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INDICTMENTS



Stephens City food pantry assists needy families, seeks community donations



Former Food Pantry Manager Cathy Ritter with current Executive Director Cookie Shank at the 2023 United Women of Faith Christmas Gathering. Courtesy Mary E. Powell.

By Mark Gunderman
Stephens City, Va.

The food support ministry of Stephens City United Methodist Church (SCUMC) has been in operation since 2004, gradually evolving into a fully operational food pantry. The ministry began as an effort to provide groceries to a handful of families in the Stephens City area. This food was sorted by volunteers, and then distributed by the church secretary, to approximately eight to

twelve families once per month. When Martha Dale and Diane Foreman, who provided this service retired in 2008, Cathy Ritter and Pat Konschak transitioned the food service to a small room (now the church library) distributing groceries on a weekly basis. The pantry service began to expand by supporting more needy families beyond Stephens City into the South Frederick, North Warren, and Shenandoah County areas. The food pantry again required more space and relocated



Grocery cart loaded with delicious fruit, and produce, cereal and canned goods. Courtesy Marty Barley.

to several rooms in the church basement where it exists today.

According to former SCUMC Food Pantry Manager, Cathy Ritter, the pantry was graciously supported by several local churches and the Stephens City Lions Club to assist with donations to fund the increase in services. "USDA food distributions also became available as the economy languished. The pantry received an old freezer donated by the church from the renovated kitchen and a refrigerator donated by Tom and Nancy Hollis twenty years ago. We received two new refrigerators/freezers through the Blue Ridge Food Bank, using USDA

grant funds. Volunteers also shopped around for needed grocery, and hygiene items weekly. Toilet paper, soap, shampoo, deodorant, laundry detergent, and fresh meats became essentials. Volunteers began making direct deliveries to homebound persons," Ritter said.

During the pre-pandemic period, guests would arrive by appointment and wait in a sitting room while their groceries were being prepared by volunteers. "COVID required that the process be changed to utilizing a drive-thru style, boxes and bags of items being placed by volunteers into guest vehicles on line in the

parking lot. This method of distribution has remained in place post-COVID because the process moves faster and serves more people," said Ritter.

Modest wage earner families are economizing and shopping at thrift stores as they attempt to meet the challenges of rising costs. The surge in population and increase cost of housing in our community has added stress on resources and make it much harder for modest wage earners to make ends meet. Those with modest incomes struggle to pay for housing, groceries, childcare, health care, and education among other necessities. Families with children living in at-risk situations depend on local food pantries to save enough money to pay rent. Keeping families stable in the same home helps children to remain in one school and prevents them from experiencing the loss of family members, friends, and

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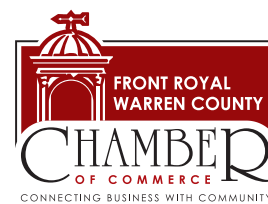
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Stephens City UMC Food Pantry Team working on a cold Tuesday, December 19 afternoon. Courtesy Marty Barley.



Prestaging groceries, boxes, and bags for drive-thru style, loading guest vehicles waiting on line (scheduled by appointment) in the parking lot. Courtesy Marty Barley.

familiar neighborhoods.

Volunteers

Current Executive Director Cookie Shank, began volunteering in 2009 and took over management of the pantry from Ritter

in 2018. Kim DeGroot purchased the food stocks, submitted grant proposals, and assisted Shank with tracking inventory. In 2023, Diane Clawson became the Church Trustee liaison sharing information between the food pantry and church council. Shank said there

are approximately 30 volunteers who help the pantry run on a regular basis to ensure its efficient operations. The positions include, upkeep of the computer database, inputting intake forms from new guests (including various paperwork and follow-up), purchasing

meats and cleaning items, picking up donations from grocery stores, stocking food, sorting and organizing food items, packing guest boxes, and overseeing the food distribution, both at the church drive-thru and direct deliveries to guests' homes.

Some of our volunteers do not attend church at SCUMC, but

like the feeling of helping others. Jeff Constable is a Stephens City resident who does not attend any church but volunteers at SCUMC because he gets the opportunity to be in the trenches, so to speak, with the people who drive in to receive the food. Jeff who has volunteered at the church for five

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Seffren Adair Oates

Seffren Adair Oates, 34, of Winchester, VA was called home January 12, 2024.

Seff was born February 1, 1989 in Winchester; son of Terry Scott Oates and Angela Michele Buterakos, both of Winchester. He was a devoted father, brother and son. Seff was a talented musician, artist and a free spirit. He was a gentle caring soul who was always concerned for his family and friends' well-being. Seff leaves behind his son Jude Patrick Oates who was the light of his world, his most prized possession and his gift to the world.

Along with his son he is survived by his father Terry Oates; mother Angela Buterakos; stepmother Kista Oates all of Winchester; sister, Adrienne Marie Hickerson of Winchester and her daughter Aurora Skye Mathews; step sister, Desirae Alisha Cooke; "His Person", Sara Ritcher of Front Royal, VA; Jude's mother, Rachel Elizabeth Laycock; paternal grandmother, Margaret Oates; maternal grandmother, Janice Buterakos; step grandmother, Faye E. Hicks and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his grandfather, Thomas Buterakos; step father, Rennie Emmitt Cooke III and step grandfather, Edgar P. Chapman II.

A funeral service was held Thursday, January 25 at 1:00 pm at Jones Funeral Home in Winchester. Burial was be private.

Pallbearers were Leon Loyd, Michael Loyd, Adrienne Marie Hickerson, Sean Oates, Jay Chapmans, and Dakota Miller.

Honorary pallbearer was Sara Ferris.





COMMUNITY, from 3

months says he enjoys the experience of loading vehicles with bags of groceries knowing it will have an immediate effect on that specific family.

Rich McManus lives in Lake Frederick and used to volunteer in a food bank warehouse in Winchester. He also sought a position working directly with people living in need. Executive Director Cookie Shank signed him up to make direct to home deliveries to shut-ins or people without transportation. Rich just likes to know his hands-on efforts are making a difference to folks who are thankful for this essential ministry.

Pantry Service

Cookie Shank provides an overview of current services. “We primarily serve people on Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the back church parking lot, but we also make some home deliveries throughout the week to guests who are homebound. Families are invited to come only one time per month. The SCUMC Food Pantry is officially closed whenever Frederick County Public Schools are closed.

Because of the earlier COVID requirements to follow CDC health guidelines, volunteers continue protocols for safe handling and proper sanitizing. Utilizing a drive-thru system, boxes and bags of items are loaded into vehicles to expedite the flow of guest receiving supplies. Items provided can include frozen meats, chilled

dairy products, canned and boxed goods, fresh produce, pet food, and cleaning and hygiene items, with the quantity allowed, based on size of the family.”

“The USDA provides many of the canned good staples that we distribute. We also receive donations from volunteers, church members and local businesses to supplement food and purchase meat and household supplies or cleaning products. The sorority Xi Gamma Pi, Salem Church of the Brethren, Refuge UMC, Reliance UMC, Ridings Chapel UMC, Apple Valley Ringers, Frederick County Retired Teachers Association, Shenandoah Area Council Boy Scouts and the Aylor Middle School Choir and Band have periodically contributed to support the pantry. Blue Ridge Food Bank supplies us with free, fresh USDA produce when it is available, and our guests have received diverse, healthy produce including cab-

bage, carrots, avocados, yellow squash, potatoes, onions, and sweet potatoes. Occasionally we receive cantaloupe, watermelon, and pineapples,” said Shank.

Increased Demand for Services

The pantry is open to all families in need. “Most of our guests participate in the Asset Limited Income Constrained and Employed (ALICE) program. These families are working modest earning jobs and struggle to make ends meet. However, they make too much money to qualify for most social service programs including Supplemental Assistance Nutrition Program (SNAP). Since SNAP benefits were reduced in 2023, our pantry has realized an increase in new guests registering for the first time ever,” said Church Trustee liaison Diane Clawson.

Clawson said the SCUMC food pantry served 15-20 families per



Diane Clawson, Jerri Cook, and Cookie Shank sorting groceries in the church basement food pantry. Courtesy Marty Barley.

week in 2021. Now it averages 40 families per week with a high of 63 families during one week. In 2022, the food pantry served 381 households comprising 1,109 people. These numbers included 347 children, 606 adults (18-65) and 154 seniors (over 65). If you factor in the number of repeat guests, the 2022 total of people served is 5,735. Clawson said the 2023 totals reflect the pantry served 609 households comprising 1,908 individuals. These numbers included 617 children, 1,068 adults (18-65), and 223 seniors (over 65). However, if the pantry counts the number of people who made multiple visits, then the number of repeat guests served is 6,328.

Both Clawson and Shank calculated the end of year numbers for total people multiple times is about a 10% increase over the previous year. During a three-month period (August – October 2023) Shank said she has seen the largest spike yet, averaging 148 people per week compared to 124 people per week during the same period in 2022.

Frederick County’s population increased 12 out of the 12 years between year 2010 and year 2022.

Its largest annual population increase was 2.7% between 2019 and 2020. Between 2010 and 2022, the county grew by an average of 1.6% per year.

Food prices have risen approximately fifteen percent since 2021 and overall inflation continues to squeeze families who were already struggling. That is forcing more families to seek help feeding their families. The pantry is experiencing a nearly 10% registration increase from last year. The pantry receives an average of ten new families a week seeking assistance and the increase reveals no sign of diminishing. At the same time, the SCUMC congregation has slowly reduced in size and the church is concerned they will not be able to sustain continued support for these increases in the long-term.

Request for Additional Donors and Community Support

The primary donors have been Stephens City Lions Club, Kohl’s Foundation, Lions Club of Virginia Foundation, Interstate Truck Service Inc., and Capon Valley Bank. “We are requesting more sponsors to support the purchase

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of supplies for the pantry that will be distributed directly to local families. This will have a huge impact, touching approximately 2,100 households in the Stephens City community. Our primary need for the pantry currently is meat. We are seeking \$2,500 to purchase packaged meat like hot dogs and bologna. Our team of volunteer staff shops for the best deals at local grocery stores and uses our tax-exempt status to get the best rate. \$2,500 will buy approximately 800 packages of pre-packaged meat," said Shank.

"The other great need is cleaning supplies and toiletry items. We most often purchase these items from Dollar Tree because we can buy a generous individual size bottle of laundry detergent or other cleaning products for \$1.25 each. In 2023, we spent over \$2,936 on these types of products."

Because of the increase in families registered, the food pantry is only able to distribute one cleaning supply per family. \$2,500 will buy approximately 2,000 items and support 2,000 families.

Due to the extraordinarily high demand for food to support our neighbors, the pantry shelves re-

quire many donations to fill them to the maximum. Food and monetary donations are desperately needed to serve needy families. Foods that will help the most are peanut butter, pudding and jelly mix, cereal, cake and cookie mixes, canned tomato products, bagged beans or rice, canned black beans, canned chicken and tuna, canned fruit, oatmeal, canned chili, hamburger helper, canned pasta, and macaroni and cheese, and all types of soups.

Shank said that the SCUMC Food Pantry is having to work hard and fast to maintain food stocks and is always happy to receive new donors. "We regularly attend partner meetings with the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank to spread awareness about our needs and services. We share information about other food pantries and soup kitchens in the region too."

Pantry Equipment

SCUMC maintains two refrigerators and freezers. One set is over 20 years old. Shank and Clawson are seeking donations to buy a new refrigerator and freezer at a cost of \$2,100 each.

The Mission Statement

SCUMC is only able to share God's abundance through the donations they receive from the community. Shank said she puts out the word through the electronic media, church bulletins, elected officials, Facebook, neighborhood emails and our community volunteers. We seek volunteers offering to conduct food drives to gather the items, businesses to perform in-office drives and residents to answer the plea for more donations.

SCUMC volunteers strongly believe that assisting those less fortunate with their most basic

needs fosters hope and good will among our diverse and fast-growing community. Unconditional love that flows freely is the simplest and purest of all acts. Hygiene and cleaning supplies, four bags of nonperishables, one bag of fresh produce, these are the simplest of acts.

To receive more information about this emergency support ministry, or to donate to the SCUMC Food Pantry, please contact Executive Director Cookie Shank at foodpantry.scumc@outlook.com

- gunderman2001@aol.com



Upcoming events with Dan McDermott

Sat. Jan. 27, 2024 (6-10pm)
Karaoke at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company
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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
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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*

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*

Sat. June 1, 2024 (7:30-10:30pm)
Karaoke at Woodstock, Va. Moose*

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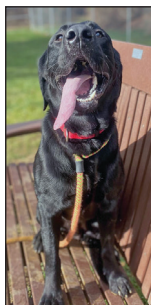
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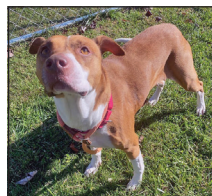
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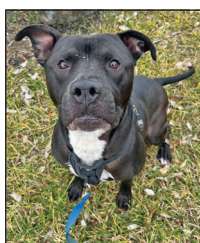
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Betts and Coops Boutique has clothes, will travel

A storefront version of the business is in Charles Town, West Virginia



The Betts and Coops Mobile Boutique, full of fashionable and trendy clothing and a variety of other items, travels around Virginia and surrounding states during the year. It will be on the road again in February.

Folks who want a walk-in store experience of Betts and Coops clothing can find their shop at 113 W. Washington Street in Charles Town, West Virginia.

By Carol Ballard
Warren/Frederick County Report

Food trucks and coffee trucks

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are a familiar sight at festivals and large events, but clothes trucks?

Owner/Founder of Betts and Coop, Bethany Starkey, was intrigued with the idea of taking her online clothing business that she started in her parent's basement, on the road.

The history of her successful venture began in 2019.

"I started this five years ago when I was 23 years old-in one room," Bethany began. "I saved up some money and then went to the markets to get my inventory."

At first, she launched the boutique online and traveled to pop-up events with her then constant companion, Cooper, the 9-lb Jack Russell, aka little CEO. She named the business after both of their nicknames Betts and Coops.

"Which our customers often referred to us by," she noted.

"He was the main thing I liked, and took with me, when I was divorced and stayed with me during some of the worst times of my life, but he passed away in May," she added.

"After five to six months of doing that, (setting up tables and

tents at events) I decided to get a 28 ft. trailer that could be hooked up to cars, so we didn't have to worry about the weather or if we'd get rained on or blown away!"

She added that she wanted it to be mobile like traveling clothing boutiques in large cities but that it would be a local Jefferson County business. So, she and her family remodeled the trailer inside and set it up like a store with changing rooms, and a sliding door that keeps it airconditioned and cool inside in the summer and the heat in during the winter. Then they

hooked it to a Chevy pickup.

"And we take it wherever we want to go."

Her choices of clothing came from her own experiences when she shopped for herself.

"We are one of the few boutiques that offer a variety of sizes, from XS up to Plus-sizes 3X. Your size shouldn't define what you wear to make yourself beautiful," she said.

This decision was easy for her to make as, "I originally got into retail after going through a divorce and I was a little on the heavy

side," she said. "I couldn't find clothes on trend that fit right and were pretty and got disappointed when I couldn't find my size. So now, if a vendor [I am looking at] doesn't carry a bigger size, it's a turn-off."

In the early days of the traveling boutique, plus size clothing didn't have a separate place inside and a lot of women who came in were looking through the clothes but had to sort through all the sizes.

"We had the sizes mixed together so it made it more difficult for people to find the size they wanted. It was frustrating for someone to find that one thing they liked but couldn't fit in. But they don't want baggy! Plus size ladies want the same silhouette as smaller sized ladies," she explained.

So now there's a plus size area with clothes that look good and fit the plus size ladies.

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Bethany Starkey and Cooper, aka Little CEO, pose during the early days of her traveling boutique she named Betts and Coops, combining their nicknames.

“They come in and love that. Sales doubled when we put the clothes in separate sections, Bethany noted and said, “Also, it’s huge for me that they haven’t spent a lot of money when they walk out of

the store.’

There are a variety of items besides women’s clothing in her shops, and she has developed such good relationships with vendors, that they will custom design



Betts and Coops Boutique in Charles Town West Virginia carries pretty and stylish clothing in a wide range of sizes.

items like jewelry, clothing, shoes and purses that are only found in her boutiques. Parents will be happy to find clothes for boys and girls and can even bring in their pets.

“I love it when furry friends come in,” she said. “And for kids, I only buy clothes that I fall in love with because they outgrow their clothes so fast. I make them affordable and cute, for boys and girls, so the clothing will last and can be passed down. It’s been a huge success.”

Although she noted that little boys are not as easy to shop for.

But for those who are thinking about doing this, she has some advice based on her experience.

“When I started, I thought about using something like an RV, but was advised to keep the traveling boutique independent of an engine and was told that if the truck breaks down, you can always hook up the trailer to another vehicle, but if it’s attached, you’ll have to pay for repairs and then won’t be able to get to the event,” she said.

Her parents gave her another valuable piece of advice.

“If you go this route, they said,

“It should be accessible to the handicapped, or people with strollers.”

So they added a fold down ramp to take care of this.

And so the idea of her mobile boutique became a successful reality.

“I brought the mobile business to the Panhandle,” she said. “It’s a great concept. People love events and lots of people love this model. I pride myself in bringing it into the area and we go to fairs, festivals, school and church events. In August of 2020 we won the West Virginia Mobile Boutique of the year, even during Covid!”

“It has grown so much,” she said. “Food trucks have always been popular, but now more businesses like mobile bars and other types of services are popping up.”

As the business took off, they outgrew the original trailer, and she wasn’t sure that she wanted another one. After thinking about it, she decided that people also wanted a storefront clothing boutique.

“Let’s give this brick and mortar a start,” she remembers saying.

So, for the Holiday season in 2022 they opened their boutique

See BUSINESS, 8

WINTER SERVICE SPECIALS!

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BUSINESS, from 7

in Charles Town, West Virginia, then immediately outgrew that spot. Now they are in the present 2,000 sq. ft. place at 113 W. Washington Street.

“The West Virginia Journal wrote that this was the best place to buy women’s clothing,” she said. “And we have two new brands, Simply Southern and a shoe brand called Corkys which are a huge success.”

A unique addition is a ‘hat bar’ where people can design their own hats, with add-ons like crystals or chunks of jewelry.

She attends clothing markets

in big cities like Las Vegas, New York, Atlanta and Dallas, but explained that won’t buy something if the quality isn’t up to her standard and varies her market purchases based on what is trendy. She goes with her mother, Kim Nicewarner and her aunt Cindy Nicewarner, and they advise and help buy clothing for all ages, sizes and styles. They, and a close family friend Abby, take turns working at all their venues.

The business continues to succeed, and Bethany said, “We were wiped out during the holidays, now we have to get more!”

But this has allowed her to take time off in January.

“I needed some “Me” time, and to get a break,” she said. “We will still be traveling again though, in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and then to shows in Delaware and Pennsylvania.”

She said that every month they set up at Lantz’s Pharmacy & Gifts on 5015 Main Street in Stephens City and will be back there in February.

“We like to give back to the community, so in January we contribute to meals on wheels, and on February 10 we’ll have a Valentine’s Party called “Galentines” which is especially for women, and girlfriends.

For more information on these

events check their Facebook and Instagram sites.

Bethany added her personal feelings about the service she provides for women.

“Women need a safe environment to be in,” she began. “They can come and talk, sit on our pink couch. They need a place to feel comfortable. We can pray with you and have a listening judgement free. We play Christian

music and there’s a positive verse on the wall. The Lord blessed me on this and is my strength.”

The storefront Betts And Coops Boutique is located at 113 W. Washington Street Charles Town WV. Va.

Find on Facebook, Instagram and at www.bettsandcoopsboutique.com

– crawford0905@gmail.com

START OFF VALENTINE’S DAY WITH BREAKFAST



- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 3/4 cup full-fat buttermilk
- 1 1/2 cups fresh or frozen blackberries
- Zest of 1 lime

Crunch topping

- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1/4 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1/2 cup self-rising flour
- 1/2 cup quick-cook oats
- 1/4 cup sweetened shredded coconut
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- 5 tablespoons butter, at room temperature
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger

Glaze

- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- Juice of 1 lime

Valentine’s Day is about expressing love for special people in your life. One way to do so is to pamper that person as much as possible. That can mean starting the day off with delicious breakfast in bed.

Muffins can be prepared in advance and are easy to enjoy in hand for a breakfast that involves lounging and love. “Blackberry Crunch Muffins” marry coffee cake and muffin elements and tart berries for something that is equal parts breakfast and dessert. What better idea for Valentine’s Day? Try this recipe, courtesy of “Lord Honey Traditional Southern Recipes with a Country Bling Twist” (Pelican Publishing) by Chef Jason Smith.

Blackberry Crunch Muffins

Serves 12

- 2 1/4 cups self-rising flour
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup canola oil

Preheat oven to 375 F. Grease or line a 12-hole muffin tin.

In a mixing bowl, whisk together the flour and sugars. Add the oil, eggs, vanilla, and buttermilk, and stir to combine.

In a small bowl, toss the blackberries with 1 tablespoon flour, then add the berries and zest to the batter and lightly fold them in.

Place the crunch topping ingredients in a bowl and mix with a fork until large crumbles form.

Divide the batter evenly into the muffin tin, and sprinkle tops with crunch mixture.

Bake for 22 to 28 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean.

Remove from oven and place on a cooling rack. Place the glaze ingredients in a bowl and whisk until combined. Drizzle over cooled muffins.

– wfcreport.com

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No need for a bleak midwinter

Plenty of inside and outdoor January activities for adults, kids, families



Playing games as a family in the winter helps to connect parents and children. Play Favorites Toy Store and Arcade in the Royal Plaza Shopping Center welcomes families and has a huge range of games and game nights. The shop has a game room for trying out games and an arcade room and a place to come in during weeknights and play video or board games like Scrabble and Backgammon every Thursday.

By Carol Ballard
Warren/Frederick County Report

January and February can feel bleak and the cold keeping folks inside can bring on “Cabin Fever,” depression and seasonal affect disorder (SAD), but it doesn’t

have to.

There are lots of ways to avoid these states.

Before listing the many activities in our area, the **Fourth Annual Chocolate Crawl** event between February 9th and 16th, leading up to Valentine’s Day and



Getting outside in the winter can cure cabin fever, relieve seasonal affect disorder, depression and the blues. The River Walk/Dog park at Eastham Park is located at the end of Luray Avenue in Front Royal.

beyond, has to be first on the list. It is advertised as “Something to bring a boost to anyone looking for eight days of sweet treats and special deals from the businesses, shops and restaurants on Front Royal’s Main Street.” Find more information on the event on Facebook at 4th Annual Front Royal Chocolate Crawl.

When looking for a place for folks of all ages to relax and learn new skills or meet with like-minded people for events, Samuels Public Library 330 E Criser Rd, Front Royal, VA 22630 in Front Royal is a comfortable, welcoming place. Activities, books and a playroom for kids are at the top of their lists of great things to do.

The library’s schedule includes activities especially for the youngest children like Movement for Babies and Toddlers that incorporates music, beginning yoga, and multisensory activities.

Another group activity is Toddler Story Time with simple stories, fun songs and a craft. Older children ages 6-11 will investigate a different STEM-related topic bi-weekly with Science Scouts. Preschool Story Time is an enjoyable hour filled with stories, sing-alongs, finger plays, along with a craft. And there’s Dungeons & Dragons for ages 12-18.

In February, some of the more interesting and unusual classes for ages 12-18 include a chance to learn about Hawaiian Dance and Culture. Kids ages 8-16 in an art

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See **ACTIVITIES**, 10

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ACTIVITIES, from 9

class can draw a heart with markers and turn it into a tie-dye picture.

During “Teens Connect” for ages 12-18, participants will take part in some non-traditional Valentine’s Day activities. Registration is required for many of these, and for details, check ahead and call (540) 635-3153, or go to www.samuelslibrary.net.

Even though it’s colder than usual, everyone can benefit from going outside.

For example, a **Winter Outdoor Adventure**, checking out wildlife and exploring nature can be just the thing everyone needs to change their mood. The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) says that a 2022 study revealed that getting active in natural spaces isn’t just a breath of fresh air—it’s a boost for



Manor Line's Back 40 has board games available, and a designated kids' area with toys plus a comfortable sofa for parents to sit nearby and relax with a drink or food.

your brain.

“Nature workouts, have a lasting impact, with notable improvements in reducing anxiety and fatigue, and even chipping away at depression, and particularly rel-

evant for combating Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), a type of depression that often emerges in the shorter, darker days of winter,” they say. “Spending time outdoors can be a vital strategy in managing SAD by enhancing exposure to natural light and uplifting moods.”

“Even passive exposure to natural scenery, like enjoying a scenic view, can effectively lower stress levels,” they say.

Taking the family on an adventure when it’s cold outside can bring in another level of connection and enjoyment and a way to discover appreciation of the beauty of the winter landscape like exploring the local area’s hiking locations. These can be geared toward easy walks for little kids or taking on challenging hikes for older children and adults.

Children are universally curious and often find a number of wonderful natural “finds.” **Shenandoah National Park** and **Skyline Drive**, just south of Front Royal on Rte. 340 and **Eastham Park** are two great places for that.

There’s an entrance fee for Skyline Drive, but the **River Walk** in Eastham Park is free. There’s a big dog park divided into small and large dog areas and a stroller/wheelchair-friendly trail next to the Shenandoah River and a playground at the beginning of the trail near the parking lot. The Riverwalk is found at the end of Luray Avenue in Front Royal.

After all that nature, a run for hot chocolate, coffee or food inside a cozy and warm coffee shop can be a welcome stop after adventuring outdoors.

Several great Front Royal coffee shops, like the **Daily Grind** at 215 E Main Street or **Manor Line's Back 40** down the block and around the corner at 18 High Street are ready to serve this mission. Manor Line’s Back 40 has



Samuels Public Library in Front Royal is one of many places around town for families to interact with offerings of amazing activities, events, classes, and opportunities to learn inside (they even have books!) A giant chess set in front adds to its charm, inviting folks to match wits.

board games available, a kids’ corner area with toys and comfortable seating nearby for adults.

If it’s really too cold and wintry to be outside, the town has a lot of places where kids can have fun and learn new skills. For example, a visit to **Explore Art and Clay** at 501 E. Main Street for kids as well as adults to make and paint pottery, is a creative outlet with a useful and beautiful result.

Code Ninjas advertises “Build video games, learn to code, have a blast!” at 133 N Royal Ave, is the place to go for kids from 5-14 who are interested in computers and coding. “Your child will be begging you to come back!” they say.

Call (540) 749-2443 for information.

Play Favorites Toy Store and **Arcade** in the Royal Plaza Shopping Center welcomes families and has a huge selection of board games and unusual toys, a game room to try out games as well as an arcade room. Folks can come in during weeknights and play video games. Scrabble and Backgammon are played every Thursday. Call (540) 252-4031, or go to Facebook at www.facebook.com/weplayfaves.

The **Royal Family Bowling Center** at 430 Remount Rd, in Front Royal, and the **Royal Cinema** on Main Street are two old

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favorites for some exercise or watching current and popular movies.

Further afield, outside of Front Royal and Warren County, going north, there are more great places to explore and enjoy.

A few of these found in Winchester, Frederick and Clark Counties are:

• **Blandy Experimental Farm** at 400 Blandy Farm Lane in Boyce, Va. – has classes and hikes like Nature Journaling for Ages 8+ on February 10, a Hot Chocolate

Hike: Bodacious Birds on Feb 15, and other scheduled events for February. Registration is usually required for these. Call (540) 837-1758 for information or go to <https://blandy.virginia.edu>.

• **The Museum of the Shenandoah Valley** at 901 Amherst Street in Winchester, has wonderful art exhibits, historical room settings and a collection of miniature houses and buildings. There's an admission fee for the museum, but free to all on Wednesdays and to visitors ages 12 and younger

year-round. There's also a free-admission art park on its 90 acres, The Trails at the MSV features outdoor art installations and miles of trails for walking, running, and bicycling through fields, woods, and wetlands. The park is open daily from 7 a.m. to dusk. Leashed dogs are welcome on the Trails. Visit www.themsv.org.

• **Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum**, a Children's museum at 19 W Cork Street in Winchester, is an indoor family attraction with interactive science and cultural

education and play opportunities. Call (540)722-2020, or go to <https://discoverymuseum.net>.

So, hopefully your winter won't be depressing or boring with so

many interesting and creative ways inside and outdoors to change the usual routine- most of them costing nothing.

– crawford0905@gmail.com

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Upcoming events with Dan McDermott

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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*

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*

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*

Sat. June 1, 2024 (7:30-10:30pm) Karaoke at Woodstock, Va. Moose*

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

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Sons of the American Revolution commemorate Battle of Cowpens



Participants from the SAR, DAR and C.A.R. Photo courtesy of Larry Clowser Webb.



The color guard presents the colors, l. to r. Michael Wilson, Richard Tyler, Paul Christensen and Jim Cordes. Photo courtesy of Stacey Bassett.

By Dale Corey, Media Affairs
Colonel James Wood II Chapter
Virginia Society SAR

On 13 January 2024, the Colonel James Wood II Chapter of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution conducted a commemoration ceremony. They paid homage to the Battle of Cowpens that led to the victory in the Revolutionary War. The battle was fought 17 January 1781 at a field in South Carolina known as the Cowpens. General Daniel Morgan led the colonial forces against Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton and his elite regiment of the British Army. This American victory set the stage

for the British to eventually move to Yorktown where the forces of Lord Cornwallis were defeated by General George Washington, the Continental Army and the French forces led by Lieutenant General Rochambeau. Tarleton had been chasing Morgan in the hopes of catching and destroying his army. If he had been successful, the door would have been opened for the British to surround and defeat General Nathanael Greene's colonial Army. Cornwallis would then have been able to move into Virginia and the British would control the southern colonies. They could then move north to envelope George Washington and put an end to the

revolution. The two leaders of this battle were quite different. Daniel Morgan and Banastre Tarleton, came from different backgrounds. Morgan grew up on the Virginia frontier and lived his life as a frontiersman. As a young man, he was a wagon-driver in the French and Indian War. Courageous and mature, he fought against the British at Quebec and at Saratoga, New York. The attempt to take Quebec failed, but the Battle of Saratoga made him a hero. Although he was promoted to brigadier general in the Continental Army, he preferred the homespun clothes of the militia, rather than an officer's uniform. He commanded respect from his soldiers and understood how they fought and how to motivate them. A true leader of men, he moved among his troops the night before the battle, speaking and motivating them. He talked of his own conflict with the British and of Tarleton's brutality at the Battle of the Waxhaws. He had questioned those familiar with Tarleton's tactics and expected an aggressive frontal assault. Banastre Tarleton, on the other hand, was raised in relative affluence in Liverpool, England, where his father was mayor. He attended Oxford University where he was known for his athletic ability. He wasted his inheritance, however; with what money he had left, he purchased a commission in the British army. Proud of his bearing, he asked to be sent to America. It was during the Revolutionary War he eventually was given command of a unit made up of Loyalists,



The Virginia Society State Musket Squad fires a salute to Daniel Morgan. Photo courtesy of Stacey Bassett.

known as the British Legion. This regiment became one of the elite fighting units in the British Army. At the battle, Morgan took advantage of Tarleton's aggressiveness and knew he would attack as soon as they arrived. The British had marched through the night without stopping to rest or eat. Upon arrival, he immediately went to the attack. Morgan set up a defensive posture with three lines. The first was skirmishers, the second militia and the third, regular Army units. The skirmishers were told to fire and then turn around as if leaving the battlefield. They would circle around to join the forces at the third line. The second line did the same. At this point, Tarleton believed the Americans were in full retreat and committed his entire force. Morgan's men turned around to counterattack in a tactic which became known as a double envelopment and the British were routed. The engagement devastat-

ed Tarleton's force, resulting in 100 killed, 229 wounded, 600 captured. This victory marked the beginning of the end of the British plan to conquer the South.

The ceremony was emceed by Marc Robinson and included compatriots from the Colonel James Wood II, Colonel William Grayson, George Mason, Sgt Maj John Champe Virginia SAR Chapters; Sgt Lawrence Everhart Chapter, Maryland SAR; Fort Loudoun and

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Ketocin Virginia DAR; Lawrence Augustus Washington; Providence Children of the American Revolution Societies and the Order of Founders and Patriots of America. Virginia Society 1st Vice President William Greaf and Virginia DAR/SAR Liaison Kecia Brown presented greetings. After a presentation of the colors, Robinson provided a presentation on the battle and wreaths were presented by the organizations. The wreath presenters included from the SAR, William Greaf, VASSAR; Thomas "Chip" Daniel, Col James Wood II; Ken Morris, George Mason; William Schetke, Culpeper Minutemen, Jim Cordes, Fairfax Resolves; Michael Wilson, Col William Grayson, Ken

Bonner, Sgt Maj John Champe and Gerald Harris, Sgt Lawrence Everhart. From the DAR, Kecia Brown, Virginia DAR/SAR Liaison; Vice Regent Elizabeth Greaf, Regent Susan Lauer, Fort Loudoun; Regent Stacey Bassett, Ketocin; Jodell Wilson, Providence. From the C.A.R. William Collins, Lawrence Augustus Washington and Jocelynn Wilson, Providence Society. They were followed by Doug Hall, Order of the Founders and Patriots of America. A musket squad led by Commander Brett Osborn and Vice Commander Ken Bonner comprised of 11 compatriots fired a three round salute in honor of Daniel Morgan and his decisive victory over the Brit-

ish at the Battle of the Cowpens. Additional ompatriots who participated included Brian Bayliss, Sean Carrigan, Paul Christensen, Rick Collins, Jim Cordes, Dale Co-

rey, Dennis Parmerter, Tom Reed, Will Reynolds, Richard Tyler, Mike Weyler and Ryan Williams.

- news@warrencountyreport.com

HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Something will occur this week that surprises you, Aries. You may even wonder if it is a trick being played on you. It is no trick, so buckle down for an adventure.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
You have pushed your mind and body quite far over the last several days, Taurus. Now you have to slow down or pay the consequences. Do not add anything else to your list.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, you may believe you have discovered a good thing and it could be right. But don't wait too long to act since this good thing has an expiration date. The clock is ticking.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, you might not be able to control what is happening this week, but you can control how you react to different situations. Keep your distance if an altercation arises.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Something you discover about a friend this week could leave you reeling, Leo. The signs have been there for awhile and you really should have seen it coming.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, if you are on the move this week, there is a chance that you will experience some interesting people along the way. At least one person might be a good networking contact.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
More than anything right now, this week you need to relax and unwind, Libra. Take things at a slow pace, and spend more time at home with family then at work.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Try not to take any financial risks right now, Scorpio. If you are planning to invest, then you may want to get all of the facts before gambling too much in the stock market.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
This week you will be back to your best, Sagittarius. Things will work out, so use your positive attitude to the benefit of yourself and others.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, even though you are conservative by nature, this week you are ready to take a chance of some sort. Enjoy the journey even if the efforts do not bring you enormous success.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, a kind word from you may be all that is needed to bring a smile to someone's face. Do not underestimate the power of a kind and simple gesture.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
You don't usually lack confidence, Pisces. But you may not want to push ahead with a project for fear of failure. You should be more adventurous and not worry too much.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- JANUARY 28
Joey Fatone, Singer (47)
- JANUARY 29
Adam Lambert, Singer (42)
- JANUARY 30
Kid Cudi, Rapper (40)
- JANUARY 31
Justin Timberlake, Singer (43)
- FEBRUARY 1
Harry Styles, Singer (30)
- FEBRUARY 2
Gerard Piqué, Athlete (37)
- FEBRUARY 3
Warwick Davis, Actor (54)

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Time well spent in the Scarlet Rebels Drum and Bugle Corps



Charles Pitcock received a first-place trophy for best appearing drum major at the 1957 Shenandoah Apple Blossom Grand Feature Parade. Courtesy Charles Pitcock.

By Mark Gunderman
Stephens City, Va.

James Wood High School was established in 1950 on Amherst Street as the high school for Frederick County, Virginia. It combined the students of five other high schools in the county: Gainesboro, Gore, Stonewall, Stephens City, and Middletown. After Stephens City High School



Stephens City Scarlet Rebels Drum and Bugle Corps stand in front of the Town Fire House on Mulberry Street after the Apple Blossom Festival in 1955. Note the one bay door fire house which was built in 1941. Drum Major Herbert Painter on far left and Band Director Harold Teets on far right. Around 1963, a second door was added to the original building to allow for two fire trucks, and later saw its size triple by 1976 when two additional bays were built on the north side. Courtesy Stone House Foundation, Stephens City, VA.

closed in 1950, with students transferred to James Wood, teenagers had few sponsored organizations to help celebrate their identities as Stephens City residents.

Harold Preston Teets, a 1935 graduate of Handley High School, Army Veteran, and entrepreneur, who built a home in Stephens City on Virginia State Route 277 in 1940, and who worked for a furniture manufacturer in Winchester. Mr. Teets built the Gulf Service Station in Stephens City on Main Street in 1952 which was later sold to John D Glover in Winchester.

Teets established and was Scout Master of BSA Troop 6 from 1944-49. In 1944, Rock Enon Springs Hotel was demolished and the property sold to the Boy Scouts of America in 1945. Teets borrowed a truck and hauled salvaged brick and stone from the old resort hotel to Stephens City. A group of scout leaders and men from Trinity Lutheran Church then used the material to build the original scout cabin behind the Stephens City fire house sometime in the late 1940s. According to Stephens City resident and former Town Councilman Bill Ewing, after the first scout cabin was demolished, the current scout cabin was built near the town ball field in 1954-55, using the donated materials from the resort and donations of stone from the M J Grove Lime Company.

In 1953, Teets' greatest joy was the founding and direction of the Stephens City Scarlet Rebels Drum and Bugle Corps. Both boys and girls were invited to join the Scarlet Rebels. Teets believed establishing the Scarlet Rebels could help young people gain self-confidence and self-esteem. He just needed to channel their energy, enthusiasm, and creativity to truly have something important to offer society. Teets was ahead of his Time, and he knew that by involving young people in a community organization, he could carefully develop their potential to become thoughtful, capable leaders in society. The Stephens City residents enthusiastically accepted Harold Teets' vision for the

town youth.

According to an article in the

Winchester Star, "Harold Teets: Stephens City's Leader of the

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Lining up in the 1958 Apple Blossom Grand Feature Parade prestaging area on South Cameron Street. Courtesy Charles Pitcock.

Band," by Crystal Detamore, dated March 4, 1997, Teets and his wife Marjorie were a tight team when it came to establishing the Drum and Bugle Corps. There was little money available at the time, so after deciding on the corps colors of crimson and white, Marjorie and other ladies of the community sewed red braid on the white

trousers donated by the Stephens City Fire Company. Harold and Marjorie bought red woolen material to make short, "Eisenhower Style" band jackets, which were trimmed with gold buttons by the parents of the band members. Drum majorette uniforms were sewn out of red corduroy. The Rouss Drum and Bugle Corps in

Winchester donated a dozen used bugles and a bass drum. Five used snare drums were purchased from G&M Music Center in Winchester.

Teets was instrumental in getting the Scarlet Rebels to perform in competitions beyond the Shenandoah Valley. He enlisted L&M Bus Lines owned, and operated by Pete LaFollette to transport the Corps (35-40 students) to events throughout Central Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Washington DC, and Pennsylvania. Later, Teets purchased a used school bus from an Army surplus store in Pennsylvania. The old bus was painted white with Scarlet Rebels painted red on each side. The Scarlet Rebels first marched in a Stephens City fireman's parade in April, 1953. The Rebels marched in their first Apple Blossom Parade in spring of 1954.

Winchester resident, Charles Pitcock was born in 1938 and raised in Stephens City. Some of his fondest memories are of his mentor Harold Teets who tutored Charles in community service, leadership, and preparation for useful citizenship.

Pitcock graduated from James Woods High School in 1956, attended Richmond Professional Institute (now Virginia Commonwealth University) in 1957, enlisted in the US Air Force, Strategic Air Command four years, served as a Winchester Police Officer for 27 years (1963 to 1990), later at Winchester Medical Center Security and lastly employed as a care-



Night life at the Stephens City Recreation Center circa 1958. L/R Doug Driver, Gary Strickler and Charles Gossard. Doug Driver would remain in the Stephens City area, Gary Strickler would relocate to Boston, and Charles Gossard would relocate to Ruxton, a north Baltimore community. Courtesy Charles Pitcock.

taker on several farms in Clarke County, retiring in 2006. Looking back on his long life, he will always remember the time well spent in the Stephens City Scarlet Rebels Drum and Bugle Corps.

Teets played both the trumpet and saxophone and wanted to share his love of music with the Stephens City youth. He was well-liked and respected by both middle and high school students. "Teets was an Army Veteran with a penchant for discipline and he made the Scarlet Rebels practice two hours each week, usually on Wednesday or Thursday. The first hour was strictly learning to march correctly and the second hour he allowed the drum and bugle corps to play their instruments," said Pitcock. Pitcock began playing the snare drum in

1955, transitioned to base drum in 1956, and became an award-winning drum major in 1957.

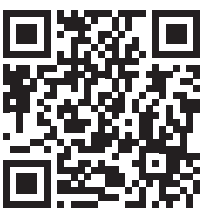
The Scarlet Rebels were sponsored by the Stephens City Fire Company, practiced on the fire department grounds, and stored their equipment in the fire house. Marketed by Teets, the fire company sponsored numerous fund raisers for the Rebels and solicited most of the monies from the Stephens City community who took great pride in the Rebels activity and success. Pitcock said the band members mothers made the first uniform jackets and the signature drum and bugle corps banner. The National Guard donated the helmets and drill team replica rifles, and the Rebels painted them white. Pitcock said he made

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STEPHENS CITY, from 15

the Scarlet Rebel flag. Later, Harold and Majorie could afford to purchase new drum major and majorette uniforms.

Two individuals played an important role in the early success of the Scarlet Rebels Drum and Bugle Corps. Teets recruited Shirley Altizer to train and lead the majorettes. Altizer had extensive experience and training performing as a majorette with a marching organization in Winchester. Teets also convinced Herbert Painter to become the first Drum Major. Painter just had natural leadership abilities. The synergy of Altizer and Painter assisted Teets immensely with elevating the Rebels to the upper echelon of the marching ensembles for student musicians and performers.

There were bake sales, rummage sales, fire house dinners,

and auctions. Other monies were raised with membership dues, and plenty of prize money from a heavy participation schedule each spring and summer. There was always just enough money to pay the bills.

“The Scarlet Rebels would take first place 50% of the time and place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd at least 70% of the time during my three years of participation. We received a great deal of recognition at county fairs, parades, and other competitions throughout the Shenandoah Valley because of our disciplined marching and strong brass and percussion performance. Our Color Guard presenting flags, and six to eight majorettes spinning batons, always provided a great visual effect,” said Pitcock. Harold and Marjorie Teets’s two daughters, Diana, and Melanie both participated as majorettes.

On one Labor Day weekend, the

Drum and Bugle corps marched in two parades (morning and afternoon) in Greenbelt Md. winning first prize and Bethesda, Md. winning second prize. These Rebels were well taught, disciplined, and focused on winning prizes. In 1954, the band won \$325 in prize money.

In the years the Scarlet Rebels Drum and Bugle Corps marched in the Apple Blossom parades, the group distinguished themselves several times and won two first place prizes for their overall performances. The year Charles Pitcock was a drum major for the Scarlet Rebels, he received a first-place trophy for best appearing drum major at the 1957 Shenandoah Apple Blossom Grand Feature Parade. “I won because of my good military demeanor and high strutting” Pitcock said.

Marty Fravel, younger brother of Stephens City historian, Linden



The Scarlet Rebels Drum and Bugle Corps, color guard and majorettes, marching on South Washington Street in the Apple Blossom Grand Feature Parade in 1958. Courtesy Charles Pitcock.

Fravel, recently provided some additional insight. “About 1970, as a member of Boy Scout Troop 6, the older guys, Oliver “Butch” Orndorff and Henry Snyder, among others, were cleaning out the storage area below the bench seats in the [Stephens City] scout cabin. Among the loot were a few of the heavy overcoats from the Scarlet Rebels. They were evidently recycled VPI or VMI cadet overcoats. Regarding the heavy overcoats, I am not sure why they needed them. Possibly they [Scarlet Rebels] did participate in winter events too. I am just guessing that they became available and Harold Teets or whoever, took advantage of adding them to the cause. They were the long wool overcoats with the reversible cape that was red when reversed. They were “flashy” in appearance. Double breasted if I recall.” The overcoats have been lost to time.

Former Stephens City Mayor Ray Ewing (1994-2010) remembers a town restaurant in the basement of the old bank on Main Street (now Black Shutter Antiques). “Known as the Valley Inn, it was a small restaurant (sandwich type) owned and operated by the Adams family who lived

in apartments on the top floor,” said Ewing. After the Valley Inn closed, in the middle 1950s, Teets built a teen recreation center there. Teets was a skilled carpenter and encouraged Pitcock and other teens to assist him with the build-out, constructing booths, tables, and counters to make the canteen very comfortable and an unmistakable success into the 1960s.

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 Z R G A D M H E Z I N A G R O H A C G H
 H K Y I E Y G I A D P O A M Y T K T A L
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WORDS

- ATTIC
- BASEMENT
- BELONGINGS
- CATEGORY
- CHORES
- CLEAN
- CLOSETS
- CLUTTER
- DONATION
- FILED
- GARAGE
- GARBAGE
- HAZARD
- HOARDING
- LABEL
- MESS
- ORGANIZE
- PATTERN
- PROFESSIONAL
- SORTED
- STORAGE
- SYSTEM
- TASK
- THINGS

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

The Teets family relocated to Annandale Va. in 1960 because Harold accepted a job with the postal service. Ewing remembers the times then. "I was president to the Fire Company and we could not find someone to replace him [Teets]. A concerted effort

was made to run it [Scarlet Rebels] with volunteers, but that just would not work, so the unit had to be dissolved in the early 1960s," Ewing said. Mr. Harold Preston Teets died August 1, 1981. When his wife, Marjorie Huffman Teets died in April, 2009, her obituary

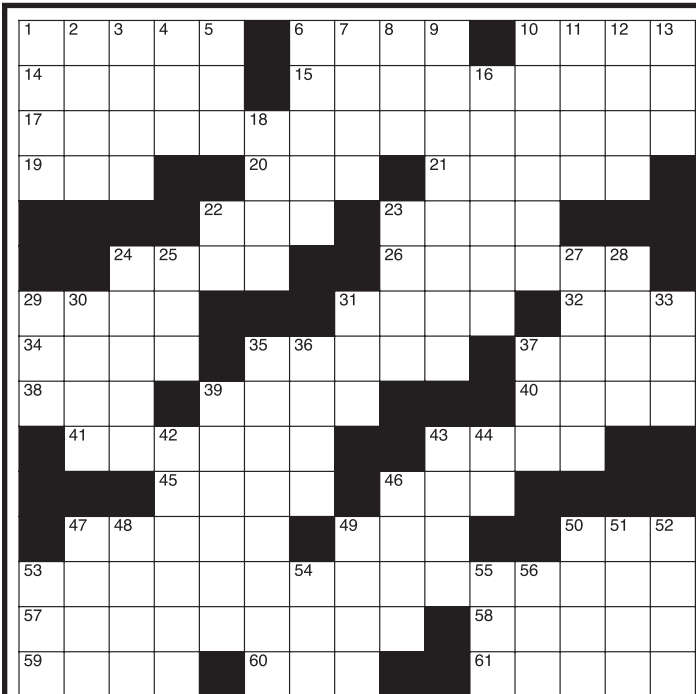
cited, "She was most proud of her association with the Stephens City Scarlet Rebels Drum and Bugle Corps, which her husband directed in the 1950's." Harold Teets is remembered by many older residents as a champion for Stephens City youth and spent many hours and personal expense providing insightful leadership and productive activities for the students in town.

Charles Pitcock began painting in 1956. He drew illustrations and charts while in the Air Force. As a Winchester City Police Officer, he did composite drawings for the department. Pitcock has displayed his art work at local craft shows (Apple Blossom, Apple Harvest, and Hobert Park) where he exhibits and sells his wildlife and nature paintings. Pitcock has a banner of an Eagle hanging

at the Loudoun Street Pedestrian Mall in Old Winchester which received first place at the recent Navy Federal Credit Union Veteran Art Show.

The Scarlet Rebels skyrocketed to the top of the local parade and festival scene, but only lasted a short ten-years, leaving us with another fascinating Shenandoah Valley memory.

- gunderman2001@aol.com



CLUES ACROSS


1. Become less intense
6. Variety of pear
10. Religion native to China
14. Type of tooth
15. Fitted out
17. Make every effort
19. Autonomic nervous system
20. Complete
21. Alternate name
22. River in France and Belgium
23. Miami's mascot is one
24. Turfs
26. Most cognizant of reality
29. Broad volcanic crater
31. Canadian surname
32. Satisfaction
34. Traitorous Greek mythological prince
35. Collide
37. Immune response
38. Feline
39. High opinion of one's own appearance
40. Thin strip to align parts
41. Containers
43. Convicted American spy
45. Breathe noisily
46. Taxi
47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
49. Swiss river
50. I.M. ___, architect
53. Have surgery
57. Formal withdrawal
58. Dutch and German surname
59. Square measures
60. 2,000 lbs.
61. Degrade someone

5. Work unit
6. Yellow edible fruits
7. Gemstone
8. A place ships dock (abbr.)
9. Evergreen tropical tree
10. Reality TV star Richards
11. Nonflowering aquatic plant
12. Stakes
13. Antidiuretic hormone
16. Make warm again
18. Light beams
22. Lethal dose
23. Terrorist group
24. Kids love him
25. Naturally occurring solid
27. German surname meaning "man from Saxony"
28. Popular cuisine
29. Partner to cheese
30. Type of horse
31. ___ Diego
33. Defensive nuclear weapon
35. Most shrewd
36. It may be for shopping
37. Midway between south and southeast
39. A stock of foods
42. The bindings of books
43. Swiss river
44. Megabyte
46. Sammy ___, songwriter
47. Dutch colonist
48. Clare Booth ___, American writer
49. Sun or solar disk
50. Popular type of bread
51. Transfers of money (abbr.)
52. Association of engineering professionals
53. Young women's association
54. City
55. Niger-Congo branch of languages
56. Pointed end of a pen

CLUES DOWN

1. Siberian river
2. Blessing
3. Substitutes (abbr.)
4. Principle underlying the universe

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Answer: Adam Lambert

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

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INDICTMENTS

2023 December Indictments October Term

Christopher L. Blansett

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about August 8, 2023, in the County of Warren, Christopher L. Blansett, 48, of the 4900 block of Back Mountain Rd., Winchester, VA 22602, did unlawfully and feloniously, know-

ingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

Gloria Virginia Hammons

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about June 17, 2023, in the County of Warren, Gloria Virginia Hammons, 71, of the 1700 block of W. Dismal

Hollow 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.

Delontae Michael Fullilove

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about December 31, 2022, in the County of Warren, Delontae Michael Fullilove, 23, of the 400 block of Emily Ln., Winchester, VA 22602 did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

Raleigh Richard Kraft

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about March 9, 2023, in the County of Warren, Raleigh Richard Kraft, of the 100 block of Jamestown 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.

Jeremy Allen Ralston

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about June 1, 2023, in the County of Warren, Jeremy Allen Ralston, 45, of the 1100 block of Shangri-La Rd., Bentonville, VA 22610, did unlawfully and feloniously knowingly and intentionally possess or transport a firearm after having previously been convicted of a felony within the prior ten years.

Justin Amond Dumore a/k/a Justin Amonde Dunmore

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Justin Amond Dumore a/k/a Justin Amonde Dunmore, 27, of the 6600 block of Winchester Rd., Front Royal, VA 22630, with two counts. COUNTS ONE and TWO: In the County of Warren, Justin Amond Dumore a/k/a Justin Amonde Dunmore did unlawfully and feloniously commit an assault or an assault and battery against Officer Shane Greenwood, RSW, and Officer Jordan Sokol, RSW, knowing or having reason to know that such persons were law enforcement officers engaged in the performance of their public duties. Date of the offenses was on or about October 21, 2023.

Breanna Lynn Taylor

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about June 17, 2023, in the County of Warren, Breanna Lynn Taylor, 25, of the 600 block of S. Royal Ave., Front Royal, VA 22630, did unlawfully and

feloniously commit an assault or an assault and battery against Officer Jason Lethcoe, knowing or having reason to know that such person was a law enforcement officer engaged in the performance of his public duties.

John Joseph Waters

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about July 22, 2023, in the County of Warren, John Joseph Waters, 25, of the 1000 block of Wakeman Mill Rd., Front Royal, VA 22630, did unlawfully and feloniously, having received a visible or audible signal from a law-enforcement officer to bring his motor vehicle to a stop, drive such motor vehicle in a willful or wanton disregard of such signal so as to interfere with or endanger the operation of the law-enforcement vehicle or endanger a person.

Alicia Kellette Timbers

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about July 15, 2020, in the County of Warren, Alicia Kellette Timbers, 38, of the 100 block of Cooper Run St., Lovettsville, VA 20180, did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

Kaylynn Jamica Howard

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Kaylynn Jamica Howard, 25, address unknown, with three counts. COUNT ONE: In the County of Warren, Kaylynn Jamica Howard did unlawfully and feloniously possess a Schedule II controlled substance, to-wit: Cocaine. COUNT TWO: did unlawfully and feloniously possess a Schedule II controlled substance, to-wit: Fentanyl. COUNT THREE: did unlawfully and feloniously possess a Schedule I or II controlled substance. Dates of the offenses were on or about August 16, and September 9, 2023.

Daniel Scott Simmons

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about May 19, 2023, in the County of Warren, Daniel Scott Simmons, 22, of the 6600 block of Winchester Rd., Front Royal, VA 22630, did unlawfully and feloniously and knowingly communicate in writing a threat to kill or do bodily injury to Ally Diggs which placed such person in reasonable apprehension of death or bodily injury.

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.

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Charlottesville Man Arrested for Operating East Coast Prostitution Ring

Brian Turner Used Drug-Addiction to Control His Victims

A Charlottesville, Virginia man, who posted hundreds of commercial sex ads for adult women in various cities in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, was arrested early this morning for violating the Mann Act, a federal law that criminalizes the transportation of any woman or girl for the purpose of prostitution.

Brian Lamont Turner, 42, was arrested this morning at a home in Charlottesville following a hours-long standoff with police on a federal criminal complaint charging him with one count of violating the Mann Act.

United States Attorney Christopher R. Kavanaugh of the Western District of Virginia and Stanley M. Meador, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Richmond Division announced the arrest.

According to court documents, in February 2023, the Federal Bureau of Investigation received multiple reports from local law enforcement agencies identifying Turner and adult females suspected of engaging in commercial sex acts.

The FBI's investigation revealed an account on the commercial sex website SkiptheGames.com registered to an email address known to be used by Turner. The account posted hundreds of commercial sex advertisements in various states, including Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

According to court documents, one of Turner's most recent listings was posted on January 17, 2024, advertising commercial sex in Charlottesville.

Turner controlled all or almost all aspects of arranging commercial sex dates. He created the advertisements, communicated with customers, and scheduled the dates. Text messages show him providing instructions and information to his victims about

dates, such as how long the date was scheduled to last and how much money to charge. Turner also transported the adult victims to and from the hotels and often stayed in the hotel parking lot or another hotel room while the victims saw commercial sex customers.

Turner specifically targeted female victims who had drug addictions, recruited them, and used their drug addictions to control them. Turner became the women's main source of drug supply and

threatened to withhold drugs from his victims if they did not complete their commercial sex dates or follow his directions.

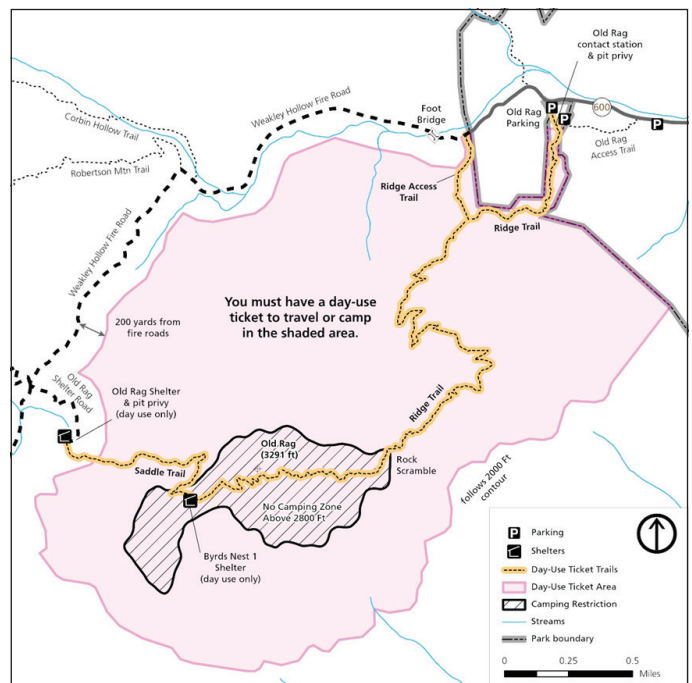
In addition, Turner is known to possess a firearm and has used it to compel his victims to follow his instructions.

The FBI is investigating the case. The Charlottesville City Police Department and the Albemarle County Police Department assisted with Turner's arrest.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Melanie Smith is prosecuting the case.

A criminal complaint is merely an allegation, and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.
 — news@warrencountyreport.com

Shenandoah National Park announces permanent ticketing system at Old Rag Mountain



LURAY, VA – Following a two-year pilot program, Shenandoah National Park will implement a permanent ticketing system to access Old Rag Mountain from March through November. The system will improve visitor enjoyment, address congestion and public safety concerns, and better protect the landscape, including sensitive species, along the extremely popular trail. More information, including where tickets are required and how to obtain them, is available at <https://go.nps.gov/oldragticket>.

The decision to implement a permanent system follows a multiyear pilot program and an extensive public engagement process that included visitor use data collection and analysis, public comment periods, and public meetings.

The permanent system will closely follow the pilot program. Beginning March 1, 2024, all visitors are required to have a day-use ticket, in addition to a park entrance pass, to access the Old Rag area (see map below).

"We appreciate the public input received as we tested management options," said Shenandoah National

Park Superintendent Pat Kenney. "We feel confident that this system has improved the visitor experience on Old Rag, reduced impacts on the area's ecosystem, and is a good long-term solution."

Day-use tickets for Old Rag Mountain for the 2024 season will be available starting February 17, 2024, at 10 a.m. Tickets cost \$2.00. Half of the revenue created will pay for the administrative costs of the program, and half will be used toward visitor and resource protection.

A total of 800 tickets will be available each day from March 1 to November 30; 400 will be released 30 days in advance and the remaining 400 will be released five days in advance. Hikers are encouraged to reserve their tickets before arriving via <https://www.recreation.gov/ticket/10088450/ticket/10088451>. Tickets are valid for the day of arrival only and are not transferable. A day-use ticket does not guarantee a parking spot, and entrance fees still apply in addition to the day-use ticket.

Hiking to the summit of Old Rag is physically demanding. Be sure to check out the Old Rag planning guide before you lace up your boots!

First responders team up to rescue man from frigid waters



Photo courtesy of Frederick County, Va. Sheriff's Office

A Frederick County man is again submerged in icy waters earlier today after the frozen surface of the lake he was walking across cracked and gave way causing him to fall into the water.

A 9-1-1 call was received at 12:06pm stating that a man had broken through the ice on Lake St. Clair and only had his head visible above the water. Howard Cahill was walking across the lake trying to get from his home in the 600 block to the opposite shoreline when he broke through the ice and found himself chest deep in the frigid waters.

Both, law enforcement and fire and rescue personnel were dispatched to the area for a water rescue. Frederick County Sheriff's Deputy B.E. Thomas and Gainesboro Fire and Rescue Chief John Newlin were the first two on scene. With outdoor temperatures of 20 degrees and most of the victim's body having been submerged for 20-30 minutes, a plan of action was quickly coordinated and put into motion.

Deputy Thomas, a former member of the sheriff's office dive team, located a kayak nearby and had Chief Newlin attach a rope to it, as a drag line, before Thomas removed

his vest and duty gear and climbed into the kayak. Thomas then used his hands to scoot himself across the ice towards Cahill. Upon reaching the victim, Thomas had him grab hold of the kayak where additional personnel, to include Gainesboro Deputy Chief Don Jackson and Clear Brook Chief Chris Jenkins, had arrived on scene and began to pull the craft back towards the shoreline. The original line broke under the strain and required a second rope be secured to the kayak before the recovery could be completed. Chief Jenkins donned an insulated wet-suit and went out onto the ice on his belly to reattach the line and allow Deputy Thomas and Mr. Cahill to be pulled safely to shore. Once out of the water, Cahill was escorted to a waiting ambulance where measures were taken to warm him before transport to the Winchester Medical Center for evaluation.

As of the writing of this release, it has been reported that Mr. Cahill did not suffer any apparent injury from his unexpected dip into the lake. Sheriff Lenny Millholland is proud of the fast actions of Deputy Thomas and the members of Frederick County Fire and Rescue and is grateful for the safe recovery of Mr. Cahill.

weather forecast

Friday, January 26, 2024: A slight chance of drizzle before 8am, then a slight chance of showers between 8am and 10am. Partly sunny, with a high near 69. Southwest wind 7 to 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 43. West wind 3 to 5 mph.

Saturday: A chance of rain, mainly after 4pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 55. Light and variable wind becoming north around 5 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Saturday Night: Rain, mainly after 7pm. Low around 42. Chance of precipitation is 100%.

Sunday: Rain. High near 47. Chance of precipitation is 90%.

Sunday Night: Rain likely, mainly before 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 36. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Monday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 43.

Monday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 29.

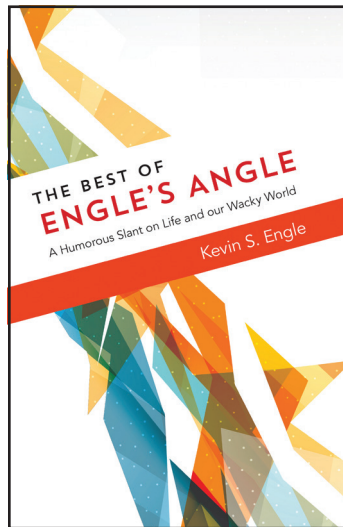
Tuesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 47.

Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 33.

Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 48.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 31.

Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 51.



ENGLE'S ANGLE:
"Missing Socks, m&m's and Me"

by Kevin S. Engle

Does the Five Second Rule only apply to food?

You know what that is right?

That's when you drop something on the floor, the Five Second Rule says you can still eat it as long as you pick it up within five seconds. Of course, it's probably best to rinse it off first.

(Disclaimer: The American Med-

ical Association did not approve this article. Then again, they never saw it. In addition, the author is not recommending you ever put anything in your mouth that fell on the ground. His attorney insisted you know that.)

But what about other situations?

What about when you're doing laundry?

Almost every time I'm washing clothes, I drop at least one clean item on the floor.

Our basement floor.

It's usually when I'm taking stuff out of the dryer and putting it in the laundry basket on top of the dryer.

Is it ok if I pick it up right away and dust it off a bit? Is that good enough or should I wash it again?

Does the Five Second Rule apply?

We think of putting food in our mouths when talking about the Five Second Rule. What about what comes out of our mouths?

Can I use it when I say something dumb? Can I take it back as long as it's within five seconds? Pretend it never happened?

That'd be nice wouldn't it? Probably save a lot of marriages.

It is possible to unsend emails and texts as long as you do it within a certain amount of time.

I saw that happen right before my very eyes the other day.

Several family members were responding to a group text when my niece sent one and then it disappeared.

Poof, it was gone, just like that.

She unsend it.

My wife often wonders why she's missing a sock.

It's because I've decided the Five Second Rule does not apply when I'm doing laundry.

Oh sure, I still think about it every time, but then I say a few choice words and toss that clean sock back in with the dirty clothes.

If I were smart, and obviously I'm not, I'd simply put the laundry basket on the floor in front of the dryer when I'm taking out the clean clothes.

Wish I'd thought of that sooner.

On occasion, the author will eat an m&m* if it fell on the floor. But he's not saying you should.

- kevinengle456@comcast.net

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



Ask Stewart

Hi Stewart,

The drought last year was pretty bad. Is there something I should be doing to ensure my trees get enough water in 2024?

- Marie

You're right Marie, the Valley was

missing anywhere from 8 to 14 inches of rain in 2023. This drought caused water rationing, and some experts think that 2024 could be even worse. We don't often think about watering our trees - they can usually take care of themselves with normal rainfall. But our rainfall has not been normal, and you are right to be concerned - especially for young trees which need a lot of water. Here are my top 10 tips for watering your trees during a drought:

1. Trees should be watered three times a month from April until the end of September. When possible, avoid evaporation by watering early or late, not in the middle of the day.

2. Water slowly, to ensure that the water does not run off. The ground will probably be hard and it will take time for the water to permeate through the surface, so especially to begin with, water slowly and thoroughly.

3. Estimating the amount of water that a tree needs is difficult. A use-

ful rule of thumb is a full watering can or five minutes with a hose, per 2.5cm/1in of trunk diameter at knee height.

4. Inadequate watering, which only wets the surface of the ground, can cause surface roots to grow and this could lead to more drought problems.

5. Concentrate efforts under the canopy of the tree, as this is where most of the roots are likely to be. Ensure that you water evenly so that no matter where the roots are, they get some water.

6. Don't concentrate all your watering around the base of the trunk, as most of the roots are likely to be further out.

7. To ensure the soil retains water, use mulch extensively around trees in a circle of at least 1m/3ft radius and to a depth of 10cm/4in. Use wood chips, shredded bark, leaves or evergreen needles as mulch. Make sure that the mulch is not touching the trunk.

8. If you use a watering can or hose,

attach a watering rose to slow down the speed of watering and ensure the water doesn't run off. Alternatively, use a perforated hose and lay it around the tree under the canopy.

9. Another option is to drill 7mm/¼ in holes in a bucket or watering can, and then stand it under the tree, so that the water drains out slowly into the soil.

10. Re-use "gray" water whenever possible or collect rainwater from gutters.

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



ONE OF THE MORE POPULAR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS PEOPLE MAKE INCLUDES DOING THIS, WHICH INVOLVES SORTING ITEMS.

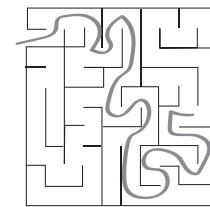
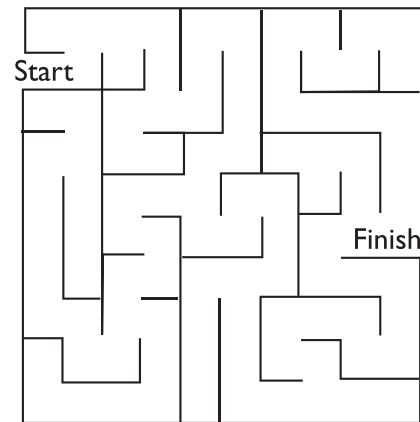
ANSWER: GETTING ORGANIZED

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Neat
SPANISH: Aseado
ITALIAN: Ordinato
FRENCH: Bien rangé
GERMAN: Ordentlich

Maze Craze

Can you find your way through the maze?



THIS DAY IN...



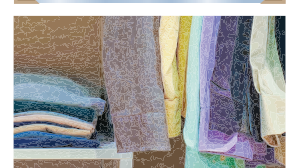
HISTORY

- **1624:** SIR THOMAS WARNER FOUNDS THE FIRST BRITISH COLONY IN THE CARIBBEAN.
- **1813:** "PRIDE AND PREJUDICE" IS FIRST PUBLISHED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.
- **1986:** THE SPACE SHUTTLE "CHALLENGER" EXPLODES AFTER LIFT-OFF. ALL ASTRONAUTS ON BOARD PERISH.



CULL

select from a large quantity



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CLOTHES IN CLOSET

Did You Know?

BY GETTING ORGANIZED, PEOPLE ARE BOUND TO FEEL LESS STRESSED BECAUSE THINGS IN A HOME OR OFFICE ARE MORE ORDERLY.

National Get Organized Month

Trees Class" Each month Stewart will answer a question from our readers. Please forward it to "Stewart" in care of:

frwctreestewards@comcast.net and we may publish it in a future issue. Please visit our website at: www.treesfrontroyal.org



**President's Day Colonial Muster
Feb 19**

In honor of President's Day 2024 Captain George Mercer's Company of Colonel George Washington's Virginia Regiment will hold a muster at the site of colonial era Fort Loudoun, Colonel Washington's headquarters for the Virginia Regiment during the French & Indian War, 1756-1758. The fort was an active military site from 1756-1763. The event is free and open to visitors of all ages with an interest in learning more about the early history of our country and the role of Winchester and events on the Western colonial frontier that led to the founding of our country.

Monday, February 19, 2024, 2 pm to 4 pm, Historic Fort Loudoun, 419 N. Loudoun Street, Winchester, VA. Sponsored by the French & Indian War Foundation, Winchester, VA, fiwf.org



Accepting applications for Youth Conservation Corps Crew Leaders

Virginia State Parks is currently recruiting Crew Leaders for the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program for 2024. Crew Leaders will mentor youth by helping them complete trail maintenance, basic construction and beautification of the parks.

YCC Crew Leaders work directly with park staff and live alongside their crew of 10 high school youth between the ages of 14-17.

"Although the work can be challenging, participants will have the opportunity to gain field experience and build their leadership skills," said Youth Engagement Coordinator Scarlett Stevens. "Crew Leaders will have opportunities for career development training from shadowing a park employee to receiving certification in Red Cross First Aid CPR/AED, Basic Trail Building Training and Mental Health

First Aid."

Room and board are provided. Crew Leader stipend for the employment period is \$6,500 that is divided into three, biweekly payments.

The dates of employment are June 5 - July 27, which includes a week of training. The program consists of two 2-week sessions with crews and days for park orientation, crew preparation and clean up.

Crew Leaders will have selected days off between sessions as well as spending time at a park in between sessions engaging in professional development opportunities.

Eligible applicants must be 18 years of age, hold a valid driver's license and have previous leadership experience with youth or peers. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis beginning in January until positions are filled.

Visit <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/jobs> to apply.



Samuels Public Library Adult Programming: February, 2024

You can find and register for all library events on our website, www.samuelslibrary.net.

The Library will be closed for President's Day on Monday, February 19th.

Starting in January, Books and Beyond now recurs on the second Thursday of every month.

Adult Winter Reading: Reading Warms the Heart - Wednesday, January 3rd to Saturday, March 2nd. Hybrid, virtual and in person. Feeling cold this winter season? Come warm the heart with books, programs, and prizes! There's something for everyone this winter, including craft workshops, history programs, book clubs, and more! Register for the winter reading program for an opportunity to win awesome prizes online through your Beanstack account or at the Adult Reference desk. Record each book you read online or ask reference staff to record titles for you. Every print, ebook, and audiobook you record will give you one entry into our biweekly prize drawings. You can also download free ebooks, magazines, videos, and music on our website so don't miss out!

General Education Development (GED) - Every Tuesday & Thursday from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM - In person. Samuels Public Library is proud to host Laurel Ridge Community College's General Education Development course. This course is completely free. Let this course be the stepping stone to your success. More information on registration dates and deadlines can be found on the LRCC website <https://laurelridge.edu/adult-education/>.

What the Tech! - Every Tuesday from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM - In person. Need help with technology? Come by the library computer lab where we will be going over computers and other

technology basics. Having trouble with your phone, tablet, laptop, or other device? Bring it in, and we'll help!

Bad Romance - Wednesday, February 7th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM - In person. Do you consider yourself a hopeless romantic? Are bad romances a guilty pleasure of yours? Then you should join us for Bad Romance, where we will have our first local romance author panel! Local authors Carla Vergot, Tava Baird, Linny Lawless, and VK Fox will be here to talk about their books, the process, and answer questions. After the panel the authors, and their books, will be available at their tables. So come out, talk romance, and support our local authors! There will also be a cocoa bar sponsored by FOSL available throughout the panel.

Books & Beyond - Thursday, February 8th from 6:00 PM to 7:45 PM - Hybrid, virtual and in person. Do you love books and sharing them as much as we do? Join us to delve into new worlds of conversation about new books at your community's public library! For February, read anything relating to romance! To attend virtually, please register in advance to receive a zoom link close to the event date.

Genealogy Club - Wednesday, February 14th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM - In person. Interested in your family's history? Already done extensive research and want to be able to share your finds? Join our genealogy club where both novices and experts alike can come together and talk about different genealogy topics.

Phoenix Project - Hope for New Beginnings - Third Tuesday of every month from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM - In person. Serving all members of the Front Royal/Warren County community who have experienced or are currently experiencing domestic violence or sexual assault, Phoenix Project Advocates are available to provide crisis intervention, supportive counseling,

safety planning, information, education, and more. Their services are free, confidential, and trauma-informed. Hope. Help. Healing.

The Lost History of Potomac Marble - Saturday, February 3rd from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM - In person. British invasions, destroyed edifices, and the search for the ideal stone? Join us for a presentation on the history and usage of Potomac Marble led by Paul Kreingold, the conservation director of the Izaak Walton League, Loudoun County Chapter and a Virginia Master Naturalist. Potomac Marble is a limestone conglomerate that can be found along the Potomac River from Leesburg to Montgomery County. Polished samples from 200-year-old local quarries will be on display during the presentation!

Adult Winter Reading Craft - Saturday, February 10th from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM - In person. Join us for a Saturday afternoon winter reading program. Patrons have the opportunity to learn how to make heart-themed crafts. Older children are welcome so long as they are accompanied by a responsible caregiver.

Life in the Last Frontier: Alaska - Thursday, February 15th from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM - Virtual. Ever wonder what it would be like to live in a tiny cabin in the middle of the woods in Alaska? To live without many modern amenities in -30F temps? To be hours away from any big stores? Led by Alaska residents Patrice and Justin La Vigne, this presentation will answer all your burning questions about surviving winter darkness, extreme temperatures, living with wildlife, outhouse etiquette and other everyday adventures in the far north. You will feel part of this unique life after getting an insider's glimpse into why people settle—and stay—in remote Alaska! This is a virtual program and conducted through Zoom. Registrants will receive a zoom link close to the event date.

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Samuels Public Library Youth Programming: February, 2024

These are the events being presented by the Youth Services Department at Samuels Public Library during the month of February 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.

Saturday, February 3
12:30PM -4:30PM. Dungeons & Dragons. For ages 12-18. Join us for a one-shot adventure as we go on wintry quest.

Monday, February 5
11:00 AM - Music & Movement for Babies & Toddlers. Join our relaxed and joyful time with your little ones as we incorporate music, beginning yoga, and multisensory activities designed to delight your baby. Registration is required.

Tuesday, February 6
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 Heart Cup Tower Challenge. Registration is required.

Wednesday, February 7
10:15AM - Toddler Story Time. Bring your toddler to a potpourri of simple stories, fun songs, and a cute craft on Castles. Siblings welcome. Registration is required.

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

Thursday, February 8
5:00 PM – Hawaiian Dance and Culture. For ages 12-18. Teens will listen to a story, watch a demonstration of traditional Hawaiian Dance and Culture, and try the dance. Teens should wear comfortable clothing and bring water. Registration is required.

Saturday, February 10
11:00 AM – Warm the Heart with Art. For ages 8-16. Draw a heart with markers and turn it into a tie-dye picture.

2:30 PM – Teens Connect. For ages 12-18. Join us to celebrate Anti-Valentine's Day by taking part in some untraditional Valentine's Day activities. Registration is required.

Monday, February 12
11:00 AM - Music & Movement for Babies & Toddlers. Join our relaxed and joyful time with your little ones as we incorporate music, beginning yoga, and multisensory activities designed to delight your baby. Registration is required.

Tuesday, February 13
4:30 PM - Science Scouts. Children

will investigate a different STEM-related topic bi-weekly. This week's theme is Heart Cup Tower Challenge. For ages 6-11. Registration is required.

Wednesday, February 14
10:15AM - Toddler Story Time. Bring your toddler to a potpourri of simple stories, fun songs, and a cute craft about Be My Valentine! Siblings welcome. Registration is required.

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

Saturday, February 17
2:00 PM – Pine Cone Creature Craft. For ages 6-11. Join us as we read about winter animals and make different creatures out of pine cones. Registration is required.

Monday, February 19
Library is closed for the holiday.

Tuesday, February 20
10:30 AM – Homeschool Hub. For ages 6-11. Children will work together as they go through the scientific meth-

od, gathering data, and drawing conclusions. The topic this week is Coding a Maze. Registration is required

Wednesday, February 21
10:15AM - Toddler Story Time. Bring your toddler to a potpourri of simple stories, fun songs, and a cute craft about On the Farm. Siblings welcome. Registration is required.

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

Saturday, February 24
2:00 PM – Winter Slime. For ages 6-11. Easy to make and fun to play with! Registration is required.

Monday, February 26
11:00 AM - Music & Movement for Babies & Toddlers. Join our relaxed and joyful time with your little ones as we incorporate music, beginning yoga, and multisensory activities designed to delight your baby. Registration is required.

Tuesday, February 27
4:30 PM - Science Scouts. Children will investigate a different STEM-related topic bi-weekly. This week's theme is Coding a Maze. For ages 6-11. Registration is required.

Wednesday, February 28
10:15AM - Toddler Story Time. Bring your toddler to a potpourri of simple stories, fun songs, and a cute craft about Weather! Siblings welcome. Registration is required.

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



Online Transportation-Needs Survey Is from January 19 to February 5 for Portions of U.S. 50 In Frederick County and Winchester

Beginning on Friday, January 19 and concluding on Friday, February 5 an online survey will be available for public input regarding Route 50 between the intersection of U.S. 50 (Northwestern Turnpike) and the VDOT Area Headquarters entrance in Frederick County and the intersection of U.S. 50 (Amherst Street) and Keating Drive in the City of Winchester. The survey can be accessed at this link: <https://publicinput.com/route50studyalts>

This survey is part of the U.S. 50 Strategically Targeted and Affordable Roadway Solutions (STARS) study to evaluate transportation needs and develop recommendations. The goal of this STARS study is to identify improvement recommendations to enhance safety and mobility for all users of the transportation system.

The survey evaluates numerous

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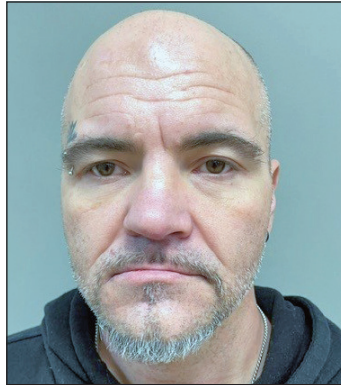
roadway segments and intersections designated as having a Potential for Safety Improvements (PSI). PSI locations are determined annually by VDOT using the previous 5 years of crash data. When the number of crashes exceeds anticipated crashes based on roadway characteristics, the location is identified as having a PSI.

This STARS study is a collaborative effort between the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), the City of Winchester, Frederick County, and the Winchester and Frederick County Metropolitan Planning Organization (WinFred MPO).

VDOT is serving as the project manager for the study with ATCS of Herndon, Virginia as a consulting partner for developing the study, sup-

porting analysis, and improvement concepts. The study team is also composed of technical staff from the City of Winchester, Frederick County and the WinFred MPO.

Final study recommendations will be considered by the city and county for advancement through state transportation funding programs.



Aaron W. Smith photo courtesy Wise County Sheriff's Office

Wise County man charged by Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force

On Friday, January 12, 2024, the investigative team at the Warren County Sheriff's Office launched a proactive undercover chat operation regarding the online solicitation of minors within the Warren County/Front Royal area. These investigative efforts are aimed at investigating and arresting those who engage in luring minors via the internet for lascivious intent. During the operation, an adult male contacted one of our investigators acting in an undercover capacity as a juvenile under the age of 15. In the chat exchange, the suspect requested photos and lewd content from whom he believed was a juvenile female. The suspect also transmitted obscene materials to the investigator that was portraying a minor. The initial interaction

was unprovoked and was instigated by the offender in this case.

As the investigation unfolded, the team positively identified the perpetrator as Aaron Wayne Smith, a 43-year-old male from Wise County, Virginia. On January 24, 2024, investigators traveled to Wise County and successfully apprehended Mr. Smith on 10 felony charges, listed below. Mr. Smith was taken into custody and transported to the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail located in Duffield, Virginia. Following his arrest, Mr. Smith appeared before a magistrate and was ordered to be held in custody without the possibility of bond. The court date for the listed offenses has been set for February 15, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Warren County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

The Warren County Sheriff's Office is an active member of the Northern Virginia/DC Metro (NOVA/DC) Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, which is coordinated by the Virginia State Police. We request anyone with information regarding the solicitation or exploitation of any minor to contact Warren County Sheriff's Office. Anyone with further information regarding this case, please contact Criminal Investigations Sergeant M.R. Ramey at (540) 635-7100 or via email at mramey@warrencountysheriff.org.

The Warren County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the Wise County Sheriff's Office for their assistance in this case and the successful apprehension of this individual. These investigations would not be possible without the continued cohesive efforts of all our law enforcement partners throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Name: Aaron W. Smith
Description: 5'10" white male, brown eyes, and bald
Address: Wise County, VA
Offenses:
§18.2-374.3. Use of communications systems to facilitate certain offenses involving children. (x5 felony

counts)
§18.2-374.1:1. Possession, reproduction, distribution, solicitation, and facilitation of child pornography. (x5 felony counts)



Warren County Sheriff's Office Rejoins Northwest Virginia Regional Drug Task Force

The Warren County Sheriff's Office has rejoined the Northwest Virginia Regional Drug Task Force, a move approved by unanimous vote from members of the Command Board in the first week of January. The Warren County Sheriff's Office joins law enforcement personnel from agencies throughout the Shenandoah Valley, including Clarke, Frederick, Page, and Shenandoah County Sheriff's Offices, in addition to the Front Royal, Luray, Strasburg, and Winchester Police Departments, and the Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigations.

This partnership highlights all member agencies' commitment to fighting drug related crime and promoting public safety throughout Warren County and the northern Shenandoah Valley. By combining resources and actionable intelligence, member agencies can work together to identify, investigate, and arrest those involved in drug trafficking and distribution.

Sheriff Crystal M. Cline is excited to rejoin the task force, stating "Rejoining the Northwest Virginia Regional Drug Task Force demonstrates the determination of the Warren County Sheriff's Office to significantly impact the supply chain of drugs landing in Warren County and pursuing those responsible for overdoses and increased crime. Working closely with our regional partners is essential in addressing the widespread drug problems impacting our community. By working with members of the regional drug task force, we will band together right here in Warren County and send a clear message to suppliers that this is not a drug trafficking destination."

Sheriff Cline continued by saying, "There is a huge crime problem associated with drug sales and use that affects our citizens every day. The crime factor occurs when users commit other crimes in support of their habit; crimes including theft, scams, robberies, burglaries, murders, sexual and physical assaults. Many of these incidents go unreported, but the overall safety of the community is compromised and that sometimes goes unnoticed."

The Northwest Virginia Regional Drug Task Force seized nearly \$2 mil-

lion worth of illegal narcotics in 2022. These seizures included 6 pounds of fentanyl, doubling the amount seized in 2021. These seizures led to 191 arrests and indictments, the confiscation of 42 firearms, and the forfeiture of \$182,567 worth of assets tied to drug dealing and manufacturing operations in the Shenandoah Valley.

For further details about Warren County Sheriff's Office's involvement in the Northwest Virginia Regional Drug Task Force or any other initiatives by this office, please contact Captain Scott M. Baker at (540) 635-4128 or email sbaker@warrencountysheriff.org.



Four Shenandoah University graduate students, including Chloe Tannenbaum, of Winchester, defended SU's title in the Student Quiz Bowl at the Virginia Athletic Trainers' Association (VATA) Annual Meeting on Jan. 5-7 in Hampton, Virginia.

James Madison University is pleased to announce that the following students made the dean's list for the fall 2023 semester.

Zoe Brock of Winchester who is majoring in Anthropology - BS.
Emily Ritenour of Stephens City who is majoring in Art - BFA.
Celia Cooley of Front Royal who is majoring in Biology - BA.

Lillian Twigg of Winchester who is majoring in Biology - BS.
Jonathan Armel of Stephens City who is majoring in Biology - BS.

Thomas Love of Winchester who is majoring in Business Management - BBA.

Alivia Ricci of Winchester who is majoring in Business Management - BBA.

Garrett Thomas of Winchester who is majoring in Business Management - BBA.

Ryan Varricchio of Winchester who is majoring in Business Management - BBA.

Jacob Greene of Stephens City who is majoring in Business Management - BBA.

Kelci Smith of Winchester who is majoring in Communication Sciences and Disorders - BS.

Joel Abbott of Winchester who is majoring in Computer Information Systems - BBA.

Benjamin Saupp of Winchester who is majoring in Computer Science - BS.

Alexander Stone of Winchester who is majoring in Computer Science - BS.

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BRIEFS, from 23

Abigail Ensogna of Cross Junction who is majoring in Computer Science - BS.
 Ewen Hives of Lake Frederick who is majoring in Computer Science - BS.
 Chelsey Jones of Stephens City who is majoring in Computer Science - BS.
 Amalia Vogt of Stephens City who is majoring in Dietetics - BS.
 Sophia Higgins of Winchester who is majoring in Elementary Education - BS.
 Caitlin Rosenberg of Winchester who is majoring in Elementary Education - BS.
 Lauren McClung of Winchester who is majoring in Elementary Education - BS.
 Sierra Henry of Front Royal who is majoring in Elementary Education - BS.
 Katherine Sumner of Stephens City who is majoring in Elementary Education - BS.
 Scott Shepherd of Winchester who is majoring in Engineering - BS.
 Trent Clater of Winchester who is majoring in Finance - BBA.
 Noah Williams of Middletown who is majoring in Finance - BBA.
 Michael Cannata of Stephenson who is majoring in Finance - BBA.
 Emma Westfall of Winchester who is majoring in General Psychology - BS.
 Glennae Tennett of Winchester who is majoring in General Psychology - BS.
 Drew Johnson of Winchester who is majoring in General Psychology - BS.
 Evelyn Lovelace of Winchester who is majoring in General Psychology - BS.
 Kameron Strosnider of Winchester who is majoring in General Psychology - BS.
 Audrey Hottle of Clear Brook who is majoring in General Psychology - BS.
 Brooke Thompson of Front Royal who is majoring in General Psychology - BS.
 Ethan Raymond of Stephens City who is majoring in General Psychology - BS.
 Sean Mennard of Winchester who is majoring in Geography - BS.
 Emma Fout of Winchester who is majoring in Health Sciences - BS.
 Madison Murphy of Winchester who is majoring in Health Sciences - BS.
 Eric Price of Winchester who is majoring in Health Sciences - BS.
 Carsyn Vincent of Cross Junction

who is majoring in Health Sciences - BS.
 Emma Taylor of Front Royal who is majoring in Health Sciences - BS.
 Christopher White of Cross Junction who is majoring in Health Services Administration - BS.
 Brice Pugh of Winchester who is majoring in History - BA.
 Madison DeSarno of Front Royal who is majoring in History - BA.
 Annabel Thrush of Front Royal who is majoring in History - BA.
 Ella Kapsa of Winchester who is majoring in Hospitality Management - BS.
 Abigail Beaudoin of Stephens City who is majoring in Hospitality Management - BS.
 Eryn Broccolo of Middletown who is majoring in Inclusive Early Childhood Education - BS.
 Meghan Shaffer of Stephens City who is majoring in Individualized Study - BIS.
 John Nelson of Winchester who is majoring in Information Technology - BS.
 Andrew Rorex of Winchester who is majoring in Intelligence Analysis - BS.
 Garrett Smith of Winchester who is majoring in Intelligence Analysis - BS.
 David Smith of Stephens City who is majoring in Intelligence Analysis - BS.
 Cheyenne Broadbent of Bentonville who is majoring in Justice Studies - BS.
 Meredith Larsen of Winchester who is majoring in Kinesiology - BS.
 Nicole Burtlow of Winchester who is majoring in Kinesiology - BS.
 Lane Pugh of Winchester who is majoring in Kinesiology - BS.
 Joshua Borromeo of Winchester who is majoring in Kinesiology - BS.
 Kendall Morris of Front Royal who is majoring in Kinesiology - BS.
 Kiersten Stives of Front Royal who is majoring in Kinesiology - BS.
 Emma Hunter of Middletown who is majoring in Kinesiology - BS.
 Kimberly Aikens of Winchester who is majoring in Media Arts and Design - BA.
 Vrisan Lakhani of Winchester who is majoring in Media Arts and Design - BS.
 Maximilian Verdugo of Winchester who is majoring in Music - BM.
 Levi Rosenberry of Front Royal who is majoring in Music - BM.
 Kendall Pierce of Winchester who is majoring in Musical Theatre - BA.
 Katherine Morkunas of Winchester who is majoring in Nursing - BSN.
 Kaitlyn Salyer of Cross Junction

who is majoring in Nursing - BSN.
 Katie Dawson of Middletown who is majoring in Nursing - BSN.
 Cameron Spieles of Stephens City who is majoring in Nursing - BSN.
 Cameron Pinkley of Stephens City who is majoring in Nursing - BSN.
 Mya Swiger of Stephens City who is majoring in Nursing - BSN.
 Faith Stover of Cross Junction who is majoring in Physics - BS.
 Matthew Rock of Cross Junction who is majoring in Political Science - BA.
 Cadence Hartzell of Stephens City who is majoring in Political Science - BA.
 Kinsley Myers of Stephens City who is majoring in Social Work - BSW.
 Ryan Murphy of Stephens City who is majoring in Sport and Recreation Management - BS.
 Kara Athey of Front Royal who is majoring in Statistics - BS.
 Austin Bossidy of Winchester who is majoring in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages - BS.
 Charles Orndorff of Winchester who is majoring in Writing Rhetoric and Technical Communication - BS.
 James Madison University is pleased to announce that the following students made the president's list for the fall 2023 semester.
 Jake Ross of Middletown who is majoring in Accounting - BBA.
 Lelia Romano of Winchester who is majoring in Art - BFA.
 Isabella Koch of Winchester who is majoring in Biology - BS.
 Noah Young of Cross Junction who is majoring in Biology - BS.
 Emilia Davis of Winchester who is majoring in Chemistry - BS.
 Anna Bowman of Winchester who is majoring in Communication Sciences and Disorders - BS.
 Rebekah Clouse of Winchester who is majoring in Communication Sciences and Disorders - BS.
 Baylor Collingwood of Winchester who is majoring in Communication Sciences and Disorders - BS.
 David Bauserman of Winchester who is majoring in Communication Studies - BS.
 Hannah Duffy of Winchester who is majoring in Elementary Education - BS.
 Evelyn Gavurnik of Stephens City who is majoring in Elementary Education - BS.
 Natalie Strong of Stephens City who is majoring in Elementary Education - BS.
 Grace Keeler of Winchester who is majoring in English - BA.
 Marissa Clouse of Winchester who is majoring in General Psychology - BS.
 Courtney Farzan of Bentonville who is majoring in General Psychology - BS.
 Kelsey Johnson of Stephens City who is majoring in General Psychology - BS.
 Kara Tokarchic of Winchester who is majoring in General Psychology - BS.
 Logan Westfall of Winchester who is majoring in General Psychology - BS.

Aubrey Grove of Winchester who is majoring in Health Sciences - BS.
 Elizabeth Leta of Winchester who is majoring in History - BA.
 Courtney Vreeland of Cross Junction who is majoring in History - BA.
 Jodi Blanton of STEPHENS CITY who is majoring in Individualized Study - BIS.
 Jessica Downs of Front Royal who is majoring in Individualized Study - BIS.
 Mary McPherson of Middletown who is majoring in Individualized Study - BIS.
 Tyler Burhans of Front Royal who is majoring in Information Technology - BS.
 Katherine Umbenour of Stephens City who is majoring in Justice Studies - BS.
 Andrew Arnoldy of Stephens City who is majoring in Kinesiology - BS.
 Jonah Borromeo of Winchester who is majoring in Kinesiology - BS.
 Logan Coffelt of Winchester who is

majoring in Kinesiology - BS.
 Zachary Symons of Middletown who is majoring in Kinesiology - BS.
 Jona Benson of Stephens City who is majoring in Music - BM.
 Jocelyn Moyer of Front Royal who is majoring in Music - BM.
 Georgia Doody of Winchester who is majoring in Nursing - BSN.
 Rena Kornreich of Winchester who is majoring in Nursing - BSN.
 Greyson Parish of Middletown who is majoring in Nursing - BSN.
 Lauren Rosenthal of Winchester who is majoring in Nursing - BSN.
 Reagan Tibbs of Winchester who is majoring in Secondary Education - BS.
 Grace Dudley of Winchester who is majoring in Special Education - BS.
 Yamma Naim of Middletown, earned a Master of Science in Management: Marketing from University of Maryland Global Campus in fall 2023.

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Now accepting applications for Youth Conservation Corps crew members



YCC members pose after building a foot bridge.

Virginia State Parks are currently recruiting qualified candidates for the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program for 2024. Eligible applicants must be 14-17 years of age and going into at least their first year of high school.

Crew members will live and work in one of 42 Virginia State Parks for a two-week session while completing trail maintenance, basic construction and park beautification projects led by adult crew leaders and park staff.

Applications are accepted until March 15.

The program session dates:

1st Session: June 16 - 29

2nd Session: July 7 - 20

"Participants will find this program to be both challenging and rewarding," said Youth Engagement Coordinator Scarlett Stevens. "This program is not a summer camp. No prior outdoor work experience is required, but participants should expect to spend their weekdays work-

ing hard in the heat, and weekends exploring the natural beauty of Virginia."

Room and board are provided, and crew members will receive a \$750 stipend at the end of the two-week session. Applications must be filled out by the youth rather than another family member or guardian.

For more details on how to apply for the program visit, <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/youth-conservation-corps>



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