

Warren/Frederick County Report

BACK COVER:

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Recipe:
**Zucchini Soup with
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INDICTMENTS



New Student Union Activity Center to open in spring

Community groups collaborated to renovate the Raymond E. Santmyers building



Here is an example of one of the “before” areas inside the former Raymond E. Santmyers Youth Center at 200 E 8th Street. Extensive repairs and renovations have been done to ready it for use as a new clean, safe place for the Warren County youth to meet.



The Raymond E. Santmyers building at 200 East 8th Street in Front Royal served as the parks and recreation headquarters for many years and is scheduled for reopening as the new Student Union Activity Center in the spring.

By Carol Ballard
Warren/Frederick County Report

For nearly a year now, a refreshing and exciting project, to renovate and “reimagine” the former Raymond E. Santmyers Youth Center with the youth of Warren County in mind, has been in the works, involving support from the County, Town of Front Royal and Samantha Barber, president of the non-profit organization

Reaching Out Now.

It has been reborn as the Student Union Activity Center.

The former youth center was dedicated in March of 1967, and until a few years ago, served as the parks and recreation headquarters and available for other community events.

But it had stood empty and virtually unused until last year, when several community leaders had the idea to restore and repurpose it into a magnetic, vibrant

center for students to gather for fun, educational and purposeful activities.

And now it’s set to open its doors in the spring.

“The target date is mid to late April,” said Barber.

She was contacted in April 2023 to help direct the project, after a suggestion from Skyline High School’s Principal Danelle Sperling to The Wednesday Group’s (TWG) Michael Graham.

TWG defines itself as “a team of volunteers dedicated to discussing ways to advocate, facilitate, financially support or provide project management for an unmet community need.”

This fit right in with the purpose of the group and Graham agreed to join in the effort. He contacted Barber, who met with

him, and he pitched the idea to her.

“I believe in my heart and spirit that God connected us with faith. I know that you’re it,” Graham told her.

In April, the Warren County Supervisors voted yes to go ahead.

“I was shocked. It had been in our seven-year plan to work with the school system and a dream of mine for love of the kids and our community,” said Barber. “This was two years ahead of that goal and it became a time when those around me championed that it was possible, so I became purposeful and there’s been a passion for it since April.”

The project gained momentum with support from the town and county governments.

Also, “Parents want this,” she was told in her meetings with local officials and citizens.

She underlined the extent of the involvement of County Administrator Ed Daley and Deputy Administrator Jane Meadows.

“Kudos to both of them for their support,” Barber said. “They’ve gone above and beyond. It’s been a journey and leap of faith!”

Meadows has been especially instrumental in making sure the renovations and upgrades have been done with the highest standards and up to code. “We want this to be a safe place for the kids,” she said in a recent interview.

She has overseen the restoration with the removal of hazardous materials like asbestos,

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The interior of the former Raymond E Santmyers building has been transformed into an exciting and multifunctional place for area students to congregate, socialize and learn necessary life skills.

installation of new flooring, refreshing painted surfaces, updating electrical and plumbing systems, renovating the kitchen, and finishing the bathrooms.

Plans for outside show a court-

yard pavilion with Adirondack and patio chairs for lounging and socializing, and a volleyball net and cornhole game set up. "And a water issue outside has been taken care of by the county," Barber said.

An executive director will make sure the program runs well and students will have adults there to monitor activities.

"We're working on a job description for the director now and we'll be meeting with students as well to get their input and help," said Barber. "These will not only be members of the student government, but athletes



The pavilion area behind the new Student Union Activity Center will be used for outdoor activities with patio chairs for lounging and socializing.

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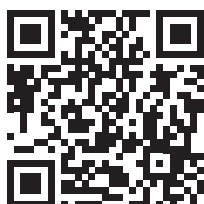
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See FRONT ROYAL, 4

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FRONT ROYAL, from 3

and arts students also. We want to look like the school system. We are a community, this is us.”

What can participants expect?

There’s going to be a game room and the vision for the main room is to be painted in cheerful colors. Students can expect it to be the place to relax, with comfortable furniture like bean bag chairs and pool, ping pong and foosball tables.

The kitchen will have space for culinary endeavors and snacks

and treats will be available with a coffee bar and warming station as well.

There’s a stage similar to the those in the schools that will be available for bands, music lessons, dramatic performances and other creative presentations like poetry readings so kids can expand their experiences into the arts, and other creative outlets.

A tutoring center, with teachers who can help students get advice with career information and learn how to contact colleges and universities will have its own

space.

“We want it as a place with things for kids to do, to revitalize this for now and for future generations of students,” Barber emphasized.

The Center will be open from 12 to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, with weekends reserved for workshops and a variety of youth-related activities. Students will need a membership card for

bus rides and to be admitted so they can drop in.

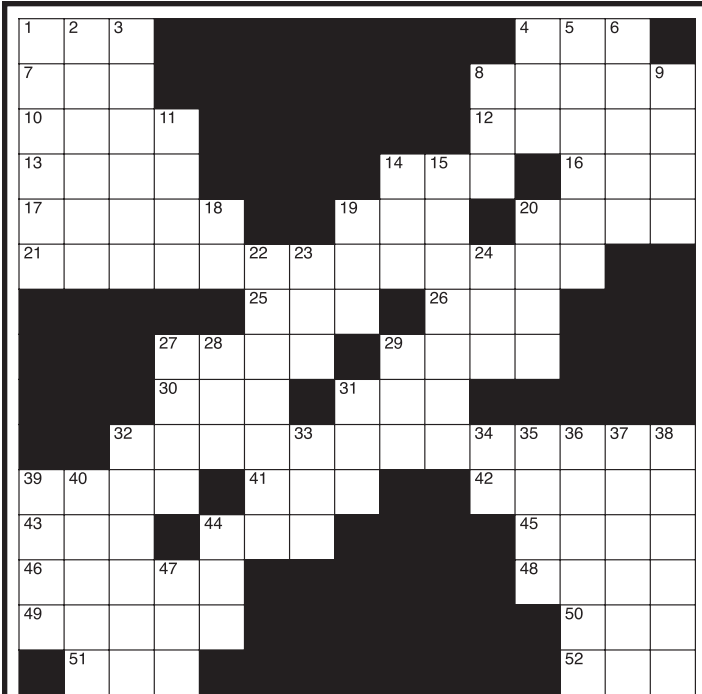
On the website www.reaching-outnow.org there is a statement of the reasons for this effort.

They say, “The young people in our community are facing a broad set of challenges brought about by societal changes, economic hardship, and isolation. The Covid-19 pandemic, in addition to changes in family dynam-

ics, the influence of social media and a lack of meaningful interactions in their daily lives mean our kids are lonely.

“They lack responsibility, solid family structures, are participating in drug and alcohol usage, sexual activity, and lack respect for their environment.

“We need the Student Union to be a welcoming space for these students that allows them to



CLUES ACROSS

1. Microgram
4. Where golfers begin
7. Each
8. Warm weather metropolis
10. Coat with sticky substance
12. Girl's given name
13. Myth (Spanish)
14. Ultrahigh frequency
16. Former NBAer Jeremy
17. Where rockers work
19. Your consciousness of your own identity
20. Soft-finned fishes
21. Localities
25. Paddle
26. Union
27. Member of religious community
29. Small shrill flute
30. Small constellation in the Milky Way
31. They ___
32. College kid on vacation
39. de Armas and Gasteyer are two
41. Part of the human body
42. A progressive grading
43. Sound unit
44. Noise some birds make
45. Abba __, Israeli politician
46. Portuguese city
48. Be extremely, uncritically fond of
49. Resembling old Norse poems
50. Ask for out of extreme need
51. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
52. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. An insane person
2. __ Boothe Luce, American author
3. Buttock muscles
4. Men's fashion accessory
5. "Hotel California" rockers
6. Electronic communication
8. Magnetomotive force (abbr.)
9. Hostelries
11. A way to resound
14. Exclamation: yuck!
15. A resident of Indiana
18. Exclamation of surprise
19. Make a mistake
20. Boundary
22. Antilles island
23. It's used to make furniture
24. Clod
27. They indicate where places are
28. Bobby __, NHL champ
29. Prints money
31. Honorable title (Turkish)
32. Appetizers
33. Midway between north and north-west
34. Spanish be
35. Breezed through
36. Grilled dishes
37. In a way, excites
38. Change mind
39. A French abbot
40. Popular candy
44. Partner to cheese
47. Wood or metal bolt

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WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to slow cooking.

R O K C O E

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Cooker

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in New York on January 16, 1980. I started my musical career in a comedy hip hop group. I have achieved immense fame after creating groundbreaking Broadway musicals and contributing to movie soundtracks.

Answer: Lin-Manuel Miranda

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		1			9		8	
9						4		
5					8		7	3
	7	6			5		4	
						8		
2			4					5
				5		2		
				2		3	9	7
1	9			3				

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build confidence and positive relationships in a drop-in environment that offers the freedom to pursue their needs and passions

in a safe space.”

Plans also include collaborating with schools to introduce a bus route for easy student access. “The conversation has started about a bus shuttle from schools and it’s on our to-do list,” Barber noted.

So far, the abundant community support is evidence that many local people agree with this and want to give kids the chance to see they have better choices.

Already, donations of labor and supplies have been coming in, but there is a need for more.

On Monday January 15 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Raymond

E Santmyers Student Union and Activity Center, Reaching Out Now will present a day of service through giving in support of the new student union building. Visit for coffee and doughnuts and the opportunity to give in person or donate online at <https://reachingoutnow.org/donations/student-union-2023/>

All donations, no matter how small, will help to get a step closer to covering opening costs and becoming a lighthouse for the kids in our community.

“He who is greatest among you shall be a servant. That’s the new definition of greatness. ... By giving that definition of greatness, it means that everybody can be great, because everybody can serve.”- Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Raymond E. Santmyers

Student Union Activity Center is located at 200 East 8th Street in Front Royal. To contact Reaching Out Now, Inc., call (540) 692-6691 or email info@reachingoutnow.org.

For more information on the Student Union project, how to be involved with donations and volunteering visit www.reachingoutnow.org.

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R R I B O R R D F W I E L D A L O K P R P
E E V M J Y U M M N O N S T I C K E E O O
A H J I R T V F U K W E T N V S T A E F R
F I E L P A I C R O C K M A E D S F D R
T T N C R R M W H O U R S A E T O U F S
H R R O P E H I N J B O S S O N D A U I
W P U O S P H L D I F O S P D H V L D C C
B U S Y L M A W I H N E H U K P N E W K
J A D E E E U K C I R H E K I J C H E N
S T E W G T R W N T J V B V I J G B S L
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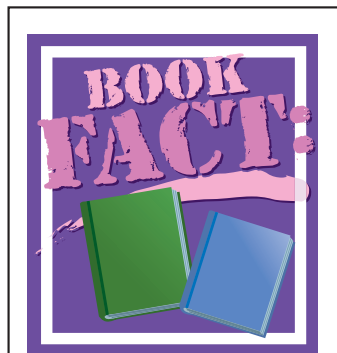
WORDS

- BUSY
- CROCK
- DESSERT
- DIGITAL
- ENJOY
- FONDUE
- HOURS
- INGREDIENTS
- KITCHEN
- LADLE
- LOW
- NONSTICK
- POT
- ROAST
- SAVORY
- SEASONINGS
- SIMMERING
- SLOW COOKER
- SOUP
- STEW
- TEMPERATURE
- TIMER

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.



Kids' corner

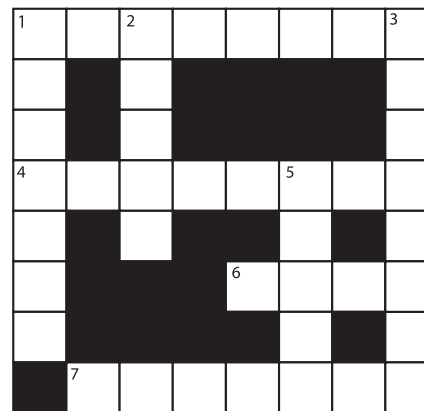


BOOK FACT

A CHILD BETWEEN THE AGES OF 6 AND 11 WHO READS THIS MANY BOOKS IN A YEAR IS CONSIDERED A FREQUENT READER.

ANSWER: 44

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- Resting
- Represented
- Food enjoyed on Tuesday
- Short novel

DOWN

- Enjoying a book
- Illumination providers
- Type of flower
- Path

1. Reading 2. Lamps 3. Gladiola 5. Trail

1. Relaxing 4. Depicted 6. Taco 7. Novella

Answers:

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1759: THE BRITISH MUSEUM OPENS TO THE PUBLIC.
- 1870: A POLITICAL CARTOON DEPICTS THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY WITH A DONKEY FOR THE FIRST TIME.
- 1889: THE COCA-COLA COMPANY, THEN KNOWN AS THE PEMBERTON MEDICINE COMPANY, IS INCORPORATED IN ATLANTA.



GLOSSARY

alphabetical list of terms in a book

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Page
- SPANISH:** Página
- ITALIAN:** Pagina
- FRENCH:** Page
- GERMAN:** Seite



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ANSWER: STACK OF BOOKS



Peter Muhlenberg to be remembered January in Woodstock

James Wood II Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution invites public to attend



By The Rt. Larry W. Johnson

January 21, 1776, is the date of one of the greatest sermons ever delivered on American freedom, and yet it and the man who delivered it, are all but forgotten. Peter Muhlenberg, a young pastor in Woodstock, Virginia, preached this sermon, based on Ecclesiastes 3, that would end in the dramatic removal of his vestments disclosing his military uniform underneath as he quoted the Bible verse: "...A time to love, and a time to hate; and a time for war!"

His mission was to raise a regiment of men to join General George Washington in the fight for American Independence. He delivered this stirring sermon in one of his churches which was located in Woodstock, near the Old Court House on Main Street (Route 11). The current Episcopal Church is near the spot where his church was and what would be the "assembly ground."

The Rev. Muhlenberg had come from Pennsylvania to minister in the Shenandoah Valley to both Anglicans and Lutherans as he spoke both English and German. His father had founded the Lutheran Church in the colonies. The English king wanted to provide services to the English and Germans subjects of the Valley.

But though Peter Muhlenberg came to serve as pastor in the Shenandoah Valley, he soon would take up arms along with many men of his churches, playing a critical role securing independence for America.

The Rev. Muhlenberg would lead soldiers from the Valley of Virginia the entire eight years of the American Revolutionary War. They would be at Valley Forge,

and they would be at the final battle in York Town, Virginia, which resulted in the British surrendering October 19, 1781. This ended the English efforts to keep American subjects under King George.

Though today Peter Muhlenberg is all but forgotten, for the first hundred years after the War for American Independence he was the second most celebrated war hero of our Revolution,

George Washington being the first!

Children acted out Peter's famous sermon in their classrooms, recounting the Reverend's ripping off his clergyman's black gown showing he was wearing a soldier's uniform, ready to fight for the "Glorious Cause." That famous sermon occurred in Emanuel Church in Woodstock, Virginia, January 21, 1776, on the Third

Reverend Peter Muhlenberg, celebrated Shenandoah Valley war hero of the American Revolution, will be remembered at 1:00 p.m. on January 20, 2024, in Woodstock on the grounds of the Old Court House. James Wood II Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution invites the public to attend. This event has been adopted as an event of the official Commonwealth of Virginia celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of the United States of America. Statue sculpted by Blanche Nevin

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Sunday of Epiphany. As mentioned, his church was located across the street from the present old Court House built in 1795. Of course, the courthouse building was not there in 1776 when Peter assembled 300 men immediately after church to march off to fight for freedom.

Before the Revolutionary War actually began, the British had been attacking Virginia villages on the coast in hopes of bringing the people into line. Peter was elected by the people of the Valley to represent them in the House of Burgesses. It was there that he was commissioned a Colonel by the Virginia House of Burgesses, which was presided over by the immortal Patrick Henry. He was ordered to organize the 8th Virginia Regiment.

Months before the formation of his regiment he and members of his congregations would write "Resolves" stating they would fight for the freedom to govern themselves if the King would not relent. Today, we can hardly imagine the danger this put these brave people in.

Congregations of Christians resisted a King of the most powerful country in the world. This was two years before the Declaration of Independence. Their "Resolves," which were essentially a declaration of independence from Britain, were printed in the newspaper of the day, The Virginia Gazette, published in Williamsburg.

Many counties followed with their own Resolves at the urg-

ing of the House of Burgesses. But Muhlenberg's was one of the earliest. All this was to no avail, of course, as the King of England would not give his colonists power to govern themselves. This, of course, resulted in a long war.

General George Washington nicknamed this Continental Regiment "the German regiment," because most of the farmer-soldiers of the Shenandoah Valley were, in fact, German.

Peter was elevated to Brigadier General by the Continental Congress. His regiment joined General Washington at Valley Forge as a part of the Continental Army in the winter of 1777. They trained and suffered disease and starvation at Valley Forge until finally ordered to fight in June of 1778. Toward the end of the war, Peter Muhlenberg was promoted to the rank of Major General of the Continental Army by Congress.

Today there are three monuments of Muhlenberg at the old Court House. The first is a statue of the Reverend General Muhlenberg in his clergy robe, the second, a pedestal bearing his image, and third, a bronze plaque mounted high upon the stone wall of the old courthouse facing the site and telling the story of this historical event.

I recently presented Peter Muhlenberg's story to the Historical Society at the Town Hall in New Market, Virginia. I told of his coming to the Valley preaching the Gospel of Jesus in both German and English; baptizing

hundreds of adults and children; marrying the young and burying the dead. His churches were in Winchester, New Market (Rudes Hill), Strasburg, Woodstock, Fort Valley at Dry Run, and Luray.

Additionally, he established a school of music at Singers Glen.

When he returned to Shenandoah County, following the war, his congregations wanted him to resume pastoring, but he could not. After leading men to fight and to kill, he would not be able to pastor again.

He made a decision to sell his home, which was located next to the church on Main Street in Woodstock, as well as his farm located outside of the Village, and pack up his family and go back to Pennsylvania, the place of his birth.

There people wanted him to help found the new government side-by-side with a very sick Benjamin Franklin.

Dr. Franklin and the Reverend Peter Muhlenberg essentially founded the new free and independent State of Pennsylvania.

Muhlenberg's popularity soared. He was elected to serve in Congress representing Pennsylvania for three congressional sessions; and later was elected Senator. During his time in the House of Representatives he voted on critical issues, not the least being the approval of the United States Constitution.

During the Revolutionary War Peter Muhlenberg led his soldiers in seven major battles with General Washington and was greatly respected by his Commander and General. The tallest general, he towered over General Washington who, at six foot two inches, was considered very tall for his time.

When the question of what title a new president of our new nation should have, some of Muhlenberg's fellow generals and staff proposed royal titles like His Excellency, His Majesty, King and more.

Peter, in a meeting with his fellow officers and General Washington, gave his opinion, strongly, simply recommending President, saying, "He should be addressed as 'Mr. President' and nothing more."

Even Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Hamilton, staff Aide-de-Camp, who was always very opinionated in military council sessions, did not object. General Washington agreed. Congress would put this title into the Constitution when it was finally written. In my opinion, it was The Rev. Muhlenberg who settled the ques-

tion of what to call the person who would become leader of the free world.

Peter's strong anti-royalty passion would forever stand in our American Republic. The battle cries his soldiers shouted as they charged forward was: "No king, but King Jesus!" The common man would now govern himself, not an upper class with special privileges and titles of nobility as in England.

Peter laid his life on the line for this.

The Reverend Peter Muhlenberg died at age 61 from what doctors determined were complications from sicknesses which had been acquired during the time of his active service in war. He is buried beside his wife and father at his boyhood church in Trappe, Pennsylvania.

God bless this American preacher who went to war for Freedom and Independence and helped give us our Republic. He, without doubt, is one of America's greatest patriots. A forgotten Founder. We in the Shenandoah Valley should know this history and proudly support the Republic Muhlenberg and his soldiers fought to give us.

Peter will be remembered at 1:00 p.m., January 20, 2024, in Woodstock at the location of his church and where his troops assembled in preparation to go to



The Rt. Larry W. Johnson aka Liberty Man tells the story of Peter to 300 pastors at Liberty University.

war. This will take place on the grounds of the Old Court House among the monuments that honor him. The James Wood II Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution invites the public to attend.

This event has been adopted as an event of the official Commonwealth of Virginia celebration of our 250th Anniversary of the Founding of the United States of America. It is so designated by the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

For more information on the January 20th event, call: 1 (540) 327-3406. Ask for President Chip Daniel.

The Rt. Larry W. Johnson aka Liberty Man, (540) 454-4129

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The early history of Stephens City Boy Scout Troop 6



Scout Master Edward Ambrose, far left, scout leaders, and Troop 6 circa 1956. The scout on the far right in the green Explorer uniform is Scout Master Ambrose' younger son, Donnie. Second in from left, back row is Gary Strickler. Third in from left, back row is Charles Gossard, and first in from left, back row is William Orndorff. Courtesy Stone House Foundation, Stephens City, VA.

his professional career, Ewing served as a Boy Scout reaching the enviable rank of Eagle Scout.

“To the best of my recollection, Troop 6 was established by Scout Master Harold Preston Teets in 1946-47. Teets was a champion for Stephens City youth and spent many hours and personal expense providing insightful leadership and productive activities for the students in town, especially after Stephens City High School closed in 1950. Teets not only established Troop 6, but later formed and directed the Stephens City Drum and Bugle Corps known as the ‘Scarlet Rebels in 1953,” said Ewing.

Ewing began attending Scout meetings in the old cabin located behind the Stephens City fire hall originally built in 1941 on Mulberry Street. The Scout Cabin was relocated near the town ball field by the Town of Stephens City in 1956 to make way for the new community center and kitchen addition in the back of the fire hall in 1957.

Ewing experienced Scout meetings in both buildings. He was part of a team that assisted in the remodeling of the cabin to make it available for both boy and girl scouting. Troop 6

By Mark Gunderman
Stephens City

Bill Ewing, a Stephens City resident, is one of the few remaining folks around who can discuss the early days of Ste-

phens City Boy Scout Troop 6. Ewing, 86 years old, enlisted in the Air Force in 1956, shortly after graduating from James Wood High School. He would graduate from Blue Ridge Community College in Weyers

Cave, Virginia in 1970. Ewing worked in Stanton and Hanover County, Virginia before taking employment with the City of Winchester and served

in the Finance Department before retiring as Director of Information Technology in 2000. However, before beginning

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averaged about 10 to 15 scouts for the years Ewing participated during 1949 to 1955. "I joined Troop 6 with the rank of Tenderfoot in 1949, received Scout 2nd Class in 49, Scout 1st Class in 50, Star Scout in 52, Life Scout in 53 and Eagle in June, 1954," Ewing said.

Harold Teets left as Scout Master and was replaced by Roy Lemley for a short period. Ed Ambrose became Scout Master in 1951. Ewing said Mr. Ed Ambrose was a motivational Scout Master and I personally owe him a lot. I was a recipient of the Eagle Scout award due to his leadership and encouragement and am so thankful that he was there to lead and really push me hard to reach my goals.

Ambrose was a carpenter by trade; however, he became well known for his folk-art wood



Bill Ewing is happily retired and recently moved back to Stephens City. He visited the Stephens City UMC office to provide some program insight about the beginnings of BSA Troop 6 which was previously thought to be lost to time. Courtesy Marty Barley.

carvings after he became a Scout Master. Ambrose held the position for twenty years, teaching the interested boys to carve wooden neckerchief slides for themselves. The scout's favorites to carve to earn merit badges were Native American Indian Heads or Paul Bunyan. Ewing said the wood carving that Mr. Ed Ambrose made for me is a neckerchief slide that we wore with our uniforms. He presented it

to me as a gift for making Eagle. "I was the first to receive Eagle Scout under Scout Master Mr. Ed Ambrose. I am very proud of the wooden slide and I will never get rid of it, Ewing said."

Ambrose carved a twenty-four-foot-high totem pole which stood in front of the Scout Cabin before it was stolen and never recovered. As a folk artist, he lived on Main Street and maintained a workshop in his backyard in a small shed. He carved his figures; ceramic painted each one and sold them mostly to out of towners. The carvings are now collector items and some are exhibited at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley.

"Gregory (Butch) Orndorff and William (Bill) Zirkle were the first two in Troop 6 to receive the Eagle Award, I was the third. Gregory Orndorff would go on to graduate from Virginia Tech and start his own construction business, Master Maintenance Inc. and reside in Manassas City, Virginia. William Zirkle would graduate from Virginia Tech and receive his master's degree from Southern Illinois. Zirkle was an Air Force veteran attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, serving in the Vietnam War, and then resided in Hayfield, Virginia," Ewing concluded.

Edgar (Eddie) Ambrose, the older son was also an Eagle Scout and Explorer, and re-



Thirteen-year-old Bill Ewing in smart looking Boy Scout uniform in 1952. Courtesy Bill Ewing.

sides in Front Royal Va. Eddie is an Army Veteran and retired from Warren County Public Schools as a former teacher and administrator in 1995. He currently volunteers at St. Luke Community Clinic supporting programs managed by Executive Director, Vicki Davies.

Donnie Ambrose, class of

1960, was later inducted into the James Wood Athletic Association Hall of Fame in 2013 for his athletic versatility in high school. The JWAA website cites that Donnie excelled in football, basketball, baseball, and track and lettered in all

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SCOUTS, from 9

four sports. Ambrose played football four years as a running back and linebacker and was

co-captain of the team his senior year. He played basketball three years for the Colonels and threw the shot and discus

in track for three seasons. In baseball, he was an outstanding catcher for three seasons.

Ambrose recalls that he and his brother Donnie, Charles Gossard, and Gary Strickler all made Eagle Scout at the same time in 1955. Edgar Ambrose said as an Explorer, he held the position of staff instructor in the Pioneering area of Camp Rock Enon during the summers of 1955, 56, and 57. Ambrose has fond memories of those years with his father, and younger brother Donnie scouting in rural Stephens City and camping at Rock Enon, near Gore VA. "After I graduated from James Wood High School in 1957 and Donnie in 1960, my father continued as Scout Master of Troop 6 until the 1970s. He really liked working with scouts and teaching them new skills like wood carving, if they were interested," Ambrose said. For additional information about Edward Ambrose wood carvings, see Contemporary American Folk Artists, by Elinor Lander Horwitz, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 1975.

In a Northern Virginia Daily news brief, Three Made Eagle Scout, dated 13 February 1962, a description of a Troop 6 Scout meeting was provided. "The rank of Eagle Scout was presented at the Court of Honor held in the Stephens City Boy Scout Cabin on Saturday night to three scouts from Troop 6. Larry Gregory, son of Mr. and Mrs. Julian Gregory; Peyton Borden, son of Mr. and Mrs.



Betty Ambrose, Native American Indian with tomahawk, and Ed Ambrose, circa 1963. Courtesy Stone House Foundation, Stephens City, VA.

Wilson Borden of Middletown and Jack Pinner, son of Mr. Roy Pinner of Alexandria and the late Mrs. Pinner.

W. C. Gleason, Scout Executive of Winchester, made the presentations before approximately sixty scouts and their parents. Mr. Gleason commended the boys on their achievement and remarked that this brings the total number of scouts attaining Eagle in this troop to ten. All in the eleven years under Scout Master Mr. Edward Ambrose's fruitful leadership."

The Scout Cabin continued

to receive additions and upgrades in the 1970s and 80s. Troop 6 became inactive in the 1980s. According to Stephanie Short at the BSA Shenandoah Area Council in Winchester, Troop 6 was sponsored by the Lion's Club through 1983. In 1986, after gaining permission from the Lion's Club, Shenandoah Valley Baptist Church restarted Troop 6 at their loca-



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tion. The troop was then dissolved in 1993.

Troop 17 was relocated from Kernstown to Stephens City and became Troop 15 after receiving sponsorship from Stephens City UMC in February, 1978. Lou Boyer, as Scout

Master, was later invited to relocate Troop 15 to the Scout Cabin. The building, located on Locust Street, contains scouting memorabilia (where historical artifacts are maintained) from the past and continues to display the rich his-

tory of the scouting movement in Stephens City.

Bill Ewing served on the Stephens City Town Council from 1988 to 2004. He resigned when elected to the Board of Supervisors, Opequon District where he served from 2004 to 2013. Ewing recently moved back to Stephens City from Winchester, and serves as Treasurer of the Lions Club and volunteers for the Route 11 Yard Crawl every August. He has been a Lions Club member since 1989.

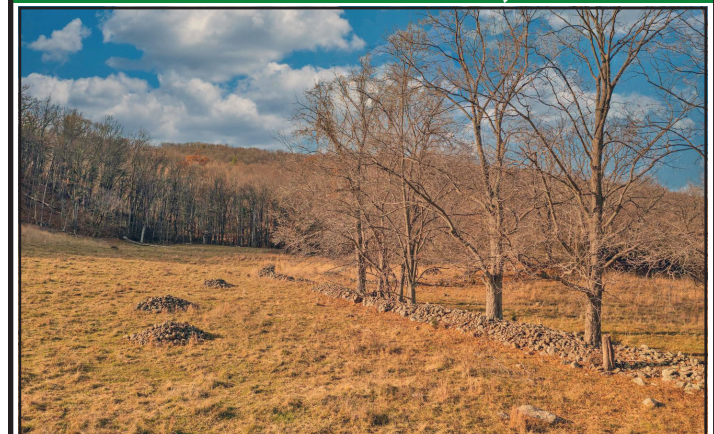
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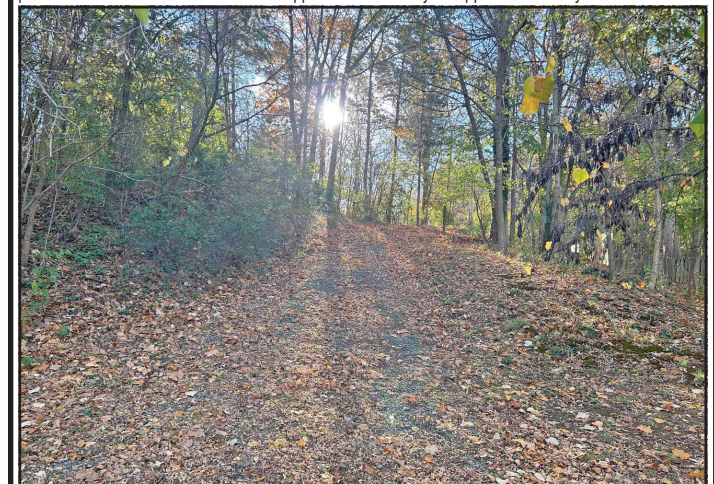

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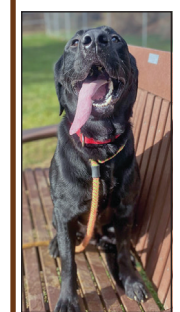
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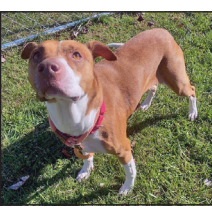
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Sat. Jan. 20, 2024 (7:30-11:30pm)
 DJ & Karaoke at New Market, Va. Eagles*

Sat. Jan. 27, 2024 (6-10pm)
 Karaoke at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: 20 South St. Front Royal, VA 22630

Sat. Feb. 3, 2024 (7:30-10:30pm)
 Karaoke Contest: Woodstock, Va. Moose*

Sat. Feb. 10, 2024 (7:30-11:30pm)
 DJ & Karaoke at New Market, Va. Eagles*

Sat. Feb. 17, 2024 (6-10pm)
 Karaoke at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: 20 South St. Front Royal, VA 22630

Sat. Feb. 24, 2024 (7pm-11pm)
 Private 70th Birthday Party in Winchester

Sat. Mar. 2, 2024 (7:30-11:30pm)
 DJ & Karaoke at New Market, Va. Eagles*

Sat. Mar. 16, 2024 (7:30-10:30pm)
 Karaoke at Woodstock, Va. Moose*

Fri. Mar. 22, 2024 (7:30-11:30pm)
 DJ & Karaoke at New Market, Va. Eagles*

Fri. Apr. 19, 2024 (7:30-11:30pm)
 DJ & Karaoke at New Market, Va. Eagles*

Sat. Apr. 20, 2024 (7:30-10:30pm)
 Karaoke at Woodstock, Va. Moose*

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INDICTMENTS

**2023 December Indictments
October Term**

Christopher James Black

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about September 18, 2023, in the County of Warren, Christopher James Black, 47, of the 200 block of Forest Ct., Bentonville, VA 22610, did unlawfully and feloniously by force, threat, intimidation, or deception and without legal justification or excuse, seize, take, transport, detain, or secrete Amber Black, with the intent to deprive her of her personal lib-

erty.

John Randall Baggerly

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about October 12, 2023, in the County of Warren, John Randall Baggerly, 53, of the 300 block of Cloud St., Front Royal, VA 22630, while a prisoner in a local community correctional facility or in the custody of an employee thereof, did feloniously, unlawfully and intentionally secrete or have in his possession a chemical compound which he has not lawfully received.

Kimberly Ann Perry

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about June 3, 2023, in the County of Warren, Kimberly Ann Perry, 42, of the 100 block of Memory Ln., Linden, VA 22642, did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

Kimberly Ann Perry

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about September 8, 2023, in

the County of Warren, Kimberly Ann Perry, 42, of the 100 block of Memory Ln., Linden, VA 22642, did unlawfully and feloniously possess a Schedule I or II controlled substance.

Tylar Alexa Dipatre

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about August 18, 2023, in the County of Warren, Tylar Alexa Dipatre, 27, of the 100 block of Ulysses Way, Linden, VA 22642,

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did unlawfully and feloniously possess a Schedule I or II controlled substance.

Hunter Jay Housden

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about June 4, 2023, in the County of Warren, Hunter Jay Housden, 27, of the 100 block of Locust Grove 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.

Cullen Coy McFarren II

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about September 10, 2023, in the County of Warren, Cullen

Coy McFarren II, 44, address unknown, did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or II of the Drug Control Act.

Ashley Nichole Dunn

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about August 27, 2023, in the County of Warren, Ashley Nichole Dunn, 33, of the 200 block of Blue Ridge Ave., 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.

Ricky Blake Beck

The Warren County Va. Circuit

Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about September 1, 2023, in the County of Warren, Ricky Blake Beck, 41, of the 100 block of Crescent St., 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.

Roberta Alejandro Eberhardt

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about October 12, 2023, in the County of Warren, Roberta Alejandro Eberhardt, 35, of the 800 block of Browntown Rd., Front Royal, VA 22630, did unlawfully and feloniously break and enter or enter in the nighttime, the dwelling house of Jessica Shell and De-

quante Freeman, with the intent to commit larceny, assault and battery or any felony other than murder, rape, robbery, or arson.

Ricky Blake Beck

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about October 16, 2023, in the County of Warren, Ricky Blake Beck, 41, of the 100 block of Crescent St., did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

Nathaniel Liam Duncan

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about May 19, 2023, in the County of Warren, Nathaniel Liam Duncan, 19, of the 200 block of Windy Knoll Dr., Front Royal, VA 22630, did unlawfully and feloniously handle a firearm in a man-

ner so gross, wanton, and culpable as to show a reckless disregard for human life and cause the serious bodily injury of another person resulting in permanent and significant physical impairment.

Elmos Russell Edwards

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about October 21, 2023, in the County of Warren, Elmos Russell Edwards, 64, 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.

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.

- news@warrencountyreport.com

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- 6 cups chicken broth
- 4 plum tomatoes, peeled, seeded and chopped, (about 1 cup)
- 1/2 cup tomato puree
- 4 tablespoons tarragon or cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh basil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt, or to taste
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, or to taste
- 8 cheddar rusks (see below)

Cook the bacon in a soup pot over medium heat until the fat is released and the bacon bits are crisp, 6 to 8 minutes.

Add the onions and garlic. Cook, stirring frequently, until the onions are a light golden brown, 8 to 10 minutes.

Add the zucchini, cover the pot and cook until the zucchini starts to become translucent, about 5 minutes.

Add the broth, tomatoes, tomato puree, and vinegar. Bring the soup to a simmer and cook until the vegetables are very tender and the soup has developed a good flavor, 15 to 20 minutes.

Add the basil to the soup, and season with salt and pepper. Serve in heated bowls, garnished with cheddar rusks.

Cheddar Rusks

Makes 8

- 8 slices French or Italian bread (1/2-inch thick)
- 1 cup grated cheddar cheese

Toast the bread until golden brown on both sides.

Preheat the broiler. Scatter the cheese evenly over the toasted bread and broil until the cheese bubbles and begins to brown.

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Soup is a staple anytime the weather is chilly or when a person feels like they are coming down with a cold. The warm, therapeutic effects of a delicious bowl of soup are hard to dismiss, and may sometimes work as well as the best medicines available.

While zucchini may be known as a summer vegetable, this popular squash is at home in a tasty soup any time of year. Top with giant, cheesy croutons for a filling and scrumptious crowd-pleaser.

This recipe for “Zucchini Soup with Cheddar Rusks” from “The Culinary Institute of America Book of Soups” (Lebhar-Friedman Books) by The Culinary Institute of America makes for a warming winter meal.

Zucchini Soup with Cheddar Rusks

Makes 8 servings

- 4 bacon strips, minced
- 2 onions, diced (about 2 1/2 cups)
- 4 garlic cloves, minced (about 2 teaspoons)
- 4 medium zucchini, diced (7 to 8 cups)

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New battle over skill games looms in Virginia as industry pushes to reverse ban



Skill games in a Richmond corner store. The games popped up in gas stations, convenience stores and bars around the state before they were outlawed. (Ned Oliver/Virginia Mercury)

By Graham Moomaw
Virginia Mercury

When slots-like skill games first showed up in Virginia, officials

were confused about their legal status. Over four years of legislative action and court battles, the machines were made legal, then illegal, then legal again, then illegal

once more. But their current illegal status might not last long.

The perennial debate over how to handle the devices that have spread throughout Virginia convenience stores, restaurants and truck stops could be one of the biggest fights of the 2024 General Assembly session. The skill-game industry is preparing a major push to try to win permission to turn its machines back on just months after a court ruling forced them to go dark.

In November, hundreds of convenience store owners sent a letter to state lawmakers urging them to tax and regulate the machines instead of banning them. Some of those owners were expected to be at the Capitol early this week to argue skill games have been a lifeline for small businesses struggling to keep their doors open.

“The revenue from skill games has kept many afloat,” the letter

read. “It has allowed us to keep people employed.”

Bills to re-legalize skill games had not yet been formally introduced as of Friday afternoon, but policymakers were expecting a well-coordinated effort to convince the General Assembly to reverse the ban passed by prior legislatures. That ban was suspended for nearly two years as the skill-game industry fought it in court. But the Supreme Court of Virginia reinstated the ban last October after ruling a lower court had given

too much credence to skill-game proponents’ arguments the ban infringed on their free speech rights. Because of that ruling, the industry has a new sense of urgency to get the law changed.

Also referred to as “gray machines” due to the legal gray area they inhabit. Critics have said the machines are designed to evade gambling laws. Skill-game proponents insist the games, which feature the same spinning reel grid and colorful imagery as slot machines, involve enough skill that

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Sat. Feb. 3, 2024 (7:30-10:30pm) Karaoke Contest: Woodstock, Va. Moose*

Sat. Feb. 10, 2024 (7:30-11:30pm) DJ & Karaoke at New Market, Va. Eagles*

Sat. Feb. 17, 2024 (6-10pm) Karaoke at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 20 South St. Front Royal, VA 22630

Sat. Feb. 24, 2024 (7pm-11pm) Private 70th Birthday Party in Winchester

Sat. Mar. 2, 2024 (7:30-11:30pm) DJ & Karaoke at New Market, Va. Eagles*

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Fri. Mar. 22, 2024 (7:30-11:30pm) DJ & Karaoke at New Market, Va. Eagles*

Fri. Apr. 19, 2024 (7:30-11:30pm) DJ & Karaoke at New Market, Va. Eagles*

Sat. Apr. 20, 2024 (7:30-10:30pm) Karaoke at Woodstock, Va. Moose*

Sat. May 11, 2024 (7:30-10:30pm) Karaoke at Woodstock, Va. Moose*

Sat. May 18, 2024 (7:30-11:30pm) DJ & Karaoke at New Market, Va. Eagles*

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they technically aren't a form of gambling. On many machines, the purported skill required is the ability to connect three-in-a-row patterns. Many also feature a memory-based subgame that gives users a slight chance to keep playing if they lose their money.

Supporters have argued the machines are a way to more evenly distribute the profits of Virginia's expansion of legalized gambling, giving smaller operators a chance to make money instead of leaving it all to the big companies that run casinos. Opponents of the games feel the industry is pushing a particularly predatory form of gambling into neighborhoods all over the state based on far-fetched claims that exceptionally skilled players can win money every time.

It's not just small businesses leading the charge for skill games.

Pace-o-Matic, the parent company of prominent skill-game brand Queen of Virginia, has retained more than a dozen lobbyists to work on the issue, according to the Virginia Public Access Project. For years, the company and its affiliates have made sizable political donations to both Democratic and Republican politicians.

"As the 2024 General Assembly quickly approaches, Pace-O-Matic and Queen of Virginia Skill & En-

tertainment feel confident that we have the support, not only from legislators but from the public, to get skill games operating again in the market," the company said in a pre-session memo circulated last week.

Sen. Aaron Rouse, D-Virginia Beach, will be the lead sponsor of a pro-skill game bill, according to the company, with Sen. Louise Lucas, D-Portsmouth and Sen.-elect Timmy French, a Republican farmer from Shenandoah County, signing on as co-patrons.

The company estimates that state-sanctioned skill games could generate up to \$200 million in tax revenue, but it's unclear what kind of tax system lawmakers might pursue and how many machines they'd be willing to allow. Because the machines have been operating without regulation since late 2021, the state has no up-to-date data on how many machines exist in Virginia, how much money is flowing through them and how much is paid back out to players.

Pace-o-Matic's memo said the company-backed bill will propose a 15% tax rate on gross profits from the machines instead of the \$1,200 monthly fee per machine used in the prior regulatory system. The bill also suggests a five-machine limit in restaurants and conve-

nience stores and a 10-machine limit in truck stops. The proposal would put the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage and Control Authority in charge of overseeing the machines. Though ABC has little expertise in gambling, the liquor authority already oversees many of the businesses that host skill machines because they sell alcohol.

Much of the upcoming legislative debate could focus on who should regulate skill games and how strict those regulations should be.

Lawmakers have struggled to come up with a workable regulatory scheme as Virginia expanded legalized gambling over the last several years. In addition to promoting its own games, the Virginia Lottery now regulates casinos and sports betting platforms. The horse racing industry and its affiliated Rosie's slots parlors are overseen by the Virginia Racing Commission. Bingo halls and other charitable gaming operations are regulated by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. And ABC was previously responsible for ensuring all skill games had an official sticker indicating they were government-sanctioned and subject to the \$1,200 per month flat fee

The legislature has considered

the idea of putting one regulator in charge of all forms of gambling, but has yet to pass legislation streamlining the fractured system.

If ABC were again given oversight of skill games, Virginia would have four different government entities responsible for regulating slot machines and their lookalikes.

Because skill games are scattered across hundreds of different businesses in communities all over the state, they pose unique logistical challenges lawmakers will have to grapple with. For example, other types of regulated gambling have age verification and problem gambling rules meant to restrict access for minors and gambling addicts. It's unclear how those safeguards might be enforced in convenience stores and sports bars, which don't have the same levels of supervision and security that casinos do.

Another sticking point could be the long-running competition between various gambling interests to secure their turf.

Lucas recently sent a letter to gambling-focused policymakers indicating that, if it appears skill games are going to be legalized again, she'll insist on an equivalent expansion of gambling privileges for charitable gaming operators like VFW halls and Moose lodges.

"Further, if for-profit skill game

operators, like Queen of Virginia, are ultimately allowed to operate in restaurants, gas stations and other areas, then charitable gaming should have equal access," Lucas said in a letter addressed to members of the Virginia Charitable Gaming Council.

Though the legislature has recently stood by the ban on skill games, the influx of new General Assembly members has cast a new level of uncertainty over where the body might land on the issue.

Del. Paul Krizek, D-Fairfax, who co-chairs a legislative subcommittee studying state gambling regulations, said in an interview that he opposes immediate re-legalization of the games. Casinos and horse racing-affiliated gambling facilities both require the passage of a local ballot referendum, and Krizek has floated the idea of also giving local voters a say in whether skill games should be allowed in their neighborhoods.

"My biggest concern is that the communities that they would be going in, which is everywhere, do not get to weigh in on whether they want them," Krizek said, who predicted the skill game issue will be "huge" this year.

The General Assembly session begins Wednesday and is scheduled to end March 9.

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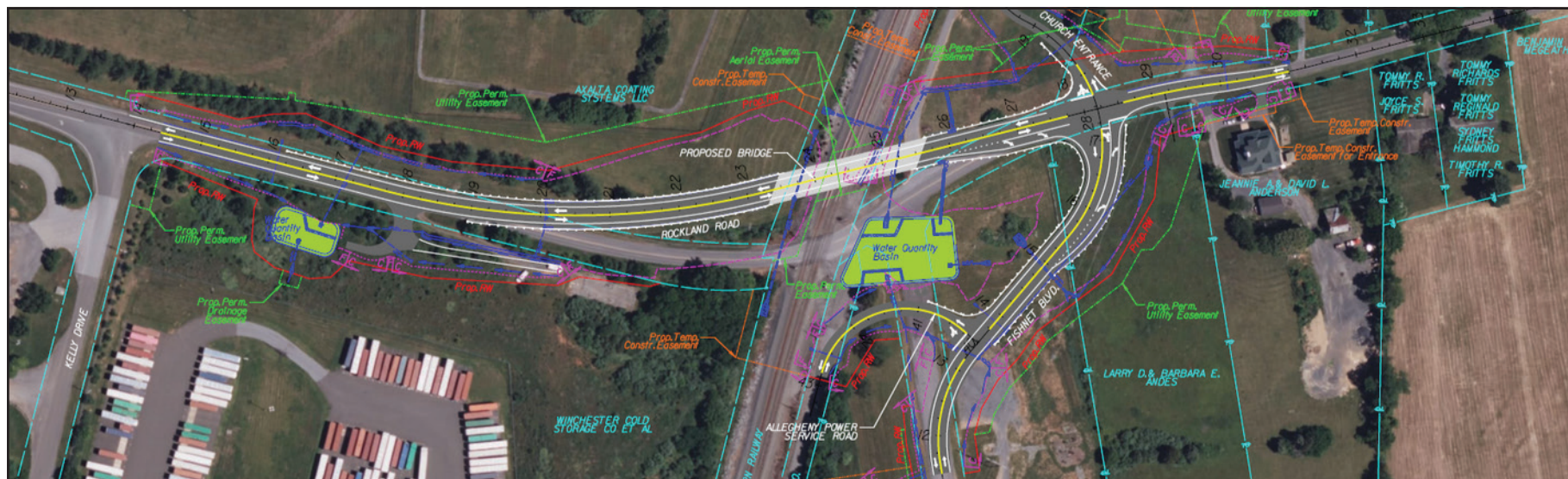
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Pardon-Our-Dust Citizen Information Meeting for Route 658 (Rockland Road) Bridge



Route 658 (Rockland Road) Plans

The Virginia Department of Transportation will hold a “Pardon-Our-Dust” Citizen Information Meeting concerning construction of a grade-separated crossing over the Norfolk Southern Railway on Route 658 (Rockland Road) in Warren County, near Front Royal and the Virginia Inland Port.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the North Warren Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company 10, 266 Rockland Court, Front Royal, VA 22630. VDOT will make a brief presentation at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The inclement weather date is January 18 at the same time and location.

A construction contract valued at \$11.8 million was awarded in October 2023 to Shirley Contracting Company LLC of Lorton, Virginia.

Construction will begin in early 2024 with the new bridge open to traffic by December 2025. Route 658 (Rockland Road) will be closed in the vicinity of the NSRR tracks for the duration and traffic detoured via Routes 340/522 (Winchester Road) to the west and Route 661 (Fairground Road) to the east and north. Rockland Park will remain open to the public during construction.

Currently motorists randomly experience frequent and extensive delays at this railroad cross-

ing with trains accessing this track multiple times a day. Train traffic includes trains traveling through the corridor or performing unloading operations at the Virginia Inland Port. The Route 658 grade-separated crossing consists of a bridge 220-feet long and 42-feet wide with a minimum vertical clearance of 23 feet over the railroad tracks, accommodating double-stacked freight containers. This will allow Route 658 traffic to travel uninterrupted on the bridge

while trains will pass underneath.

The project also includes improvements to roadway approaches on Route 658 and realigns part of Route 705 (Fishnet Boulevard), the entrance to Rockland Park.

In 2019, Route 658 had an average daily traffic count of 2,200 vehicles per day, and by the design year of 2046, the estimated average daily traffic volume would be 5,990 vehicles per day.

The total estimated cost for this project is \$20.6 million including

preliminary engineering, right-of-way costs and construction. It is funded in part by a BUILD grant awarded to the Virginia Port Authority by the National Maritime Administration.

Winchester native mans the lines during replenishment-at-sea aboard USS Sterett



SOUTH CHINA SEA (Dec. 29, 2023) Seaman Brendan Cassidy, from Winchester, Virginia, pulls the safety pin from the pelican hook prior to its release aboard Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Sterett (DDG 104) during a replenishment-at-sea with Military Sealift Command fleet replenishment oiler USNS Yukon (T-AO 202). The pelican hook secures the highline to the long link on Sterett’s sliding padeye. Sterett is assigned to Carrier Strike Group 1 and deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Charles J. Scudella III)



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Youngkin re-ups call for tax changes, vows to veto right-to-work repeal

In speech to Democratic legislature, Youngkin calls tax overhaul a 'package deal'



Gov. Glenn Youngkin recognizing guests at the 2024 State of the Commonwealth Address at the State Capitol in Richmond. (Nathaniel Cline/Virginia Mercury)

By Graham Moomaw
Virginia Mercury

In a formal speech Wednesday to the Virginia General Assembly at the self-described “halftime” of his term, Gov. Glenn Youngkin reemphasized his plan for a tax overhaul, promised to veto a pro-union measure if the legislature’s new Democratic majorities send it to him and pushed back against accusations his budget short-changes public schools.

As he addressed lawmakers on the opening day of the 2024 legislative session, Youngkin pitched his plan to lower state income taxes and eliminate the car tax as part of a broader effort to win the “opportunity sweepstakes” and make Virginia more attractive to families, workers and businesses.

“We are going to compete and win and ensure Virginians keep more of their hard-earned money,” Youngkin said. “And to do this, we must lead.”

The governor’s tax plan appears to be facing long odds in the legislature after being criticized by Democratic leaders who say it disproportionately benefits the wealthiest at the expense of the poor. Some lawmakers have also expressed doubt that the governor’s proposed tax cuts can be offset by his planned increases in the sales and use tax and beefed-up taxes on

tech products like streaming services, software and digital purchases.

Youngkin seemed unswayed by that pushback, stressing that his proposal also includes an increase in the earned-income tax credit that benefits lower-income workers. He also hinted he doesn’t want to see his plan picked apart, calling it a “package deal.”

“I’m only interested in a plan that reduces taxes for Virginians,” the governor said.

New Senate Majority Leader Scott Surovell, D-Fairfax, said the speech left him and other Democrats feeling Youngkin remains more interested in campaign slogans than serious policy-making.

“A lot of the policy proposals we heard tonight were all dependent on a magic money tree growing somewhere on Capitol Square,” Surovell said in an interview.

Youngkin made another sales pitch for the pending economic development deal that could bring both the Washington Wizards and the Washington Capitals to a new sports arena in Alexandria, calling it a rare opportunity to deliver a “huge win” for the state. However, that plan too faces an uncertain path in the legislature, with many lawmakers saying they’re still reviewing the details to make sure the plan makes sense for the region.

Between numerous calls for bipartisanship, Youngkin issued one clear veto threat. He promised to block any effort to repeal the state’s right-to-work law, which inhibits labor organizing by barring unions from requiring workers to pay dues in unionized workplaces.

“Please don’t bring me a bill that impacts Virginians’ right to work, as it will be met with the business end of my veto pen,” Youngkin said.

It’s unclear if Democrats plan to pursue right-to-work repeal. The issue has divided the party in the past, with progressives pushing repeal as a top labor priority and more centrist, pro-business Democrats resisting the idea.

Youngkin spent most of Wednesday’s speech talking about his own

priorities.

He talked up his efforts to bring more intensive tutoring resources to K-12 schools to combat pandemic learning loss and said his latest education budget, totaling roughly \$20.2 billion, is again the largest in Virginia history.

“This has been a tremendous effort on all of our behalf to fund our schools at unprecedented levels. And I would caution us from drawing strong opinions from out-of-date facts that precede this great work that all of you facilitated,” Youngkin said, an apparent reference to a recent state study that found Virginia’s K-12 school funding trailed the national average by about 14%.

He also emphasized his efforts to shore up Virginia’s struggling mental health system, a push that’s drawn widespread bipartisan support.

Many of Youngkin’s legislative priorities were familiar from last year’s campaign season. He called for the repeal of a Democratic-backed law tying Virginia to California’s vehicle emissions standards, even though the federal Clean Air Act requires states to either follow federal standards or the California standards.

He also called for new rules to restrict tech companies from selling data gathered from minors, tougher criminal penalties for drug dealers whose products lead to overdoses and stiffer punishment for those who commit crimes with guns.

“We should also know that Virginia’s gun laws are already among the toughest in the nation,” Youngkin said, seemingly laying down a marker against a proposed assault weapon ban and numerous other gun-control bills Democrats are expected to pass this session. “Therefore, I’m asking you, allow us to hold accountable those criminals that commit crimes with guns by lengthening and making more severe the penalties in order to keep them off the streets.”

There were a few new proposals in the speech. After championing legislation last year to adopt a new definition of antisemitism, Youngkin called for new legislation seemingly tied to the Oct. 7 attacks in Israel and the ongoing debate about how American institutions should respond to the Israel-Hamas conflict.

“Pass a bill which says the commonwealth of Virginia won’t do business with companies that boycott Israel,” Youngkin said. “Pass a hate crime bill which ensures all forms of antisemitism, not just religious bigotry, are treated as hate crimes under the law.”

Surovell, the Senate Democratic leader, said that for all Youngkin’s talk of bipartisanship, it was light on policy specifics and issues the Democratic legislature might support.

“It’s hard for us to know where he

stands,” Surovell said. “Because he never takes positions on a lot of important issues.”

One big question hanging over the 2024 session is whether Youngkin can be convinced to move forward with legalized sales of marijuana, a proposal that’s drawn at least some bipartisan support as a way to restore order to Virginia’s cannabis laws. Democrats decriminalized possession of small amounts of pot in 2021, and the state now allows home growers to

cultivate up to four marijuana plants for their personal use. But there’s still no way to legally purchase marijuana for recreational use.

Speaking to reporters after the speech, Youngkin said “I just don’t have a lot of interest in pressing forward with marijuana legislation.”

Mercury reporters *Charlie Paullin* and *Nathaniel Cline* contributed to this story.

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weather forecast

Friday, January 12, 2024: Rain, mainly after 4pm. High near 48. Light and variable wind becoming southeast 10 to 15 mph in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 23 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New precipitation amounts of less than a tenth of an inch possible.

Friday Night: Rain, mainly before 1am. Steady temperature around 45. Southeast wind 8 to 17 mph becoming southwest after midnight. Winds

could gust as high as 29 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New precipitation amounts between a half and three quarters of an inch possible.

Saturday: A chance of showers before 7am. Sunny, with a high near 45. Breezy, with a west wind 15 to 23 mph, with gusts as high as 41 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 27. West wind 16 to 18 mph, with gusts as high as 31 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 37.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22.

M.L.King Day: A chance of rain and snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 36. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Monday Night: A chance of snow.

Mostly cloudy, with a low around 23. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

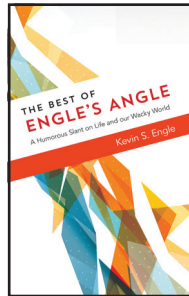
Tuesday: A chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 32. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Tuesday Night: A chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 13. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 29.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 18.

Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 40.



ENGLE'S ANGLE: "Just For The Fun Of It"

by Kevin S. Engle

Let's say, just for the fun of it, you

owned a set of handcuffs.

And let's say, just for the fun of it, you put them on, for whatever reason, but couldn't get them off?

I'm making all this up of course. Just a little game of pretend. But if it were real, let's say, just for the fun of it, in that situation, what would you do?

Would you call a locksmith?

And would the locksmith come to your house and unlock those handcuffs? Or might he or she want to be sure before doing that you hadn't just broken out of jail?

Hmm.

Would you call 311 and tell them about your non-emergency emergency?

How about the police?

They know a thing or two about handcuffs.

They might also want to be sure you're not an escaped criminal before setting you free.

Let's say, just for the fun of it, you walked in to the police station, with handcuffs on, and asked for some help.

What would you tell them?

"Well, officer, my wife and I were playing a little game, and then, well, here I am."

Hmm.

That could be a tricky situation.

Even embarrassing.

If this pretend thing really did happen sometime, you'd have quite the story to tell wouldn't you?

It might even be worth writing about someday.

Let's say, just for the fun of it, if it ever does, I'll let you know how it turns out.

The author has no comment to make at this time. Maybe later.

- kevinengle456@comcast.net

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



Ask Stewart

Happy New Year Stewart,

Do you have some words of wisdom for 2024?

- Austin

Yes! Here are some TREE-mendous words!

"A grove of giant redwood or sequoias should be kept just as we keep a great and beautiful cathedral."

- Theodore Roosevelt

"The best friend on earth of man is the tree. When we use the tree respectfully and economically, we have one of the greatest resources on the earth."

- Frank Lloyd Wright

"Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."

- Warren Buffett

"The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness."

- John Muir

"But down deep, at the molecular heart of life we're essentially identical to trees."

- Carl Sagan

"I looked up my family tree and found out I was the sap."

- Rodney Dangerfield

"I think that I shall never see a billboard lovely as a tree. Perhaps, unless the billboards fall, I'll never see a tree at all."

- Ogden Nash

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.

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 - Linda Noland 1/17
 - Catherine Mishler 1/17
 - Louise Cather 1/20
 - Ron Lange 1/23
 - Jeanette Barbee 1/26
 - Margaret Emmart 1/27
 - Henry Hammer 1/29
 - Anniversary: Walter & Dorothy Pastalove 1/20
- hiddenspringsseiorliving.com



Reaching Out Now presents a day of service through giving in support of the Raymond E Santmyers Student Union and Activity Center. You'll have opportunities to learn more about future volunteer options and donate to initial center costs.

Visit with us for coffee and doughnuts and the opportunity to give in person at the new student union building on Monday, January 15 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at 200 E.

8th St in Front Royal. Or donate online at <https://reachingoutnow.org/donations/student-union-2023/>

All donations no matter how small will help us get a step closer to covering our opening costs and becoming a lighthouse for the kids in our community.

"He who is greatest among you shall be a servant. That's the new definition of greatness. ... By giving that definition of greatness, it means that everybody can be great, because everybody can serve."

- Martin Luther King, Jr



Brian Alexander Jenkins

Brian Alexander Jenkins of Bentonville, VA, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, December 31, 2023 at the age of 28.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at Maddox Funeral Home with Sammy Campbell officiating. Internment followed in Panorama Memorial Gardens.

Brian was born November 5, 1995 in Charlottesville, VA to Gina Jenkins.

He graduated from Skyline High School in 2014. Brian was employed by Precision Paint Shops. Brian enjoyed spending time with his friends, hunting, racing and working on cars with Granddad. He was an absolute gun enthusiast with enough ammo to stock a store.

Brian was known to make everyone laugh and be the life of the party. He had a laugh and smile that was absolutely contagious. Brian's greatest title was uncle and he loved that title more than anything else. You could always catch him taking a selfie, wrestling or tickling his two nephews.

Brian is survived by his mother and stepfather, Gina and Mike Smith; special "dad", Karl Van Reuth; sister and brother-in-law, Joanna and Robbie Foster; grandparents, Jr. and Connie Jenkins; very special aunt and uncle, Sheri and Jim Johnson; two very spoiled nephews, Brayden and Bentley Foster; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins; and many friends he considered family, as Brian never met a stranger.

Brian is preceded in death by many family members including his grandparents, Richard and Karen Jenkins; special grandmother, Helen Robinson; cousin, Lisa Willingham; and friend, Mason Simmons.

Pallbearers were be Luke Carter, Van Jacob Carter, Kody Showers, Jesse

Jenkins, Bob Eddy and Windle Spindle.

Honorary pallbearers were be Karl Van Reuth, Tyler Menefee, Van Wiley Carter and Jr. Shingleton.



Front Royal Women's Resource Center accepting applications for 2024 Dare To Dream grants

Take classes, start a business, purchase a computer, learn a new skill, train for a profession, start a non-profit, anything you can dream...

Applications are now being accepted for the Front Royal Women's Resource Center's (FRWRC) 2024 Dare to Dream grants. Each year, FRWRC awards individual grants to Warren County women to help make their dreams a reality. Past recipients have

See BRIEFS, 20

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Check out our Facebook Page for Weekly Updated Pictures & SALE Information!!

HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, if resolutions seem slow-going, give it time to get into a groove and become part of your routine. You can handle anything when you put your mind to it.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, there is a lot going on in your life at the moment, and you may need to accept that you can't do it all alone. Start farming out tasks to people you trust.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

How will you know if you can do something unless you give it a try, Gemini? Be adventurous this week, whether it is enjoying a new ethnic cuisine or trying a new activity.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you may have a few plans on the horizon but aren't sure how to get started. Just like walking, take it one step at a time and soon you'll find that you're on your way.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, you may think you're being humble and putting others' needs before your own this week. But if you look a little deeper, you may discover you have room to improve.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, if you commit to something, follow through this week. Others are counting on you for your portion of the work and letting them down now is not an option.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Health issues may have you taking inventory of your habits, Libra. It's a new year and the perfect time to start to make changes for the better. Ask for help if you need guidance.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

You're not one for being bashful about things, Scorpio. But something could occur this week that leaves you a little red in the face and perhaps wanting to hide in the shadows.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Someone new in your life is causing all types of changes to your schedule, Sagittarius. You're not quite sure if you enjoy it or not right now. Stay the course and wait to see.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, you will not make inroads with family or friends if you continue to play the victim. You must own up to any mistakes you've made and start making amends this week.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Sometimes the best defense is remaining quiet and letting others dig themselves into a deeper hole, Aquarius. Others will see your positive efforts for all they are.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Think about planning a getaway in the next month or so, Pisces. It doesn't have to be a grand voyage. Even a weekend retreat can be a way to rest and recharge right now.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 14

LL Cool J, Rapper (56)

JANUARY 15

Dove Cameron, Actress (28)

JANUARY 16

Kate Moss, Model (50)

JANUARY 17

Jake Paul, YouTube Star (27)

JANUARY 18

Karan Brar, Reality Star (25)

JANUARY 19

Dolly Parton, Singer (78)

JANUARY 20

Skeet Ulrich, Actor (54)

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BRIEFS, from 19

used their grants to start and build businesses, purchase business equipment, support certification and continuing education goals, etc. Applicants can request up to a \$1,000 grant which is paid directly to the school or vendor.

The Dare to Dream grants are available to women living and/or working in Warren County, ages 18 years and older, not currently enrolled in high school. **Application deadline is January 12, 2024.** Applications are reviewed by committee members and a consensus is established regarding final applicants to be interviewed. Applications are considered based on the merit of the project; research and efforts made toward the dream and financial need. Recipients will be announced in March 2024.

Begun in 1999, by FRWRC Founder JoEllen McNeal, the purpose of the grant is to provide women living or working in Warren County, with opportunities to move forward with their lives whether it be to continue their education, start or expand their business, buy a computer or provide a specific service to the community, etc. A flagship program of the FRWRC the grant programs have expanded over the years, providing nearly 200 grants totaling \$150,000 to empower women and girls in Warren County. Former grant recipients have not only gone to finish their educations and start successful businesses, but these grants have also helped them gain confidence in their goals, strengthen their families and contribute to our entire community.

If you have a dream or know a Warren County woman in your life who has a dream and needs financial support to make it happen, this is your opportunity.

Applications are available now at Samuel's Public Library or download the application form at www.frwrc.org/dare-to-dream/ or by calling or emailing the FRWRC office at 540-636-7007, wrc@frwrc.org.

About Front Royal Women's Resource Center: The Front Royal Women's Resource Center (FRWRC) is a 26-year-old non-profit organization, dedicated to providing a support network for women in the Warren County area through programs, information and education. Over the last two decades, FRWRC has provided networking opportunities, spotlighted women leaders in our community and awarded more than \$150,000 in grants and scholarships to nearly 200 Warren County women and girls to support education, and professional and personal enrichment opportunities. We empower women to change their world. Visit our website frwrc.org and follow us on Facebook @FRWRC.

Support the Front Royal Women's Resource Center www.frwrc.org/donate



New laws in Virginia

By Sarah Roderick-Fitch
The Center Square

The new year signals change, specifically new laws which will take effect in Virginia, especially in the health care sector.

The Commonwealth will see a slew

of new laws aimed at improving health insurance coverage, recognizing specific out-of-state counseling licenses, streamlining home studies for adoption and changes to the state's medical marijuana oversight.

Hearing aids

Earlier this year, the Senate passed legislation requiring health insurers to provide hearing aids for minors at an affordable rate if recommended by a doctor. Every two years, families will be able to receive up to \$1,500 for minor's hearing devices.

Counseling Compact

The House passed a bill making it easier for counselors to practice across state lines through Compact permits, making Virginia the 20th state to join the Counseling Compact. Eligible licensed counselors must be licensed in at least one member state.

Continuity of care

In addition, the House also passed a bill to improve the continuity of care through health insurance carriers, which will be required to notify enrollees if a provider is removed from the carrier's panel. Even if the provider is removed, patients can still receive care for up to 90 days following removal.

The new law makes exceptions for pregnant women to continue care with their provider through postpartum. It also provides care for up to 180 days for those with life-threatening conditions. Additionally, the provider may continue care for patients receiving inpatient treatment until discharged from the inpatient facility.

Paid sick leave

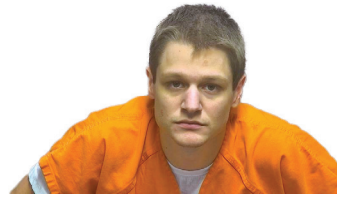
Under a new law passed by the Senate, employers must provide paid sick leave to health care providers and grocery store workers. Currently, employers are only required to provide sick leave to certain home health care workers. The bill also removes a requirement that workers work on average a minimum of 20 hours per week, or 90 hours per month, to be eligible.

Home studies

Under a new law, home studies for adoptions will become transferable, providing flexibility to the adoption process. The law will allow home studies conducted by adoption agencies or social services boards to be transferred between localities and state-licensed adoption agencies.

Medical Marijuana

A new law will affect the oversight of the commonwealth's medical marijuana program, transferring it from the Virginia Board of Pharmacy to the Virginia Cannabis Control Authority. The CCA will be required to adopt previously enacted regulations for medical marijuana dispensaries.



Evan A. Goldsborough

Warren County man charged in fatal NYE crash

Virginia State Police is investigating a fatal one-car crash that occurred at 2:10 a.m. New Year's Eve, Dec. 31 in Warren County.

A 2021 Dodge Charger was heading south at a high rate of speed on Browntown Road near Park Ridge Court when the vehicle went off the road to the right, struck a rock, and then several trees.

A passenger in the vehicle, Brian A. Jenkins, 28, of Warren County, died at the scene.

The driver of the Charger, Evan A. Goldsborough, 24, also of Warren County, suffered serious injuries.

Goldsborough has been charged with driving under the influence and involuntary manslaughter. He was being held without bond at the Rappahannock-Shenandoah-Warren Regional Jail.

The crash remains under investiga-

tion.



Warren Coalition to Offer Free Trauma-Informed Certification

Warren Coalition will offer a free Trauma-Informed Certification Class (Course 1) on January 31, 2024, from 9 am to 3:30 pm at Warren County Community Center.

We all interact with others on a daily basis, and sometimes we are left wondering why we snapped, or why the other person acted so rudely. Sometimes those interactions can leave us feeling lonely, insecure, or as if we aren't good enough.

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or the other person. The question to ask, both of yourselves and others, is “What happened to you?” This allows you to approach yourself and others from a place of understanding. This trauma-informed training will explore this and more. It will help you understand the science behind trauma, the lifelong impacts trauma can have on your mental and physical health, and how to approach others whose trauma history is unknown.

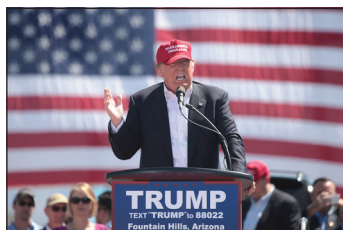
Attendees must attend the full session to receive a Trauma-Informed Certification. This course is offered free of charge to community members. The class will be taught in person by Christa Shifflett, Executive Director of the Warren Coalition. It will not be recorded.

To complete the required pre-registration, visit bit.ly/ti-jan31 (note the link is case-sensitive). For more information about Trauma-Informed Training and whether it can help you in your personal and/or professional life, email Christa Shifflett at christa@warrencoalition.org.

This training is presented by Warren Coalition and Northwestern Prevention Collaborative (NPC). NPC covers the Lord Fairfax Planning District, encompassing the City of Winchester and the counties of Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah and Warren. The Collaborative is a partnership between Page Alliance for Community Action, Family Youth Initiative, Warren Coalition, Northern Shenandoah Substance Abuse Coalition and the Prevention Department of Northwestern Community Services Board.

Warren Coalition is a nonprofit agency established in 1994 to help fill

the gaps in health care and substance misuse awareness to the community. The Coalition began under the guidance of Warren Memorial Hospital as an outreach project, but it has since grown and was incorporated in 2001. The office is currently located in the Warren County Community Center. Their mission is to make Warren County a safe, healthy, and drug free community through many programs and in collaboration with 15+ member agencies.



Donald Trump campaigning in Arizona, March 2016 by Gage Skidmore, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=47943348>

Federal judge dismisses effort to block Trump from Virginia ballot

By Graham Moomaw
Virginia Mercury
January 2, 2024 2:29pm

A federal judge dismissed a lawsuit last week that sought to ban former President Donald Trump from Virginia’s presidential primary and general election ballots due to Trump’s efforts to overturn the result of the 2020 election.

In an opinion issued Dec. 29, U.S. District Judge Leonie M. Brinkema ruled that the pair of activists who

filed the suit lacked legal standing to challenge Trump’s eligibility for office because they “totally failed” to show that Trump’s presence on Virginia’s ballot would cause them specific harm.

“Although this increasingly litigated legal question of whether former President Trump may be disqualified from running for or serving in public office raises issues of the utmost importance in our democratic system of self-governance, the Court cannot reach the merits of plaintiff’s claims because it lacks subject-matter jurisdiction,” Brinkema wrote.

The ruling indicates there won’t be any late-breaking developments regarding Trump’s eligibility as a primary candidate in Virginia, where early voting for the state’s March 5 presidential primaries is set to begin Jan. 19.

As legal battles continue to play out elsewhere, the question of whether Trump’s role in the events leading up to the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol qualifies as an act of insurrection — which would bar him from holding office — could ultimately be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the Virginia challenge, the judge drew a distinction between the case before her and recent headline-grabbing decisions by authorities in Colorado and Maine to disqualify Trump from primary ballots on similar grounds. The Colorado Supreme Court and Maine’s secretary of state issued the rulings based on their own states’ election laws, Brinkema wrote, not in response to claims brought in federal court.

“Federal courts across the country have consistently held that individual

citizens do not have ... standing to challenge whether another citizen is qualified to hold public office,” Brinkema ruled.

Because the suit also named state elections officials as defendants, attorneys in the office of Attorney General Jason Miyares had asked the court to dismiss the case on largely technical grounds. State attorneys said the legal challenge was based on a misunderstanding of how Virginia primaries work, noting that state election officials “do not actively police the eligibility of presidential candidates” in primaries run by the state but overseen by political parties.

The Republican Party of Virginia also sought to intervene, arguing that if allowed to proceed, the lawsuit would threaten GOP voters’ rights to pick their own nominees for office.

In the opinion dismissing the case, Brinkema also chided the plaintiffs, Hampton Roads-area voters Roy L. Perry-Bey and Carlos A. Howard, for a variety of procedural irregularities as they attempted to represent themselves before the court, such as failing to include full contact information and claiming health concerns were preventing them from responding to new filings in a timely manner.

– gmoomaw@virginiamercury.com



The Winchester Hot Wheels Club meets Sunday January 21, 2024 from 1-3 pm in the War Memorial Building, Jim Barnett Park, 1001 E. Cork St.

Winchester, VA 22601. Lord Fairfax room. Buy, sell and trade diecast cars. We will have door prizes too! For more information: Dan Hammond at hw-dan2@earthlink.net.



Virginia lawmakers will consider expanding the use of speed cameras during the 2024 General Assembly Session. (Nathaniel Cline/Virginia Mercury)

An incoming Virginia delegate wants to expand use of speed cameras

By Nathaniel Cline
Virginia Mercury

January 2, 2024--When they reconvene this month, Virginia lawmakers will consider a proposal to allow local governments to install speed cameras wherever they deem them necessary, with penalties of up to \$100 for violations.

Bill patron Del.-elect Mike Jones, D-Richmond, said the legislation is intended to increase speed enforcement and reduce the number of traffic fatalities.

“It gives localities the decision of whether they want to do it or not,” said Jones. “So it’s not a ‘shall’ — every locality will have it — but for the ones that are concerned with this, it would help them out.”

State law currently allows local governments to install speed cameras in work and school zones as a way to drivers to go slower around children and construction workers. Jones’ bill would go further, allowing their placement in “any location deemed necessary” by local governments.

However, the use of more cameras to enforce speed laws has previously sparked controversy over privacy and public perceptions that the technology is just another way for a locality to raise revenue.

In November, amid a Frederick County debate, outgoing Supervisor Shawn Graber told the Mercury that “there should never be a time when a locality tries to simply put something in effect to make money from someone else’s misdoing.”

Jones said he understands the concerns, but argued people are asking for safer streets and safer neighborhoods.

“There’s not enough police for them and/or they don’t respond to neighborhoods simply because of numbers,” said Jones. “I understand the concern for the overpolicing, I get that. I get that as an African American male, I get that as pastor of an African American church, a Black legislator that represented predominantly Black and brown people. I hear that, but the reality is this: People aren’t dying in a lot of these different neighborhoods; where



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BRIEFS, from 21

they're literally dying is in mine."

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles data found that last year, 20% of the 122,434 crashes in the state were speed related, a 1% increase over the previous year. Virginia Department of Transportation crash data also shows that between 2018 and 2022, the annual number of traffic fatalities increased from 819 to 1,005.

The DMV said that on average, 2.8 lives are lost and 163 people injured every day because of traffic crashes.

Rob Billington, a spokesman for the Virginia Municipal League, which represents city and town governments in the commonwealth, said the league supports letting local governments expand the use of speed cameras on all roads at all times. He said traditionally VML has supported local flexibility, and it sees Jones' bill as providing that.

"VML has supported, and continues to support, expanding the availability of photo-camera traffic enforcement for all localities in the context of a defined transportation safety program that includes engineering, enforcement, education, and emergency response elements while respecting civil rights," the group has said in a transportation policy statement.

The Virginia Association of Counties said it's still reviewing the bill.

"We are aware of the bill and will closely monitor its progress during the General Assembly session," said VACO Executive Director Dean Lynch in a statement. "We always welcome additional tools for local governments to better serve their communities and make them safer for other motorists, pedestrians, etc."

Sen. Jennifer Boysko, D-Fairfax, who will chair the Senate Transportation Committee next session, said lawmakers have considered similar legislation in the past and have raised concerns about the accuracy of the cameras.

"One thing that we don't want to do is inadvertently penalize somebody for faulty equipment," Boysko said. "So for me, and I think for many of my colleagues, we want to make certain that before we approve expanding such an item that we want to make sure that it is accurate."

However, she added, "nobody can deny that the traffic exacerbation over the past couple of years has really caused some real problems with pedestrian injuries and death, and just overall the lack of concern for speed limits."

- ncline@virginiamercury.com



United Way NSV Opens 2024 Impact Grant Submissions

(Winchester, VA) January 2, 2024 – United Way of Northern Shenandoah Valley (UWNSV) is inviting local nonprofits to apply for the 2024-2025

Community Impact Grant Program. The intent of the grant program is to respond to local priority needs as established through the United Way Community Needs Assessment process, in the areas of health, education, and financial stability.

The 2024-2025 Impact Grants will reflect the 2023 ALICE® Report and the most recent Community Needs Assessment for the Northern Shenandoah Valley. Both reports are available on UWNSV's website at www.unitedwaynsv.org.

Letters of intent from nonprofits stating their interest to apply for a grant are due January 12, 2024 –and must be completed through the online grant portal, Community Force. The link to the portal is: <https://unitedwaynsv.communityforce.com/Login.aspx>

The full grant application will open will be due on February 16, 2024. A virtual grant application training is required for all applying agencies.

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be considered for grant funding:

Operate as a 501(c)(3) non-profit and be a Virginia registered charity.

Directed by a volunteer governing body with an organizational structure to administer programs.

Account for funds in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

Perform the required financial due diligence necessary as listed on United Way's website.

Provide health and human services in the UWNSV catchment area (Winchester City, Frederick, Clarke, Warren, Shenandoah and Page Counties).

Operate without discrimination.

Manage with an overhead cost (management and general/fundraising) below 25% of revenue.

Certify that United Way funds and donations will be used in compliance with all applicable anti-terrorism financing and asset control laws, statutes and executive orders.

Verify that they are able to complete the post-award reporting requirements in a timely matter.

In 2023, the Impact Grant Program of UWNSV invested \$525,000 in 46 programs focused on health, education, and financial stability throughout the Northern Shenandoah Valley. The agency received a record number of requests. Fifty-one organizations based in the City Winchester, Frederick, Clarke, Shenandoah, Page, and Warren Counties requested \$1,051,809 in program funding.

The annual Impact Grant process involves more than 60 diverse community volunteers, who review funding applications and participate in site visits and panel presentation before submitting the final recommendations on funding to the United Way NSV Board of Directors for approval.

United Way NSV is recruiting additional volunteers to help with reviewing applications for the Impact Grant process. Interested volunteers can sign up online at <https://www.unitedwaynsv.org/fund-distribution-volunteers> or call (540) 536-1610 to learn more.

Agency applicants interested in learning more about Impact Grants are highly encouraged to visit the UWNSV website for more information on eligibility, deadlines, and other requirements for funding at <https://www.unitedwaynsv.org/community-impact-grants>.

About United Way of Northern Shenandoah Valley: Since 1946, the United Way NSV has led the fight for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community - to meet the needs that matter most to the people of Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah, and Warren Counties, as well as the City of Winchester. United Way NSV convenes the people and organizations necessary to create solutions to our region's most pressing challenges and collaborates with effective partners. United Way NSV seeks to serve as the catalyst for community change by supporting over 45 partner agencies in the area on income, health, and education. For more information visit our website www.unitedwaynsv.org



Poll: Virginians favor repealing Clean Cars law

By Morgan Sweeney
The Center Square

A majority of Virginians support repealing the 2021 law that ties the commonwealth's electric vehicle policies to California's, according to a non-partisan polling group.

The poll, conducted by the political and public-policy polling organization Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategy, found nearly 60% of Virginians support repealing the mandate. In comparison, only 30% of those surveyed oppose the repeal.

As it currently stands, the law would ban the sale of new gas-powered vehicles in the commonwealth in 2035. To that end, it also requires that 35% of all new cars and trucks sold in Virginia in 2025 must be electric or zero-emissions.

The poll asked respondents if they were aware of the law and whether they believed the Virginia General Assembly "should or should not repeal this forthcoming ban on the sale of new gas-powered cars and trucks."

Fifty-seven percent of those surveyed said the assembly should repeal the ban; 30% said it should not, and 13% were unsure.

The poll grouped respondents into six regions: Northern Virginia, Shenandoah/Piedmont, Richmond Metro, Hampton Roads, Lynchburg/Southside and Roanoke/Southwest.

Support for repeal was highest in the Roanoke/Southwest region of the state at 73% and lowest in Northern Virginia at 41%. However, those favoring repeal outnumbered those oppos-

ing it in every region by an average of 32%.

Even surveyed Democrats were 45%-38% in favor of repeal, with 17% unsure. Republicans supported repeal, 74%-14%, and Independents 54%-35%.

A bill has been introduced by Del. Tony Wilt for the 2024 General Assembly session that would repeal the regulations imposed by the Clean Cars law.



Samuels Library Youth Activities - January 2024

These are the events being presented by the Youth Services Department at Samuels Public Library during the month of January 2024. More information about Samuels Library and the programs and services available can be found at www.samuelslibrary.net or by calling (540) 635-3153.

January 3rd-March 2nd Winter Reading Program. For all ages. Students can read a book or listen to others read to them, to win weekly prizes!

Saturday, January 13

11:00AM –Wee Ones in the Garden. For ages 3-6, with parent. Join a Master Gardener and learn about bulbs, the heart of flower nutrients. Registration is required.

12:00 PM - Elementary Green

Thumbs. For ages 7-11. Join a Master Gardener and learn all about bulbs, the heart of flower nutrients. Registration is required.

Monday, January 15

Samuels Public Library is closed for the holiday and a staff development day.

Tuesday, January 16

4:30 PM - Science Scouts. Children will investigate a different STEM-related topic bi-weekly. This week's theme is Snowball Launcher. For ages 6-11. Registration is required.

Wednesday, January 17

10:15AM - Toddler Story Time. Bring your toddler to a potpourri of simple stories, fun songs, and a cute craft about Let's Play. Siblings welcome. Registration is required.

11:00 AM – Preschool Story Time. Come in for an enjoyable hour filled with Let's Play stories, exciting sing-alongs, finger plays, and a nifty craft! Registration is required.

Saturday, January 20

2:00 PM – Warm the Heart with Cocoa. For ages 6-11. Children will make a cup of hot chocolate out of Popsicle sticks. Registration is required.

Monday, January 22

11:00 AM - Music & Movement for Babies & Toddlers. Join our relaxed and joyful time with our little ones as we incorporate music, beginning yoga, and multisensory activities designed to delight your baby. Registration is required.

Tuesday, January 23

10:30 AM – Homeschool Hub. For ages 6-11. Children will work together as they go through the scientific method, gathering data, and drawing conclusions. The topic this week is

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Hot Cocoa Solubility. Registration is required

Wednesday, January 24
10:15AM - Toddler Story Time. Bring your toddler to a potpourri of simple stories, fun songs, and a cute craft about Winter Fun. Siblings welcome. Registration is required.

11:00 AM – Preschool Story Time. Come in for an enjoyable hour filled with Winter Fun stories, exciting sing-alongs, finger plays, and a nifty craft! Registration is required.

Monday, January 29
11:00 AM - Music & Movement for Babies & Toddlers. Join our relaxed and joyful time with our little ones as we incorporate music, beginning yoga, and multisensory activities designed to delight your baby. Registration is required.

Tuesday, January 30
4:30 PM - Science Scouts. Children will investigate a different STEM-related topic bi-weekly. This week's theme is Hot Cocoa Solubility. For ages 6-11. Registration is required.

Wednesday, January 31
10:15AM - Toddler Story Time. Bring your toddler to a potpourri of simple stories, fun songs, and a cute craft about Favorite Foods. Siblings welcome. Registration is required.

11:00AM – Preschool Story Time. Come in for an enjoyable hour filled with Favorite Food stories, exciting sing-alongs, finger plays, and a nifty craft! Registration is required.



Alyssa Eckstein of Stephens City, Va., was named to the 2023 fall semester Dean's List at Bridgewater College. Eckstein is a(n) biology and Spanish major at Bridgewater.

Emory & Henry College congratulates students named to the fall 2023 Dean's List. To be named to the Dean's List, a student must be a full-time student and earn a 3.6 GPA for the semester: Jackson Arnold of Linden,

VA; Elise Buonocore of Stephens City, VA; Haley Clingerman of Front Royal, VA; Brodilyn Ireland of Stephens City, VA; Jaiden Kessel of Winchester, VA.

It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2023 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer: Autumn Webb of Winchester; Hannah Dutterer of Winchester; Asma Attaoui of Winchester; Jorge Agosto Robles of Winchester; Rachel Brannigan of Winchester; Amy Combs of Winchester; Matthew Barrett of Winchester; Caleb Battaglia of Cross Junction; Danielle Schetrompf of Front Royal; Lindsey Flickinger of Front Royal; Mark Lamkins of Linden; Brittany Larrick of Middletown; Cody Strawderman of Stephens City.

Full-time SNHU undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer: Michael Murphy of Winchester; Amanda Pata of Stephens City.

Taylor Cannon of Winchester was named to the dean's list at Slippery Rock University for the fall 2023 semester. The dean's list consists of SRU undergraduate students who earned an adjusted semester grade-point average of 3.5 or higher, based on a schedule of at least 12 newly attempted and earned credits.

Jay Perry of Winchester was named to the President's List of University of the Cumberland.

Ethan Schwantes of Winchester was named to Washington College's Fall 2023 Dean's List.

Senior Cybersecurity Management major Natilie McCallick of Front Royal presented her senior thesis on the cybersecurity project management tradeoffs in the Waterfall and Agile software development methods at the December meeting of the Keystone Chapter of the Project Management

Institute (PMI) held at York College.

The following students were named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List at Shenandoah University: Tehya Herbaugh of Winchester, Treyven Mandel of Winchester, Matatz Alnajjar of Winchester, Jenna Arnoldy of Stephens City, Rose Balsler of Winchester, Victor Jon Buch of Winchester, Patrick Coffron of Front Royal, Yohanna Diaz-Amaya of Stephens City, Britney Elvira Howell of Winchester, Seth Griner of Winchester, James Harbaugh of Winchester, Faith Hovermale of Cross Jct, Madeleine Kee of Winchester, Jonas Kent of Winchester, Jessica Marks of Winchester, Logan McGinnis of Winchester, Martina Schianchi of Winchester, Kylynn Whitt of Stephens City, Kayleigh Fridley of Winchester, Jillian Fitzhenry of Stephens City, Dylan Bly of Winchester, Elizabeth Osbourn of Front Royal, Brennon Putt of Winchester, Brennan Komelasky of Front Royal, Mackenzi Bates of Front Royal, Jonathan Clippinger of Winchester, Abby Bowen of Winchester, Keyri Arevalo Argueta of Winchester, Jillian Reef of Winchester, Chloe Butler of Winchester, Shae Deringer of Winchester, Xavier Kallash-Kyler of Stephenson, Asia James of Lake Frederick, Laura Brown of Front Royal, Peter Van Eck of Stephens City, J Oldaker of Stephenson, Brooke Ansell of Winchester, Adam Wurtenberger of Winchester, William Jones of Winchester, Charles Galeon of Winchester, Haley Joseph of Winchester, Maria Saikali of Winchester, Gabriel Dubin of Front Royal, Megan Vardiman of Linden, Hyun Kyung Choi of Winchester, Mariah Barber of Linden, Grace Hawkins of Winchester, Joldin Nantanda of Winchester, Jordan Parker of Winchester, Kassi Scroggs of Middletown, Kenneth Cassada of Winchester, Katie Lip-ton of Stephens City, Kaitlyn Flebbe of Middletown, Elizabeth Houser of Winchester, Marisol Rodriguez of Winchester, Katie Heflin of Stephens City, Abigail Esslinger of Winchester, Emma Thompson of Middletown, Taylor Reynolds of Front Royal, Jacqueline Regan of Clear Brook, Darian Angel of Winchester, Elliot Rivera of Winchester, Addison Denney of Winchester, Ashley Pendzich of Stephens City, Connor Binter of Stephens City, Roshni Hundle of Front Royal, Margaret Plosch of Front Royal, Cody Crawford of Linden, Tyler McDonald of Winchester, Lucas Williams of Winchester, Emily Thornton of Winchester, Kelsey Denton of Winchester, Denisse Suas-

navas of Winchester, Chloe Geary of Winchester, Ana Garcia Gonzalez of Winchester, Mason Lippold of Cross Jct, Liliana Guzman of Stephens City, Emma Reed of Winchester, Benjamin Rayburn of Winchester, Hannah Quang of Winchester, Madeline Cahill of Winchester, Hunter Blake of Winchester, Marissa Overbaugh of Winchester, Robert Thomas of Winchester, Elyce Dodd of Stephenson, Joseph Besant of Gore, Brynna Nes-selrodt of Winchester, Juliette King of Winchester, Brianna Washinger of Winchester, Olivia Shores of Winchester, Joshua Smith of Winchester, Khloe Anderson of Clear Brook, Nastasha Justice of Winchester, Tyson Foster of Winchester, Mary Groesbeck of Winchester, Emma Holland of Stephens City, John Abel of Winchester, Cory Obitts of Winchester, Nathan Simmons of Winchester, Kara Mondrone of Front Royal, Kiersten Lemke of Stephenson, Ian Bailey of Stephens City, Giuliana Cappello of Stephens City, Evans Ben of Winchester, Zayan Sheikh of Stephenson, Meghan Pease of Winchester, Jailynn Rivera of Winchester, Torrance Fry of Winchester, Jacob Manuel of Winchester, Aminata Sessay of Winchester, Gabriella White of Winchester, Jacob Burns of Winchester, Ranvir Dhindsa of Stephenson, Julian DiNapoli of Winchester, Patrick Kilkus of Stephens City, Emma Berry of Cross Jct, Olivia Willis of Winchester, Madison Stotler of Winchester, Jared Neal of Winchester, Madison Maki of Stephens City, Samreth-mariya Nith of Winchester, Logan Varner of Stephens City, Nicholas Bell of Cross Jct, Hayley Seabright of Gore, Jacquelyn Sanchez of Linden, Lizeth Marquez Alvarado of Winchester, Karlie Hepner of Winchester, Adriana Arauz Ponce de Leon of Winchester, Caleb Athey of Winchester, Dulce Hernandez of Winchester, Kendyl Jordan of Winchester, Mariah Poulin of Winchester, Taylor French of Stephens City, John Rowe of Stephens City, Joshua Kenyon of Stephens City

The following students were named to the Fall 2023 President's List at Shenandoah University: Elizabeth Osbourn of Front Royal, Brianna Washinger of Winchester, Rose Balsler of Winchester, Ainsley Buckner of Winchester, Seth Griner of Winchester, Madeleine Kee of Winchester, Kassi Scroggs of Middletown, Kenneth Cassada of Winchester, James Harbaugh of Winchester, Marisol Ro-

driguez of Winchester, Lydia Bullen of Winchester, Elyce Dodd of Stephenson, Patrick Coffron of Front Royal, Jenna Arnoldy of Stephens City, Tehya Herbaugh of Winchester, Treyven Mandel of Winchester, Faith Hovermale of Cross Jct, Martina Schianchi of Winchester, Katie Heflin of Stephens City, Logan McGinnis of Winchester, Hannah Collier of Winchester, Jillian Reef of Winchester, Yohanna Diaz-Amaya of Stephens City, Britney Elvira Howell of Winchester, Rachael Blumenschine of Winchester, Laura Taylor of Winchester, John Abel of Winchester, Adam Wurtenberger of Winchester, Jonathan Clippinger of Winchester, Virginia Truitt of Winchester, Cory Obitts of Winchester, Laura Brown of Front Royal, Kayleigh Fridley of Winchester, William Jones of Winchester, Megan Vardiman of Linden, Abigail Esslinger of Winchester, Nathan Simmons of Winchester, Jacqueline Regan of Clear Brook, Emma Thompson of Middletown, Grace Hawkins of Winchester, Joldin Nantanda of Winchester, Addison Denney of Winchester, Connor Binter of Stephens City, Vivienne Gianneschi of Winchester, Taylor Reynolds of Front Royal, Darian Angel of Winchester, Elliot Rivera of Winchester, Tyler McDonald of Winchester, Denisse Suasnavas of Winchester, Kara Mondrone of Front Royal, Roshni Hundle of Front Royal, Kelsey Denton of Winchester, Chloe Geary of Winchester, Madeline Cahill of Winchester, Hunter Blake of Winchester, Emma Reed of Winchester, Benjamin Rayburn of Winchester, Zayan Sheikh of Stephenson, Robert Thomas of Winchester, Julian DiNapoli of Winchester, Olivia Willis of Winchester, Jared Neal of Winchester, Madison Maki of Stephens City, Nicholas Bell of Cross Jct, Adriana Arauz Ponce de Leon of Winchester, Torrance Fry of Winchester, Madison Lucas of Stephens City, Samreth-mariya Nith of Winchester, Jacquelyn Sanchez of Linden, Joshua Kenyon of Stephens City, Hayley Seabright of Gore, Karlie Hepner of Winchester, Caleb Athey of Winchester, Mariah Poulin of Winchester

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Check out Jay's January Deals!!



CR063A - 2014 Toyota Prius Four Hatchback, 191k, FWD, Local Trade, Navigation, JBL Sound, Heated Leather Seats, Backup Cam - **\$7,997**



TP1068A - 2014 Nissan Versa 1.6 S Plus Sedan, 65k, FWD, Accident Free CarFax, Trac Control, 15" Wheels, TPMS System, Great MPG's - **\$7,977**



TR232A - 2012 Kia Soul Plus Hatchback, 83k, Front Wheel Drive, Accident Free CarFax, XM Radio, Bluetooth, Cruise Control - **\$8,477**



MT2527 - 2022 Mitsubishi Outlander Sport 2.0 ES CUV, 5k, FWD, Accident Free 1 Owner CarFax, Backup Cam, Bluetooth, Cruise Ctrl - **\$19,997**



MT2536B - 2019 Ford Fiesta SE Sedan, 104k, FWD, Accident Free 1 Owner CarFax, Pwr Windows & Locks, Keyless Entry, Cruise Control - **\$8,997**



TR222A - 2011 Toyota Avalon Limited Sedan, 187k, FWD, Local Trade, XM Radio, Navigation, Heated & Cooled Leather Seats, Sunroof, JBL - **\$9,427**



MT2526 - 2018 Hyundai Tucson Value SUV, 78k, FWD, Accident Free CarFax, XM, Sunroof, Backup Cam, Blind Spot, 19" Alloy Wheels - **\$16,977**



TR219A - 2013 Hyundai Sonata Limited Sedan, 114k, FWD, Accident Free 1 Owner CarFax, Navigation, Heated Leather Seats, Nav - **\$9,497**



MT2542 - 2022 Nissan Altima 2.5 SV Sedan, 41k, FWD, Accident Free 1 Owner CarFax, Blind Spot, Apple CarPlay & Android Auto, XM - **\$19,667**



TR080B - 2014 Toyota Sienna L Van, 195k, FWD, Accident Free CarFax, Dual Climate Ctrl, Bluetooth, Backup Cam, Cruise, XM - **\$9,597**



TR205A - 2015 Ford Explorer XLT SUV 169k, FWD, Accident Free CarFax, XM, Heated Leather Seats, Pwr Windows & Locks, Backup Cam - **\$10,797**



MT2520A - 2013 Subaru Outback 2.5i Premium SUV, 136k, AWD, Accident Free CarFax, Pwr Sunroof, Heated Seats, Bluetooth - **\$10,877**



TR082A - 2013 Honda Civic EX-L Sedan, 117k, FWD, Local Trade, Heated Leather Seats, Pwr Seats, XM, Pwr Sunroof, Keyless Entry - **\$10,977**



CR112A - 2012 Toyota Camry SE Limited Edition Sedan, 140k, FWD, Accident Free CarFax, Nav, Pwr Sunroof, JBL, Bluetooth, Cruise - **\$11,797**



TR078A - 2006 Toyota Tundra Limited Truck Double Cab, 169k, 4x4, Accident Free 1 Owner CarFax, Heated Leather Seats, Sunroof - **\$12,307**



CR053B - 2015 Dodge Durango SXT SUV, 118k, AWD, Accident Free CarFax, Heated Seats, Steering Whl, Bluetooth, Backup Cam - **\$13,577**



TR234A - 2017 Kia Sorento SX SUV, 142k, AWD, Accident Free CarFax, Nav, Heated & Ventilated Leather Seats, Pano Sunroof, XM - **\$14,997**



TP1171A - 2013 Ram 1500 Tradesman Truck Regular Cab, 74k, 4x4, New Arrival! Accident Free 1 Owner CarFax, XM, A/C, Pwr Steer - **\$16,817**



TR046A - 2018 Dodge Durango GT SUV, 140k, AWD, Local Trade, Nav, Heated Leather Seats, BEATS Audio, Dual Climate, Sunroof - **\$16,997**



TR186A - 2016 Ford F-150 XLT Truck SuperCrew Cab, 151k, 4x4, Accident Free 1 Owner CarFax, Nav, Heated Seats, Remote Start - **\$20,797**

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