself.

For more information or if you find yourself or loved ones in need of food, clothing financial services a place for fellowship, support, and

a sense of belonging to the community, you can stop by the Family Store at 296 South Street which is open Monday - Saturday or visit the Corps Community Center located at 357 Cloud Street Monday - Friday (closed on Wednesdays).

Captain Ann Hawk and the helpful staff can be reached at (540) 635-4020 or you can visit them at <http://virginiasalvationarmy.org/frontroyalva> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/salvationarmyfrontroyal>.

Captain Ann also has plans for new community events and programs that she plans to make happen in the new year.

- [wizardsrealestate@gmail.com](mailto:wizardsrealestate@gmail.com)

**Happy Holidays!!**

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# Town Manager “carried the ball” for Mayor’s land use application

## *A Confidential Town Attorney Report revealed that it had been fast-tracked*

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF PLANNING COMMISSION  
*Via* LAUREN KOPISHKE, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

**FROM:** DOUGLAS W. NAPIER, TOWN ATTORNEY

**DATE:** OCTOBER 7, 2021

**RE:** PLANNING COMMISSION INTERNAL INQUIRY REPORT

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**I. SUMMARY:**

At the Planning Commission’s September 15, 2021 meeting, Planning Commissioner Darryl Merchant, on his own initiative, made the following motion, which was seconded and voted upon as follows:

**RE: Motion made at the 9-15-2021 Planning Commission Regular Meeting.**  
Commissioner Merchant moved, seconded by Vice Chairman Marshner that the Front Royal Planning Commission ask the Planning Director, and/or designee, to investigate and determine the facts surrounding the circumvention of the subdivision ordinance regarding Minor Subdivision application FRSUB2852-2021. That the Planning Director, and/or designee, prepare a written report of facts for review by the Planning Commission and include recommendations, if any, that would prevent this situation from occurring again.

**VOTE:** Yes – Jones, Marshner, Gordon, Merchant, Ingram  
No – N/A  
Abstain – N/A  
Absent – N/A

Initially, the inquiry was being conducted by the Director of Planning & Zoning. Subsequently, following some issues, the Chairman of the Planning Commission requested that the inquiry be conducted by the Town Attorney instead. This report is a summary of that inquiry.

Virginia is a Dillon Rule state, meaning that the powers of local governing bodies, judicial bodies, and administrative bodies are all “fixed by statute and are limited to those conferred expressly or by necessary implication”. “This rule is a corollary to Dillon’s Rule that municipal

1

The town’s press release and the Town Attorney’s confidential report are posted in their entirety at <https://wfcreport.com>

By Thomas Sayre  
Warren/Frederick County Report

In an investigative report to the Front Royal Planning Commission marked “CONFIDENTIAL,” Front Royal Town Attorney Douglas Napier said parts of a subdivision application from Mayor Chris Holloway were personally expedited by Town Manager Steven Hicks.

“In this case, it is clear from all staff reports that the Town Manager in effect, personally “carried the ball” for Mr. Holloway’s ap-

plication by the Town Manager himself making sure that the Planning and Public Works Departments and their staffs knew that the Town Manager was overseeing the resubdivision application for Mr. Holloway, and the Town Manager wanted this application expedited as quickly as possible,” wrote Napier.

Napier’s report says that there is no current town code provision that makes it impermissible for the Town Manager to “do this” or for the Mayor or a town councilman to have the Town Manager

“do this for them.”

“The Town Manager himself fast-tracked the application and its approval in such a way that the resubdivision plat was approved by the Interim Planning Director (Chris Brock) on the spot, as soon as it was presented to him by the Town Manager, in the presence of Mr. Holloway.

“The Town Manager called the Interim Planning Director to his office, while Mr. Holloway was there, and asked the Interim Planning Director to sign the resubdivision plat right then, after the Town Manager himself had already signed it.

“Because the resubdivision application was to include a private street, Town Code requires that a special exception be granted by Town Council. This special exception process has not been applied for within the experience of anyone in the memory of current staff, and therefore no one was familiar with it. Because of that unfamiliarity, and because the Interim Planning Director felt there was at least an implicit pressure to sign the resubdivision plat as soon as it was presented to him--it was presented to him by his boss--the Town Manager, in the presence of the Mayor, the Interim Planning Director did not feel he had the time, nor did he take the time,

to review the Town Code to be certain the correct Town Code procedures were being followed,” Napier states.

“In addition, the Town Manager himself understandably could have felt pressure to fast-track this application, since the application was for the Mayor. The reports of the individual Town staff members of both the Plan-

ning and Public Works Department clearly indicate that they felt pressured, implicitly at least, to get their respective Departmental reviews of this application completed within that same business day, if at all possible, when the Town’s usual policy was two weeks. While Town Code only makes a recommendation as to this two-week period, it should

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**Town Attorney Douglas Napier leaves the Town Planning Commission meeting to go to his office to check his files there.**

be recalled that Town staff always has a lot of work to do which are already in the queue ahead of any given application, not just for certain people who apply later on but want to have their application finished and approved first," Napier wrote.

"It was only after the current Planning Director was hired, when she discovered that the special exception requirement was

not followed, that this matter was begun to be brought to a head," he concluded.

**A brewing storm**

A controversial, then-unreleased report allegedly authored by Front Royal Town Attorney Douglas Napier regarding Mayor Chris W. Holloway had some citizens wondering what was going

on.

Local citizen Stevi Hubbard wrote on a public Facebook page a few days before the release of the report that, "I've been going back and forth for a couple of weeks on whether I should post what I know regarding a report authored by Doug Napier (Town Attorney). According to Darryl Merchant (Planning Commission Board Member) this report will expose Chris Holloway (Mayor) & Steven Hicks (Town Manager) for using their positions as Mayor and Town Manager for personal gain. For months I have been contacted, getting bits and pieces of information in hopes that I would get upset and ring the bell on this issue without having all the facts. I wouldn't want to accuse someone of something they didn't do so I encouraged them to release this report if it was so damning.

"If Darryl's claims are true then Chris should face some consequence, however, in an effort to get to the bottom of it I reached out to Chris. What he is saying happened makes good sense to me, but he has every reason to

make it make sense. Allegedly Darryl leaked this report to Walt Mabe (Board of Supervisors) who has had it for weeks now. I contacted Walt Mabe who said he wasn't sure what to do with the report now that he wasn't running for mayor, and in a later conversation he said what if the report didn't say what it needed to say? What was it supposed to say???

"So I started this thing believing whole heartedly that Chris probably did something wrong, now I'm not so sure this isn't a manufactured scandal to help Walt in his bid for mayor. I'm upset with all of these men here because if a legitimate mistake was made Chris should be transparent, let the people know what happened and move on. If it is damning information, Walt and Darryl should be more concerned with the people of our town than personal political agendas. No one seems to want to do the right thing here. Here is what I know, there is a report, Town Council, Darryl Merchant and Walt Mabe have it. Maybe if you all demand to see it you can read it and decide for yourself

who is in the wrong here. If Chris used his position that is horrible. If Walt and Darryl are using an employee's mistake to make Chris look bad so Walt has a better shot at mayor that's equally horrible.

"What is most disappointing is none of these men seem to think their duties to us is more important than their own personal interests. This is a high drama game

**See FRONT ROYAL, 8**

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**FRONT ROYAL, from 7**

of political football and I think we should come together and demand it stops today.

“One thing in all of this is clear to me. And that is Doug Napier ought to go on and step down. I don’t know how TC (town council) can be expected to do a good job when always dealing with his controversial counsel,” Hubbard concluded.

Some of the responses to Hubbard on the public Facebook site are reported in part and Tom Conkey chimed in and wrote, “Why can’t this report be released under the terms of the FOIA? If Walt Mabe has it, how is it not in the Public Domain? What reason was given for claiming that FOIA does not apply?”

Kristen Collins Nelson responded, “Because it’s under attorney client privilege.”

Bruce Townsend queried, “it’s the ‘leaking’ part that has me skeptical. Was it leaked to Mr. Mabe to help him or hurt Holloway? Was it just run-of-the-mill small-town politics and grudges? Has Mabe kept this to himself for integrity reasons or just confused as to why it was even given to him? If it’s not yet official, and it

apparently is not, then that adds even more confusion.”

Hubbard added, “We need the ability to make our own assessments on whether something did or didn’t happen here. Those two statements I listed were direct quotes from Walt on the phone to me. So it’s too hard for me to figure out who is right and who is wrong. Both sides have been putting me through the ringer over some weeks so I just figured I would put it out there and let y’all decide if you needed them to tell you more or not.”

Nelson shared that, “It was given directly to Walt for both reasons i believe. He can’t be confused as to why it was given to him because he knew it was coming to him via Darryl. He actually went and picked it up himself. Why he hasn’t released? Well, he stated, ‘now that I’m not running for mayor, i don’t know what to do with it’ and ‘it doesn’t say what it needs to say’. I personally see no integrity in any of these men.”

On the phone with this reporter Hubbard called for the resignation of Douglas Napier, saying “Doug has to go. He needs to step down.”

This reporter called and sent text messages to Chris Holloway,

Doug Napier, Darryl Merchant, and Walt Mabe for any comment to Stevi Hubbard’s comments or to the report. Merchant returned the call and stated that the town issued a press release and is releasing the report today (Wednesday, November 17) and hard copies will be provided at the Planning Commission at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday evening.

Walt Mabe responded by text to say, “I have nothing to add at all. I have no additional comment.”

Chris Holloway and Doug Napier did not respond but this reporter was able to speak with Napier in person at the planning commission meeting on Wednesday evening.

day evening.

Hubbard said she thought her Facebook post (printed earlier in this article) might have had an effect pressuring the officials to finally release the report.

**Planning Commission meeting**

Napier had difficulty figuring out which report was valid and so did the Commission. Was it the report dated October 7th, 18th, 21st or the report dated October 7th and revised October 21st?

Napier left the meeting before it began to head to his office to check his files. He returned about a half hour later and reported that

he couldn’t find the report dated October 21st on his computer or anywhere else.

“Why it is not on my computer, I cannot tell you,” Napier deadpanned.

However, Napier said the report before the Commission was the accurate report (dated October 7th with corrections on page 5) and he had “egg on his face.”

Merchant thanked staff for a wonderful job investigating the issues.

After much discussion about different dates, memory recall, reports, and checking emails the Commission decided to adjourn on motion by William Gordon, sec-

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**Lauren Kopishke and Doug Napier share email information in order to figure out which report should be presented to the Front Royal Planning Commission.**

ended by Joshua Ingram with no recommendation to do anything about the report with a wait and see approach.

**Aftermath**

Lauren Kopishke, director of the town's Planning and Community Development Department stated that Holloway submitted a subdivision plat on either the

29th or 30th of June. He recorded it at the courthouse on July 7. He submitted the subdivision plan on the 29th of July, and it was approved by staff on the 30th of July. Then the permits were issued on the 30th of July. On August 4th is when he officially submitted the special exception application for the private street.

"As we all know, private streets have to be approved by the town

council, prior to the subdivision plat being recorded," Kopishke said.

That is what Kopishke found out on her second day at work on the job.

In the audience was Kristen (Kris) Nelson and she said, "The Friday before the election (October 29), is when Walt Mabe went and collected this said report at the Daily Grind (on Main Street) at 10:30 a.m. underneath a newspaper. I have text messages to prove it.

"So Darryl (Merchant) wanted to out this report either for Walt Mabe's run for Mayor or for whatever reason, we are not for sure. But he (Merchant) went and took this report written by Napier and put it under a newspaper hidden at the Daily Grind at 10:30 a.m. in the morning, the Friday before the election."

Nelson added, "I was with Walt

that Friday and I have text messages to prove it. So Darryl is the one to release it to Walt Mabe, a county supervisor in the Shenandoah District. I have text messages to back up what I am saying."

Nelson said she did not see Darryl hand it to Mabe but she had coffee with Mabe at a Coffee and Tea shop in the morning, and then believed Mabe was going to go pick it up from Merchant.

Nelson says she has confirmation later in the day that Mabe did receive the report and he did in fact read it. Nelson states, "He (Mabe) is now denying that he ever read it, but I have confirmation through text messages that he did read it." She added that, "Walt is absolutely 100% lying."

Nelson asked, "So what does the Board of Supervisors have to do with any of this? Except for Walt running for Mayor, which he is now not doing?" And why can't he

run for mayor? Nelson said, "It is for other reasons, but we are not going to get into those other reasons."

We asked why he is not running for mayor? Nelson stated, "Because I told him he can't." You told him that? Nelson responded, "I did."

*The town's press release and the Town Attorney's confidential report are posted in their entirety at <https://wfcreport.com>*

*Dan McDermott contributed to this report.*

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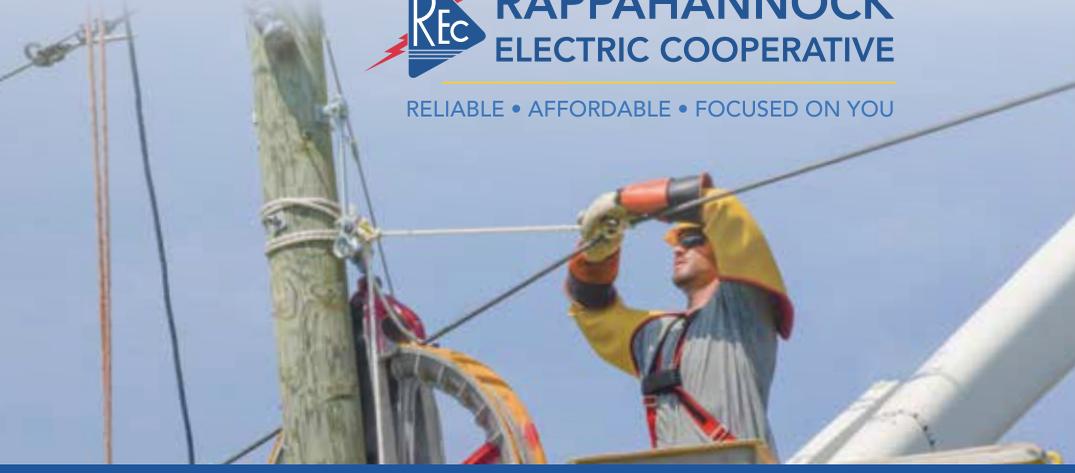
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# Do you love trees? Consider becoming a Tree Steward!

*“A healthy urban forest is an essential element for a healthy world,” they say.*



On November 13 folks from several local groups, including the Tree Stewards, Warren County Democratic Committee and Anti-littering groups met to plant six Willow Oak trees at Bing Crosby Stadium in Front Royal.

By Carol Ballard  
Warren/Frederick County Report

The Daily Grind Coffee Shop served as a welcoming spot for Front Royal/Warren County Tree Stewards Vicki Althaus and Melody Hotek to meet with us to talk about plans for some time-and schedule-friendly changes to the organization's classes and requirements to become a tree steward.

Friendly and informative, they wanted to let people know that there are fewer evening classes and smaller one-time programs involved

“For the last 20 years in Septem-

ber, we usually hold an ‘All about Trees’ class,” said Melody, who is the Steward's president. “But enrollment has been down for about the last three years.”

She speculated that some people have had changing schedules with more folks working from home, and taking classes online, and/or devoting more of their time to their own property on top of the time commitment, which she said, “was a lot.”

And Tree Steward's Treasurer Vicki added, “We seem to get a lot of newly-retired people who have moved here from the city and have lots more trees out here (to maintain).”

Melody continued with the changes.

In past years, would-be Tree Stewards needed to attend evening classes on Tuesday evenings for seven weeks, and field instruction on five Saturday mornings around Front Royal.

But not this year.

“The organization decided to do mini events throughout the year with the hope that people will become tree stewards when they have enough information and knowledge,” she said.

To become a tree steward, certain topics need to be covered in 25 hours of worth of events, with 10 sessions. It may take one or two years, but participants can do some classes online as well as in-person.

“That is what has changed for us,” Melody added.

As well, the Tree Stewards are participating with Justin Proctor, who has been awarded a grant from the Virginia Department of Forestry to conduct several events.

laboration with the Warren County Democratic Committee and the Anti-littering groups on Saturday, November 13th, at the Gertrude E. Miller Park near Bing Crosby Stadium.

They planted six Willow Oak trees near the playground.

“These are like ones in D.C. near playgrounds,” said Vicki, and added with a smile, “So the kids are not roasting.”

Justin Proctor, who was instrumental in bringing all the groups together and acquiring a grant from the Dept. of Forestry (Citizen initiative), contributed the names of all the major partners that made this possible, including the Virginia Trees for Clean Water grant funding through the Department of Forestry.

Major partners included:

- Jim Osborn, Town Arborist
- Front Royal Public Works
- Warren County Parks & Recreation
- Warren County Democratic Committee
- Tree Stewards

The Tree Stewards members are hopeful that the Stewards and Town officials are heading toward

a mutually beneficial future and see it as a positive thing that steps are being taken to select members to serve the Town and County in a Sustainability Advisory Committee.

This is to be composed of people like arborists who have strong backgrounds in environmental areas, and others. They said that Front Royal Arborist Jim Osborn, is very experienced, has invited them to talk and encouraged them to participate in discussions.

They added that the Stewards will hold their annual meeting and potluck in the new year to discuss how they will be coordinating with the Town going forward.

In a unification effort, the Stewards are contacting other groups like the Beautification of Front Royal Committee and local Garden



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Folks pitched in to plant trees with a little mechanical help so children will have some shade near the playground at Bing Crosby Stadium.

Clubs. "It's best when all of us coordinate," said Melody. "It's a good step that the Blandy people are coming here. This was in reference to an upcoming presentation at Samuels Library hosted by the Tree Stewards

on December 11th from 10:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. by Carrie Whitacre on identifying conifers and Christmas Trees. Whitacre, a former Front Royal arborist, is now assistant curator at the State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy.

And Vicki will be presenting a free workshop at the library on Saturday November 20th from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. called, "Putting your Gardening Tools to Bed." Everyone is invited to attend and see the different tree tools: how to use them, care for them, and prepare them for winter storage, and to bring tools in for inspection and advice. The class will be conducted outside if the weather cooperates.

"We will try to gear it toward pruning, and make it fun," she said. "We encourage families to come."

"There will also be a drawing and some lucky person will go home with a new pruner," she says.

They encourage folks to visit their website and Facebook site to find out what's going on. Check out the "All About Trees" page at [www.treesfrontroyal.org](http://www.treesfrontroyal.org).

During the "All About Trees" course, participants learn proper selection, planting, maintenance, and pruning of trees. The program uses materials from Trees Virginia "Tree Steward Manual," developed by the Virginia Urban Forest Council. Classes are taught by ISA certified arborists, nurserymen, land-

scapers, horticulturalists, and Tree Stewards.

The course ends with the hands-on planting of a "Class Tree." To download the complete Tree Steward manual, visit <https://treesvirginia.org/outreach/tree-stewards>. To find other offerings throughout the year visit [www.treesfrontroyal.org](http://www.treesfrontroyal.org) and Facebook at Front Royal/Warren County Tree Stewards. Mail to: Front Royal/Warren County Tree Stewards, P.O. Box 2001, Front Royal, VA 22630, email [frwc-treestewards@comcast.net](mailto:frwc-treestewards@comcast.net). Or visit [www.treesfrontroyal.org](http://www.treesfrontroyal.org).

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# Winchester's historic Wilkins Shoe Center celebrates 75 years

## Philanthropist and multi-millionaire Charles Rouss began his career on the spot



Son of new owners, Madison Brewer, is learning the shoe business from the "ground up" (pun intended) as he fits a customer who drove from Woodstock for what he described as the "only" place he'd buy shoes.

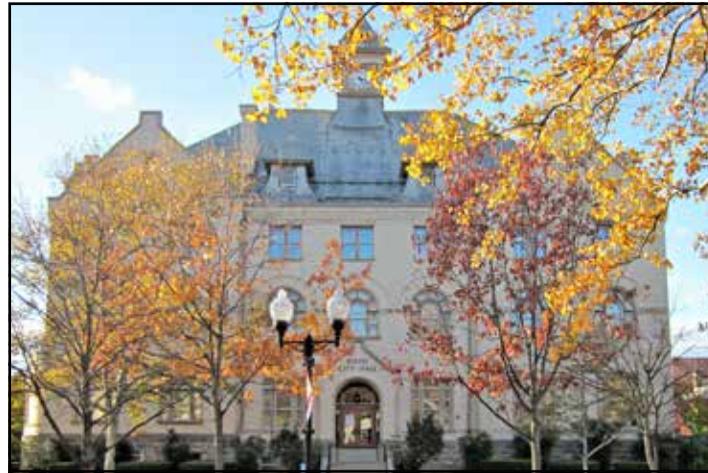
By Larry Walters  
Warren/Frederick County Report

"If the shoe fits . . ." is much, much more than a metaphor or figurative language at Wilkins Shoe Center almost exactly in the center of Winchester's downtown pedestrian mall at 7 S. Loudoun Street. They claim the right fit both size-wise and financially from their nearly 30,000 pair inventory is their mission.

First-time visitors to Wilkins might very well be somewhat disconcerted with the environment, but in a positive way. The quaintness of the pedestrian mall, antiquity of the storefront and the atti-

tude of the folks there might make one believe they're visiting a store straight out of Andy Griffith's Mayberry. They're super friendly, and it's soon obvious they want to help, not just unload your wallet with high-end footwear.

Assuring the right shoe and the perfect fit for every customer remains their mainstay goals since the company's inception in 1947 by James Wilkins, Sr. Passing the business on to his son, James Wilkins Jr., the high regard for customer service and pride in the perfect fit remained paramount values. The business is about to celebrate 75 years, making it and Bell Clothes a few doors north



Built in 1903 with the gift of a hometown boy who became a millionaire, Rouss City Hall yet bears the name of Charles Broadway Rouss as does a building in use today on Broadway in New York City and a hall at the University of Virginia.

established in 1931 the oldest retail establishments in Winchester and on the pedestrian mall (where businesses seem to come in and out overnight).

"We sit and fit," emphasizes current company president and co-owner Philip Brewer of the shoe center. Philip and Kendra Brewer acquired the business from James Wilkins, Jr. upon his decision to

retire. Kendra boasts a 30+ year employment history with Wilkins and Phil worked as a shoe sales representative eventually joining the Wilkins shoe family also. Their son Madison, a recent graduate of Lord Fairfax Community College, is currently learning the business making it another generation of shoe experts at Wilkins.

Kendra noted that although

Wilkins, Jr. sold the business to them, he stays connected with them in the business. "He's still actively involved," she remarked.

"I was an employee since 1990," explained Kendra. "I did a little bit of everything. I came as an office worker, but I was trained as a cashier; I was trained on the floor, and as office manager. I know Mr. Wilkins recognized that and it led to offering us the business."

Wilkins, Jr. arranged a ten-year contract allowing the couple to acquire the business in 2005 yet bearing the Wilkins name.

"We serve the community," added Kendra, noting their involvement in a number of local charities and efforts. "We don't just sell shoes." She highlighted their involvement with AbbaCare (Pregnancy Resource Center), FROG (Families Reaching Out), local religious charities and Apple

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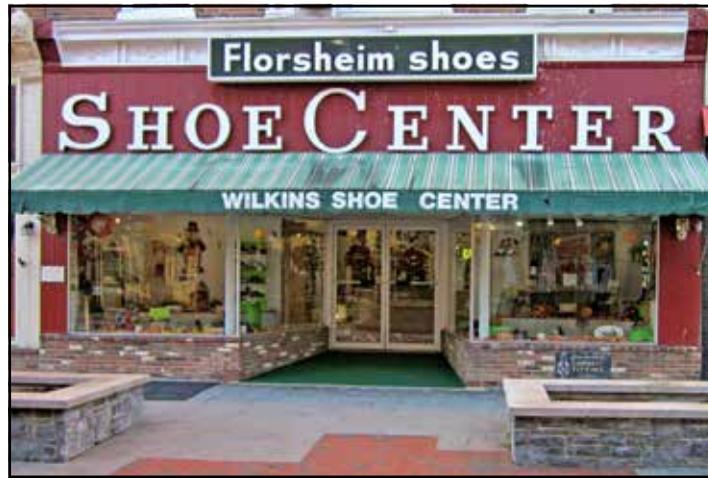


According to the local volunteer firefighter historian, Rouss Fire Station is the country's oldest original fire station still in use today. It, along with other fire halls bears the name of Charles Rouss. His philanthropy is also responsible for the Winchester City Hall and the buildings and fencing at Mt. Hebron Cemetery where he rests today.

Blossom as examples.

"We've found our niche," said Phil, commenting on Wilkins' place in the area. "Our employees are our biggest asset," referring to the almost 20 actively involved at the store. "Their experience and commitment to our customers' satisfaction are phenomenal."

The Wilkins Shoe Center storefront, one shop south of Boscawen Street at the center of the mall and only a short block from the Court Square Autopark garage, is witness to some astounding local history beyond the shoe center's 75-year success story.



Wilkins Shoe Center at the center of the pedestrian mall is under new ownership, yet still bears the founder's name and will be celebrating 75 years with the coming spring. The storefront long ago launched multi-millionaire Charles Rouss, who never forgot his hometown.

pist Charles Broadway Rouss, launched his incredible mercantile career.

Rouss is most remembered locally by the towering and impressive 1903 Winchester City Hall on Cameron and Boscawen Streets and the equally telling fire hall on Braddock and Boscawen Streets, both financed by him and bearing his name. They are among many other gifts to his hometown, state and the nation. He's even remembered with a hall at the University of Virginia that he donated, as well as another building that remains on New York City's famed Broadway in SOHO and bears his name today.

Ironically, Rouss' experience at 7 S. Loudoun didn't meet with the same success as Wilkins Shoe Center. Apprenticing as a teenager for a number of years with local merchant, Jacob Senseny, for

a salary of one dollar a week and board, he learned the mercantile business well enough to set out on his own after saving \$500 at age 18. Local lore claims he hawked pins and buttons at community gatherings on the courthouse lawn like Election Day and other local celebrations before actually opening his own storefront in downtown Winchester in 1854. By 1860 he accumulated a then staggering wealth of \$20,000 when in his early 20s.

Unfortunately for Rouss the Civil War erupted in 1861 and changed his meteoric rise of mercantile success. It is recorded that

although personally against secession, he placed his small fortune in Confederate bonds and also joined the Confederate Army, losing his small fortune and the war as well. Near financially destitute in 1866, he made the momentous decision to move to New York City with the intention to "fight Yankees with brains instead of bullets" as biographical local lore claims.

Becoming an early version of Sam Walton of today's Walmart fame, Rouss negotiated with the large New York retailers to handle their "stale" or non-selling stocks. Eventually opening a modest storefront on south Broadway in SoHo (South of Houston St.), he additionally began selling distressed and auctioned merchandise. Despite the accompanying years of struggle, Rouss seemed to have finally punched his ticket to eventual success.

His second meteoric mercantile rise met with disaster too because of an economic crash in 1875. He had established 40 stores and accumulated over \$200,000 (millions today) by this time. When the economic dust cleared, he lost all but a reported \$50 in capital.

Rouss' third comeback proved lasting.

With only \$50 in his pockets according to his account, he ad-

See WINCHESTER, 14

## Douglas Harold, Jr.

Attorney at Law

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**WINCHESTER, from 13**

ditionally established an international catalog business and boasted over forty stores with branches in Paris, Berlin, Nottingham, Vienna, Chemnitz, and Yokohama.

With his eventual accumulating wealth, Rouss purchased numerous properties on Broadway as his business matured. In 1889,

he built his own 10-story cast iron and stone structure at 549-553 Broadway to house his thriving business. It is yet in use and standing proudly today with his name etched into the stone: Charles Broadway Rouss. In his famed eccentricity, he legally changed his middle birth name from Baltzell to Broadway sometime in his success.

Becoming one of the top multimillionaires in New York City at the turn of the 20th century, Rouss unfortunately went blind and, so continuing in character with his history of overcoming obstacles, he offered a million-dollar reward to anyone who might restore his sight.

According to local historian G. R. Quarles, he never forgot his

hometown, where he had relatives and friends despite his eventual staggering success. He's reported to have visited home relatively frequently in his private and luxurious boxcar and found great joy in throwing pockets full of pennies to the youngsters lined up to gawk at his arrival.

Never forgetting his family and home, Rouss erected a 50-foot memorial obelisk over his par-

ents' graves in the local Mt. Hebron Cemetery in addition to his generosity with his immense local, state and national philanthropy. In 1901 he built the largest private mausoleum in the country adjacent to his parents' graves, according to reports, and passed away in 1902, resting at Mt. Hebron Cemetery today.

– [vawalters@hotmail.com](mailto:vawalters@hotmail.com)



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# INDICTMENTS

2021 November Indictments

**Shawn West**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about July 10, 2021, in the County of Warren, Shawn West, 58, of the 100 block of Red Robin Ln., Linden, VA 22642, did unlawfully, feloniously, knowingly and intentionally possess or transport a firearm after having been convicted of a felony. The prior felony conviction of the accused occurred more than ten years ago.

**Christy Lee Nicholson**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Christy Lee Nicholson, 36, of the 3000 block of Stonewall Jackson Hwy., Bentonville, VA 22610, with two counts. COUNT ONE: In the County of Warren, Christy Lee Nicholson did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance, to-wit: Methamphetamine listed in Schedule II of the Drug Control Act. COUNT TWO: did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance,

to-wit: Fentanyl listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act. Date of the offenses was on or about February 24, 2020.

**Sherry Jean Montero**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about May 21, 2021, in the County of Warren, Sherry Jean Montero, 48, of the 8400 block of Salem Ave., Marshall, VA 20115, did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance, to-wit: Methamphetamine listed in

Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

**John Michael Rutherford**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about September 27, 2021, in the County of Warren, John Michael Rutherford, 22, of the 100 block of Elinore Ln., Front Royal, VA 22630, did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

**Amy Beth Walker**

The Warren County Va. Circuit

Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about December 23, 2019, in the County of Warren, Amy Beth Walker, 48, of the 400 block of Cedar Rd., Strasburg, VA 22657, did unlawfully and feloniously and maliciously wound Genevieve Morehead and by any means cause bodily injury to Genevieve Morehead, with the intent to maim, disfigure, disable, or kill.

**Kimberly Hope Miller**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about June 12, 2021, in the County of Warren, Kimberly Hope Miller, 62,

See INDICTMENTS, 16

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**INDICTMENTS, from 15**

of the 100 block of Nan Ln., Waynesboro, VA 22980, did unlawfully and feloniously and intentionally make a material false statement on a consent form required by Subsection Box B or C, or on such firearm transaction record as may be required by federal law in connection with the purchase of a firearm.

**Harley Davidson Thacker**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about July 9, 2021, in the County of Warren, Harley Davidson Thacker, 43, of the 500 block of S. Royal Ave., Front Royal, VA 22630, did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance, to-wit: Heroin listed in Schedule I of the Drug Control Act.

**Jason Paul Tucker**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about September 28, 2021, in the County of Warren, Jason Paul Tucker, age and address unknown, did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

**Samuel Michael Deal**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about June 25, 2021, in the County of Warren, Samuel Michael Deal, 38, of the 1000 block of Judy Ln., Stanley, VA 22851, did unlawfully and feloniously manufacture, sell, give, distribute or possess with the intent to

manufacture, sell, give, or distribute, a controlled substance, to-wit: Methamphetamine classified in Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

**Leighana Dayle Zuber**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about July 8, 2021, in the County of Warren, Leighana Dayle Zuber, 30, of the 400 block of E. Criser Rd., Front Royal, VA 22630, did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

**Harrison Franklin Myers**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about February 4, 2021, in the County of Warren, Harrison Franklin Myers, 51, of the 300 block of Osage St., Front Royal, VA 22630, did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance, to-wit: Cocaine listed in Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

**Trenton Del Hutchinson**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Trenton Del Hutchinson, 24, of the 100 block of Cawthorn Mill Rd., Middletown, VA 22645, with two counts. COUNT ONE: In the County of Warren, Trenton Del Hutchinson did unlawfully and feloniously, being over the age of fourteen years, did make and communicate a threat to bomb, burn, destroy, or damage any place of assembly, building, other structure, or any means of transportation. COUNT

TWO: did unlawfully and feloniously take, drive or use a motor vehicle, having a value of \$200 or more without the consent of the owner, and in his/her absence, and with the intent to temporarily deprive the owner of possession thereof. Date of the offenses was on or about March 1, 2021.

**Chelsea Virginia Gray**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about May 3, 2021, in the County of Warren, Chelsea Virginia Gray, 31, of the 100 block of Aviator Ln., Castleton, VA 22716, did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance, to-wit: Methamphetamine Hydrochloride listed in Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

**Emily Michelle Vina**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about April 24, 2021, in the County of Warren, Emily Michelle Vina, 32, of the 3500 block of Reliance Rd., Middletown, VA 22645, did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance, to-wit: Fentanyl listed in Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

**Gregory Scott Foster**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about July 8, 2021, in the County of Warren, Gregory Scott Foster, 30, of the 100 block of Allen Dr., Bentonville, VA 22610, did unlawfully and feloniously possess with the intent to distribute, a controlled substance,

to-wit: Methamphetamine listed in Schedule II of the Drug Control Act, having previously been convicted of a like offense on one or more occasions.

**Jessica Jordan McFarland**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Jessica Jordan McFarland, 40, of the 300 block of Montgomery Circle, Stephens City 22655, with two counts. COUNT ONE: In the County of Warren, Jessica Jordan McFarland did unlawfully and feloniously wrongfully and fraudulently use, dispose of, conceal, or embezzle U.S. Currency, having a value of \$1,000 or more, which she received by virtue of her office, trust, or employment, belonging to Cannon Properties. COUNT TWO: did unlawfully and feloniously wrongfully and fraudulently use, dispose of, conceal, or embezzle U.S. Currency, having a value of \$500 or more, which she received by virtue of her office, trust, or employment, belonging to Can-

non Properties. Dates of the offenses were on or about November 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020, and on or about July 1, 2020 through January 1, 2021.

**Jay Louis Edwards**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about May 15, 2021, in the County of Warren, Jay Louis Edwards, 55, of the 200 block of Fletcher St., Front Royal, VA 22630, did unlawfully and feloniously manufacture, sell, give, distribute or possess with the intent to manufacture, sell, give, or distribute, a controlled substance, to-wit: Methamphetamine classified in Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

*A Grand Jury Indictment is only a charge and not evidence of guilt. The defendants are entitled to a fair trial with the burden on the government to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.*



**Rocco Christoff**

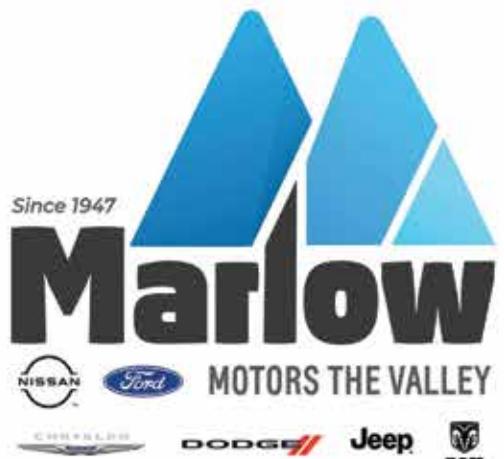
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## HOROSCOPES

### ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, family tops your list of priorities. You are likely to spend considerable time with loved ones in the days to come. Relish in all the opportunities to enjoy one another.

### TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

You may feel uneasy or worried for unknown reasons, Taurus. Trust your gut in this instance and steer clear of trouble should it try to find you.

### GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Gemini, focus on keeping your cool even if others are trying to provoke you. Be the bigger person in all of your interactions. You have great control of your emotions.

### CANCER – June 22/July 22

Cancer, you have been working very hard lately and this may result in an overactive and tired mind. You should factor in a break so you can recharge your body and spirit.

### LEO – July 23/Aug 23

The conditions are right for finishing important tasks, Leo. You will be able to come up with wonderful ideas that have true staying power. Pursue your options.

### VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, your energy will remain high this week, enabling you to get many things done. Additionally, you may have a big change coming, like buying property or landing a new job.

### LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Be confident and listen to your instincts, Libra. Do so before undertaking any important tasks that turn up in the days or weeks ahead.

### SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, it may be tempting to shirk your responsibilities right now, but resist that temptation. Keep your head down and keep working. It will all soon prove worth it.

### SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, you may have to reset your priorities, as new information has come to the surface. Prioritize responsibilities so major issues are taken care of first.

### CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, unavoidable situations may cross your path and it is important that you stay the course. Committing to tackling things head is the most productive approach.

### AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, you treasure friends and family, and this week calls for an important decision that could affect them all. It may be tough but you will make the right call.

### PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, minor obstacles are in your path and it's easy to get frustrated. Once you clear the hurdles it will be smooth sailing before long.

## FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

### NOVEMBER 21

Jena Malone, Actress (37)

### NOVEMBER 22

Scarlett Johansson, Actress (37)

### NOVEMBER 23

Justin Turner, Athlete (37)

### NOVEMBER 24

Peyton Meyer, Actor (23)

### NOVEMBER 25

Christina Applegate, Actress (50)

### NOVEMBER 26

Rita Ora, Singer (31)

### NOVEMBER 27

Jaleel White, Actor (45)

# weather forecast

**Friday, November 19, 2021:** Sunny, with a high near 46. Northwest wind 8 to 13 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Friday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 26. Light northwest wind.

**Saturday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 48. Calm wind becoming south around 5 mph.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 33.

**Sunday:** A chance of showers after 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 52. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

**Sunday Night:** A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 40. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

**Monday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 49.

**Monday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 28.

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high

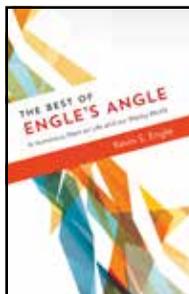
near 41.

**Tuesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 27.

**Wednesday:** Sunny, with a high near 48.

**Wednesday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 34.

**Thanksgiving Day:** Partly sunny, with a high near 53.

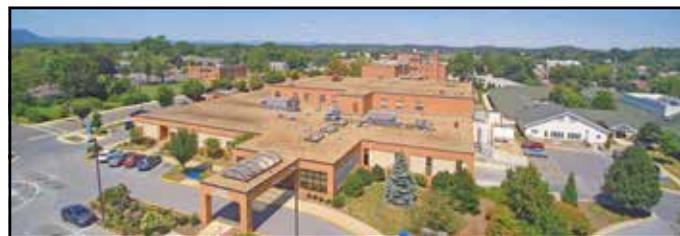


### ENGLE'S ANGLE: "Wow!"

by Kevin S. Engle

There's this restaurant we like. It's about 45 minutes away from us, close to where we used to live. We go there once, maybe twice a year when we're

## Valley Health announces plans for the repurposing of the Former Warren Memorial Hospital campus



In a move to expand senior health services in Warren County and Front Royal, Valley Health is announcing the sale of the former Warren Memorial Hospital (WMH) and the 120-bed Lynn Care Center to Hill Valley Healthcare, a leading healthcare provider that specializes in skilled nursing, rehabilitation and long-term care, and owns and operates facilities throughout Virginia. Locally, Hill Valley operates facilities in Luray, Warrenton & Winchester.

The transaction is expected to close by January 31, 2022, after which the operation of the Lynn Care Center and the redevelopment of the former WMH campus will be under the leadership of Hill Valley Healthcare. The strategic realignment follows an extensive analysis, which identified a growing senior population and a need for comprehensive skilled nursing, rehabilitation and long-term care services in Front Royal and Warren County.

"When Valley Health opened our new hospital campus in June of this year, our goal was to repurpose the former campus in a manner that was consistent with our mission of serving our community by improving health," said Mark Nantz, President and CEO of Valley Health. "Hill Valley is a leading skilled nursing,

rehabilitation and long-term care provider in the state, with the skills and experience to develop programs to help address the healthcare needs of the growing senior population in the Warren County and Front Royal community. Equally important is Hill Valley's "People First" philosophy and culture, which align closely with Valley Health and assures they will be actively engaged community partners. We are excited for the opportunities that this will create for families and seniors, and welcome Hill Valley to Front Royal."

From 1950 to 2021, the former WMH, at 124,000 square feet, improved health and wellness throughout Warren County and the surrounding areas. The current Lynn Care Center facility, at 69,000 square feet, was built in 2002, although the center has served area seniors through long-term care since the late 1970s.

"We are thankful to the team at Valley Health for partnering with us through this process," said Shimmy Idels, CO-CEO at Hill Valley Healthcare. "They were a pleasure to work with. We are committed to building on Valley Health's mission and Lynn Care's tradition of being leaders in post-acute care and serving the community as best we can."

in the area.

One time, while we were eating, I had to go to the little boy's room. I excused myself from the table and did just that.

And that's where I saw it.

The front page of the sports section, behind a glass case, strategically placed above the urinal.

I loved it.

I could quickly check out the day's

See BRIEFS, 18

## Newtown Outdoor Holiday Market in Stephens City, Saturday November 27



Heartsong Hill Designs is one of a dozen vendors scheduled to set up at the Newtown Holiday Market. Courtesy Deborah Phillips.

With the holiday season upon us, it's time to search for that perfect gift to bring a beautiful smile to a certain someone's face. Please plan a trip to the Newtown Holiday Market centrally located in the Newtown-Stephensburg Historic District at the Trinity Lutheran Church (established 1765) parking lot on the corner of Main Street and State Route 277 (Fairfax Street). The outdoor event will take place on Saturday, November 27 from 9 am to 2 pm and promises to offer a memorable shopping experience for all ages.

Holiday Markets are a fun and festive way to shop and you can delight in local hand-made and home-grown selections from baked items, jewelry, gourd art, wood crafts, alpaca scarves, hats and gloves and fleece items, placemats and soup bowl cozies and more. Bring your holiday shopping list and find unique Christmas items for everyone, including something enjoyable for yourself.

"I've only been crafting for a couple of years, so I have attended just a couple of Newtown Holiday Markets," said Heartsong Hill Designs artist and local resident Deborah Phillips. Phillips has visited many other Valley art and craft fairs and enjoys the experience. "The holiday market is a great way to meet neighbors and to display what you have been creating. I am selling hand-made sea glass and shells art and art created from old jewelry. I also have shell Christmas ornaments for sale. My specialty is memory art from a loved one's jewelry," Phillips said.

While our lives may be summarized as a succession of events, both large and small, how we choose to

treasure them can truly define us. Phillip's collection of memory art reflects precious keepsakes that turn cherished memories into enduring works of art. Phillips continues, "We have so many talented people in our community and I love seeing what everyone else has been working on. I can always shop the markets to find the most unusual gifts and am passionate about supporting local artists."

Stephens City resident Jacquetta Owen will be selling Christmas cookies, fruit breads and soup. Her home-made peach, wine berry and cherry jams are delightful. The vegetable soup comes from her own recipe and is available in quart jars. A dozen Shenandoah Valley vendors are scheduled to display their merchandise, offering market favorites such as wood crafts, gourd art for holiday decorating and gift giving, local honey and quilted table runners. For more information on vendor spaces or items for sale, contact Jacquetta at jacquettaowen@gmail.com.

Visitors can peruse the arts, crafts and food at the market, then take a stroll through the downtown historic district to appreciate Stephens City's small-town ambiance. The second oldest town in the Valley is a remarkable community because Main Street has retained its small-town character from over two centuries of progress and expansion. Along a one-mile stretch of Valley Pike (Main Street) are 40 log houses built more than 220 years ago.

Dress warmly for an all-outdoor event. All proceeds go to Trinity Lutheran Church.

— gunderman2001@aol.com

**BRIEFS, from 17**

sports headlines while I took care of business.

I was impressed and couldn't wait to get back to the table and tell my wife.

You could say she wasn't as fascinated as I was. I guess you had to see it.

Ok, stuff like that tickles my fancy. A few weeks ago I was getting my car serviced at the dealer.

They were in a new location across the road from where they used to be.

It was my first time there. Once again, nature called.

This time, instead of the sports page, there was a 13" TV monitor on the wall, again, strategically positioned directly above the urinal.

I swear to God. The Food Network was on.

I would've preferred ESPN, but I was still in awe.

Had I known, I would've had the oil changed sooner.

My wife wasn't with me that day. I was so excited when I got home and told her.

She forced a smile. One of the gas stations I go to has these mini TV screens built into the pump.

I can watch sports highlights, news headlines and even learn new vocabulary words while I fill my tank. What a country.

Last week I was at Lowe's. I wasn't looking for a refrigerator, but as I walked past them, something caught my eye.

Something I'd never seen before. A TV screen built into the refrigerator door.

Apparently there's such a thing as smart refrigerators these days. They'll let you know you're out of milk and what temperature it is outside.

Oh my.

Later I was reading a newspaper article about smart homes and which devices can or can't communicate with each other.

It seems you have your Amazon homes, your Google homes and your Apple homes for the most part.

We don't have a smart home. Instead of asking Siri or Alexa, I ask Judy. That's good enough for me.

We may not have all those gadgets in our house, but I am considering a few upgrades.

First on the list? A TV in the bathroom.

I'm sure my wife will love it.

*The author once stayed in a hotel which had a wall phone in his bathroom. Wow!*

- kevinengle456@comcast.net

*The Best of Engle's Angle* is available online or pick up a signed copy at a local bookstore.



**Ask Stewart**

Hey there Stewart,

What can you tell me about planting native Virginia trees?

- Matt

For every landscaping need, there are Northern Virginia native trees that will fit the bill. If you only have time to do one thing to turn your yard into a wildlife sanctuary, let it be to plant a native tree.

The benefits of trees in general are many: in addition to improving prop-

erty values and providing shade and year-round beauty, trees cool the environment, soak up greenhouse gases, and provide fruits and shelter for birds and other wildlife. But trees that are native to our area go far beyond that. Unlike those from other continents, a tree that is native to Virginia can support astonishing numbers of Virginia native insects. And insects—especially caterpillars—are what songbirds feed their babies. No native plants, no caterpillars; no caterpillars, no baby birds. And no butterflies either, of course!

I found a list of 66 fast growing native Virginia trees for you to consider planting. Starting in alphabetic order here is a brief description of each one.

1. American Elm - This variety of elm tree is classic and was once the most popular street-side tree in the U.S. The American elm can grow to be 40 ft tall or more.

2. American Hazelnut - With the American Hazelnut, a non-shrub tree which grows an average of 18 ft, it's important for pollination and future growth to plant two of these near each other. They grow small, sweet hazelnuts as well!

3. American Red Maple - Red Maples are colorful all-year round with leaves that turn a rich red and yellow hue in the fall and with stems that turn red in the winter. These trees are also fairly deer-resistant and are great choices for stylistic landscaping and shade.

4. American Sweetgum - These trees grow an average of 40 ft-70 ft with a 50 ft spread. American Sweetgums can endure heavy winds and urban conditions and are all-around hardy.

Your Pal in the Trees,

- Stewart

*The Front Royal/Warren County Tree Steward program began in 1997 with volunteers dedicated to improving the health of trees by providing educational programs, tree planting and care demonstrations, and tree maintenance throughout the community. The group now consists of over 30 active members with several interns working toward becoming certified tree stewards from our annual "All About Trees Class". Each month Stewart will answer a question from our readers. Please forward it to "Stewart" in care of:*

*frwctreestewards@comcast.net and we may publish it in a future issue.*

Please visit our website at: [www.treesfrontroyal.org](http://www.treesfrontroyal.org)



**Winter Bazaar Dec. 4**

Down Town Winter Bazaar by Love Revival Ministry Sat. Dec. 4th from noon to 7pm. Silent Auction, Vendors, Food, Parade and more!! 119 Chester St.

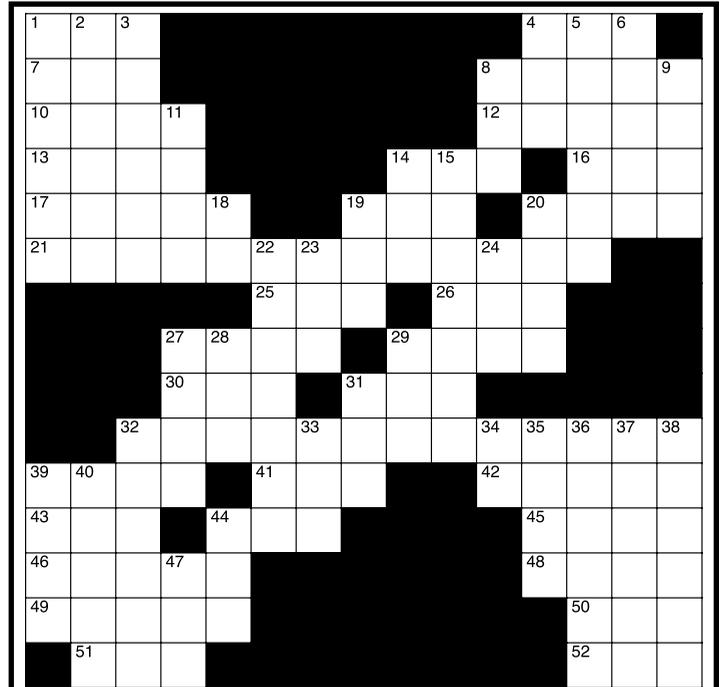


**White Horse Auto Wash Grand Opening Dec. 4th 11am - 2pm**

White Horse Auto Wash proudly announces the Grand Opening Event for their full-service auto wash location in Front Royal, Virginia.

On Saturday, December 4th, White Horse Auto Wash will open the doors of 216 Country Club Road, formerly Express Wash Car Wash, with a day full of celebrations planned for the official site opening with free exterior car washes being offered all day. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will begin at 11:30 AM, with Ledos serving up free delicious food, a Bounce House for the kids, lots of Giveaways, there will be a coffee & hot chocolate bar and Front Royal's local radio station, The River, 95.3, broadcasting live throughout the event.

White Horse Auto Wash galloped into the car wash industry back in 2010 with the opening of their first location in Warrenton, Virginia.



**CLUES ACROSS**

1. FDNY's union
4. Hideout
7. Trent Reznor's band
8. Old World tropics plants
10. Places to stay
12. Group of organisms from a common ancestor
13. TV character Goodman
14. Not around
16. Title of respect
17. Ceramic jars
19. British legal authority (abbr.)
20. A companion (archaic)
21. Where groups of people live
25. Indigenous person of NE Thailand
26. Red-brown sea bream
27. Ridge of jagged rock
29. Meat from a pig (French)
30. A way to save for the future
31. Opposite of bottom
32. A term of endearment
39. Weight used in China
41. You need it to hear
42. Frighten
43. Basics
44. Computer data collection (abbr.)
45. The best point of something
46. Jewelled headdress
48. Spoke
49. Mammary gland of female cattle
50. Midway between north and northeast
51. Defunct European economic group
52. Foul-mouthed Hollywood bear

**CLUES DOWN**

1. In tune
2. Ending
3. Ring-shaped objects
4. Equal to 10 liters (abbr.)
5. Removes from record
6. The lowest point
8. Plant cultivated for its tubers
9. Dry or withered
11. Stony waste matter
14. Speedometer reading
15. Each of two or more forms of the same element
18. A baseball stat
19. Corporate PR exec (abbr.)
20. Insures bank's depositors
22. Made dim
23. Uncultured person
24. Paddle
27. Currency of Cambodia
28. Pitching stat
29. A place to put mail
31. God of battle (Scandinavian)
32. 10 years
33. Resinous substance secreted by insects
34. Losses
35. S. American plants
36. Void of thought or knowledge
37. Stout-bodied moth
38. Transferred property
39. Russian pop act
40. Accept
44. A retrospective military analysis (abbr.)
47. A type of center

**REC joins spooky season festivities in Warren County**



**Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC) joined the family fun at Warren County Department of Social Services' Jack-O-Lantern Jubilee - costumes and all! Jeff Hinson, Director of Member Services and Community Relations, and Michelle Wells, Member Service Representative, dressed up and decorated REC's tent to connect with the community and pass out candy to attendees. Adding to the festivities, REC also passed out lantern flashlights.**

The newest location in Front Royal joins the growing White Horse Auto Wash family with current operating locations in Charlottesville, Culpeper, Harrisonburg, Warrenton, and Woodbridge, with an additional location in Franconia, expected to be opened by the end of the year.

There are a variety of reasons as

to why White Horse Auto Wash is considered Virginia's #1 Premier full service car wash; from the success the Company has experienced with the community support at the different locations, to the broad range of services offered such as interior cleanings, full-service details, and waxes, or it could be the state of the

art equipment and chemicals that vehicles can expect to experience upon service at every White Horse Auto Wash location. Most visitors, however, typically say it's the friendly, hardworking, energetic team at each of the locations that sets White Horse Auto Wash apart from the competition.

Conveniently located beside Lowes and behind Aldi Grocery, White Horse Auto Wash, is very eager for the Company to be introduced to the community and looking forward to meeting everyone while partnering with local businesses, schools, libraries, neighborhoods, and families.

"For me, the best part of a new site opening is getting to meet all the new guests that visit the site while getting to learn and become a part of the different communities. We are expecting big things from this location and have no doubt the team in Front Royal will succeed those high expectations and compete for the top site in the company," said District Manager, Garrett Giles.

For further information, please visit the White Horse Auto Wash Front Royal Facebook page.



**Frozen produce company to create 67 new jobs in Warren County**

Governor Ralph Northam announced Nov. 16 that Nature's Touch Frozen Foods, a supplier of frozen fruits and vegetables for Canada and the United States, will invest \$40.3 million to expand in Warren County.

Nature's Touch will establish a 126,000-square-foot facility built by InterChange Group to increase production. Raw materials will be imported directly to the new facility for processing and distribution. Virginia successfully competed with Montréal, Canada for the project, which will create 67 new jobs.

"Companies choose to invest in Virginia because they can reach customers around the world through the Port of Virginia, including the Virginia Inland Port in Front Royal," said Governor Northam. "Nature's Touch's decision to reinvest is a testament to the strong qualities that make Virginia the country's top state for business. Our thriving food and beverage processing industry will only continue to grow and more jobs will come to the area thanks to this large investment."

Nature's Touch is one of the largest suppliers of frozen fruit to retailers in North America, Australia, and Japan. It was founded in 2004 and is headquartered in Québec, Canada. The company offers a range of products and supports multiple private label programs in addition to its own brands. The company is one of the largest buyers of fruit globally.

"When valued partners like Nature's Touch expand in the Commonwealth, it affirms the value proposition of doing business in Virginia," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Brian Ball. "The company's significant investment and its partnership with InterChange Group will add to the positive economic momentum that Warren County and the Northern Shenandoah Valley are experiencing, and we look forward to Nature's Touch's continued success in the Commonwealth."

Nature's Touch established its Virginia production facility at the Stephens Industrial Park in Warren County in 2014. It is strategically located near the Virginia Inland Port to consistently move the fresh fruit imported by the company from South America and across the world. The new facility will be located across the street and will allow Nature's Touch to integrate all aspects of product handling in-house. This will reduce the need for costly supply chain movements in and out of third-party logistics facilities. As a result, Nature's Touch expects to increase the fruit produced through the Port of Virginia from 20 million to 45 million pounds annually. Interested applicants can click here for more information.

"Nature's Touch is excited to extend and expand its presence in Warren County," said Nature's Touch Chief Operation Officer Dan Jewell. "After extensive evaluation, we determined that Front Royal continues to be the most strategic location for the company's hub facility for the East Coast United States. This, combined with the opportunity to extend the company's ongoing strategic partnership with InterChange, made the decision to build the facility in Warren County an easy one for Nature's Touch."

"InterChange is pleased to expand our more than seven year relationship with Nature's Touch by providing a state-of-the-art, environmentally sustainable production facility through an innovative and transparent joint venture," said InterChange Group, Inc President Devon Anders. "Nature's Touch's expansion reflects the promised return for the Commonwealth's proactive investment in The Port of

**Valley Health Winchester Medical Center earns fourth straight "A" grade for hospital safety from Leapfrog**



**Winchester Medical Center (WMC) is a 495-bed regional trauma and referral hospital offering specialty care typically available only at academic and metro area facilities. WMC is the largest of six hospitals, over 60 provider practices and Urgent Care centers, and other services provided by Valley Health, a nonprofit system serving a population of more than 500,000 in northwest Virginia, West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle and Potomac Highlands, and western Maryland.**

Valley Health Winchester Medical Center (WMC) has received its fourth consecutive "A" grade for patient safety from The Leapfrog Group, an independent, nonprofit national watchdog organization. This national distinction recognizes the regional medical center's achievements in protecting patients from harm in the hospital setting.

"We are proud and honored to again be recognized with a top safety grade from Leapfrog," said Grady W. (Skip) Philips, III, Valley Health Senior Vice President and President of Winchester Medical Center. "The last 20 months have stretched us in new ways as we've responded to the numerous challenges of COVID-19. We have an even deeper appreciation of the vital role every team member plays in ensuring the safety of all our staff, patients, families, and the larger community. A Leapfrog 'A' grade affirms our organization-wide culture of safety and our commitment to delivering high quality care for every patient, every time."

The Leapfrog Group assigned an "A," "B," "C," "D," or "F" grade to 2,901 general acute care hospitals across the country based on over thirty evidence-based patient safety performance measures reflecting errors, injuries, accidents and infections, as well as systems hospitals have in place to prevent harm. (Leapfrog does not currently assign grades to military or VA hospitals, critical access hospitals, specialty hospitals or children's hospitals.)

"Patient safety is top of mind for our entire team and is reinforced

every day, on every shift, in every unit, through safety huddles and other practices we've developed and standardized," said Nicolas Restrepo, MD, Valley Health Quality and Patient Safety Officer. "We are pleased to earn another 'A' in the latest round of Leapfrog hospital safety assessments; this is a testament to the continued commitment of our physicians and staff to preventing harm and safeguarding our patients."

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is the only hospital ratings program based exclusively on hospital prevention of medical errors and harms to patients. The grading system is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring. The latest Hospital Safety grades show significant variation in patient safety performance across U.S. hospitals, which underscores the importance of access to information that allows patients to select the safest hospital for their care.

"An 'A' Safety Grade is a tremendous achievement, of which this community should be extremely proud," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "I thank the leadership and workforce of Winchester Medical Center for its commitment to prioritizing patients and their safety, especially during these trying times."

To see WMC's full grade details and to access patient tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit HospitalSafetyGrade.org and follow The Leapfrog Group on Twitter and Facebook.

**School bus, train collide in Rockingham County - no serious injuries**



Virginia State Police Trooper S. Craig is investigating a crash involving a school bus and a train in Rockingham County. The crash occurred November 17, 2021, at 3:30 p.m. along Route 649 (Island Ford Rd) near the intersection of Route 340 (S. E. Side Hwy).

A Rockingham County Public School bus was traveling east on Rt. 649 when it stopped at a stop sign, with the rear of the bus partially hanging over the nearby train tracks. The railroad crossing arms descended and the rear of the bus was struck by a Norfolk Southern freight train. The train was unable to stop in time.

The driver of the bus, James A. Kite, 70, of Elkton, Va., was not in-

jured in the crash. Kite was wearing a seatbelt.

Four children on the bus suffered minor injuries in the crash and were transported to Sentara RMH for treatment. A total of 16 children were on the bus at the time of the crash.

The conductor and engineer were the only occupants on the train. Neither were injured in the crash.

Kite was charged with failure to obey a traffic control device/railroad crossing sign.

The crash remains under investigation.

More photos at <https://wfreport.com>

– Va. State Police release/photos

**BRIEFS, from 19**

Virginia. Similarly, InterChange's capital investments in premier food-grade facilities continue to provide a ready solution for food and beverage companies desiring to locate or expand in Virginia. We appreciate the assistance and investment of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, the Virginia Port Authority, and Warren County to make this project a reality."

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership worked with Warren County and The Port of Virginia to secure the project for Virginia. The Governor approved a performance-based grant of \$400,000 from the Virginia Investment Performance Grant, an incentive that encourages the continued capital investment of existing Virginia companies. Nature's Touch is also eligible to receive benefits from the Port of Virginia Economic and Infrastructure Development Zone Grant Program.

Support for Nature's Touch job creation will be provided through the Virginia Talent Accelerator Program, a workforce initiative created by Virginia Economic Development Partnership in collaboration with the Virginia Community College System and other higher education partners. Funding support for the program comes from the Northam administration and the Virginia General Assembly. Launched in 2019, the program accelerates new facility start-ups through the direct delivery of fully customized recruitment and training services for each company's products, processes, equipment, standards, and culture. All program services are provided at no cost to qualified new and expanding com-

panies as an incentive for job creation.

"Nature's Touch has been a cornerstone food company in Warren County for the last decade, and we're excited to have the company invest in this significant expansion and provide more jobs for our residents," said Front Royal Warren County Economic Development Authority Chair Jeffrey Browne. "This expansion helps solidify Warren County's reputation as an international manufacturing center in the food industry, and is the culmination of many people's efforts. We want to thank Nature's Touch, InterChange, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, the Virginia Port Authority, and all our partners for bringing this project to fruition. Locally, in addition to our Economic Development Authority staff, our Planning and Building Inspections departments and our Board of Supervisors worked hard to ensure we keep a valuable community partner here in Warren County."

"The Port of Virginia is excited to be able to support the international supply chain for Nature's Touch Frozen Foods by providing unparalleled port access into the Shenandoah Valley via the Virginia Inland Port," said Virginia Port Authority Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director Stephen A. Edwards. "Nature's Touch's continued investment and job creation within the Commonwealth paired with our infrastructure investments will ensure Virginia remains the nation's leading business destination for years to come."

"We have a significant business expansion here in the Shenandoah Valley thanks to the strategic partnership between Nature's Touch Frozen Foods, the Commonwealth, and

Warren County," said Senator Mark Obenshain. "I am excited about the increased job opportunities that come with this expansion announcement. This economic growth is further evidence that the Valley is a great place to live, work, and do business."

"It is always exciting news to hear that our district is landing a business opportunity in our neck of the woods," said Delegate Bill Wiley. "There are so many great things that occur when this opportunity comes to fruition—specifically jobs and revenue that will

greatly support our constituents. Congratulations to Warren County, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, and the folks that brought this project to the finish line!"

# Crustless pie a treat for those with gluten intolerance



## Crustless Libby's® Famous Pumpkin Pie

Makes 8 servings

- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 2 large eggs
- 1 can (15 ounces) Libby's® 100% Pure Pumpkin
- 1 can (12 fluid ounces) Nestlé® Carnation Evaporated Milk
- Nonstick cooking spray
- Whipped cream (optional)

1. Preheat oven as directed below. Glass baking dishes without crust require a cooler oven, and in most cases, a longer baking time.

2. Spray baking dish with nonstick cooking spray or lightly grease bottom of baking pan or baking dish.

3. Mix sugar, cinnamon, salt, ginger and cloves in a small bowl. Beat eggs in a large bowl. Stir in pumpkin and sugar-spice mixture. Gradually stir in evaporated milk.

4. Bake as directed below or until a knife inserted near center comes out clean.

5. Cool on wire rack for 2 hours. Serve immediately or refrigerate.

### Cooking times

9-inch-round glass pie dish: 325 F; bake for 55 to 60 minutes

10-inch-round glass pie dish: 325 F; bake for 45 to 50 minutes

8-inch-round cake pan: 350 F; bake for 45 to 50 minutes

9-inch-round cake pan: 350 F; bake for 35 to 40 minutes

8-inch-square baking pan: 350 F; bake for 45 to 50 minutes

8-inch-square glass baking dish: 325 F; 50 to 60 minutes

9-inch-square baking dish: 350 F; bake for 35 to 40 minutes

11x7-inch glass baking dish: 325 F; bake for 45 to 50 minutes

13x9-inch baking pan: 350 F; bake for 35 to 40 minutes

13x9-inch glass baking dish: 325 F; bake for 40 to 45 minutes

The holiday season is a popular time to entertain. Food is often a focal point of holiday season entertaining.

Individuals who navigate food allergies or intolerances may shy away from certain celebrations out of fear that a nibble of this or a bite of that may trigger an allergic response. In such instances, concern about ingredients can cast a pall over normally festive occasions.

Those with Celiac disease or gluten intolerances must be mindful of the foods they consume. Meals or desserts containing gluten, a protein found in grains like wheat, semolina, rye, barley, graham, spelt, farina, and more, can trigger intestinal distress and other symptoms. With delicious pies, cakes and cookies on the holiday serving table, gluten is likely to make an appearance. However, with careful planning, people who cannot stomach foods that contain gluten can still indulge in their favorite holiday flavors.

"Crustless Libby's® Famous Pumpkin Pie" is a variation on traditional pumpkin pie served at Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings. Without the crust, individuals who avoid gluten can still dive into that pumpkin-and-spice combination that's so popular around the holiday season. Enjoy this recipe, courtesy of Libby's® Pumpkin.

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Selah Theatre Project presents 26 Pebbles, by Eric Ulloa, the story of the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. The story is told in a one-act play presented by the teen ensemble of Selah Theatre Project on November 12-14 & 19-21, 2021. The diverse cast of actors from Winchester, Frederick, Clarke and Warren Counties are portraying over 20 real-life residents from the small town of Sandy Hook where 26 children were killed in a shooting

while in school.

The play does not rehash that unforgettable day, rather it reflects on the reverence of twenty-six souls being like pebbles thrown into a pond, creating ripples and vibrations that were felt beyond the initial rings. This is the story of those vibrations.

"Although it is a tough subject to discuss, it is something that our students are dealing with on a daily basis," says director LaTasha Do'zia. "Our students have shooter drills and lockdowns to prepare for the worst nightmare possible," she continues, "They want to talk about it. So, why not give them the space to be heard."

Tickets are \$10 to support the continued youth theatre opportunities. Seating is limited.

Selah Theatre Project, 811 S. Loudoun Street, Winchester, VA 22601. Call (540) 686-5185, email at info@selahtheatreproject.org, or visit www.fb.com/selahtheatreproject



The Salvation Army is looking for volunteers to ring the bell this Christmas. Sign up today at [www.register-toring.com](http://www.register-toring.com)

If you are in need of internet service or know of someone who is, People Inc. may be able to help through their **Internet Connectivity Program**. The program could possibly pay for up to six months of internet service. People Inc. will also help pay past due payments and set up new accounts.

Rappahannock Cellars is excited to be hosting their first annual **Rappahannock Christmas Market on De-**

**cember 11th, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.** Avoid the shipping delays and hassles and buy local! Vendors include (but are not limited to) jewelry, hand crafted woodwork, pottery, and more! More details at <https://www.rappahannockcellars.com/Events>



**Fire engine-involved traffic crash**

On Thursday, November 11th just before 6:00pm, a Front Royal Volunteer Fire Department Fire Truck (Engine 1-Bravo) was involved in a motor vehicle crash. The engine, which was returning in non-emergency status from a previous motor vehicle accident was being driven by a volunteer Driver/Operator and was occupied by two additional career responders.

The engine and a passenger vehicle (pickup truck) collided in the area of the intersection of Strasburg Road and Homestead Drive. Upon reporting the collision, the crews of Engine 1 proceeded to assess the condition of the sole occupant of the pickup. It was determined that the occupant was entrapped in the vehicle and needed medical treatment. The crew began the treatment and extrication of the occupant by utilizing the equipment from the badly damaged engine. Additional resources were requested and assisted on the scene. It took firefight-

ers approximately 30 minutes to extricate the occupant of the passenger vehicle. The occupant was treated and transported to an awaiting medivac helicopter where they were airlifted to Fairfax Trauma Center. Strasburg Road remained closed for several hours following the incident.

The three firefighters involved in the crash were treated and transported to Warren Memorial Hospital Center and later released without significant injury.

As a result of the crash, Fire Chief James Bonzano requested full independent investigation to be conducted by the Virginia State Police. Additionally, the Chief has ordered a thorough administrative review of the incident.

The Department of Fire and Rescue Services extends its appreciation to the various agencies that assisted on the incident scene or provided coverage throughout the County during the incident.



**Improvements complete at three I-81 interchanges in Shenandoah and Frederick counties**

Contractors finished ramp improvements recently at three interchanges along Interstate 81 in the northern Shenandoah Valley. The work included extension of acceleration or deceleration lanes (on- or off-ramps) at three locations in Shenandoah and Frederick counties:

**See BRIEFS, 22**



THIS HOLIDAY IS CELEBRATED IN NOVEMBER IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN OCTOBER IN CANADA.

ANSWER: THANKSGIVING

**What's the Difference?**

There are three differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?



Answers: 1. Spoon missing 2. Leaf on table 3. Extra wine glass 4. Fruit on top of sweet potatoes

**THIS DAY IN...**



**HISTORY**

- **1783:** THE BRITISH EVACUATE NEW YORK CITY, THE LAST MILITARY POSITION AFTER THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.
- **1999:** 5-YEAR-OLD ELIAN GONZALEZ IS RESCUED OFF THE COAST OF FLORIDA.
- **2008:** A DEADLY CYCLONE STRIKES IN SRI LANKA, DEALING THE REGION ITS HIGHEST RAINFALL IN NEARLY A CENTURY.



**DRESSING**

another name for stuffing

**Warren/Frederick County Report**

**Alison Duvall**  
Sales Manager



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*How they SAY that in...*

- ENGLISH:** Turkey
- SPANISH:** Pavo
- ITALIAN:** Tacchino
- FRENCH:** Dindon
- GERMAN:** Truthahn



CORNUCOPIA IS A SYMBOL OF PLENTY THAT IS OFTEN DISPLAYED AROUND THANKSGIVING AND DURING AUTUMN HARVESTS.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: PUMPKIN PIE

**BRIEFS, from 21**

Exit 291 (Toms Brook) – Acceleration lane from Route 651 (Mount Olive Road) onto northbound I-81.

Exit 296 (Strasburg) – Acceleration lane from Route 55/48 (John Marshall Highway) onto southbound I-81.

Mile Marker 304 (commercial truck weigh station) – Deceleration lane from northbound I-81 into the commercial truck weigh station.

The I-81 interchange upgrades enhance safety and traffic operations by providing vehicles with more room to reach interstate speed before merging, or slow to exit at the interchange.

Additional information about the I-81 CIP is at [Improve81.org](http://Improve81.org)



**Drivers urged to slow down for active deer**

Autumn is here and along with

colorful leaves, crisp air, and shorter days, deer are on the move. Fall is the breeding season for deer, so deer will be more active over the next couple of months than at any other time of the year. Motorists will also be driving more often in the dark, increasing the likelihood of encountering a deer on the road.

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) recommends the following tips to avoid hitting a deer:

1. Slow down and be attentive, particularly at night (from dusk to dawn).
2. If you see one deer, slow down and watch out for others. Deer frequently travel in family groups.
3. Deer habitually travel and cross roads in the same areas. Use caution when you see deer crossing signs installed in these areas by the Virginia Department of Transportation.
4. Apply brakes, even stop if necessary, to avoid hitting a deer, but do not swerve out of the lane to miss a deer. A collision with another vehicle, tree or other object is likely to be more serious than hitting a deer.
5. Always wear a seat belt! Even if a collision is unavoidable, you are more likely to avoid injury or death if you are

wearing a seat belt.

6. If you hit or kill a deer or bear while driving, immediately report the accident to a Conservation Police Officer or other law enforcement officer in the county or city where the accident occurred.

7. If you kill a deer or bear while driving, you may keep it for your own use if you report the accident to a local law enforcement officer where the accident occurred and the officer views the animal and gives you a possession certificate.



**Fatal crash on I-81 in Shenandoah County**

Virginia State Police Trooper E.

Meyers is investigating a fatal two-vehicle crash in Shenandoah County. The crash occurred Saturday, November 6, 2021, at 4:50 p.m. along Interstate 81 at the 273 mile-marker.

A 2017 Mazda CX-3 entered I-81 traveling in the wrong direction and collided head-on with a northbound 2003 Toyota Tacoma.

The driver of the Mazda, a 69-year-old female, of Edinburg, Va., suffered life-threatening injuries in the crash and was transported to UVA Medical Center where she later succumbed to her injuries. The female was wearing a seatbelt. Her identity is being withheld pending next of kin notification.

A dog in the Mazda died due to injuries sustained in the crash.

The driver of the Toyota, a 33-year-old male, of Staunton, Va., suffered

serious injuries in the crash and was transported to Sentara RMH Medical Center for treatment. The male was wearing a seatbelt.

A passenger in the Toyota, an 11-year-old female, suffered serious injuries in the crash and was transported to UVA Medical Center for treatment. The female was wearing a seatbelt.

A medical condition is being considered a factor in the crash.

The crash remains under investigation.

**Fatal crash in Clarke County**

Virginia State Police Senior Trooper R. Riggs is investigating a fatal single-vehicle crash in Clarke County. The crash occurred Saturday, November

**Humane Society of Warren County**

1245 Progress Dr, Front Royal, VA 22630 • (540) 635-4734

Don't forget to grab your tickets to the HSWC's Tails and Ales fundraiser!! Not many left and you are sure to have a good time, all while helping to raise necessary funds for the homeless pets in your community. Tickets are just \$40 and include dinner, beer, wine, an event souvenir and a chance at the \$1000 grand prize.



**Barkley** is around 5 years old and we love those big ol' hound ears! His name is fitting and has your typical hound bark, can clear a 6ft fence with ease and loves people! Barkley



**Neko** is such a sweet and loving dog with a big strong body and not much training. Luckily, he is willing and able to learn, and so desperate for a family of his own to give him a chance. He is about 2 years old, neutered, chipped and ready for love!

is stressed at the shelter and we would love to find a home fitting for this boy.

Barkley's ad sponsored by:

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**Scruffy** is an adorable sweet lady who is dog, cat and kid friendly. She's a Terrier mix and about 12 years old and the perfect size and temperament.



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6, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. along Route 600 (River Rd) at 2 miles south of Route 7 (Harry Byrd Hwy).

A 2003 Ford F-150 was traveling north on Rt. 600 when it ran off the right side of the roadway, overcorrected, crossed a double solid yellow centerline, ran off the left side of the roadway, and collided with a tree.

The driver of the Ford, Clayton D. Cummings, 30, of Berryville, Va., died at the scene of the crash as a result of his injuries. Cummings was not wearing a seatbelt.

The crash remains under investigation.



**Salvation Army Thanksgiving Dinner November 24th**

The Salvation Army Front Royal Corps will host a drive-through Thanksgiving Dinner on Wednesday, November 24th, from 4 pm to 6 pm. Participants will drive up to the Salvation Army at 357 Cloud Street, Front Royal, and receive a boxed meal to-go, consisting of traditional turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, rolls, cranberry sauce, green beans, and dessert. This event is open to the entire community.

The Salvation Army Front Royal Corps supports the counties of Warren, Page, and Rappahannock, as well as the city of Strasburg.

For more information, contact Capt Ann Hawk at 540-635-4020.



**It's black bear feeding frenzy time!**

Fall is here and with cooler temperatures, changing leaves and shortened days, it's a time when bears are highly active as they try to fatten up for the winter months! Black bears will spend up to 20 hours a day during the fall

foraging for food; sometimes traveling long distances to find high calorie foods such as acorns, soft mast, or harvested crop fields. This time of feasting is called hyperphagia. Thus, fall can bring increased bear sightings, especially in years when hard mast crops (acorns) are not abundant. When natural foods are scarce, bears have to travel longer distances and make more frequent excursions to find available food sources.

By mid-December, many bears will enter their winter dens. Black bears are not true hibernators; and in Virginia, they will often continue to be somewhat active throughout the winter, using den sites during periods of harsh weather or when food resources become scarce. Pregnant females will

den for the duration of the winter so they can give birth to their cubs and keep them within the den until early spring.

Continue to be "BearWise" around your home or when recreating to ensure you're not attracting bears to an unnatural food source such as bird-feeders, trash or pet food. Secure outside buildings, openings under porches or houses and recreational vehicles to prevent a sleepy bear from using these areas as a potential den site this winter.

For more information and tips on the six BearWise basics, visit [bearwise.org/](http://bearwise.org/) or [dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/bear/](http://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/bear/)

Send YOUR news to: [news@warrencountyreport.com](mailto:news@warrencountyreport.com)

As this pandemic continues on, many have come to lean on their pets more than ever. Spay Today is our area's non-profit, reduced-priced spay and neuter program. (Office: Charles Town, WV) CHOOSE from MANY vets over a WIDE area! At the time of surgery, initial shots and tests can also be obtained at lower rates.

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[www.spay-today.org](http://www.spay-today.org)  
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**Warren/Frederick County Report** Alison Duvall  
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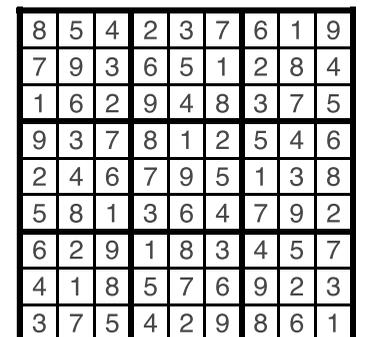
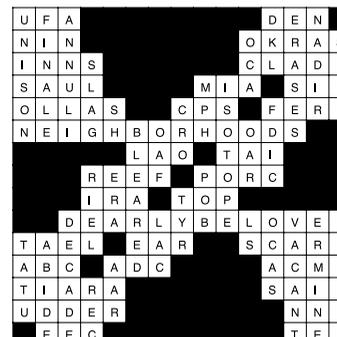
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