

Warren/Frederick County Report

Volume XX, Issue 1 • Mid January, 2025

- INSIDE -

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INDICTMENTS

Weather forecast

Friday, January 10, 2025: Increasing clouds, with a high near 34. Calm wind.

Friday Night: Snow, mainly before 1am. Low around 22. Calm wind. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 37. Light west wind becoming northwest 8 to 13 mph in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 24 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 17. Northwest wind 3 to 7 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 36.
Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 16.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 42.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 18.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 27.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a

low around 10.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 27.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 13.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 32.



Ask Stewart

Dear Stewart,

Can you help me with my English assignment?

– Sam in Skyline

Sure Sam. Did you know that many wonderful poems have been written about trees?

Here are two of my favorites.

Trees by Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the sweet earth's flowing
breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

When Autumn Came by Faiz Ahmed Faiz

This is the way that autumn came to the trees:

It stripped them down to the skin,
left their ebony bodies naked.
It shook out their hearts, the yellow leaves,
scattered them over the ground.
Anyone could trample them out of shape
undisturbed by a single moan of protest.

The birds that herald dreams
were exiled from their song,
each voice torn out of its throat.
They dropped into the dust
even before the hunter strung his bow.

Oh, God of May have mercy.
Bless these withered bodies
with the passion of your resurrection;
make their dead veins flow with blood again.

Give some tree the gift of green again.
Let one bird sing.

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



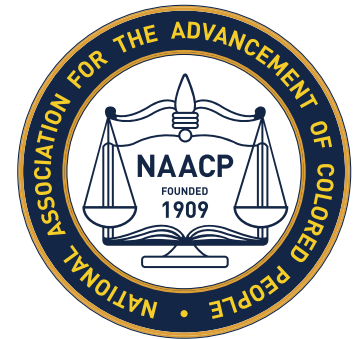
Publix announces 2nd area store

We are pleased to announce that Publix Super Markets has executed a lease on a new store location in Winchester, VA.

Publix at Winwood Village
Southeastern corner of Weems Lane and Valley Avenue
Winchester, VA

The 50,325 square ft. store will employ approximately 150 associates. An opening timeframe has not yet been determined.

Publix recently announced a new store would be coming to Stephens City.



History of the Warren–Page Counties NAACP Branch #7125

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.

This chapter of the NAACP was first chartered on January 6, 1947. It was chartered again on April 12, 1955 and

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again in January of 1975 and 1976. Because of the rural population it serves, during one of the first two charters the chapter included the counties of Warren and Rappahannock. This third reorganization into the Warren-Page NAACP represents the current geographic area served by this chapter.

In 2020 faced with COVID, the chapter virtually shut down. After several years of loss of memberships and noncompliance with the state and national conferences, Suetta Freeman and Gene Kilby decided to revitalize the Warren-Page Branch in November 2023. We have been a champion for justice and equality ever since. The strategic priorities of the Branch are

to advocate for equal employment opportunities, access to high quality education, youth leadership development, voter mobilization and health.

Our branch works to address these priorities through the dedicated work of our volunteer members. As a volunteer organization, all of our advocacy initiatives are implemented by our members who generously donate their time.

In the late 1930's, as organizing efforts to implement integration were being strategized, Williams Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal (C.M.E.), under the direction of Reverend H. D. Frank, was used as a focal meeting place for NAACP supporters

and James W. Kilby's coalition of actions. Backed by the legal counsel of the NAACP in 1958, the local NAACP chapter won a federal lawsuit against the Warren County School Board to admit Black students, according to a historical marker in front of Warren County Middle School, formerly Warren County High School. In response, Gov. James L. Almond Jr. ordered Warren County High School closed in the fall of 1958 — the first school in the state to shut down under "massive resistance." The Virginia Supreme Court ruled in 1959 that "massive resistance" was unconstitutional and Federal Judge John Paul, Jr. ordered Warren County High School to re-

open on an integrated basis. Kilby and 22 fellow Black students integrated Warren County High School on Feb. 18, 1959.

Built in 1932, the Front Royal Colored School, also known as Ressie Jeffries School, was the beginning of the consolidation of schools serving blacks in the community. Inscribed on the cornerstone are these words: "The cornerstone from the Front Royal Colored School is dedicated with great pride and gratitude by the Warren - Page NAACP in recognition of the many teachers and students who contributed to its success and to the legacy of this community. This tribute preserves the rich history of our African American community."

Past presidents of the chapter include Rev. James W. Kilby, Rev. James M. Kilby, Rev. Allen L. Baltimore, Charles W. Barbour, Eleanor E. Jordan, Suetta J. Freeman, Rev. Alfred J. Woods, and Alford D. "A.D." Carter III.

Our branch is active in the community through different areas such

as hosting the Annual Martin Luther King birthday program and Black History Month program. In 2024 the branch hosted the community's first Juneteenth Community Celebration which was held at the Front Royal Gazebo on Main Street on June 19; held our 63rd annual freedom fund banquet on November 2, and hosted a movie showing and luncheon on December 7.

Warren - Page County branch is one of the branches that make up the Virginia State Conference NAACP. The Virginia NAACP is divided into seven regions. Region 3: North consists of the areas of Alexandria, Arlington, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fauquier, Frederick, Fredericksburg, Loudoun, Manassas, Manassas Park, Orange, Page, Prince William, Rappahannock, Shenandoah, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Warren, and Winchester. Each region is represented by a regional vice president. Region 3 VP is Rev. Cozy Bailey, current Virginia State Conference NAACP Presi-

See NEWS, 4

Congratulations to the Warren County Fair Association!!



The Warren County Fair Association recently won First Place in their division and Best of Show awards for their Warren/Frederick County Report program tab and the Fair's history social media post!

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NEWS, from 3

dent.
To learn more about the NAACP on the national level, visit naacp.org and naacpvva.org for information on the state level.

We invite you to join our branch general membership meetings held at Samuels Public Library, 330 E. Criser Road, Front Royal, VA. Visit samuelslibrary.librarymarket.com for date and time.

The branch mailing address is Warren-Page NAACP #7125-B, P.O. Box 390, Front Royal, VA 22630.

For more information contact branch president Gene Kilby at genekilby@gmail.com or 240-604-9432 and former branch president Suetta Freeman at 504-636-2130.

Branch officers were elected Nov 9, 2024. Term of office is Jan 1, 2025 thru Dec 31, 2026:

- President - Gene M. Kilby
- Vice President - Michael Fletcher
- Secretary - David P. Rushton
- Assistant Secretary - Janet

C.Timbers
Treasurer - Suetta J. Freeman
Assistant Treasurer - Connie R. Cermak



Warren-Page County NAACP Branch President Gene M. Kilby

Gene M. Kilby, son of former NAACP presidents James W. Kilby and brother of James M. Kilby. Kilby was a survivor of "Massive Resistance".

Gene and brother James Kilby were among 23 Black students to attend

Warren County High School after its reopening in 1959, after state schools were desegregated.

Gene graduated from Howard University in Washington, D. C. with a degree in business management – attending on a football scholarship he earned while playing at WCHS. He has worked in a variety of roles – computer programming and analysis, real estate, and, finally as director of facilities at the District of Columbia Public Schools.



Stay alert: plan for another round of winter weather this weekend

VDOT continues winter weather operations with more snow expected in days ahead

RICHMOND, Va. Jan 9, 2025 — As crews continue winter weather operations, another round of ice and snow

is expected to move into Virginia this weekend. With more snow forecasted in areas across the commonwealth, motorists should continue to monitor conditions and plan travel around the weather to stay safe and avoid potential delays.

In some areas, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) began pretreating roads Wednesday with brine, a salt and water mixture, where winter weather is expected. Through-

See NEWS, 6

Humane Society of Warren County

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



Daisy is a 3 year old petite lab mix who is extremely loving and loyal to her people. She is looking for a home where she can be the only pet. An adult home only would be best for Miss Daisy. She loves to play, cuddle and give kisses.



Roxy-Dane is an 8-year-old Great Dane mix with a gentle soul. Initially shy around new people, she warms up with patience and would thrive in a calm, cat-free home. Roxy-Dane prefers the company of laid-back dogs and

enjoys peaceful coexistence. She walks well on a leash and is spayed, microchipped, and up-to-date on vaccinations.

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Choco is a 2 yr old male American Staffordshire Terrier who is extremely sweet and friendly. Unfortunately he ended up at the shelter with his friend Ginger, after their beloved owner passed away. Choco misses his dad

very much and would love to find a family to love him just as much as his dad did. He is good with other dogs, seems very interested in kitties and would do great with kids but may knock down small ones as he is a beef cake.



Little Khloe is 7-9 year old Dachshund mix who is full of love to give. She is looking for a home where she can be the only dog but is okay with cat

her be. She would prefer older kids as she is old lady who doesn't want to be pulled and tugged on by children. She is great on leash and is quite a mellow girl.

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WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to skating.

R L L R E O

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

Answer: Roller

GUESS WHO ?

I am an actor born in Australia on January 13, 1990. Before becoming an actor, I worked in the construction industry. I am best known for a prominent role in "The Hunger Games" series, as well as my high-profile marriage to a pop singer.

Answer: Liam Hemsworth

Hamrick's Sudoku!

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle! (Answer in back.)



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

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NEWS, from 4

out the week, crews have already been treating roads with salt and sand to address impacts from the previous storm. Crews are also restocking materials and will begin preparing to mobilize plows and other equipment ahead of forecasted winter weather expected to arrive Friday. VDOT crews work to make the roads passable, which means drivable with extreme caution, and bare pavement should not be expected

during – and for a period after – the storm.

The next round of weather is expected to bring snow and ice to most areas in Virginia, which could create dangerous road conditions. VDOT is grateful for the cooperation of motorists during the last storm – significantly reduced traffic volumes on the interstates allowed crews to operate more safely and efficiently. Continued cooperation of motorists through this approaching storm is critical for the safety of the traveling public, and the safety of VDOT crews and contractors responding to the impacts on the roads.

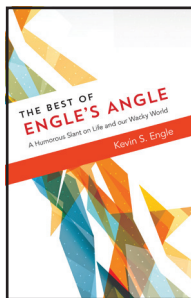
As overnight temperatures drop, roads are expected to refreeze, which may contribute to icy roads and hazardous driving conditions even after the precipitation ends.

Information On Road Conditions

Motorists should plan to travel around the winter storm. However, if travel is necessary, plan ahead and check roadway conditions by using VDOT's free 511 mobile app, which offers information about road conditions, traffic, incidents, construction and congestion as well as access to traffic cameras, weather and more. Information is also available at 511.vdot.virginia.gov or by calling 511 while in Virginia.

For questions or to report hazardous road conditions, contact VDOT's 24-hour Customer Service Center by visiting my.vdot.virginia.gov or calling 800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623). For more about winter weather travel,

visit VDOT's weather page.



ENGLE'S ANGLE:
"Earl and Me"

by Kevin S. Engle

You'll never guess what I got for Christmas?

A goat.

Yeah, you read that correctly.

There were a bunch of us at a neighbor's house on Christmas and we were playing a gift exchange game.

Our neighbor read a fun story about Santa and his elves. Every time he said the word 'left,' you were to pass the gift you were holding to the person on your left, and to the right when he said 'right'.

When he finished the story and everyone unwrapped their package, I was the new owner of a goat.

And not just any goat, but a screaming goat.

Ok, he's only 2 1/2" tall.

And every time you press down on him or the 1/2" stump he's standing on, he lets out a high-pitched bleat.

A scream.

I wasn't sure what to think about my new friend at first.

Well, my initial thoughts were "Hmm, thanks. You shouldn't have. Really?"

The goat giver said there was a story behind it. One that involved megastar Taylor Swift and one of her songs.

I didn't have a clue.

There was also a "Screaming Goats" pocket guide in the package. I now

know more about goats than ever. Do you know why they scream?

I didn't, but now I do. They might be hungry or miss their mommy. Or, they could be in distress. Mine screams a lot because I push down on the stump. My wife is thrilled.

Did you know goats have rectangular pupils? It gives them great peripheral vision and that's a good thing when other animals want to eat you.

Goats are high jumpers, but not enough to win an Olympic gold medal. But can you jump five feet high? I can't.

And they have four tummies, just like cows. And they burp a lot.

I may have had some mixed feelings when I first met him. Ok, they were mostly negative, but now I love this little guy.

I have to laugh every time he does his thing.

My wife doesn't share my enthusiasm.

Especially since it's one of the first things she hears after I wake her up in

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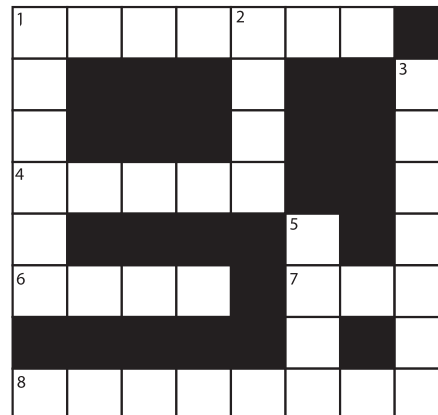


Food FACT:

This popular breakfast food provides a good deal of fiber, which can help keep a person healthy.

Answer: Oatmeal

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- Instructions for preparing meals
- Happy sound
- Computer info
- Prefix meaning "having three"
- Early parts of the day

DOWN

- Type of oatmeal oats
- A way or track
- Breakfast cupcakes
- Shock or amaze

Answers:
Across 1. Recipes 2. Path 3. Muffins 4. Data 5. Stun
Down 1. Rolled 2. Laugh 3. Muffins 4. Data 5. Stun

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

JANUARY

13

1822: The design of the Greek flag is adopted by the First National Assembly at Epidaurus.

1849: The Colony of Vancouver Island is established.

1942: Henry Ford patents a soybean car that is 30 percent lighter than a regular car.

NEW WORD

ROLLED

rolled oats steamed and then flattened between rollers

AT THE RINK WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- AXEL
- BLADE
- BREAKAWAY
- CHECK
- COAST
- COMPETITION
- DISCIPLINE
- EDGE
- FLIP
- HOCKEY
- ICE
- JUMP
- LIFT
- NOVICE
- PROGRAM
- RINK
- ROLLER
- SEASON
- SINGLES
- SKATING
- SPEED
- SPIN
- WARMUP
- ZAMBONI

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

How they say that in...

- English:** Oats
- Spanish:** Avena
- Italian:** Avena
- French:** Avoine
- German:** Hafer



Oats are among the healthiest grains on earth. They are a great source of vitamins, minerals, fiber, and antioxidants.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Cooked oatmeal

the morning. And various other times throughout the day.

In sports, there's lots of talk about the GOAT.

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Michael Jordan in basketball.

Simone Biles for gymnastics.

I've named my new friend Earl.

In our house, Earl the goat is the GOAT.

The author is already looking forward to 2027. It's the year of the Goat in the Chinese New Year.

– kevinngle456@comcast.net
The Best of Engle's Angle is available

online or pick up a signed copy at a local bookstore.



The Winchester Hot Wheels Club meets Sunday January 19, 2025 from 1-3 pm in the War Memorial Building, Jim Barnett Park, 1001 E. Cork St. Winchester, VA 22601. Lord Fairfax room. Buy, sell and trade diecast cars. We will have door prizes too! \$5 admission (under 12 is free). For more information: Dan Hammond at hwdan2@earthlink.net or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WinchestershendoahValleyHotWheelclub>



Fairfax County Supervisor Pat Herry Announces Campaign for Lieutenant Governor

Springfield, VA – Fairfax County Board of Supervisors member Pat Herry, of the Springfield District, announced Jan. 3, 2025 his campaign for Lieutenant Governor of Virginia in 2025.

Against a backdrop of Glenn Youngkin's leadership in Richmond, Pat called for a continuation of the conservative legacy established by Governor Youngkin, Lieutenant Governor Sears, and Attorney General

Miyares.

"In 2021, we put Virginia on the right track by electing Governor Youngkin. In 2025, it is crucial that we continue that path by electing Winsome Sears to the Governor's mansion, re-electing Jason Miyares as our Attorney General, and electing a strong leader to be the next Lieutenant Governor," Pat said.

"In Richmond, I will continue to bring about the commonsense, conservative solutions that best serve our communities and our Commonwealth. I will work to lower taxes, support law enforcement, and advocate for our children. I'll focus education resources on students and quality teachers – not on political agendas. I'll stand up to the progressive prosecutors releasing repeat violent offenders into our neighborhoods, and I'll penalize localities that refuse to cooperate with ICE to keep our communities safe."

Pat Herry currently serves on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and is the last elected Republican in the county. In 2023, Pat won re-election with 54% of the vote, in a district where Governor Youngkin received just 38%. He attributes his success to

being a strong balancing voice on the Board, getting things done and delivering commonsense, conservative solutions to the voters who elected him.

Learn more about Pat Herry: www.PatforVA.com



Crash Involving a Pedestrian in Madison County

Virginia State Police is investigating a crash involving a pedestrian in Madison County. The crash occurred Saturday (Jan. 4) at 7:44 p.m. near the intersection of Route 29 (S. Seminole Trail) and Route 9731 (Mountaineer Lane).

A 2017 Hyundai Elantra was traveling northbound on Route 29 when a pedestrian ran westbound into the travel lane. The Hyundai was unable to avoid a collision and struck the pedestrian. The Hyundai immediately stopped and remained on the scene.

The pedestrian, a 21-year-old male from Culpeper suffered life-threatening injuries and was transported to UVA Health University Hospital for treatment.

The driver of the Hyundai, a 31-year-old female from Culpeper was not injured in the crash. She was wearing a seatbelt.

There were two passengers in the Hyundai but neither was injured. Both passengers were wearing seatbelts.

The crash remains under investigation.

Serious Crash Involving a Train in Warren County

Virginia State Police is investigating a crash involving a train in Warren County. The crash occurred Sunday (Jan 5), at 5:00 p.m. near the intersection of CCC Road and John Marshall Highway (Route 55).

A 2017 Infiniti Q60 was traveling south on CCC Road when it failed to stop at a stop sign and collided with an eastbound Norfolk Southern train.

The driver of the Infiniti, Sharon L. Roeder, 53, of Linden, Va., was transported to Winchester Medical Center for treatment of serious injuries. She was wearing a seatbelt.

Roeder was charged with reckless driving.

There were two occupants on the train but neither was injured.

The crash remains under investigation.

Pursuit in Stafford County

At approximately 1:56 a.m. Dec. 27, 2024, Virginia State Police attempted to stop a Chevrolet Suburban for speeding along Interstate 95 southbound at the 137-mile marker.

The Suburban initially stopped, but then sped away, and a pursuit was initiated. The Suburban exited Interstate 95 southbound at Exit 133, and the pursuit continued onto Route 17 southbound. Stafford County Sheriff's Deputies joined as the pursuit moved to Route 17. The pursuit continued along White Oak Road, Ringgold Road, and Brooke Road, where the suspect vehicle crashed.

See NEWS, 10

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INDICTMENTS

2024 December Indictments October Term

Joseph John Andrews, Jr.

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Joseph John Andrews, Jr., 30, address unavailable, with three counts. COUNTS ONE through THREE: In the County of Warren, Joseph John Andrews, Jr. 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. Dates of the offenses were on or about September 15, and September 23, 2024.

Casey Dylan Cloney

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about March 6, 2024, in the County of Warren, Casey Dylan Cloney, 39, of the 400 block of Jones Quadrangle, Front Royal, VA 22630, did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly and inten-

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

Stuart Ricky Haislop, II

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about June 27, 2024, in the County of Warren, Stuart Ricky Haislop, II, 42, of the 300 block of Skyline Place, 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.

Clayton Keith Arnold, Jr.

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about August 6, 2024, in the County of Warren, Clayton Keith Arnold, Jr., 34, of the 100 block of Steele Ave., Front Royal, VA 22630, did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

Sherri Dawn Kisner

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or

about April 30, 2024, in the County of Warren, Sherri Dawn Kisner, 46, address unavailable, did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

Robert Douglas Crosby

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about November 22, 2024, in the County of Warren, Robert Douglas Crosby, 42 of the 100 block of S. Royal Ave., Front Royal, VA 22630, did unlawfully and feloniously fail to appear,

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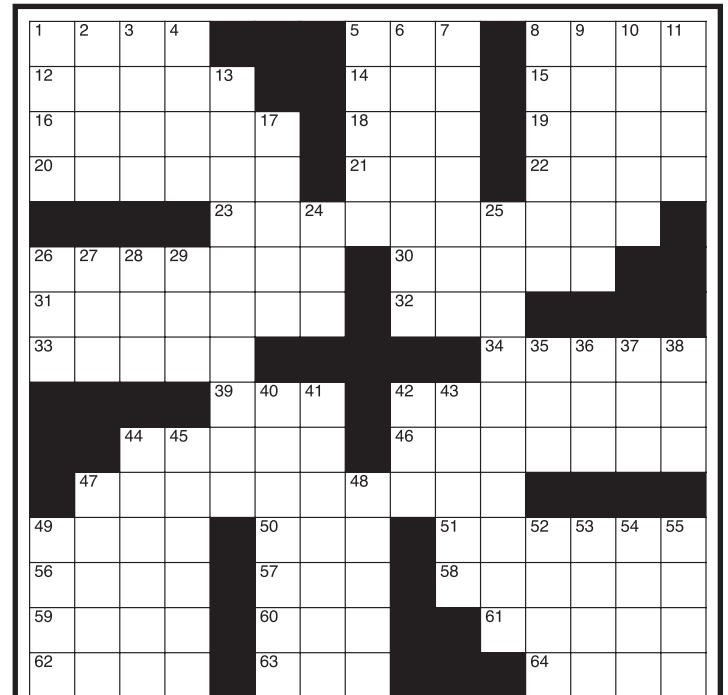
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CLUES ACROSS

1. This regulates cortisol production (abbr.)
5. People of northern Vietnam
8. Employee stock ownership plan
12. Regions
14. The center of a city
15. Hindu serpentine deity
16. Roared
18. Sun up in New York
19. "Sir" in Malaysian
20. Shrimp dish
21. Muckraker Tarbell
22. Apex
23. Harmonic effects
26. One of Babe Ruth's nicknames
30. Groups in organic chemistry
31. More pleasant-tasting
32. Spring forward
33. Noted writer
34. Building occupied by monks
39. "The world's most famous arena"
42. Colorless liquid hydrocarbon
44. Long or fast speech
46. Things you can eat
47. Substance in which magnetic moments are not aligned
49. Actor Idris
50. I (German)
51. Taxes
56. Indonesian island
57. Nuisance (slang)
58. Shawl
59. Digits
60. Moved on foot quickly
61. "For goodness ___"
62. Facial body part
63. Russian river
64. Urinates

CLUES DOWN

1. Partner to "oohs"
2. Scaly water dweller
3. Pueblo people of New Mexico
4. Music producer Teo
5. Greek mythological goddess
6. Got together to discuss
7. Acquires
8. Involve
9. Some are tomato-based
10. Old Irish alphabets
11. A sheet of glass in a window or door
13. Blood poisoning
17. A moon of Saturn
24. Neither
25. Sums
26. They follow "A"
27. Satisfaction
28. People of southeastern Burma
29. Small amount
35. Guy (slang)
36. Sound unit
37. Midway between northeast and east
38. Affirmative
40. Almost at the top
41. Extremely slow
42. Pearl Jam's debut album
43. Influential mid-century playwright
44. Martens
45. Approval
47. Dallas-adjacent Texas city
48. African nation
49. Dark brown or black
52. A place to get caught
53. Large-headed, elongated fish
54. Type of sword
55. Scottish tax or levy

as required on a felony charge before the Warren County Circuit Court.

Jessica Lee Hensley

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Jessica Lee Hensley, 33, of the 5700 block of Singer's Lane Rd., Harrisonburg, VA 22802, with two counts. COUNT ONE: In the County of Warren Jessica Lee Hensley did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act. COUNT TWO: did while a prisoner in a local community correctional facility or in the custody of an employee thereof, feloniously, unlawfully and intentionally secrete or have in her possession a chemical compound which she has not lawfully received. Date of the offenses was on or about March 23, 2024.

Benjamin Everett Brown

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Benjamin Everett Brown, 53, of the 7900 block of Main St., Middletown, VA 22645, with two counts. COUNTS ONE and TWO: In the County of Warren, Benjamin Everett Brown did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance

listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act. Date of the offenses was on or about May 16, 2024.

Candace Mae Cochran

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about July 11, 2024, in the County of Warren, Candace Mae Cochran, 42, of the 100 block of Prospect Ave., Front Royal, VA 22630, did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

Casey Scott Davis

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about February 29, 2024, in the County of Warren, Casey Scott Davis, 36, of the 100 block of Linden Rd., Linden, VA 22642, did unlawfully and feloniously possess with the intent to distribute a Schedule I or II controlled substance.

Gary Jerome Washington, Jr.

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about July 7, 2023, in the County of Warren, Gary Jerome Washington, Jr., 34, of the 18400 block of Brewridge Dr., Brandy Station, VA 22714, did un-

lawfully and feloniously possess with the intent to distribute, a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or II of the Drug Control Act, having previously been convicted of a like offense on one or more occasions.

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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Upcoming events with Dan McDermott

- Fri, Jan 10, 2025 (7-10pm) Music Bingo, Karaoke and Wine at James Charles Winery **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 4063 Middle Rd, Winchester, VA 22602
- Sat. Jan 11, 2025 (7:00-10:30pm) Karaoke/Music Bingo: Woodstock Moose*
- Sat. Jan 18, 2025 (6-10pm) Music Bingo & Karaoke at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 20 South St. Front Royal
- Fri. Jan 24, 2025 (7:30-11:30pm) Music Bingo/Karaoke: New Market Eagles*
- Sat. Feb 1, 2025 (6-10pm) Music Bingo & Karaoke at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 20 South St. Front Royal, VA
- Fri. Feb 7, 2025 (7:30-11:30pm) Music Bingo/Karaoke: New Market Eagles*
- Wed. Feb 12, 2025 (6-9pm) Music Bingo & Karaoke at Box Office Brewery **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 177 E King St, Strasburg, VA 22657
- Fri. Feb 14, 2024 (7-11pm) Music Bingo/Karaoke: Mt Jackson Moose*
- Sat. Feb 15, 2025 (6-10pm) Music Bingo & Karaoke at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 20 South St. Front Royal
- Fri. Feb 21, 2025 (6-10pm) Private Event: Front Royal Rotary Gala at SVGC
- Sat. Feb 22, 2025 (7:00-10:30pm) Karaoke/Music Bingo: Woodstock Moose*
- Sat. Mar 1, 2025 (6-10pm) Music Bingo & Karaoke at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 20 South St. Front Royal, VA
- Fri. Mar 7, 2025 (7:30-11:30pm) Music Bingo/Karaoke at New Market Eagles*

*Private clubs open to members and properly invited guests

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Limited dates remain. Book your event now: dan@route11dj.com

HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, charm is one of your strongest attributes. This week your magnetism is magnified and can work to your advantage. You might attract people who can help with a situation.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, it is never easy to reevaluate finances and cut back. However, this is the week when you likely have to keep your credit card in your wallet; otherwise, the bills add up.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21
Gemini, now is the time to turn great opportunities into big ideas. Make a plan of action and spell out the steps necessary to see an opportunity come to fruition. Ask for help, if needed.

CANCER – June 22/July 22
Cancer, others are supportive of a new project you recently proposed. Maintain that support by staying focused on the tasks at hand. It's time to move things along.

LEO – July 23/Aug 23
You are open to new activities and friendships, Leo. Luckily, you may not have to work too hard to make these things happen. Bring new members into existing friend groups.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Do whatever it takes to have some quality time to yourself, Virgo. This may include taking a trip or booking a relaxing day at a nearby spa.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, allow some time to pass by before offering an assessment. Responding too quickly might produce a knee-jerk reaction that could prove regrettable down the road.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Take extra care dealing with a sticky situation at work, Scorpio. You may need to be very careful about checking for mistakes in detail-oriented tasks without stepping on any toes.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
You might need to bargain to get something you want this week, Sagittarius. Figure out what you are willing to give up and then identify a person you can work with.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Clear communication is needed right now, Capricorn; otherwise, you may fall victim to hearsay or crossed signals. Get the facts before sharing your opinion.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Start contemplating big changes pertaining to your employment situation, Aquarius. An opportunity might come along that proves too good to pass up.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
The feelings you have for someone will help you overlook any imperfections you have noticed, Pisces. Keep your relationship strong by focusing on this person's good points.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 12
Zayn Malik, Singer (32)

JANUARY 13
Patrick Dempsey, Actor (59)

JANUARY 14
LL Cool J, Rapper (57)

JANUARY 15
Dove Cameron, Actress (29)

JANUARY 16
Kate Moss, Model (51)

JANUARY 17
Jim Carrey, Actor (63)

JANUARY 18
Dave Bautista, Actor (56)

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NEWS, from 7

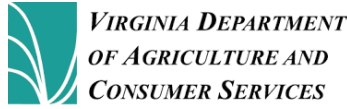
The suspect driver then attempted to run from the scene on foot and was taken into custody a short time later by Stafford County K9 deputies with the help of a Stafford County Sheriff's Office drone.

Virginia State Police recovered a stolen firearm, drugs, money, and cell phones from the scene.

The driver, Zaire L. Davis, 22, has been charged with Eluding, Grand Larceny, Possession of Stolen Property, Possession of a Firearm while in Possession of Drugs, Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, and Possession with Intent to Distribute Drugs.

Two passengers remained in the vehicle and were released without charges.

There were no reported injuries.



VDACS Announces New, Lower Pesticide Registration and License Fees

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) announces lower certification and license fees for pesticide applicators and pesticide businesses operating within the Commonwealth. The fee change is a result of regulatory action taken by the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services after a review of the pesticide fee structure to align current pesticide fees with VDACS' costs to administer the pesticide program and the Virginia Pesticide Control Act. The lowering of

fees will reduce the costs to pesticide applicators and pesticide businesses while allowing VDACS to continue protecting public health and the environment.

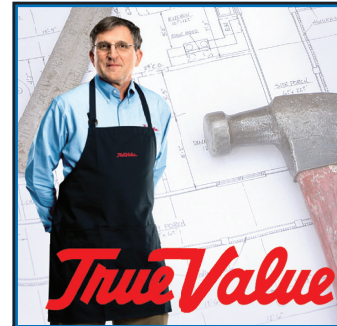
The fee structure change reduces the commercial applicator certification initial fee from \$100 to \$25, the registered technician certification initial fee from \$50 to \$25, and the annual pesticide business license fee from \$150 to \$75. In addition, it lowers the commercial applicator certification reexamination fees from \$100 to \$25, and the fee to add a commercial applicator category or subcategory from \$35 to \$25. The pesticide product registration fee of \$225 remains unchanged. There continues to be no charge for private pesticide applicators obtaining initial and renewal certifications. The new fee structure became effective on Jan. 2, 2025. VDACS provides an online application service

for applicators and businesses, where these fees are automatically calculated.

VDACS pesticide program activities include the certification of approximately 21,000 pesticide applicators, the licensing of approximately 2,200 pesticide businesses, the registration of approximately 15,000 pesti-

cide products, and conducting routine inspections and investigations.

Questions regarding applicator certification, pesticide business licensing or pesticide product registration, should be directed to VDACS Office of Pesticide Services at opsclrt.vdacs@vdacs.virginia.gov or (804) 786-3798.



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Jordan Alexander Sweetman, 19, of Arlington, Va.

Arlington man charged with possession of burglary tools, explosives, wearing mask

On January 1, 2025, at approximately 9:30 p.m., the Warren County Emergency Communications Center received a 911 call reporting a suspicious dark-colored Honda off the roadway near Hillandale Road. According to the caller, the vehicle did not have visible license plates and the driver was seen wearing a ski mask

SLOW-COOKED BEEF STEW MAKES AN IDEAL COLD WEATHER COMFORT FOOD



The term "comfort food" can be used in reference to a host of dishes. Some see Mom's homecooking as the ultimate comfort food, while others may insist hearty dishes that fill the belly are the only true comfort foods.

Regardless of one's definition of comfort food, one characteristic many might agree about is that foods must provide more than mere sustenance to qualify for entry into this wide-ranging category. Beef stew certainly fits that criteria, as many feel nothing is more comforting on a cold winter day than a warm bowl of slow-cooked stew. As winter settles in, those looking for some slow-cooked comfort can try this recipe for "Crockpot Beef Stew With Potatoes and Peas" from Lines+Angles.

Crockpot Beef Stew With Potatoes and Peas

Makes 6 servings

- 2 pounds boneless stew beef
- 1 teaspoon coarse salt
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium onion, peeled and finely chopped
- 2 celery ribs, rinsed, trimmed and sliced
- 2 cloves of garlic, peeled and pressed
- 2 cups baby carrots, sliced
- 6 small new potatoes, rinsed and cut into bite-sized

- pieces
- 6 ounces tomato paste
- 4 cups beef broth
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon dried parsley
- 2 cups frozen peas

1. Rinse the beef under cold running water and pat completely dry with paper towels. Using a sharp knife, cut the beef into generous bite-size pieces.
2. Combine the salt, pepper and flour. Place the cubed beef in a large resealable plastic storage bag. Add the seasoned flour and shake to thoroughly coat the beef with flour.
3. Heat the oil in a heavy bottomed skillet over medium heat. Add the flour-coated beef and brown on all sides.
4. Place browned beef in the crock pot. Add onions, celery, garlic, carrots, potatoes, tomato paste, beef broth, Worcestershire sauce, and parsley.
5. Cook on low for 10 hours or on high for 6 to 7 hours. About 30 minutes before serving, add the frozen peas, cover and continue cooking for an additional 30 minutes.
6. Ladle stew into individual serving bowls and serve. Tip: Cooking time may vary depending on age and size of crockpot.

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while throwing items from the vehicle.

Deputies promptly responded to the area but were initially unable to locate the vehicle. A short time later, a vehicle matching the description was found at the 7-Eleven on John Marshall Highway in Linden. As deputies approached, the driver—still wearing a ski mask—fled on foot but was quickly apprehended. The individual was identified as Jordan Alexander Sweetman, 19, of Arlington, Virginia.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Sweetman did not own the vehicle, lacked a valid driver's license, and exhibited signs of potential mental health issues. The vehicle displayed damage consistent with being stolen, had no license plates, and contained items consistent with burglary tools. Following this discovery, the vehicle was towed to the Warren County Sheriff's Office for further evidence processing. Deputies also returned to Hillandale Road to search for items discarded by the driver.

Sweetman was transported by ambulance to Warren Memorial Hospital for a medical evaluation and upon clearance, was transported to RSW Regional Jail. He was presented before the magistrate and charged with obstruction of justice, possession of burglarious tools, wearing a mask to conceal identity, and driving without a license. He was held without bond.

On January 2, investigators obtained a search warrant for the vehicle. During the search, several items resembling homemade explosive devices were discovered. Investigators immediately ceased processing and contacted the Warren County Fire Marshal's Office, Loudoun County Bomb Squad, and ATF for assistance. Bomb squad technicians safely removed several devices from the vehicle and conducted a controlled detonation near Eastham Park to ensure public safety. Explosive detection canines were deployed to the Hillandale Road for additional

searches, leading to minor traffic delays for about an hour.

As a result of these findings, Sweetman has been charged with an additional felony of manufacturing and possessing explosive materials or devices and remains held without bond at RSW Jail.

This incident remains under active investigation. Items recovered from the scene are being analyzed at a forensic laboratory. Anyone with information regarding this investigation is urged to contact the Warren County Sheriff's Investigator Powell at 540-635-7100 or cpowell@warrencountysheriff.org.

The Warren County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the Loudoun County Bomb Squad, ATF, Falls Church Field Office US Marshal Service, Virginia State Police, US Department of Homeland Security, Arlington County Fire Marshal Office, and Shenandoah County Sheriff's Office that assisted with this complex investigation. We also want to express our appreciation to the community for promptly reporting suspicious activity and for their patience during the response and investigation. Your cooperation and awareness are critical to maintaining the safety of Warren County.

Joint media release from Warren County Sheriff's Office and Warren County Fire and Rescue

Update Jan. 8, 2025:

The Warren County Sheriff's Office is providing an update on the investigation into the suspicious vehicle and explosive devices initially reported on January 1, 2025. The initial criminal case began as a motor vehicle theft investigation after Sweetman's original arrest. It was not until the following morning, during the search of the vehicle, that a suspicious item was observed. At that point, all processing

of evidence was halted, and the Warren County Fire Marshal's Office was immediately contacted. Subsequently, local, state, and federal agencies were called in to provide their expertise and resources to ensure the safety of our staff and community. Investigators immediately contacted Warren County Commonwealth Attorney John Bell who advised to place an additional felony charge of manufacturing/possessing explosive materials or devices.

Earlier today, the suspect, Jordan

Alexander Sweetman, 19, of Arlington, Virginia, appeared in court for a bond hearing on the felony charge. Sweetman was held without bond pending a competency evaluation. Another bond hearing is set for next Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. in Warren County General District Court. Arlington County Police Department is working the motor vehicle theft, which was stolen in their jurisdiction.

As part of the investigation, we expedited the forensic analysis of Sweet-

man's cellular device, yielding valuable insights regarding his whereabouts leading up to his initial arrest. The information obtained determined that Sweetman did not enter the Town of Front Royal corporate limits. Data revealed that he traveled west on Interstate 66 from Arlington, VA. He turned around near Hillandale Road, stopping briefly, and then headed back east on John Marshall Highway and pulled into a parking space near the 7-Eleven in Linden where deputies initiated contact. At this point in the investigation, there is no indication that Sweetman was working in concert with or is affiliated with any group or organization, however there are still items that have been submitted to be forensically analyzed.

Searches in the Hillandale Road area on the evening of the initial encounter and the following day utilizing explosive detection K9s were conducted. Both the initial and follow-up searches did not result in locating any suspicious items that were alleged to have been discarded from the suspect

See NEWS, 12

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NEWS, from 11

on the side of the road.

As an update to the carefully planned detonation, trained bomb technicians selected Eastham Park as the safest location to render the suspected devices safe. This site was chosen due to its proximity, minimizing travel through populated areas, and its limited pedestrian and vehicle access. Special precautions were taken to ensure public safety, including x-ray imaging to analyze the device, specialized disruptors that can safely detonate the explosive components, and seismograph monitoring to confirm that no property damage occurred during the controlled detonation. While the deto-

nation was audible in several areas, all precautions were taken to ensure the safety of all community members and public safety personnel.

Sheriff Crystal Cline further adds, "To the community, I want to thank you for your patience and trust. I understand that limited information can be frustrating, but certain details must remain confidential to protect the integrity of the investigation. I encourage anyone with questions to contact my office directly. However, please understand that my role as Sheriff requires a balance between transparency and safeguarding sensitive case details."

The investigation remains ongoing and anyone with information is

encouraged to contact Investigator Powell at 540-635-7100 or cpowell@warrencountysheriff.org.

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Brady D. Neary, 21, of Strasburg, Va.

Regional Jail employee charged with delivering drugs, accepting bribe

On Tuesday, December 31, 2024, the Rappahannock Shenandoah Warren Regional Jail (RSW) and the Warren County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) launched a joint investigation into allegations of illegal narcotics being transported into RSW. The investigation began following an anonymous tip submitted via the Citizen Connect reporting link on the WCSO website.

Through the course of the investigation the suspect was identified as Brady D. Neary a 21-year-old resident of Strasburg, Virginia. Investigators determined that Neary smuggled a controlled substance into the facility in exchange for an undisclosed amount of money.

Neary was charged with two felonies: delivery of drugs to prisoners and bribery within a correctional facility. Mr. Neary was arrested and appeared before a magistrate and was ordered to be held without bond and subsequently transferred to the Northwest Regional Adult Detention Center (NRADC). The court date for the listed offenses has been set for January 21, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Warren County General District Court.

Neary is charged with:
§ 18.2-474.1 Delivery of drugs, firearms, explosives, etc., to prisoners or committed persons
§ 18.2-474.2 Bribery in correctional facilities

Neary, who had worked for RSW

Regional Jail for approximately five months, is no longer employed by the facility.

This investigation is ongoing and anyone with additional information related to this case is encouraged to contact Criminal Investigations Sergeant M.R. Ramey at (540) 635-7100 or via email at mramey@warrencountysheriff.org.

Joint media release from RSW Regional Jail and Warren County Sheriff's Office



Dale W. Baldwin, 39, of Front Royal

Front Royal man charged

On Thursday, December 26, 2024, the Warren County Sheriff's Office began an investigation regarding the possession of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) in the Front Royal area of Warren County. Warren County Sheriff's Office received information regarding a male who was possibly in possession of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) on his cellular device.

Through the course of this investigation the investigative team was able to locate Dale W. Baldwin and the device in question and analyze its contents. After the content was reviewed on December 30, 2024, Mr. Baldwin was interviewed and arrested for violation of Virginia Code §18.2-374.1:1. Possession, reproduction, distribution, solicitation, and facilitation of child pornography. Mr. Baldwin appeared before a magistrate and was ordered to be held in custody without the possibility of bond. The court date for the listed offense has been set for January 16, 2025, at 09:00 a.m. in Warren County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. Mr. Baldwin was also

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Music Bingo & Karaoke: WEDNESDAY Feb 12, 2025: 6-9pm

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WEDNESDAY Feb 12, 2025 6-9pm

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NEWS, from 13



Upcoming events with Dan McDermott

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Sat. Jan 11, 2025 (7:00-10:30pm)
Karaoke/Music Bingo at Woodstock, Va. Moose*

Sat. Jan 18, 2025 (6-10pm)
Music Bingo & Karaoke at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 20 South St. Front Royal, VA 22630

Fri. Jan 24, 2025 (7:30-11:30pm)
Music Bingo & Karaoke at New Market, Va. Eagles*

Sat. Feb 1, 2025 (6-10pm)
Music Bingo & Karaoke at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 20 South St. Front Royal, VA 22630

Fri. Feb 7, 2025 (7:30-11:30pm)
Music Bingo & Karaoke at New Market, Va. Eagles*

Wed. Feb 12, 2025 (6-9pm)
Music Bingo & Karaoke at Box Office Brewery **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 177 E King St, Strasburg, VA 22657

Fri. Feb 14, 2024 (7-11pm)
Music Bingo/Karaoke: Mt Jackson Moose*

Sat. Feb 15, 2025 (6-10pm)
Music Bingo & Karaoke at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 20 South St. Front Royal, VA 22630

Fri. Feb 21, 2025 (6-10pm)
Private: Front Royal Rotary Gala at SVGC

*Private clubs open to members and properly invited guests

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as we listen to music while learning some basic movements and multisensory activities designed to delight your baby. Registration is required.

Tuesday, January 28

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 Mouth Watering Candy Melt. Registration is required.

Wednesday & Thursday, January 29 & 30

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

11:00 AM – Preschool Story Time. Read With the Sheriff! (Wednesday only) This week we will have a special guest from the Sheriff's office! Come in for an enjoyable hour filled with Season stories, exciting sing-alongs, finger plays, and a nifty craft! Registration is required.



Commonwealth Transportation Board Awards \$58.6 Million Contract to Widen I-81 Southbound Near Strasburg

On October 22, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) awarded a \$58.6 million contract to Shirley Contracting Company LLC, based in Lorton, Virginia, for the expansion of Interstate 81 southbound near Strasburg. This project, part of the I-81 Corridor Improvement Program (CIP), aims to enhance safety, reduce congestion, and support economic growth along this key route.

The project will add a third southbound lane over a four-mile stretch between mile marker 299.6 in Warren County and 295.4 in Shenandoah County. Widening will begin just south of exit 300 (I-66 junction) and extend through exit 298 (Route 11) and exit 296 (Route 55). Key features include replacing the southbound bridge over Cedar Creek, widening the southbound bridge over the CSX railway, and constructing a one-mile sound barrier along northbound I-81 south of exit 296.

To minimize environmental impacts, the new southbound lane will be built toward the median, preserving nearby historic sites and conservation areas. The project links with the recently completed southbound acceleration lane extension at exit 300. Construction is set to begin in early

2025, with completion anticipated by fall 2028, weather permitting.

"This is an important step in improving one of the busiest sections of I-81," said Dave Covington, I-81 Program Delivery Director for the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). "This is the first widening project in the northern Shenandoah Valley, with more improvements planned."

The I-81 Corridor Improvement Program includes \$3 billion in funding for 65 construction projects and operational upgrades across Virginia's 325-mile stretch of I-81. For more information, visit [Improve81.org](https://www.improve81.org) for interactive maps, videos, and updates on current and upcoming projects.

Other Major I-81 CIP Projects in the VDOT Staunton District: Staunton-area widening (under construction)

Weyers Cave truck-climbing lanes (construction begins early 2025)

Harrisonburg-area widening (construction begins 2026)

Winchester-area widening (construction begins 2028)



REC Celebrates 5,000 Members Connected to Broadband Internet

Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC) proudly marks a significant milestone in its mission to ensure broadband connectivity across our communities, with 5,000 Cooperative members now enjoying high-speed broadband internet thanks to our strategic partnership with Firefly Fiber BroadbandSM, a wholly owned subsidiary of Central Virginia Electric Cooperative. This monumental milestone highlights REC's efforts to bring high-speed internet to unserved and underserved communities.

"We take great pride in our ongoing partnership with Firefly, which is delivering remarkable progress in expanding broadband access across five counties," said John D. Hewa, REC's President & CEO. "Together with our contractors, REC has successfully constructed a fiber network in parts of Albemarle, Louisa, Madison, Greene, and Goochland, which Firefly is now leasing to connect our members to reliable high-speed internet."

In total, nearly 10,000 REC members are registered for Firefly's broadband service, with this milestone marking the critical halfway point.

Construction continues to move forward smoothly on the 2,650 miles of fiber to the home that will be leased by Firefly in the counties of Louisa, Greene, Goochland, Madison and Al-

bemarle.

REC is collaborating with a variety of contractors who are working in all phases of the project to build the fiber network. Make-ready engineering is when workers go to each pole to determine if any modifications are required to support the fiber and its associated steel strand. Make-ready construction is when contractors set new poles or make other system modifications so that fiber construction crews can then come in and install the fiber. Fiber construction is an infrastructure project that takes 12-18 months to complete.

REC members interested in connecting to Firefly for broadband service should register at <https://www.fireflyva.com/>. Once registered, you'll be notified when service is available in your area.

REC provides electric service to 180,000 connections in parts of 22 Virginia counties. With its general office in Fredericksburg, Va., the Cooperative operates and maintains more than 18,000 miles of power lines through its service area, which ranges from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay. For more information about REC, please visit www.myrec.coop. Follow REC on Facebook, X, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.



Virginia General Assembly: No water, no business

By Sarah Roderick-Fitch
The Center Square

RICHMOND Jan 8, 2025—Virginia's General Assembly will be delayed until Monday due to a water outage in Richmond, as announced late Tuesday evening.

The outage stemmed from Monday's winter storm that knocked out power at the city's water treatment plant.

House Speaker Don Scott released a statement explaining the 2025 session would officially convene at noon and immediately recess.

"We are actively coordinating with local and statewide officials to support Richmond's efforts to resolve the issue and restore water service to residents as quickly as possible," Scott added.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin was due to

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give the annual State of the Commonwealth Address on Monday, but it was also been pushed back until Monday.

The city released an update late Tuesday afternoon saying that water production had been restored; however, water pressure continued to lag. A boil water advisory was in effect.

New laws taking effect in the DMV

By Morgan Sweeney
The Center Square

Most state laws in Virginia go into effect at the start of the fiscal year on July 1; in Maryland, it's typically June 1 or Oct. 1; and in the District of Columbia, many bills take effect on July 1 each year.

However, for various reasons, a minority of policy changes occur on Jan. 1 each year across the D.C., Maryland and Virginia region.

Here are some that will affect "DMV" residents.

Virginia

Minimum wage. The Center Square previously wrote about how the minimum wage in the commonwealth is increasing Wednesday from an hourly rate of \$12 to \$12.41, per 2020 legislation tying the minimum wage to inflation.

Changes to health and car insurance. Effective Jan. 1, health insurers must provide colorectal cancer screenings and tests coverage. In addition, a "follow-up colonoscopy after a positive noninvasive stool-based screening test or direct visualization screening test shall be covered."

By law, insurers must also cover a minimum of \$60,000 in car accidents in which one person is injured or killed and \$100,000 in accidents in which more than one person is injured or killed, double the minimum in 2024.

Protection of minors online. In 2024, the General Assembly passed companion bills in 2024 establishing more guardrails around the online data of children 12 and younger. Parents must provide consent for online vendors to use children's personal data for targeted advertising or other purposes.

Maryland

Road worker protections and fines. The Maryland Road Worker Protection Act raises the maximum penalty

for work zone speed limits and safety violations and attaches greater fines to more serious offenses.

Changes to health insurance. Maryland Medicaid must now provide coverage for prostheses, and health insurers are required to provide coverage for adult hearing aids – up to \$1,400 per hearing aid every 36 months.

D.C.

Expanded Child Tax Credit. Qualifying low-income households can now receive income tax credits up to \$420 per child for a maximum of three children.

Changes to health insurance. Insurers are now required to provide coverage for diagnosis and treatment related to infertility.

Report: Virginia tops states for electricity imports

By Sarah Roderick-Fitch
The Center Square

Virginia tops the nation for importing electricity from other states in 2023, according to a new report.

A U.S. Energy Information Administration report shows the commonwealth edging out California despite Virginia being ranked as the 12th most populous state. California remains the most populous. In addition, the commonwealth ranks 35th in land size, while California is ranked third.

The energy demand comes as the commonwealth continues to experience a boom in data centers. It is considered the data center capital of the world, home to 70% of the world's data centers.

During 2023, the commonwealth imported the most electricity from other states, "with 50.1 million megawatt-hours (MWh) in net electricity interstate receipts, or 36% of the states total electricity supply."

The report noted that nearly 10% of the electricity generated in the nation is traded across state lines, with 25 states exceeding their consumption and needing to transmit it across state lines.

In contrast to Virginia's electricity consumption, Pennsylvania tops the nation for exporting the most electricity, shipping out 83.4 million MWh or 26% of power generated in the Keystone State.

The Energy Information Administration calculated interstate electricity trade by "subtracting reported retail

electricity sales, direct use, international exports, and estimated line losses from the electricity generated."

The agency said, "States are not generally involved in the operation of the electric power systems and do not select which generators run at any given time. Rather, electrical systems called balancing authorities, which often span several states, are ultimately responsible for dispatching resources to meet demand and maintain a matching schedule for generation, demand, and interchange."

The report comes as the debate in Virginia persists over the growing number of data centers being built, placing strain on the commonwealth's energy sources. One report, as reported by The Center Square, says the demand for energy could raise energy costs for consumers by as much as 70%.

The Energy Information Administration noted that utilities in California and Virginia have consumed more electricity than they have produced but highlighted that over the past five years, the interstate receipts for Virginia have increased while decreasing in California.

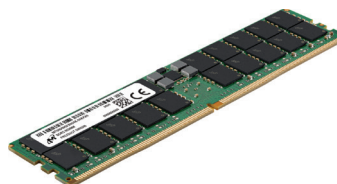
"Between 2019 and 2023, electricity receipts by Virginia utilities increased by 61% (19.0 million MWh), while California utilities' receipts declined by 39% (27.8 million MWh)," according to the report.

The Energy Information Administration pointed to the rise in commercial sector demand, including data centers, as reasons for increased interstate electricity receipts. The agency credits California's increase in solar installations and energy efficiency programs for their decrease.

Trailing behind Virginia and California for electricity importers are Massachusetts, Tennessee and Georgia. In contrast, states following Pennsylvania for top electricity exporters are Alabama, Illinois, Wyoming and Arizona.

The report says Pennsylvania, Alabama and Illinois have produced more electricity than the states have consumed in over a decade.

"These states tend to have more capacity relative to their in-state sales or have a resource mix that makes more use of its capacity than in other states. More than 70% of electricity produced in these states comes from nuclear and natural gas plants," according to the report.



Semiconductor company announces \$2B Va. expansion

By Sarah Roderick-Fitch
The Center Square

One of the world's largest semiconductor companies announced a \$2.17 billion investment to expand its operations in Virginia.

In addition, Micron Technology, Inc. says the project will create 340 new jobs as part of a modernization of its existing facility in Manassas. The project will enable the facility to produce "state-of-the-present DRAM memories" to "address future demand" in automotive, aerospace, defense and industrial markets.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin applauded the announcement, underscoring the commonwealth's position as a leader in the industry.

"Micron Technology's historic \$2.17 billion investment in Manassas reinforces Virginia's position as a leader in advanced semiconductor manufacturing," said Youngkin. "For more than two decades, Micron has demonstrated that Virginia's skilled workforce, strategic location, and pro-business climate create an ideal environment for innovation. This expansion strengthens America's supply chain security while bringing hundreds of new jobs in one of the world's most critical industries."

The announcement drew praise from Democratic leaders as well, who credit the "bipartisan" CHIPS and Science Act that was passed in Congress, allowing Micron to receive federal funding.

"I'm thrilled that Micron was selected to receive significant federal funding from the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act we passed to expand its chips manufacturing facility in Manassas," said Senator Tim Kaine, D-Va. "Ensuring the U.S. can produce chips is critical for the U.S.'s economic competitiveness and national security. This investment will allow us to make more chips here at home, create jobs, and strengthen our supply chains. I'll continue working to boost domestic manufacturing across Virginia and our country."

The company has operated in Manassas for more than two decades,

with the expansion to support a "growing demand for memory and storage solutions across multiple industries."

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership partnered with the city of Manassas and the General Assembly's Major Employment and Investment Project Approval Commission to secure the latest project.

A press release from Youngkin's office indicates Micron will be eligible to receive an MEI Commission-approved appropriation of "up to \$70 million based on an investment of more than \$2.1 billion and the creation of 340 jobs," which will be subject to approval by the General Assembly.

Venezuelan prison gang crime, arrests confirmed in 22 U.S. states

By Bethany Blankley
The Center Square contributor

Of the more than 14 million illegal border crossers reported under the Biden administration, an unknown number of violent Venezuelan Tren de Aragua prison gang members illegally entered the country.

Now, police records and official law enforcement statements confirm TdA-linked crime and arrests have occurred in 22 U.S. states.

They include Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. TdA activity also has been reported in the District of Columbia.

TdA is known for violence, murder, kidnapping, extortion, bribery and human and drug trafficking and are linked to more than 100 law enforcement investigations nationwide. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is currently looking for 600 suspected TdA members and "subjects of interest" illegally in the U.S., NBC News reported.

While TdA is likely operating in nearly all U.S. states, local police reports and official public statements have yet to confirm this. Federal and state agencies have issued bulletins to law enforcement partners on how to identify TdA members.

In the West: TdA members have been arrested in Arizona, California, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Wyoming, The Center Square reported. In New Mexico, federal agents arrested TdA fugitives wanted for capital murder and aggravated kidnapping in Texas.

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B	A	M	B	I	N	O	E	N	O	L	S					
C	H	O	I	C	E	R	D	S	T							
D	A	N	T	E						A	B	B	E	Y		
					M	S	G	T	O	L	U	E	N	E		
					S	P	I	E	L	E	D	I	B	L	E	S
					P	A	R	A	M	A	G	N	E	T		
E	L	B	A	I	C	H	T	I	T	H	E	S				
B	A	L	I	P	I	A	S	E	R	A	P	E				
O	N	E	S	R	A	N	S	A	K	E	S					
N	O	S	E	O	L	A	P	E	E	S						

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



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Check out Jay's January Deals!!



TR897A - Certified Pre Owned 2024 Toyota Tacoma SR5, 4,985 miles, 4x4, Accident Free 1 Owner CarFax, Heated Cloth Seats - **\$38,367**



KB0329 - 2020 Toyota Tundra SR5, 47k, 4x4, Accident Free CarFax, Blind Spot, Tow Package, Back Up Camera, Bluetooth - **\$39,997**



TR1224B - 2016 Nissan Rogue S, 133k miles, Front Wheel Drive, Local Trade, XM Radio, Back Up Camera, Bluetooth - **\$8,747**



TR1024B - 2023 Kia Carnival EX, 69k, FWD, Local Trade, XM Radio, Navigation, Heated Seats, Dual Climate Control, Blind Spot - **\$28,897**



TR1362A - 2024 Subaru Outback Wilderness, 15k, AWD, Accident Free 1 Owner CarFax, Navigation, Heated Leather Seats, Dual Climate - **\$33,747**



MT2912A - 2020 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Rubicon, 48k, 4x4, Accident Free CarFax, Heated Leather Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, XM - **\$32,497**



MT2895 - 2021 Nissan Rogue SL, 31k, FWD, Lane Departure, Leather Upholstery, Power Moonroof, Bluetooth, Front Dual Zone A/C - **\$23,497**



TR1253A - 2019 Honda Accord EX-L, 135k, FWD, Local Trade, XM Radio, Heated Leather Seats, Dual Climate Control, Back Up Camera - **\$16,347**



TR1008A - 2022 Ford F-150 Raptor, 31k, 4x4, Accident Free CarFax, Navigation, Heated & Ventilated Leather Seats - **\$63,497**



TR925A - 2023 Toyota Tacoma SR5, 17k, 4x4, Accident Free 1 Owner CarFax, Dual Climate Ctrl, XM Radio, Tow Pkg, Alloy Wheels - **\$37,547**



MT2942 - 2024 Toyota 4Runner SR5, 23k, 4x4, Certified, Accident Free 1 Owner CarFax, 3rd Row Seats, XM, Tow Pkg, Alloy Wheels - **\$41,897**



TR1347A - 2021 Jeep Grand Cherokee Trailhawk, 35k, 4x4, Accident Free CarFax, Navigation, Blindspot, Dual Climate Control - **\$30,387**



CS100A - 2020 Hyundai Ioniq Hybrid Limited, 126k, FWD, Accident Free 1 Owner CarFax, Navigation, Power Sunroof, Heated Seats - **\$12,897**



TR1271A - 2023 Ram 1500 Laramie, 42k, 4x4, Accident Free 1 Owner CarFax, Navigation, Heated & Ventilated Leather Seats, XM Radio - **\$41,747**



TS027A - 2023 Toyota Tundra SR, 9k, 4x4, Accident Free 1 Owner CarFax, 8.1 FT Bed, Tow Package, XM Radio, Back Up Cam, Bluetooth - **\$40,497**



TR820A - 2021 Toyota Tacoma TRD Sport, 72k, 4x4, Accident Free CarFax, Power Driver Seat, XM Radio, Dual Climate Control, Tow Pkg - **\$32,497**



TR1210A - 2024 Jeep Wrangler Sport S, 19k, 4x4, Accident Free CarFax, Heated Seats/Steering Whl, Rem Strt, Android Auto/Apl CarPlay - **\$32,747**



MT2956 - 2021 Toyota Tacoma SR5, 34k, 4x4, Accident Free 1 Owner CarFax, Dual Climate Ctrl, XM, Tow Pkg, Remote Keyless Entry - **\$36,497**



MT2954 - 2019 Subaru Crosstrek 2.0i Limited, 24k, AWD, Accident Free 1 Owner CarFax, Navigation, Heated Lthr Seats, XM, Pwr Sunroof - **\$24,997**



TR1184A - 2022 Jeep Grand Cherokee 4xe Trailhawk 4xe, 26k, 4x4, Accident Free CarFax, Navigation, Heated & Cooled Seats - **\$35,747**

540-678-1791

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Winchester, VA 22601

*Prices are plus tax, tag, title, license and \$899 processing fee.