

Warren/Frederick County Report

Volume XIX, Issue 19 • Late September, 2024

**Recipe: Kentucky
'Nanner Foster
Waffles**



Warren/Frederick County Report

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INSIDE





Take a trip back in time to Ruth's Tea Room



15/50
RUTH'S TEA ROOM, 1968
 128 East Cecil Street
 Winchester, Virginia
Oil on fiberboard by Jane Caspar
Jane Caspar

The play "Ruth's Tea Room" tells the story of the restaurant that flourished in Winchester at 128 E. Cecil Street, established in 1925 by Ruth and Boyd Jackson. It was later run by their daughter, Vivienne, who many remember as a welcoming person, who contributed to the atmosphere of the place that people, young and old, of all ethnicities and persuasions, considered a haven.

By Carol Ballard
 Warren/Frederick County Report

Productions of the Selah Theatre Project never disappoint and their current play, "Ruth's Tea Room," written by playwright and actor Bleu Do'zia, entertains with ghosts, stories from Winchester's past, many funny one-liners, and a very unexpected video.

Opening night on September 13 took place at Middletown's Laurel

Ridge Community College in the William H. McCoy Theatre and the story was taken from the history of the actual restaurant located in Winchester at 128 E. Cecil Street.

Ruth and Boyd Jackson established the place in 1925, then their daughter, Vivienne took it over. Many folks remember her as a welcoming presence, who fostered an atmosphere there that people, young and old, of all ethnicities and persuasions, considered a haven.

Bleu collected stories and memories she researched and discovered and from people who had frequented the restaurant before and after Vivienne Jackson, known to many as Ms. V, took over, then wrote the play and presented it, sharing Ms. V's legacy for those who knew her and others who didn't.

Photos and memorabilia had been placed around the surrounding walls of the stage that helped create a traveling back in time mood.

A synopsis provided by the playwright states, "During segregation in the 1960s, Ruth's Tea Room in Winchester welcomed people of different races and from all walks of life to come together."

The opening scene takes place in the tea room's dining area at one of the tables.

The character, Azi Wells, played by

Bleu Do'zia, was introduced through dialogue, to have returned to Winchester after leaving the area years before (under a cloud). She found herself visiting the tearoom taking a break from her family as they prepared for her mother's funeral. There she encountered her old friend, and proprietor Vivienne Jackson (Ms. V) just ready to close up, but who took the time to talk and help her through grief and some emotional burdens she carried.

Joanne Thompson as Ms. Vivienne, reminisced with her, and their conversation roamed through a range of memories, emotions, wisdom from Ms. V, and some regrets from both.

Family ghosts from the past drifted in and out, adding to the conversation.

Actors Pamela Foster, Peter Hibl, Eric Ibarra, Eric Lee Santiful, Joanna Schilling and Ariel Scott, joined them occasionally, speaking and interacting as their turn came to embellish the recollections of the time when Winchester's famous Black-owned restaura-

See THEATRE, 4

Warren/Frederick County Report

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THEATRE, from 2

rant was frequented by diverse clientele.

The warmth and energy of the actors carried throughout the play, opening a window into a time that most people now don't know about, or understand.

Bleu and Joanne Thompson were the main characters, and for the most part stayed alone on the stage in conversation with each other.

An appreciative audience filled the Black Box on Friday with many folks who had been clients and visited Ruth's Tea Room when it was operating.

The addition of their comments and memories during the question-



Eric Ibarra and Lee Santiful share a moment during the play about the history and influence of Ruth's Tea Room, the restaurant that operated for decades in Winchester.

and-answer portion after the play

ended enriched the experience when they were invited to share any stories with the cast and others in attendance about those days when they visited Ruth's Tea Room and met Ms. Vi or her mother, Ruth and father Boyd J.

Some brought up the issues of racism addressed in the play and discussed how it affected the history. Others had more amusing memories,



Bleu Do'zia and Joanne Thompson star in the roles of Azi Wells and Vivienne Jackson during the performance of "Ruth's Tea Room" at Middletown's Laurel Ridge Community College in the William H. McCoy Theatre for opening night of the play on September 13.

and a man, who had some great recollections of the place also mentioned the presence of her dogs, saying that Ms. V had two Boxers that usually sat on a couch next to her father.

He admitted that the dogs scared him at first, so he asked her about them, then included this memorable

quote from her.

"They won't bite, but if you cause a problem, they will take you out," she told him.

The audience's chance to ask questions and share in the experience of reminiscing, according to Bleu, was to "Delve into the play's themes and ar-

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tistic process to deepen the theatrical experience, foster connections, and understanding.”

Seeing the enthusiastic participation of the audience, it appeared that she succeeded in her intention, with several folks agreeing with each other about different aspects of the place, laughing and standing up to share memories, clearly happy to be included in the great memories of those times and Ms. V!

Bleu said that Ms. V passed this year at the age of 97 and mentioned that she had attended an early version of the play two years ago, with Selah Theatre actors, including Bleu and Joanne, performing.

Joanne, who looks like Ms. V when she was younger said, “People have asked if we’re related, because of the close resemblance,” then added, “Many people were literally in love with her and (at the earlier play) she was bombarded with hugs and love. By all accounts she was an amazing, amazing person.”

“It was interesting to play a living character who was sitting in the audience!” Joanne said with a laugh.

In the play, it was mentioned that the Tea Room was included in the “Green Book,” an annual travel guide for African Americans that listed road-trip destinations in the U.S. The 1967 Guild Guide noted that LGBTQ customers were also welcome there.

“There is room for everyone at Ruth’s,” said a loyal customer who felt at home there.

She later operated it as a community grocery, until it closed in 2005, then the building that housed the restaurant was vacant until it was demolished in September of 2008. Later, the empty lot was developed by Winchester into a community park.

Part of the experience of the evening’s offering included artist Maddie Jaques’ Art Reception, available for viewing before the performance at 6 p.m. Her paintings depicted “The Brokenness of Grief and Time” and were

displayed on the walls.

Selah Theatre Project’s exciting and upcoming showtimes and locations are included in the following schedule.

2024 FALL - Selah Theatre Project 13th Season:

Ruth’s Tea Room - September 20 - 21 from 7- 9:00 p.m. September 20 - Limited Seating, September 21 @ 2 p.m. - Limited Seating - Seats Available on September 21 @ 7 p.m. (Dinner Theatre Version at Wayside Inn & Larrick’s Tavern)

Little Shop of Rocky Horrors - Thursday, Oct 31- 6-8 p.m. - Wayside Inn and Larricks Tavern, 7783 Main Street, Middletown

The Diviners - Friday, Nov 15-17 and 22-24 - William H. McCoy Theatre in the Alson Smith Hall at Laurel Ridge Community College, 173 Skirmisher Lane, Middletown

Yule Be Swell (a holiday cabaret) - Dec 13, 2024, 7:00 -10:00 p.m. - Unitarian Universalist Church of SV, 6380 Valley Pike, Stephens City, Va, 22655
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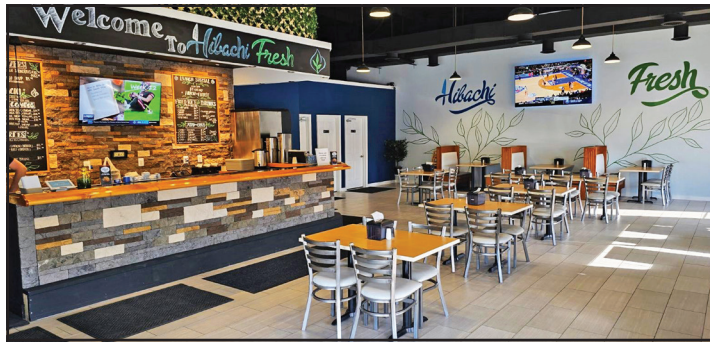
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This Korean dish, Bulgogi, is one of the options on the menu at Hibachi Fresh. The full lunch, dinner and appetizer menus can be found at Hibachi-Fresh.com.



Hibachi Fresh Manager Justin McEnaney and owner Dustin Finnell check out menu plans.



The restaurant's dining room reflects the clean interior, authentic and, yes, "fresh" food options available at Hibachi Fresh.



Located at 460 S. Commerce Avenue in Front Royal, Hibachi Fresh welcomes all to enjoy the tastes of made-to-order Asian dishes.

By Carol Ballard
Warren/Frederick County Report

Owner Dustin Finnell and manager Justin McEnaney have been friends since middle and high school in Warren County, and now have extended their friendship to work together at the Hibachi Fresh Restaurant at 460 S. Commerce Avenue in Front Royal.

Dustin has good reasons for opening a restaurant catering to folks who love Asian dishes.

He said he remembers always asking for Asian food, typically Chinese, from a very early age when given a

choice and then learned to cook it for his family when they came home from work.

"I can cook!" he said. "I have been cooking for them already all my life." And Justin brings his experience to the place from managing the Red Fox Inn & Tavern in Middleburg.

Added to the delectable Asian cuisine, folks who come in have been enjoying the friendly welcome. Browsing their menu has been known to cause an instant craving for the delicious dishes!

As the name implies, the menu features fresh ingredients.

Dustin is justifiably proud of his standards.

"People ask about us having a buffet, but we don't have one because I feel it defeats freshness. I don't buy mystery meat!" he said with a grin and added, "Our prices are good, with good portions, and 90% of the people can share the dinner portion."

It's a challenge to make good Asian food, he observes, and especially Chinese, so they had to bring in special

authentic ingredients for their menu, like oyster and Hoisin sauces, dark soy and other types of soy sauce and sesame oils.

"If we don't have them, we'll order them."

Their menu offers food that will be familiar to many folks from countries like Japan, China and Korea, with meat lovers and vegetarian options.

And early on in the conversation with the busy owner, he noted that there was a somewhat stressful "rough" start, when opening in December last year.

"We were just getting going, no TV, no music no rug down, dealing with the many permits and with staff consistency, although we do have consistency there now," he said. "Business is good and 90% is to go. We use Door-dash and Grubhub to deliver."

He enthusiastically spoke about his ideas for inside dining and entertainment. Right now, they use to-go containers for inside eating, and he noted that some people don't think it's quite "fine dining."

"But our plan is to be like McCalister's (McAlister's Deli) where you order, then if not busy we'll bring plates, forks and napkins to you and make a little better dining experience," he continued.

Included in those plans are to bring live music like the Dan James Band that his brother plays in, and the popular singer, Charlie Allman.

Added to all that, there will be wine and beer, with three types of beer on tap, as well as saki and seltzers, and then expand the menu with specials

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like Mongolian Beef and Honey Walnut Chicken. The drinks on the menu now are house brewed black tea and sweet tea.

He said he pays attention to what is being posted online and listens to suggestions. Some ideas that he's considering are trivia nights, karaoke and speed dating.

So many folks like to stop in for a quick lunch, and the everyday lunch special is \$4.00 less than dinner price for the mid-day portions.

"They are smaller and healthy and

good for you, like rice, chicken and steak, so you'll feel good at the end of the day."

Dustin is glad he's working with his friend and the restaurant's Manager Justin.

"He grew up in Point of Woods, and I grew up on Duck Street in Middle and Warren County High School," he said. "Justin makes sure everything is clean and offers good advice on how to make everything nice," he said. "He's always on it."

Dustin praised his kitchen staff. He

said his head chef, Fernando Santiago learned from the tutelage of their former chef, Leonardo Santiago.

"I take care of them, they're like family," he noted.

He is grateful for the support of his immediate family who live near town out in the country on a farm.

"My dad, Robert Finnell and grandmother, Dorothy Finnell have been my rocks, and my guiding light," he said. "If I didn't have them, it would have been much more difficult, and I may have given up."


"My dad is my hero. My goal is to be him, he's a great human being," he said. "He grew up in Annandale, then retired from the Post Office, now tinkers at the farm, but he's always doing something to help. He's a big part of this. My grandmother is a pillar and a saint. She's always positive. She grew up here, and she's such a big part of this too."

His two sons, Carter, 14 and Cole, 10, work here in the summer and on weekends.

"They're learning everything," he said with pride.

It looks like he's settled here for a while, after travelling all over the U.S., owning several different businesses,

See DINING, 8



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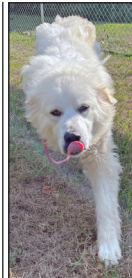




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DINING, from 7

like another of his endeavors, Bridge-water Vape.

"It's not only vape but primarily a hippie, crystals, etc. type shop," he explained.

He did a lot of work in sales, but never thought he would continue to do that all his life, he says, but comes by his business sense honestly and commented that his mom, who now lives in North Carolina, is a good businesswoman and is from a family that has always been in business.

Opening Hibachi Fresh makes sense because of the interest he's always shown in Asia.

"I started watching martial arts shows and movies when young, and my mission now is to go to the Far East," he said.

As an example of Dustin's willing-

ness to hear what others have to say, he posted the following comment on Facebook's "What's Up Front Royal" group.

"We are continuously trying to improve. We will soon have tableware to have a better dine-in experience, alco-

hol, and dessert. What are some other ideas to help us improve? And please no immature keyboard comedians! Thank you and everyone have a fun and safe holiday weekend!!

And found online, the following comments from satisfied visitors to

Hibachi Fresh basically say it all.

M. LM

Hibachi Fresh is amazing. Great food, very nicely done interior. Anxiously awaiting Google review ability to give it 5 stars. Their menu covers the basics of Chinese and hibachi. Cannot go wrong, it beats every Chinese place around and I've tried 'em all. Located in the old On Cue building behind Speedway on Commerce Avenue next to the All-breed grooming shop.

S H

I highly recommend that you try out the Hibachi Fresh restaurant in the plaza behind Speedway on Com-

merce Avenue. The place has been completely remodeled and has a fresh new look. We ended up being the first customers this evening and we grabbed some takeout. The portions are very large, and the food was fresh. Thanks, Dustin Finnell for bringing a new restaurant to our beautiful town.

M B

I ate there this evening, it was phenomenal! These guys are also very serious about making things right and perfecting the recipes/ingredients, and it shows. I tried the hibachi chicken, steak, scallops, and shrimp, and all were on point!

-crawford0905@gmail.com




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In a small bowl, whisk the eggs and milk. Add the butter, vanilla, and cinnamon, and whisk.

Add the wet mixture to the dry, and whisk until there are no lumps.

Scoop 1/2 cup batter onto the waffle iron, close the lid, and let cook until golden brown and crispy. Repeat until all the batter is gone.

Put the waffles on a sheet pan and place in preheated oven.

To make the topping, melt the butter in a medium skillet over medium heat. Add the brown sugar, cinnamon, and nutmeg, stir to combine, and cook for about 1 minute.

Add the sliced bananas and cook for a few seconds. Add the bourbon (or apple juice, instead), and cook 2 to 3 minutes, stirring often with a light hand so the bananas do not break up.

Meanwhile, place 1 to 2 waffles on a plate and top with a scoop of ice cream. Once banana sauce has thickened, spoon over ice cream and waffles. Repeat with remaining waffles.

Waffles can be enjoyed any time of the day. While traditionally breakfast fare, waffles can be a sweet or savory dessert as well.


When waffles are paired with the flavors of a traditional Banana Foster dessert, they can be a decadent breakfast or impressive evening treat. Enjoy this recipe for "Kentucky 'Nanners Foster Waffles" from "Lord Honey Traditional Southern Recipes with a Country Bling Twist" (Pelican Publishing) by Chef Jason Smith.

Kentucky 'Nanner Foster Waffles

Serves 4 to 6

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups milk, any variety
- 1/2 cup butter, melted and cooled
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Warren/Frederick County Business Directory



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Locust Grove Cemetery honors African American ancestors



2024 Locust Grove Cemetery Board of Directors on a rainy, foggy, Saturday morning in September. L to R: President Alesha Whitmore, Jackie Cain, Larry Cain, Kenneth Minifield Sr., Secretary Yvette Stallings, Treasurer Garland Williams, and Latasha Vanderpuye. Not Pictured: Bryan Washington. All photos courtesy Harry Newman.



American Flag flies on early August morning at Locust Grove Cemetery in Stephens City. Eight Armed Services Veterans are buried here.



Splawn Family Plot. Wrought iron fence encloses grave sites from 1900 to 1949.



Locust Grove Cemetery looking north to south, Green Hill Cemetery and 2,106-foot Signal Knob Mountain in the background.



Locust Grove Cemetery, established in 1880, is an active burial ground where old headstones worn down by time and the elements share space with newer headstones.

By Mark Gunderman
Stephens City

On April 8, 1880, a meeting of the Stephens City (then Newtown/Stephensburg) Town Council was held. On motion of Captain George A. Grove, a grant of one-half acre of ground on the western side of the Village on what is known as Academy Hill was made to the African American people as a burial place. The burial ground would later be named Locust

Grove Cemetery.

The one-half acre grant was recorded by the Frederick County circuit court clerk in Deed Book 96, pages 147-148. A summary of the entry is provided.

Whereas the mayor and councilmen of the town of Newtown/Stephensburg, Frederick County Virginia being desirous to provide a cemetery or burying ground for the use of the colored people of the said town and the vicinity. Whereas at a town meeting

of the colored people of the said town the following named persons were appointed trustees to whom the said burying ground should be granted and conveyed to be held by them in trust for the purposes and uses of aforesaid namely Robert Turner, George Harris, Euro Wormley, Robert Robertson, Allen Robertson, Daniel Winesberry, Thomas Hottel, and Enoch Jenkins. Therefore, this deed made and entered by the mayor and councilmen of said town of the one part and the said Robert Turner and other trustees as aforesaid of the other part and dated this tenth day of September 1880.

The land constituted a part of the town commons and was bounded as follows on the north by Locust Street, on the east by the commons of the town, on the south by the town commons, and on the west side by West Street and opposite to John Hoover's lot. The land was transferred for the payment sum of one dollar.

The plot of land was originally referred to as a Colored peoples cemetery on D. J. Lake & Co. map in 1885. How it received the name Locust Grove is not known. Some say because the property lies at the intersection of Locust and Grove Streets. But Grove Street was called West Street in 1880. Byron Smith, Executive Director & Curator of the Stone

House Foundation, believes the road name was changed to Grove Street when M. J. Grove Lime Company

began business here in 1902, with six kilns in operation. Others believe the land was called Locust Grove for the stand of Locust Trees that covered the property.

Many African American families living during the Antebellum South period are buried here. Addison, Armistead, Avery, Baker, Ball, Barber, Berger, Best, Boyd, Brown, Cambell, Cash, Corley, Curry, Day, Doleman, Dorman, Ford, Gaither, Gant, Harris, Hill, Holness, Holtz, Huddle, Humbert, Jackson, Johnson, Lewis, Long, Martin, Mason, Medley, Minifield, Nickens, Oaks, Peyton, Phoenix, Pines, Rhodes, Roberts, Robinson, Shields, Splawn, Stern, Taper, Tokes, Trent, Turner, Walker, Wallace, Wanzel, Washington, Willett, Williams, Willis and Wilson.

The first known written record referring to Locust Grove can be found in the Winchester Evening Star, dated February 28, 1903, Page 1. John W. Tokes of Opequon, Frederick County was buried at Locust Grove Cemetery. Stephens City. The Funeral Directors were Funk & Ray, Rev. B. J. Layton officiating.

So, why did the Stephens City Town Council grant one-half acre for the purposes of establishing a cemetery for African Americans? The Council was aware that Middletown's founder, Peter Senseney, deeded a one-acre lot in 1801 for a meeting house and burial place for "people of the African race" living in the Middletown area. Peter Senseney is not believed to have owned slaves. The Mt. Zion Cemetery was in operation from 1801-1954.

The Council could have been influenced by Rev. Robert Orrick, a man of impressive appearance and mag-

See HISTORY, 10

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HISTORY, from 9

netism who became a noted minister, evangelist, prosperous businessman. Beginning in the 1860s, Rev. Orrick preached in African-American Methodist churches throughout the Winchester area, always filling the pulpits.

After the Civil War, Rev. Orrick was one of the leading African American businessmen in the greater Winchester area. He was a major contributor to building a new church for African Americans in Stephens City. The church was built between 1866 and 1869 on Mulberry Street largely through the efforts and generosity of Rev. Orrick who donated and hauled the construction materials to the site. In recognition of his contributions, the church was named Orrick Chapel.

Beginning in the 1870s, Orrick wanted to establish a cemetery for African American families which was not an open common pauper's field where strangers and criminals were buried, and cattle freely grazed. He believed industrious and enterprising African American citizens should establish and maintain a cemetery where their families could be buried and continue to be a proper burial place to bequeath to their children.

The Locust Grove area might have been a pauper's field where free Blacks and slaves were buried. Orrick could have convinced the town councilman to donate a half-acre to African American trustees to manage the property

as their own cemetery.

Frederick County court records reflect that Stephens City Town Council transferred a second half-acre in a supplemental deed to seven new trustees on September 15, 1923 (George Harris, Gus Boyd, Henry Dorman, Isaac Avery, R. A. Robinson, Lathan Williams, and Andrew Wanzer) to increase the size of the Locust Grove Cemetery. The sum of \$300 was paid by the trustees.

Like Green Hill Cemetery, across Martin Street, African Americans owned and maintained family burial plots. Winchester Evening Star brief, dated October 15, 1954, Page 5, cites Eldridge F. Wanzer was buried in the family lot in Locust Grove Cemetery. The service was held at Orrick Chapel Methodist Church, Rev. Odell Carr, pastor, and officiating.

Rick Kriebel, Manager of Collections & Programs of the Stone House Foundation, includes a mid-20th century description of Locust Grove Cemetery in his 2023 Guided History Trolley Tour. Some of the information is summarized as follows. During the 1950s, there was a dirt road around the cemetery, and a dirt drive running through it. There was a steeper slope from the road to the actual burial ground which made it difficult for the elderly to traverse the gravesites. The African American community gathered at the cemetery once a year to provide their labor and capital to clean, clear, make level, and restore the

burial grounds.

May 1985

In 1985, the cemetery was in disrepair with volunteer custodians mowing the grass around the graves. Gravestones leaned, some were sunk in the ground and others fallen over. Vandals, time, and overgrown vegetation had also taken their toll on the cemetery. No fence surrounded the grounds at that time. All the former trustees from 1923 were presumed dead and no new trustees were ever recorded at the town office or with the Frederick County circuit court clerk.

A few town residents like Jessie Curry and Anna L. Wanzer began taking an interest in revitalizing the historic cemetery. Their uncles were trustees and several of their relatives were buried here. Curry, Richard Medley, and Charles Corley all would take turns cutting the grass and trimming the weeds.

Residents of Stephens City with relatives buried in the cemetery wanted to do more than mow the gravesites. The group of Wanzer, Curry, Medley, Corley, John Shields III, Charles Richard Berger, Jackie Cain, and Lawrence Williams wanted to become the new cemetery trustees. They were motivated to ensure that the cemetery was managed and maintained in a dignified manner.

When land has been conveyed as a cemetery, a state statute allows any ten

residents within a jurisdiction to approach the circuit court to be named trustees.

Money was raised to build a proposed fence and landscape the cemetery. The congregation of Orrick Chapel took up a collection of \$500. Besides the improvements, Curry said that once the trustees were officially installed, a plan for administering the land should be developed with consideration for charging fees for any future burials. The money would be used for the cemetery's upkeep. As it was then, burials were free and virtually unre-

stricted.

June 1994

The nonprofit Locust Grove Cemetery Inc. was founded June 30, 1994. Anna L. Wanzer's labor was instrumental in obtaining incorporation. The organization was established with a charter to protect, restore, preserve, and maintain the burial grounds. The board members strove to establish the importance of maintaining Locust Grove as a memorial to African-American families that not only lived,

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worked, prospered, and died in the Stephens City, but were also connected by bloodlines.

The cemetery provided physical evidence of African Americans past and their existence as a family. It was the organization's objective to become more aware of their genealogical connection to ancestors who lay at rest in these burial grounds. Awareness of their ancestors, their trials, tribulations, and achievements, would help strengthen the roots that bind generations together.

A six-foot-high chain-link fence was installed around the entire cemetery in 2005 with money received from fundraisers and assistance from the Town of Stephens City.

June 2017

On a Saturday morning, Locust Grove Cemetery Inc. held a program at the cemetery located at 5300 Grove Street, to educate the public about its history and to seek assistance in its preservation. Locust Grove board members had been working to compile and update the burial register with a more comprehensive list of the people buried here.

The cemetery had been neglected in the past and the organization's members feared if not properly managed, the people buried there would be gradually forgotten. The members were so passionate about the cemetery because many of their ancestors were buried at the site.

The board members wanted their children to remember their people have a proud legacy and an important history here and these burial grounds retain memories of their family's past.

The Locust Grove Cemetery Treasurer, Garland Williams (since 2008), said knowing the past gives the younger generations even more reason to connect now. Children who grow up in this area do not truly understand

that at one time people were buried in certain cemeteries based on their ethnicity or the color of their skin.

Saturday's program gave the organization the chance to identify and share the needs of the cemetery and solicit help from residents, community business, and local government.

A presentation explained various ways volunteers could help with the preservation. The opportunities included educating others about the historical significance of the cemetery. Establishing identity and permanent grave markers for unmarked graves. Mapping the lot to help to plan for future gravesites. Identifying and restoring tombstones and making a financial contribution to purchase supplies and equipment.

July 2018

Stephens City residents were honored by the Locust Grove board after sixty years of volunteer service.

Richard Medley began cleaning up the historical African American cemetery when he was 28, (1958). He started mowing his relatives' gravesites and decided to go ahead and mow the rest of the cemetery.

He was soon joined by his cousins Jesse and Alfred (Alf) Curry. Each man took great pleasure in the restoration and maintenance of the cemetery. Board treasurer Garland Williams said the men cleared a fair amount of the land that was covered in thickets of locust trees and honey suckle.

"They used their own scythes, sickles, lawn, and riding mowers, and weed eaters to mow and trim the one-acre property. The cemetery underwent property improvements to include clearing unruly vegetation, downed or dead trees, and received more frequent grass cuttings to make the cemetery more attractive," Williams said.

In 2019, a boundary survey of both

parcels, known as Locust Grove Cemetery, was completed by David E. Lellock of Lellock Consulting, PC, and recorded in Frederick County, Virginia, on June 12, 2019.

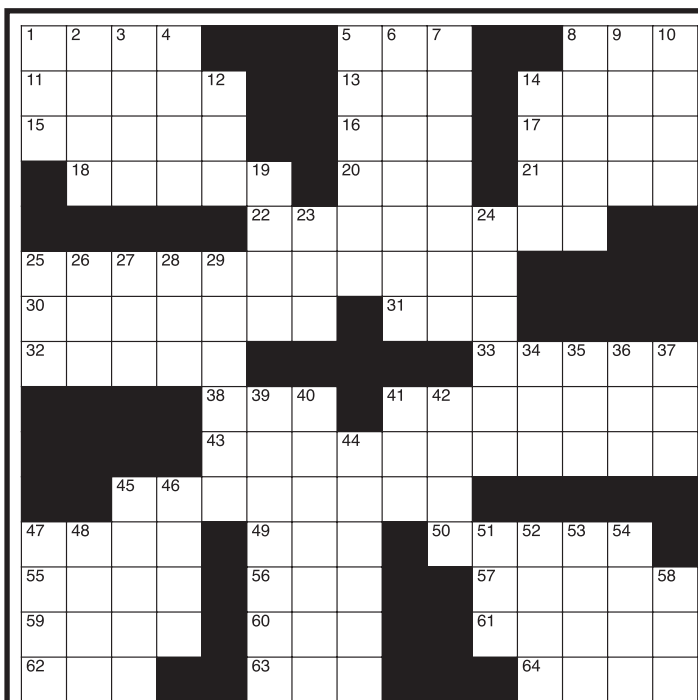
August 2022

The historic Locust Grove Cemetery finally received a paved driveway that makes negotiating the burial site much easier. The 450-foot-long road was previously dirt and gravel. The improved entrance not only meets

the cemetery board's desire for a more attractive driveway, it resolved the issues of safety and comfort. The board wanted visitors who may often be elderly, frail, or distracted by concerns associated with the loss of a loved one to feel comfortable, while driving or walking the grounds.

Slonakers Custom Paving of Kearneysville, West Virginia, paved the driveway using a donation of 110 tons of crushed stone by the Carmeuse Winchester Operation in Clearbrook,

See HISTORY, 12



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Unequaled
- 5. ___-fi (slang)
- 8. Synthetic resin
- 11. Chadic language Bura-__
- 13. Influential come Election Day
- 14. Bucket
- 15. European river
- 16. Earn a perfect score
- 17. Horizontal passage
- 18. Barely sufficient
- 20. Dekaliter
- 21. Goo Goo Dolls hit
- 22. Australian city
- 25. Female servants
- 30. Plumbing fixtures
- 31. Tooth caregiver
- 32. Book of Esther antagonist
- 33. Say aloud
- 38. Thyrotrophic hormone
- 41. Absolute
- 43. Untimely
- 45. Area or neighborhood
- 47. Juicy fruit
- 49. Expresses distaste, disapproval
- 50. S. American rodents
- 55. Swedish rock group
- 56. Influential American president
- 57. Volume
- 59. Begged
- 60. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects
- 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 62. Good friend
- 63. Body part
- 64. Tableland

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Barrels per day (abbr.)
- 2. Body parts
- 3. Invests in little enterprises
- 4. Rock legend Turner
- 5. Dug into
- 6. Laughed
- 7. Northern European nation
- 8. San Diego ballplayer
- 9. Eight
- 10. Substitutes (abbr.)
- 12. Moved swiftly on foot
- 14. Compensated
- 19. Volcano in the Philippines
- 23. Speak ill of
- 24. One who publishes
- 25. Expression of bafflement
- 26. Macaws
- 27. Matchstick game
- 28. We all have our own
- 29. Divinatory
- 34. Explosive
- 35. Follows sigma
- 36. Sea eagle
- 37. Type of bread
- 39. Bit used with a set of reins
- 40. Time away from work
- 41. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
- 42. Lots on your plate (abbr.)
- 44. Actor Brosnan
- 45. It's part of packaging
- 46. Towards the oral region
- 47. Public Theater creator Joseph
- 48. Ancient Syrian city
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Mollusk
- 53. A French abbot
- 54. Hoagies
- 58. Not present (slang)

HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, a difficult problem may require you to take a step back and think about a different approach. Start fresh in a few days.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

A happy accident reconnects you with someone you haven't seen in quite a while. Taurus. The rekindled relationship may lead to something even more concrete over the coming weeks.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, there is so much going on right now you may feel like your head is spinning. Start dividing your tasks into a more manageable list and see if others can pitch in.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, take a few days to mull over a financial situation that worries you. Is there another way you can approach it? Can you find an influx of capital to make things more manageable?

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

It is time to make a decision after working through various scenarios, Leo. Plans need to be made and it will take time to sort through all of the details. Everything will work out.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

It's time to be honest with yourself, Virgo. Are you just telling people what they want to hear or are you truly ready to make a change? You may need to prove it to others for them to trust you.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, share enjoyable experiences with others. Your travels may prove a source of inspiration for others who simply need a nudge to get out of their comfort zones.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Carefully word your next email or text and read it over several times, Scorpio. There is a fine line between being firm and coming across as domineering. You don't want to offend.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, a relationship may have ended in one respect, but the connections you share may keep you tied together for some time. Find a way to be friendly and civil at all times.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Put others first this week, Capricorn. Set aside your own list of tasks and figure out how you can lend a helping hand to a family member or friend.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Sometimes you need reassurance that you are doing a good job, Aquarius. Rest assured that you are giving it all you have and that has not gone unnoticed.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, it is time to make a decision about an issue with two seemingly good solutions. You've given things ample consideration, so trust your instincts.

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- SEPTEMBER 23
Bruce Springsteen, Singer (75)
- SEPTEMBER 24
Ben Platt, Actor (31)
- SEPTEMBER 25
Mark Hamill, Actor (73)
- SEPTEMBER 26
Zoe Perry, Actress (41)
- SEPTEMBER 27
Jenna Ortega, Actress (22)
- SEPTEMBER 28
Naomi Watts, Actress (56)

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HISTORY, from 11

VA. The Town of Stephens City completed the needed excavation. The project was coordinated by Denise Medley and approved by the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Scouting America sponsored scouts who performed service projects to include installing a flagpole and lighting, placing brick pavers donated by Frederick Block of Winchester, around the flagpole, and planting shrubs around the circular paved base of the flagpole.

Each year, since 2018, volunteers from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have rendered their services to the cemetery. These activities have included picking up trash, planting trees, weeding, trimming, and cleaning the head and footstones.

September 2024

Currently, the Locust Grove burial register contains 240 graves. 135 were interred before January 1, 1948. Many

of these graves are unmarked, while the elements have rendered some headstones illegible; marriage, birth, and death certificates of persons living in or near the Stephens City area who may have been buried at Locust Grove Cemetery can be helpful. "We may not know the exact burial spot of an unknown or discovered person, but for me, it is an even greater blessing to be able to find the names and missing facts concerning persons recorded as having Locust Grove Cemetery as their final resting place. It is good to have a name for those to be remembered and honored," Denise Medley said.

Former Locust Grove Director and Secretary, Denise Medley (2017-2023) continues efforts to research and com-

pile a more detailed list of the people buried here. The primary resource used to support and document the research is Ancestry.com. Find a Grave.com has also been a reliable and contributing source. It is Medley's hope to compile her research in a book and share this information with families looking to trace their ancestry. Medley requests any information, persons of interest, photos, and documents that would support the history of Locust Grove Cemetery be submitted to the board of directors.

There are currently more than two hundred burial plots available. About three to six burials take place each

year.

Bryan Washington has served on the board of directors for thirty-four years.

Board members Larry Cain and Garland Williams are the current volunteer groundskeepers.

Anyone who has information about Locust Grove Cemetery or who would like to donate or assist with its upkeep should email locustgrovecemetery5300@gmail.com.

- gunderman2001@aol.com

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



Weather forecast

Friday, September 20, 2024: Patchy fog before 9am. Otherwise, sunny, with a high near 83. Calm wind becoming east around 5 mph in the afternoon.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 59. Calm wind.

Saturday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 81. Southeast wind 3 to 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Saturday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 2am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61. Calm wind. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 75.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 58.

Monday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 72.

Monday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57.

Tuesday: A chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 75. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Tuesday Night: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Wednesday: A chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 77. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Wednesday Night: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Thursday: A chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 76. Chance of precipitation is 30%.



Ask Stewart

Howdy Stewart,

We wanted to know if this Fall will be a good one for leaf peeping?

— Clara and Phil

Fall begins next week, but it may not be a good autumn for viewing the leaves.

During the growing season leaves get their green color from photosynthesis-generating pigment called chlorophyll. In the fall, lower temperatures and shorter periods of sunlight trigger a response from trees that winter is coming (Game of Thrones), and they need to prepare for dormancy. They stop making chlorophyll in the leaves, which allows the other pigments to shine.

The color depends on which pigment is most present in the leaves after chlorophyll production has stopped. Red and purple colors come from pigments called anthocyanins, while carotenoids yield oranges and yellows. How much of each pigment depends on the tree variety and location.

The weather throughout the year and just leading up to fall plays a major role in the fall colors. Sunlight, water, and temperature all impact the brightness of leaves as they change, the creation of secondary pigments, and the length of the color change. Rainy, cool springs followed by mild summers and cold fall nights tend to be the best recipe for nice fall colors. Since we had a very hot summer with a re-

cord number of days over 90 degrees, which stressed all our trees, it doesn't appear that this fall will be a vibrant or long leaf peeping season

Your Pal in the Trees,

— Stewart

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

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

www.treesfrontroyal.org



Handler Rebecca Gibson and dog Gary compete at the 2021 Finals at Belle Grove. Photo by Kim Russell.

National Sheepdog Finals to take place at Belle Grove Plantation September 30-October 6, 2024

The United States Border Collie Handlers' Association (USBCHA) will again hold their National Sheepdog Finals at Belle Grove Plantation in Middletown, Virginia. The competition will take place the week of September 30-October 6, 2024.

The National Sheepdog Finals bring the top 150 sheepdogs and their handlers together to compete in a test of shepherding skills on a spectacular course against challenging sheep for the title of National Champion. Competitors have earned the right to participate in Finals through their success at local sheepdog trials throughout the year.

This is the sixth time that Belle Grove has hosted the National Sheepdog Finals. It was last at Belle Grove in 2021. "We are grateful for our more than 25-year relationship with the USBCHA and we are delighted to welcome some of the best handlers and dogs in the world back to the course at Belle Grove," said Executive Director Kristen Laise.

The event will be on the large front field at Belle Grove and will begin with open preliminary rounds Monday through Thursday in preparation for Saturday's semi-finals. Seven hundred sheep will be brought to Belle Grove for the Finals from Wilfong Farms in Dunmore, West Virginia. Shepherds on horseback will move a small group of sheep onto the field for each competitor. Each dog and handler team must collect the sheep from more than 400 yards away. Using whistle and voice commands, the handler in-

structs the dog to move sheep through a series of obstacles. As the handlers battle against the clock, judges will score the teams for accuracy and technique.

The top dogs and handlers will compete in the final competition on Sunday. It is the most difficult test of handler and dog communication, the Double Lift, in which the dog must fetch one group of sheep, bring it to the handler, and then go back and fetch another group.

The competition will begin at 7:30 a.m. Monday-Friday and Sunday and at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday and will continue until all the runs of the day are complete (around 4:00 p.m.). On Sunday there will also be an Opening Ceremony at 9 a.m. and an awards ceremony when the competition concludes mid-afternoon.

In addition to the main competition, there will be concurrent Finals for nursery dogs (under three years of age) that will take place Tuesday through Friday. Tuesday-Thursday's preliminary rounds will take place on a separate field at Belle Grove and is included in the spectator ticket for the event. "An exciting thing for the 2024 event is, for the first time, Friday will be reserved for the nursery dog final, and they will use the open (front) field at Belle Grove," said Finals Host Committee Chair Rebecca Gibson.

Food and merchandise vendors will be on the property during the entire event. There will also be a face painter, balloon artist, and duck-herding competition on the weekend. Spectator tickets include touring Belle Grove's Manor House, which will be open Monday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Museum Shop will also be open during these hours.

Spectator tickets are on sale now at www.bellegrove.org until Friday, September 27 at 5 p.m. EDT and then will be available at the gate during the event. Cash and all major credit cards will be accepted. This is a rain or shine event and there will be no ticket refunds. Ticket prices are:

Adults \$16 per day (any day), \$42 for a three-day pass (any three days), or \$72 for a week-long pass,

Youth 7-16 and Seniors 65 and Older \$8 per day (any day), \$21 for a three-day pass (any three days) or \$36 for a week-long pass,

Youth 6 and younger may attend at no charge.

Free event parking is provided and will be on grass. There will be a designated handicapped parking area for

those with a valid placard. Visitors may bring chairs, and some tent cover will be provided. Comfortable clothing, sturdy and closed-toe shoes, and a pair of binoculars are recommended to fully enjoy the event. There is no outside food or drink, or smoking allowed on event grounds. Spectators may not bring dogs to this event.

On Tuesday, October 1 at 11:00 a.m. and Thursday, October 3 at 11:00 a.m. representatives from the 2024 National Sheepdog Finals Committee and select handlers will be available to the press for interviews and photographs. Press should park in the spectator parking field and meet at the Admissions Gate to be escorted onto the grounds.

More information is available at bellegrove.org and sheepdogfinals.usbcha.com.

About Belle Grove: Belle Grove Plantation is located off Route 11 at 336 Belle Grove Road just south of Middletown, Virginia 22645 and is conveniently located to I-81 (use exit 302) and I-66. Belle Grove Plantation is a non-profit historic house museum that is a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and a partner in Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park.

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

Motorcycle Ride/ Event 9/21

Northwestern Community Services Board Prevention and Wellness Services is happy to announce that this year's 3rd Annual Suicide Prevention Ride and Awareness Event is scheduled for September 21, 2024. The Ride will begin and end at the Front Royal Moose Lodge, 1340 John Marshall

See BRIEFS, 14

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BRIEFS, from 13

Hwy, Front Royal, VA 22630. Registration starts at 9:00 am and kickstands will go up at 10:00 am. Registration is \$20 per rider and any money raised will benefit the area's local 24/7 crisis line, Concern Hotline. (www.concern-hotline.org)

In addition to the ride, the community is invited to come out to the Moose Lodge, where a resource fair

will be set up until 1:00 p.m. While there, individuals will have an opportunity to add a message of encouragement, or share a memory of a loved one on the Hope Wall. Prevention and Wellness Services Coordinator, Shannon Urum, said "This event is about bringing the community together to support those who have lost loved ones to suicide and to provide hope and resources to those who are struggling or in crisis." She added, "Every year, we are filled with gratitude for the organizations and individuals who join forces with us to make this a successful event."

To learn more about this event and other upcoming activities, sign up for the Prevention and Wellness newsletter on their website at www.nwcbwellness.com



Fatal Crash in Warren County

Virginia State Police is investigating a fatal crash in Warren County. The crash occurred Monday (Sept. 16), at 8:15 p.m. on Interstate 66 at the 6-mile marker.

A 2014 Kia Forte was traveling west on I-66 when it rear-ended a west-bound 1995 Ford dump truck, which

was accelerating from the nearby entrance ramp.

The driver of the Kia, John K. Barb, 44, of Woodstock, Va., died at the scene. He was not wearing a seatbelt.

The driver of the Ford, a 65-year-old male from Bunker Hill, WV, was not injured in the crash. He was wearing a seatbelt.

The crash remains under investigation.



Winchester Area SHRM invites you to the 2024 Employment Law Update on September 25th, from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the George Washington Hotel. For more information and to register visit www.washrm.org.

The Phoenix Project is hosting a Healing Arts Support Group for survivors of domestic and sexual abuse beginning on October 3rd.

The Browntown Community Cen-

ter's Fall Yard Sale will take place on September 20 & 21. Fall Yard Sale. 9am - 3pm at 96 Browntown Rd, Bentontown, Va.

Warren County Habitat for Humanity (WCHFH) invites the community to its annual yard sale on Saturday, September 21, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at First Baptist Church, 14 W 1st Street, Front Royal in the rollover parking lot. For more information about donation drop-offs, the yard sale, or volunteer opportunities, email info@warrencountyhabitat.org or call (540) 551-3232.

Join Jean Humbrecht of Humbrecht Law, PLLC for our upcoming Book Signing Happy Hour on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 on the rooftop at Zandra's Taqueria in Old Town Manassas from 5-7 p.m.! Pick up a personalized autographed copy of her book, More Than A Fine: The True Cost of Speeding in Virginia, and enjoy food, drinks, and good company.

Skyline Ranch Resort is looking for crafters and independent consultant vendors to set up at their first Hallo-thanksmas on September 28th, 10-2.

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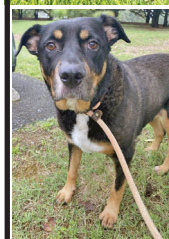


Charlie says: "My Dad and Mom Rescued Me, My Friends Need To Be Rescued!!!"

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St. Luke Community Clinic is hosting their Annual Fundraising Benefit on September 28th at Shenandoah Valley Golf Club. For Tickets and questions email outreach@stlukeclinic.org or call (540) 636-4325.

Warren Coalition's popular event, Celebrate Kids Day is set for Sunday, September 29th, from 1-4 p.m. at the

Warren County Health & Human Services Complex at 465 W. 14th St. in the 15th St. Gym.

Reaching Out Now has scheduled their first events of the new school year and there are opportunities for you to support the youth of the community through sponsorships. Junior/Senior Planning Night will be held on October 1st and the 4th Annual YES Conference! will be held on October 15th.



Jake Bodley, Contract Forester; Jacoby Lipscomb, Forester; Delaney Long, Virginia Department of Forestry; and Adam Downing, Virginia Cooperative Extension, at the Arbor Day tree planting in Madison County where the award was presented.

REC Tree Line USA Designation

Each year, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative's (REC) Vegetation Management team and contractors play a critical role in improving reliability for our members.

They remove more than 20,000 hazard trees each year and clear more than 1,500 miles of rights-of-away—all in an effort to prevent or reduce the

likelihood of a power outage and improve reliability.

But their dedication goes way beyond trimming trees. Each year, they work with communities and local groups to give away and plant dozens of new trees. All the while, they also work to earn new certifications and skills that ensure they are performing at the highest level for REC member-owners.

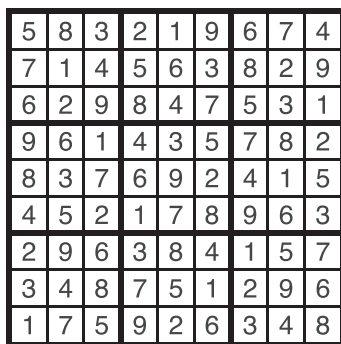
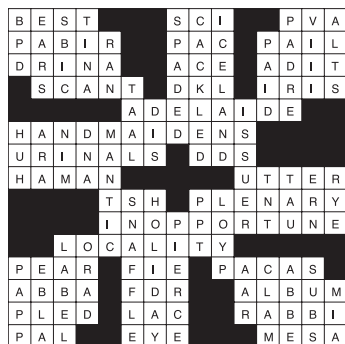
For the 23rd consecutive year, this dedication and commitment has earned prestigious recognition from the National Arbor Day Foundation. REC has once again been designated as a Tree Line USA utility, which recognizes the Cooperative's commitment to best practices in protecting and enhancing forestry.

"This designation demonstrates

how trees and utilities can coexist for the benefit of communities and citizens," Delaney Long with the Virginia Department of Forestry explained in presenting the award to Jacoby Lipscomb, an REC Forester, at an Arbor Day tree planting event in Madison County.

"At REC, our Vegetation Management team sets the bar for utilities across the country in terms of best practices for pruning, the use of technology and also our commitment to continuing education—not only for our own foresters and contractors, but also for the communities we serve," said Cindy Devlin Musick, Senior Director of Vegetation Management Services. "The Tree Line USA designation is a true honor."

— news@warrencountyreport.com



Food FACT:

Consuming these foods helps a person stay full, maintain a healthy weight, and have a healthy digestive system.

Answers: Whole grains

What's the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B.

A

B

Answers: 1. Bread on board turned 2. More pasta in upper left corner 3. Missing pasta above tortillas 4. Pasta replaced other grain in bottom bowl

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

SEPTEMBER 26

1934: The ocean liner RMS Queen Mary is launched.

1950: United Nations troops recapture Seoul from North Korean forces.

1969: Abbey Road, the last recorded album by The Beatles, is released.

NEW WORD

FIBER

dietary material containing substances such as cellulose

How they say that in...

English: Grain
Spanish: Grano
Italian: Cereali
French: Céréales
German: Getreide

Did You Know?

Most people should aim to eat between 25 and 30 grams of fiber each day from a variety of sources.

Answer: Wheat

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Wheat

540-305-3000

Upcoming events with Dan McDermott

Fri. Sept. 20, 2024 (6-10pm) Music Bingo & Karaoke at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 20 South St. Front Royal

Sat. Sept. 21, 2024 (7:30-11:30pm)
Music Bingo & Karaoke at New Market, Va. Eagles*

Fri. Sept 27, 2024 (7-9pm) Karaoke and Wine at James Charles Winery **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 4063 Middle Rd, Winchester, VA 22602

Sat. Sept. 28, 2024 (7:00-10:30pm)
Music Bingo & Karaoke at Woodstock, Va. Moose*

Sat. Oct. 5, 2024 (7:00-10:30pm)
Music Bingo & Karaoke at Woodstock, Va. Moose*

Sat. Oct. 12, 2024 (6-10pm) 1990s! Music Bingo & Karaoke Dance Party at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 20 South St. Front Royal, VA 22630

Fri. Oct. 18, 2024 (7:30-11:30pm)
Music Bingo & Karaoke at New Market, Va. Eagles*

Sat. Oct. 19, 2024 20th Class Reunion at Backroom Brewery

Fri. Oct. 25, 2024 (6-10pm) Music Bingo & Karaoke at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 20 South St. Front Royal

Sat. Oct 26, 2024 (7-11pm) Karaoke at Edinburg, Va. VFW Special Event **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** 100 Veterans Way, Edinburg, VA 22824

Fri. Nov. 8, 2024 (7:30-11:30pm)
Music Bingo & Karaoke at New Market, Va. Eagles*

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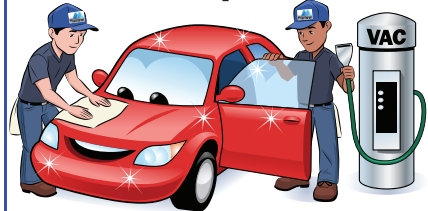
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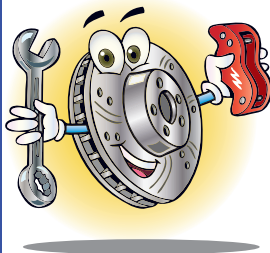
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