

Warren/Frederick County Report

Volume XX, Issue 2 • Late January, 2025

BACK COVER:



**Recipe: No-Churn
Cherry Bakewell
Ice Cream**

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INDICTMENTS



Outdoor excursions and inside comfort help with winter freeze



When the landscape looks like this, folks can find a variety of things to keep them from getting “Cabin Fever” as well as finding boosts for body and mind.

By Carol Ballard
Warren/Frederick County Report

The unusually bitter cold weather in our area challenges us to find

creative ways to keep our spirits up and here are some entertaining, fun, healthy and even educational activities to help with that.

Some need to be planned for, but others can be done on the spur of the moment, with the sudden impulse to get out and enjoy nature during the cold season.

Just this weekend the New Year Market and Fair on Saturday, January 25, at The Front Royal Volun-



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

teer Fire Rescue Company on 221 N. Commerce St. will be set up from noon to 3:00 p.m. with a variety of vendors and offering free admission. It is hosted by Petty Betty Treats LLC and DH Farmstead and event partner Lively Jane.

And, as always, when folks of all ages are looking for a relaxing place to sit, browse the shelves for books or DVDs, use the computers or the new Memory Lab, learn new skills or meet with like-minded people for events, Samuels

Public Library at 330 E Criser Rd, in Front Royal is a warm, comfortable, welcoming place.

Activities, books and a playroom for kids are at the top of their lists of great things to do. Special events presented by the Youth Services Department for the young ones in February are:

- Press Play for Ages 12 to 18 who are invited to play games on Nintendo switch in the afternoon.
- Special times for the Music & Movement program designed for

babies and toddlers. The library staff invites all to “Join our relaxed and joyful time with your little ones as we listen to music while learning some basic movements and multisensory activities designed to delight your baby.”

- Toddler Story Time offers a “potpourri of simple stories, fun songs, and a cute craft on Friendship. Siblings are welcome and at 11:00 a.m. is Preschool Story Time. Come in for Friendship stories, exciting sing-alongs, finger plays, and a nifty craft.

- Children ages 6-11 investigate a different STEM-related topic with Science Scouts bi-weekly.

Some of these activities include joining the Master Gardeners as they teach about birds in the winter and making a birdseed ornament, growing a Snowflake. For the Homeschool Hub, ages 6-11, children will work together as they go through the scientific method, gathering data, and drawing conclusions.

And on Saturday, March 1, an important message going into March comes from the staff announcing, “This is the last day of our Winter Reading Program! Finish that book and come log it to get your prizes!”

Registration is required for most of these events and to find specific dates and times for programs and services go to www.samuelslibrary.net or by calling (540) 635-3153.

Or, getting outside, checking

Warren/Frederick County Report

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Front Royal, VA 22630
<https://wfcreport.com/>
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CONTEMPORARY IN WARREN COUNTY

Lovely home on a nicely sized lot, featuring 1 bedroom and 2 full baths, with a beautiful covered deck overlooking your own piece of heaven! Step from the deck into a spacious living room. Wood beams, a ceiling fan, and wood crown molding give this home a cozy cabin feel. The kitchen boasts stainless steel appliances, perfect for cooking and cozy entertaining! A laundry area and a full bath are conveniently located off the kitchen. Upstairs, you'll find a large bedroom with an ensuite bath and a walk-in closet. All ceiling fans, mounted TVs, and the security cameras/system convey with the home! The partial basement offers lots of potential. Recent upgrades include a paved road leading right up to the house! Don't miss this listing—it won't last long!

Coming Soon!



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out wildlife and exploring nature can be just the thing everyone needs to change their mood. The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) says that a 2022 study revealed that being active in natural spaces isn't just a breath of fresh air—it's a boost for your brain.

So, as if designed just for that, the State Arboretum of Virginia and Blandly Experimental Farm has a lineup of winter workshops, programs and walks to get folks out for interesting, informative and brisk activities—some scheduled to serve up hot chocolate or tea as a reward.

To register for the following events at Blandly, go to <https://blandly.virginia.edu/programs-events-calendar>.

- Sunday, January 26th Our Cherished Chestnuts: The Importance of a Balanced Ecosystem at 2-3:00 p.m. Enjoy a mug of hot chocolate (or tea!) as you find out all about the American Chestnut. Discover how the decline of the American Chestnut due to chestnut blight reshaped local ecosystems and economies and learn about how scientists are trying to save Ameri-

can Chestnuts from extinction.

• Saturday, February 15th- Bodacious Birds from 2-3:00 p.m. Spy on our feathered friends! Find out how birds find food and shelter in the wintertime. Bring binoculars if you wish. Meet at the bird feeders near the PLC (Parkfield Learning Center). Signs will direct you from the information kiosk in the front parking lot to the bird feeders. Free drop-in program. No need to register!

• What to expect for both of these: An outdoor nature walk (less than 1 mile) with clues to unravel along the way. All ages welcome, but no pets, please! Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. Hot chocolate/tea provided! Meet at the Blandly library at the Quarters building. Signs will direct you from the information kiosk in the front parking lot to the library.

• Saturday, February 15th 1-2:00 p.m. - Getting Ready for the Great Backyard Bird Count. Learn all about the Great Backyard Bird Count, a community science project tracking wild bird populations. Work with a naturalist to practice collecting data. Leave ready to collect data on the birds in your own backyard! This is a family-friendly, "drop-in" style program—come when you want, and stay as long as you want. This will be an outdoor program with minimal walking. All ages welcome. Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. Bring binoculars if you wish. Meet at the bird feeders near the PLC (Parkfield Learning Center). Signs will direct you from the information kiosk in the front

parking lot to the bird feeders. Free drop-in program. No need to register!

Another family-friendly place (indoors) is the Play Favorites Toy Store and Arcade in the Royal Plaza Shopping Center at 441 South Street, in Front Royal, that has an abundance of activities for all ages, and a focus on children and games for everyone to enjoy. Some of these are in the huge collection of board games and unusual toys, a game room to try out games as well as an arcade room. Folks can come in and play video games. Scrabble and Backgammon are played weekly. Call (540) 252-4031 or go to Facebook at www.facebook.com/weplayfaves.

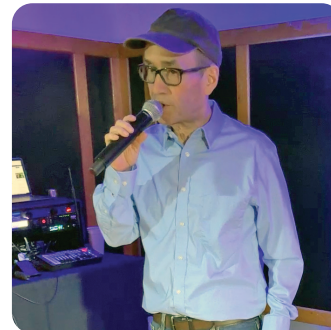
book.com/weplayfaves.

On Valentine's Day, February 14, at 5 p.m., they are hosting a Poetry Contest. They have invited anyone on or off Facebook to "Write a poem, listen to a poem, win some prizes!"

For those looking for great places for a date night or entertainment at the theater here are just two that promise enjoyable, intellectually stimulating performances for the months of January, February and March.

The Selah Theatre Project's latest play is The Mountaintop by Katori Hall, starring Eric Lee Santiful & Joanne Thompson. This is a "A

See WINTER, 4



Upcoming events with Dan McDermott

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 at 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 at 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) Front Royal Rotary Gala - Private Event

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 New Market Eagles*

Fri. Mar 14, 2025 (7-10pm) Music Bingo & Karaoke at Box Office Brewery **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**: 177 E King St, Strasburg, VA 22657

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

Fri. Mar 21, 2024 (7-11pm)
Music Bingo & Karaoke at Mt Jackson Moose*

*Private clubs open to members and properly invited guests

route11dj.com

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Express yourself with great confidence this week, Aries. You feel like you are in control and well organized. This is a recipe for success regarding the things you need to accomplish.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you have a clear mind this week to put plans in place. But you might need some inspiration to get started. Avoid procrastinating.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

There are many tasks that lie ahead this week, Gemini. It will be essential that you stay focused. One of the areas to consider is changing personal health for the better.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you may find you're an asset and sought-after among friends and coworkers. Use social situations to your advantage to network even more.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Clear up some space at home so you can work more easily, Leo. Too much clutter in your home or work area can be a distraction. Disorganization can make tasks harder.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Practice being smooth and professional in your manner, Virgo. This will be the best way to get good results at work. Others may be impressed by how you handle yourself under pressure.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, you might be very popular with superiors at work this week. Use this to your advantage to seek out a raise. Ask to head an important project.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you can do anything you set your mind to. Share your ideas with others and determine which concepts have merit. If nothing comes up, go back to the drawing board.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Others admire your ability to be a good friend, Sagittarius. This week you will showcase your compassion and humility in myriad ways. It might garner you extra attention.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, happy news is coming your way this week. Share the good fortune with others in your life, either a spouse or a sibling. These people can use some sunshine as well.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, if at first you don't succeed, you may need to change your approach to things. Enlist the help of others to help turn your ideas into results.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Develop a better strategy for saving money, Pisces. You need some extra funds to pay for larger expenses, and clipping coupons alone might not be the answer.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 26

Joseph Quinn, Actor (31)

JANUARY 27

Noah Schnacky, Singer (28)

JANUARY 28

Ariel Winter, Actress (27)

JANUARY 29

Madison Bailey, Actress (26)

JANUARY 30

Christian Bale, Actor (51)

JANUARY 31

Justin Timberlake, Singer (44)

FEBRUARY 2

Lauren Conrad, TV personality (39)

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WINTER, from 3

gripping reimagination of events the night before the assassination of the civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On April 3, 1968, after delivering one of his most memorable speeches, an exhausted Dr. King retires to his room at the Lorraine Motel while a storm rages outside. When a mysterious stranger arrives with some surprising news, King is forced to confront his destiny and his legacy to his people. The play is available at the McCoy

Theatre - Alson Smith Hall, 173 Skirmisher Lane in Middletown. Call (540) 684-5464 for times, or visit www.selahtheatreproject.org.

For unusual and comic relief, they'll be presenting a fun play in downtown Front Royal at Stone-Branch Center For The Arts, 114 E Main St.

This is A Scandal in Bodgerton on February 14-15 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., promising "An evening of rumors and gossip. A mystery spoof based on Bridgerton," and saying, "High society in 1813 Bodgerton is a-buzz, from the Queen herself

down to the kitchen help. Every week, a certain 'L. Whistlewind' releases a new scandal sheet containing the most delicious gossip. So far, these rumours have led to three elopements, two duels, and an onstage riot that ended the opera during Act I.

For another evening of theater-going, the Winchester Little Theater on 315 West Boscawen Street in Winchester, will have a performance of

Readers' Theatre: Henrik Ibsen's A Doll's House on January 31 and is described like this, "In this classic play by Henrik Ibsen, he pioneered modern realistic prose drama. In the character of Nora, we find human struggle epitomized against the humiliating constraints of social conformity. In Nora's ultimate objection to a smothering marriage and life in 'A doll's House,' Ibsen shocked theater goers of the time, but also sparked conversation and themes that are still extremely relevant and relatable today.

On February 7, they are offer-



Playing games as a family in the winter helps to connect parents and children. Play Favorites Toy Store and Arcade in the Royal Plaza Shopping Center welcomes families and has a huge range of games and game nights.

ing Embrace Me: a comedy about dating with a disability, explaining that "Dating's tough enough, but try dating when it's also hard to walk. For years, Jack Freeman stumbled through life and relationships without direction or balance (literally). In 2021, he finally met his perfect girlfriend: a disabled artist in New York City.

"Then... she dumped him. Now Jack has to figure out how to be his own perfect disabled girlfriend. Join Jack as he learns how to love and be loved in this hilarious solo show combining stand-up comedy with theater, lots of heart, and even more limp."

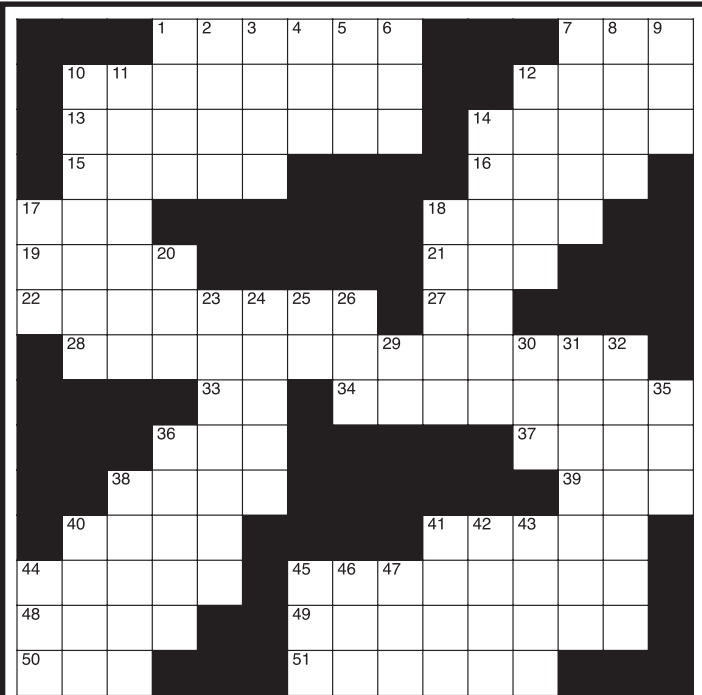
From March 7 to March 22, go see Becky's New Car at Winchester Little Theater. "Becky Foster is leading her life in the middle... middle age, middle management, and a marriage that is, well, in the middle.

"Then by chance, she is offered a new life with a trunkful of choices and consequences. We get to ride shotgun in this hilarious comedy as Becky cruises straightaways and negotiates U-turns...and learns there's more under the hood of her new car than she thought!"

To find out more, Call 540.662.3331, or visit <https://winchesterlittletheatre.org/upcoming-events>. Box Office - boxoffice@winchesterlittletheatre.org.

So, hopefully this winter won't be depressing or boring with so many interesting and creative things to do, either inside or outdoors, offering ways to change the usual routine - most of them costing nothing.

- crawford0905@gmail.com



CLUES ACROSS

1. Where entertainers perform
7. Miller beer variety
10. Ageless
12. River in SE Europe
13. Able to be repaired
14. Type of wrap
15. Atomic #54
16. Type of tent
17. U.S. Treasury position
18. Opposed to
19. Protective covering
21. Bridge building degree
22. Clouding of the lens
27. Priestess of Hera loved by Zeus
28. Unacceptable
33. Mr. T's "The A-Team" character
34. American national park
36. One point south of due east
37. Assist in a crime
38. Greek mythological personification of Earth
39. A major division of geological time
40. German courtesy title
41. English family dating back to Norman times
44. Discounts
45. South American nation
48. Former Milwaukee Buck Michael
49. Hostile
50. Passports and drivers licenses are two
51. Discourages from doing

2. Nevada city
3. Energy, style and enthusiasm
4. Bird's beak
5. Language
6. Midway between south and southeast
7. Punjab village
8. Small biting flies
9. Sportscaster Patrick
10. A way to get around
11. Repeat
12. A way to cook with fat
14. Temporary loss of consciousness
17. Reciprocal of a sine
18. Fir tree genus
20. "Transformers" director Michael
23. Criminals who steal
24. Genus of leaf-footed bug
25. Music product
26. "Talk to you"
29. Santa says it three times
30. Doctors' group
31. African nation
32. Ageless
35. When you hope to get somewhere
36. Worn
38. Deprives of vigor
40. Used to have (Scottish)
41. Where you live
42. Muslim ruler title
43. Basics
44. Type of drug (abbr.)
45. Spanish soldier
46. It precedes two
47. Illuminated

CLUES DOWN

1. Supreme god of ancient Egyptians

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Weather forecast

Friday, January 24, 2025: Mostly sunny, with a high near 31. West wind 3 to 6 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 9. Light west wind.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 38. Calm wind becoming southwest around 6 mph in the morning.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 23. Southwest wind 3 to 6 mph.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 42.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 21.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 45.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 28.

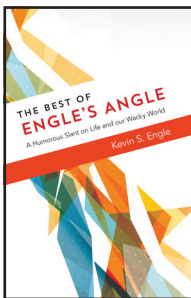
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 48.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 27.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 47.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 25.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 43.



ENGLE'S ANGLE: Three Ads

by Kevin S. Engle

#1 - Needed

A new snowblower.
At least 10 HP.
Ability to throw snow in all directions.
Schedule determined by Old Man Winter.
Must be on call seven days a week.
Willing to work hard.
Dependable.
Free gas and oil.
Lodging provided.

#2 - Wanted

Someone to operate a new snowblower.
Schedule determined by Old Man Winter.
Must be on call seven days a week.
Seasonal position.
Willing to work hard.
Dependable. Trustworthy.
Hot chocolate provided.
Won't run off to Maui like the last one and send selfies while lounging on

the beach and drinking Mai Tais.

#3 - Personal

A new wife.
Knows how to operate a snowblower.
Not a fan of the beach or Mai Tais.

The author likes hot chocolate, but not Mai Tais. Or Old Man Winter.

– kevinengle456@comcast.net

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



Ask Stewart

Dear Stewart, The other day I heard someone talking about a Witness Tree. Is that a tree that appears on Law and Order STU (Special Tree Unit)?

– Wanda in Waterlick

Hey Wanda, a Witness Tree does have a story to tell, but not in a courtroom. Here is what I found on the Smithsonian website:

A witness tree begins its life like any other tree. It sprouts. It grows. And then it's thrust into the spotlight, playing an involuntary part in a significant historic event. Often, that event is a devastating, landscape-scarring battle or other tragic moment. Witness trees have been known to hide bullets they've absorbed beneath new layers of wood and bark, and they heal other visible scars over time. While they may look like ordinary trees, they have incredible stories to tell.

Travelers, history lovers, some park rangers and others have embraced these exceptional trees as important, living connections to our past. In 2006, Paul Dolinsky, chief of the National Park Service's Historic American Landscapes Survey, led the development of the Witness Tree Protection Program, a pilot project that identified an initial 24 historically and biologically significant trees in the Washington, D.C. area. Written histories and photographs of the trees are archived at the Library of Congress. "Although trees have longevity, they're ephemeral," says Dolinsky. "This will be a lasting record of the story a tree has to tell."

While the pilot program has gained some traction, the number of witness trees in the U.S. remains unknown. One reason why: Some areas where witness trees may reside, like battlefields, are vast. Another reason: It can be difficult to determine a tree's age to confirm it was alive during a significant historic event. Boring into a tree can answer that question, but it can also damage a tree so it's not often done.

To read about some witness trees in our area you can go to this link. Point your phone camera at it:



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 commu-

nity. The group now consists of over 30 active members with several interns working toward becoming certified tree stewards from our annual "All About Trees Class". Each month Stewart will answer a question from our readers.

Please forward it to "Stewart" in care of:

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

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www.treesfrontroyal.org

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CHERRY-ALMOND ICE CREAM IS A SCOOP ABOVE THE REST



Ice cream is a beloved dessert. The extraordinary number of flavor combinations that can be achieved simply by mixing together a few ingredients undoubtedly contributes to the popularity of ice cream.

For those partial to cherries and almonds, there's nothing better than combining those flavors in this recipe for "No-Churn Cherry Bakewell Ice Cream" from "Jane's Patisserie" (Sourcebooks) by Jane Dunn.

No-Churn Cherry Bakewell Ice Cream Serves 10

- 200 grams pitted cherries (about 1 cup)
- 450 milliliters double (heavy) cream (about 2 cups)
- 397 grams condensed milk (14 ounces)
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1/2 teaspoon pink food coloring (optional)
- Cherries and toasted flaked almonds, to serve

Add the pitted cherries to a blender and blitz until smooth. Pass through a sieve to remove any lumps and set aside.

Pour the cream into a bowl and whip to soft peaks. Put the condensed milk, almond extract, pink food coloring (if using) and puréed cherries into a separate bowl and stir to combine, then pour the mixture into a container, like a large loaf tin.

Freeze for at least 5 to 6 hours, or preferably overnight so it has time to get the correct texture. Remove from the freezer about 20 minutes before serving to allow it to soften slightly. Scoop into bowls and serve topped with fresh cherries and toasted flaked almonds.

– wfcreport.com



Legal battle erupts over Shenandoah rail restoration

Member alleges Civil War preservation group is jeopardizing its mission with \$23 million plan to restore freight service



An aerial view of the bridge over the North Fork of the Shenandoah River. (Courtesy of Friends of the Shenandoah Rail Trail)

By Nathaniel Cline
Virginia Mercury
Jan 22, 2025

The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, known for preserving the Civil War and historic sites, is facing legal action from one of its own members over plans to restore an inactive Manassas Gap rail line in the Shenandoah Valley.

Frank Cihlar, a foundation member, filed a lawsuit Friday in Shenandoah County Circuit Court, alleging the organization has “no legal authority” to restore commercial freight service on the rail corridor

owned by Norfolk Southern Corporation. Cihlar argues the foundation’s involvement strays far from its mission and threatens its federal tax-exempt status.

“What the heck is a tax-exempt foundation that gets deductible contributions ... getting involved in this issue that has nothing to do with the Civil War,” Cihlar said in an interview.

Last year, the foundation partnered with the Shenandoah Rail Corridor Coalition to negotiate a \$23 million letter of intent with Norfolk Southern to purchase the nearly 50-mile corridor, which

stretches from Front Royal to Rockingham County.

Cihlar’s lawsuit seeks to block the foundation from proceeding with efforts to restore commercial freight service, arguing the project

contradicts the organization’s charter and management plan. He asked the court to intervene and halt what

he considers a misuse of the foundation’s resources and mission.

Mark Perreault, a retired in-house counsel for Norfolk Southern Corporation, chairs the foundation’s Board of Trustees, while foundation CEO Keven Walker serves as both the organization’s spokesman and a representative for the foundation and of the Shenandoah Rail Corridor Coalition.

In a statement, the foundation defended its efforts to preserve the Manassas Gap Railroad, a site designated as historic by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior over 25 years ago.

“Our discussions regarding the preservation of the railroad have been undertaken in close consultation with governing authorities and in a manner consistent with our by-laws and mission,” the foundation stated. “We look forward to sharing the merits of our position and advancing public dialogue regarding an important opportunity to preserve a significant piece of our shared history.”

But Cihlar’s complaint argues that the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation is acting beyond its legal authority by pursuing its railway restoration plans. He contends that neither the foundation’s Articles of Incorporation or the federal statute under which it operates permits such activities.

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commercial freight railroad is not charitable by definition, it isn't educational and it isn't scientific," Cihlar said.

If the court rules in his favor, Cihlar said, the foundation would be required to recover all funds allegedly spent on studies and related efforts to restore the rail line, and any additional contracts would be nullified.

In 2020, Virginia began study-

ing the feasibility of converting the inactive Norfolk Southern rail segment in the Shenandoah Valley into a multi-use recreational trail. Four years later, with the study complete, the community remains divided over how to best use the nearly 50-mile corridor.

The state allocated up to \$35 million to "buy land for the proposed rail, trail and conduct in initial planning in site development."

Some community organizers advocate for developing a public trail for pedestrians and cyclists, citing its potential for recreational use and tourism.

Meanwhile, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation and the Shenandoah Rail Corridor Coalition struck a deal with Norfolk Southern to create a 450-acre linear park featuring an excursion and freight railway.

Critics argue that restoring the rail line while building a parallel trail could become prohibitively expensive.

Last June, Walker, the foundation CEO, said the coalition solicited bids to revive the rail line and suggested that applicants could use the \$35 million in state funds to make the necessary repairs. However, language in the state budget specified that any land acquisition for

the trail "shall not preclude the consideration of options to maintain rail transportation in the corridor."

Virginia Secretary of Transportation Shep Miller said the state is now conducting a second study to examine a "broad variety of potential options" for the corridor. The study remains under development, and VDOT anticipates the release of the Phase 1 Report and a public input process in spring 2025.

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INDICTMENTS

2024 December Indictments October Term

Clara Isabel Del Carmen Lopez

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about September 28, 2024, in the County of Warren, Clara Isabel Del Carmen Lopez, age unavailable, of the 300 block of Flynn Dr., Front Royal, VA 22630, did unlawfully and feloniously maliciously shoot, stab, cut, wound or by any means, cause bodily injury

to Justin Oliver, with the intent to maim, disfigure, disable or kill, and thereby caused Justin Oliver to be severely injured and to suffer permanent and significant physical impairment.

Gilbert Marcus Smith

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about September 17, 2024, in the County of Warren, Gilbert Marcus Smith, 62, of the 200 block of Cloud St., Front Royal, VA 22630, did un-

lawfully and feloniously, knowingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

Angela Marie Jenkins

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Angela Marie Jenkins, age unavailable, of the 100 block of Shangri-La Rd., Bentonville, VA 22610, with three counts. COUNTS ONE and TWO: In the County of Warren, Angela Marie Jenkins did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act and feloniously possess with the intent to manufacture, sell, give, or distribute, a controlled substance.

COUNT THREE: did unlawfully and feloniously while being a prisoner in a state, local, or community correctional facility or in the custody of an employee thereof, possess a chemical compound which the accused had not lawfully received. Dates of the offenses were on or about June 2, and July 22, 2024,

Jamie Leann Showers

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Jamie Leann Showers, 27, of the 100 block of N. Charles St., Front Royal, VA 22630, with two counts. COUNTS ONE and TWO: In the County of Warren Jamie Leann Showers did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance

listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act. Dates of the offenses were on or about May 10, and June 20, 2024.

DC Jason Banks, Jr.

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges DC Jason Banks, Jr., 25, address unavailable, with two counts. COUNT ONE: In the County of Warren, DC Jason Banks, Jr., did unlawfully and feloniously buy, receive, or aid in concealing stolen property, having a value of \$1,000 or more, knowing that the property had been stolen. COUNT TWO: 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, and the speed of the accused exceeded the maximum allowed by twenty miles per hour. Date of the offenses was on or about August 17, 2024.

Jamie Scott Neale

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about January 5, 2024, in the County of Warren, Jamie Scott Neale, 43, address unavailable, did unlawfully and feloniously destroy, deface, damage or remove the property of Heather Hederick, with the value of or damage to such property being \$1,000 or more.

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SOUTH CHINA SEA (Jan. 15, 2025) - Seaman Brendan Cassidy, of Winchester, Va., makes an announcement over the ship's 1MC from the pilothouse aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Sterett (DDG 104), Jan. 15, 2025. The Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group is underway conducting routine operations in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Brianna Walker)

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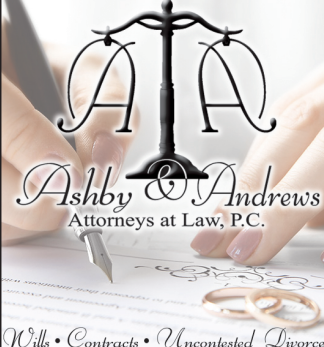
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Khalik Coleman Tinnell-Taylor

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about July 23, 2024, in the County of Warren, Khalik Coleman Tinnell-Taylor, 21, of the 300 block of Cherrydale Ave., Front Royal, VA 22630, did unlawfully and feloniously steal U.S. Currency, having a value of \$1,000 or more, belonging to Martha Taylor.

Richard Allen Dean, II

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Richard Allen Dean, II, 37, of the 900 block of Goodview Dr.,

Front Royal, VA 22630, with 52 counts. COUNTS ONE through FIFTY-TWO: In the County of Warren, Richard Allen Dean, II, did unlawfully and feloniously and knowingly possess videos of child pornography, screenshot photos of child pornography, and feloniously and knowingly reproduce, sell, give away, distribute, electronically transmit, display purchase, or possess videos of child pornography with the intent to sell, give away, distribute, transmit, or display them. The accused previously has committed a violation of subsection C of 18.2-374.1:1

in violation of Section 18.2-374.1:1 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended. VCC: OBS-3681-F9. Dates of the offenses were on or about September 10, 2023, January 7, February 5, February 8, February 23, February 25, February 26, March 5, April 14, June 10, and

July 21, 2024.

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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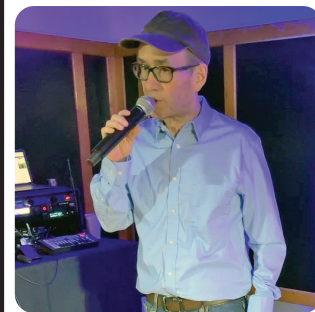
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Upcoming events with Dan McDermott

- 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 at 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)**
Front Royal Rotary Gala at Shenandoah Valley Golf Club - Private Event
- Sat. Feb 22, 2025 (7:00-10:30pm)**
Karaoke/Music Bingo at Woodstock, Va. 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 22630

- Fri. Mar 7, 2025 (7:30-11:30pm)**
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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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 friends who leave 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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Sharon Ann Bonner Miller

Sharon Ann Bonner Miller, 72, of Front Royal, Virginia fell into eternal rest while surrounded by her loving family on January 19, 2025 at Warren Memorial Hospital.

Sharon was born on December 18, 1952 in Sacramento, California to her late mother, Pamela J. Bonner, and her father, Retired U.S. Air Force Colonel William T. Bonner, Jr. She was also preceded in death by her son, Wesley Bonner Miller, her sister, Jean Marie Flowers, and her brother, L. J. (Butch) Bonner.

Along with her father, she is survived by her loving husband of 52 years, Christopher J. Miller, Sr.; brother, William T. (Billy) Bonner III; sister, Catherine A. Bonner; sister, Marie E. Holmes and husband Scott; her sister-in-law, Kathy Bonner; her children, Holly Leach, Christopher Miller Jr., Michael Miller, Joseph Miller; eighteen grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and many cousins in England, including her mother's namesake, Pamela Peacock.

Sharon was a devout Catholic with a deep faith, the matriarch of her family, and an irreplaceable fount of love, generosity, and authentic British wit. She dedicated her life to her family and was truly the heart of her home. She was a talented cook and was happiest at home surrounded by her beloved family. Her grandchildren were her crowning glory.

A Requiem Mass will be held at 1 p.m. on Monday, January 27, 2025 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel, 5267 John Marshall Hwy, Linden, Virginia 22642 with Reverend John

Carlisle officiating. Directly following the Mass, her burial will take place at Prospect Hill Cemetery. The family will be receiving visitors on Sunday, January 26, 2025 from 6-8 p.m. at Maddox Funeral Home, 105 W Main St., Front Royal, Virginia 22630. Reverend Carlisle will lead a Rosary for the repose of Sharon's soul at 7:30 p.m.

Pallbearers will be her sons and eldest grandsons.



Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Join us for a delicious spaghetti dinner to support the Miss Military Star West Virginia and Virginia queens on their journey to nationals in Erie, Pennsylvania, this summer!

Date: Saturday, February 1, 2025
Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Brookside Church, 2425 First Street, Middletown, VA

Enjoy a meal for just \$10, which includes spaghetti, Italian bread, dessert, and a drink. Military members and veterans eat for free!

Takeout is available!

Additional items: Pop and water are \$1.

There will also be raffle baskets to make the evening even more exciting.

Come out to support this great cause – we hope to see you there!



Steve Foster

On January 18, 2025, Steve Foster, 74, went home to be with the good Lord.

The family will receive friends from 1-2 p.m. followed by a memorial service at 2 p.m. on Saturday, January 25 at the Front Royal Fire Department with Pastor Bill McHenry officiating. Inurnment will be private.

Steve was born September 30, 1950 and grew up in Flint Hill where he spent his childhood years hunting, fishing and making memories with his brothers and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Bertha and David Foster of Flint Hill.

Steve leaves behind his beloved wife, Pam; his children, Davey (Keva), Shane, Jessica (Shane), and Adam (Bernie); his cherished grandchildren, Skyla, Isaac, Aubrey, and Abriella; his

brothers, Bernie F. (Becky) and Mike F. (Alice); sister, Bobby Jo Adams (Frank); cousin, Johnny (Karen); and his best friend, Kirby Covert.

In 1999, he made a life changing commitment turning from a life of bars to the Bible and using his experience to spread the word of God. Throughout his life Steve faced many hardships but he always credited God for helping him to overcome them.

Steve's life touched many people as a devoted father, loving husband proud pappy, loyal friend, coach, and

most importantly, a faithful follower of Christ. He was known for his ability to listen, his unwavering faith, and his desire to share the love of the Lord in all aspects of his life. Whether through mule shows, jail ministry, school visits, charity events, or building the Amazing Grace Gospel Barn with special companion, Gracie the mule, Steve made it his mission to serve God and others.

Never ashamed of his humble beginnings, Steve used his past to form lasting relationships and to show how

God can transform a life. In honoring Steve's legacy, we encourage you to follow God's will in your life. As Steve often said, "God doesn't promise you a smooth ride, but a smooth landing".

We deeply appreciate the kind words, thoughts and prayers you have shared with us during this difficult time.

Rest in peace, Steve. Your legacy of faith, love, and service will continue to inspire us all.

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Answer: Adam Lambert

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

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Ensign Kali Williams-Truitt

Winchester native to graduate from U.S. Navy officer academy

By Megan Lemly
Navy Office of Community Outreach

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – Ensign Kali Williams-Truitt, a native of Winchester, Virginia, will graduate from the U.S. Navy's Limited Duty Officer/Warrant Officer/Chief Warrant Officer (LDO/WO/CWO) Academy on Jan. 31.

Williams-Truitt, a 2011 graduate of John Handley High School, joined the Navy 12 years ago.

"I joined the Navy for the opportunity to travel and to continue a family tradition of service," Williams-Truitt

said.

The skills and values needed to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in Winchester.

"Early on I learned that hard work is required to achieve your goals," Williams-Truitt said.

The LDO/WO/CWO Academy is one of four officer accession programs operating at Officer Training Command Newport (OTCN) Newport, Rhode Island. The academy prepares officers to become effective leaders by developing fundamental skills in leadership, written and oral communication, career management and administration.

The U.S. Navy is celebrating its 250th birthday this year.

According to Navy officials, "America is a maritime nation and for 250 years, America's Warfighting Navy has sailed the globe in defense of freedom."

With 90% of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to recruiting and retaining talented people from across the rich fabric of America.

Before joining the academy, Williams-Truitt served as an enlisted petty officer first class. After graduation, Williams-Truitt will serve as an officer aboard, USS Gerald R. Ford, an aircraft carrier operating out of Norfolk, Virginia.

Williams-Truitt has many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during military service.

"I am most proud of successful de-

ployments and my selection as a naval officer," Williams-Truitt said.

Williams-Truitt serves a Navy that operates far forward, around the world and around the clock, promoting the nation's prosperity and security.

"I am honored to be able to lead my sailors in a new path or role," Williams-Truitt added.



Samuels Public Library Adult Programming: February, 2025

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

One-Time Events

Studio 330: Cardmaking Saturday, February 1st from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM In person. Learn some paper craft techniques to create custom cards just in time for Valentine's Day!

Studio 330: Sewing 201 Hemming - Wednesday, February 5th from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM - In person. Have the basics of sewing under your belt? This workshop will introduce you to hemming using a sewing machine. Bring your project to learn hemming techniques for pants, skirts, or other hemmed material. (Must have completed Sewing 101 or have a basic working knowledge of using a sewing machine.)

Studio 330: Sewing 101 Parts 1 and

2 - Wednesday, February 19th and February 26th from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM - In person. New to sewing? This two part workshop will introduce you to the very basics of using a sewing machine to create a simple project. Sessions will be held on February 19th and February 26th.

Author Presentation: "Southern Girls Always Survive" with Author Rocky Yost - Wednesday, February 26th from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM - In person. Join author Rocky Yost in a discussion of his debut novel, "Southern Girls Always Survive," a women's crime fiction tale about survival, persistence, and self-determination.

See NEWS, 12

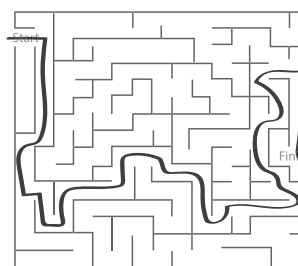
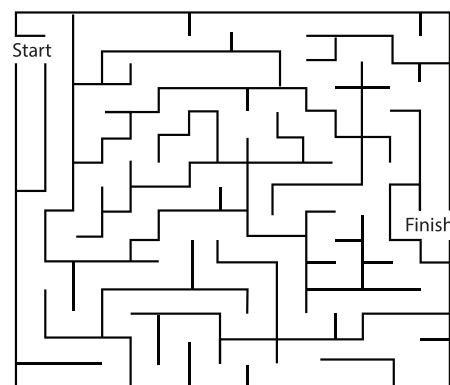
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Maze Craze

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Answer: Harry Potter

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Italian: Pagina
French: Page
German: Seite

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Reading a book in bed before going to sleep can promote a better night's rest.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1785: The University of Georgia is founded, becoming the first state-chartered public university in the United States.

1880: Thomas Edison receives a patent for his incandescent lamp.

2010: Apple announces the iPad.

NEW WORD

APTITUDE

a natural ability to do something

Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Library card catalog

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

MUSIC BINGO! KARAOKE!

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FRIENDS IN LOW Places	HIGHER LOVE	GOOD GOLLY MISS MOLLY	HIPS DON'T LIE	FLY AWAY

WEDNESDAY Feb 12, 2025 6-9pm

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NEWS, from 11

Ongoing Programs

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

What the Tech! - Every Tuesday from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM - In person. Need help with technology? Come by the library's Meeting Room B where we will be going over computers and other technology basics. Having trouble with your phone, tablet, laptop, or other device? Bring it in, and we'll help!

Studio 330: Embroidery Club - Every Thursday from 10:00 PM to 12:00 PM - In person. Join us for Hand Embroidery Stitchers every Thursday morning! Bring your own needlework project to work on for a morning of crafting and socializing.

Studio 330 Walk-in Hours - Every Thursday from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM - In person. Come tour Studio 330 or bring your project to work on. Walk-In hours are provided on a first come,

first serve basis. During the month of February we are accepting donations for our Spring Craft Swap to be held in March. Donate your unused craft supplies, materials, and more and receive a ticket to be the first to pick from the extra stash. *Glowforge is not available during walk-in hours. No food or drinks allowed in the studio and patrons between 13-17 must be accompanied by an adult.

Bad Romance - Wednesday, February 5th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM - First Wednesday of every month. In person. Do you consider yourself a hopeless romantic? Are bad romances a guilty pleasure of yours? Then you should join us for Bad Romance, where Samuels Public Library will have a themed discussion for the romance genre every month. The theme for the month of February is Blind Dates/Speed Dating! Indulge us with your favorite romance books,

movies, music or other media related to the topic, and possibly discover a new treat in this awesome informal discussion! New members are always welcome!

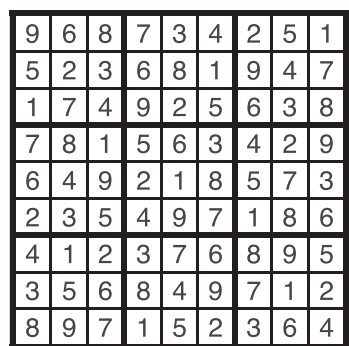
Studio 330: Genealogy Club - Wednesday, February 12th from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM - Second Wednesday of every month. In person. Join us February 12th for a Valentine's Day themed makerspace activity! We will craft unique valentines with information on you or your loved ones' marriage (names, dates, etc) using the Cricut Cutting machine! Make sure to come so you can also use our preservation resources such as VHS, VHS C, audio cassette, 8mm, and super 8 digitization equipment offered in Studio 330!

Books & Beyond - Thursday, February 13th from 6:00 PM to 7:45 PM - Second Thursday of every month. In person. Do you love books and shar-

ing them as much as we do? Join us to delve into new worlds of conversation about new books at your community's public library! The theme this month is POETRY: narrative poetry, dramatic poetry, lyric poetry, or books about poetry.

Phoenix Project - Hope for New

Beginnings - Tuesday, February 18th from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM - Third Tuesday of every month. In person. Serving all members of the Front Royal/Warren County community who have experienced or are currently experiencing domestic violence or sexual assault, Phoenix Project Advocates



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FRIDAY Feb. 14, 2025: 7-11pm

KARAOKE & MUSIC BINGO!

Mount Jackson Moose Lodge 979
 244 Dutch Lane
 Mt Jackson, VA 22842
 540-477-2612

Open to Members and Qualified Guests
 Pics/Videos/Calendar at route11dj.com

Karaoke & MUSIC BINGO
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KARAOKE & MUSIC BINGO!

Sat. Feb. 22
 7:00-10:30pm

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Virginia State Police unveil new safety inspection sticker

New features allow for greater security

RICHMOND – With the change-over in the calendar year from 2024 to 2025, vehicles in Virginia that have passed safety inspections are now receiving a new safety inspection sticker. The sticker, which is utilizing the color green for the first time, includes multiple changes from previous iterations. The changes are designed to make the inspection sticker more difficult to counterfeit.

The new sticker includes a holographic state seal as well as a dogwood tree flower image. Both images are difficult for counterfeiters to effectively copy. The sticker also, for the first time, includes two QR codes. The larger QR code directs individuals to the Virginia State Police Safety Division webpage. The smaller QR code is for administrative purposes. The expiration month appears on a white background, while the expiration year is placed on top of the dogwood image.

“We want Virginians to have confidence that when they see an inspection sticker on a vehicle that the vehicle has been truly inspected by a qualified professional, and that vehicle is, in fact, safe to be out on the road,” said Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Hanley, Interim Superintendent of Virginia State Police. “These new features add an additional layer of security to en-

sure criminals are not circumventing the safety inspection system.”

As mentioned earlier, inspection stickers being placed on vehicles this year (expiring in 2026), will be green in color. Inspection stickers expiring in 2027 will be blue. For 2028 and 2029, the stickers will be red (2028) and yellow (2029).



Sean Ballowe

Strasburg man charged

The Warren County Sheriff’s Office Criminal Investigation Division conducted an undercover chat operation regarding online solicitation of minors within the Warren County/Front Royal area. These investigative efforts are aimed at investigating and arresting those who engage in luring minors via the internet for lascivious intent. An adult male contacted one of our investigators acting in an undercover capacity as a juvenile under the age of 15-years-old. During the chat exchange, the suspect requested to meet with the juvenile for sexual purposes on multiple occasions.

Sean Ballowe, a 22-year-old male from Strasburg, Virginia was identified as the suspect. On January 16, 2025, Investigators traveled to Strasburg, VA and, with the assistance of local law enforcement, were able to successfully apprehend Mr. Ballowe for the crimes listed below. Mr. Ballowe was taken into custody and transported to the Rappahannock Shenandoah Warren Regional Jail (RSW) without incident. Following his arrest, Mr. Ballowe appeared before a magistrate and was ordered to be held on a \$5,000 secured bond. The court date for the listed offenses has been set for January 30, 2025, at 09:00

a.m. in Warren County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

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

The Warren County Sheriff’s Office would like to thank the Rappahannock County Sheriff’s Office, Shenandoah County Sheriff’s Office, and the Strasburg Police Department for their assistance in this case and the successful apprehension of this individual. These investigations would not be possible without the continued cohesive efforts of all our law enforcement partners throughout the region.



Warren Coalition Leads Warren County Unplugged, a Global Day of Unplugging Event

FRONT ROYAL, VA— As part of its “We See You, Warren County” program, Warren Coalition is coordinating “Warren County Unplugged,” a Global Day of Unplugging event that will be held from 6:00 pm Friday, March 7th, to 6:00 pm Saturday, March 8th. This is a day created by Unplug Collaborative (globaldayofunplugging.org), set aside for people to disconnect from phones and reconnect with themselves, nature, and especially with friends, family, and com-

munity—in person! Warren County Unplugged will provide in-person activities throughout the area to make it easy to meet up with friends and enjoy time without a smartphone or other device.

The overuse of smartphones has a negative impact on our ability to relate to each other, our mental health, and overall wellbeing. Warren County Unplugged participants are encouraged to unplug for a full 24 hours; however, each person sets their own goal, which can include a smaller timeframe and/or partial unplugging.

From Friday evening to Saturday evening, various Warren County businesses and organizations will be offering events, activities, programs, priz-

es, and/or discounts to help people engage in real life. Warren Coalition, Warren County Parks & Recreation, Scouting America, and Young Life will be hosting an event for youth of all ages at the Health and Human Services Complex at 465 W 15th St on Friday evening, March 7th. There will be a cornhole tournament, a 3-on-3 volleyball tournament, backyard games, crafts, bingo, archery, and more! Additional information will be released in the coming weeks. On Saturday, Play Favorites will offer 10% off everything while providing kids (and maybe adults too) the chance to play with chalk and board games. Their arcade in the back room will be free - unlimited

See NEWS, 14

Music Bingo & Karaoke: Sat Feb 1 • Sat Feb 15 • Sat Mar 1

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NEWS, from 13

ited air hockey, Skee ball, and toys in the playroom - but all the screens will be off!

Additional activities are being added every week. An online schedule will be released in early February.

Sponsors are needed, to help offset the promotional costs of the 24-hour challenge and provide prizes for various contests and games. Sponsorships are \$250 or \$100. Gift cards of \$10 to \$25 and kid-friendly prize items are also welcome!

Businesses and organizations that would like to be a part of this effort in

any way can contact Celeste Brooks at celeste@warrencoalition.org or 540-660-3367.



Warren Coalition celebrates four years as an affiliate of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Front Royal, VA--On January 19th, Dolly Parton celebrated her birthday, and the Warren Coalition celebrated starting their fifth year as an affiliate of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library! From their first two registrations in January of 2021, Warren Coalition's HALO (Helping All Little Ones) Read program has grown steadily, with a total of 376 children receiving books in December 2024.

The Imagination Library provides free monthly books for children from birth to their fifth birthday; local affiliates are responsible for taking on the promotion of the program, registering children, and funding the mailing costs. Through affiliates throughout the Commonwealth, more than 77,000 children in Virginia receive a book via mail each month to share with the family, reading aloud together and developing an awareness of the importance of early literacy. In addition to local donations, the Virginia Legislature has provided partial funding that helps affiliates pay for the postage of books.

"Unfortunately," explained Warren

Coalition HALO Read Coordinator Joyce Jenkins-Wimmer, "the mailing cost per book is increasing to \$2.60 per book this month. It was originally \$2.10 when we joined. We anticipate additional registrations and expect our mailing costs this year will run about \$500 per month. Without the state aid, we would be paying almost \$1,000 each month." She added that the state aid funding is expected to have a shortfall in 2025. While it is unclear exactly how that shortfall might affect current affiliates, Joyce noted that it could impact the Coalition's ability to take on new registrations.

"Since the Warren Coalition as the Warren County affiliate has made the program available, we have been able to serve all applicants without having a waitlist," she said. "We are doing everything we can to ensure that will continue. We don't want to go to a waitlist."

If you would like to help keep this great program available to all young children in Warren County and celebrate Dolly's birthday at the same time, consider a donation to the Warren Coalition/DPIL in January! Gifts may be made online at [https://warrencoalition.org/provide-free-books-for-](https://warrencoalition.org/provide-free-books-for-warren-county-children/)

warren-county-children/. Checks can be made payable to Warren Coalition, with "DPIL" written in the memo line, and mailed to Warren Coalition, PO Box 2058, Front Royal, VA 22630. For more information, contact Joyce at joyce@warrencoalition.org.

Warren Coalition is a nonprofit agency established in 1994 to help fill the gaps in health care and substance abuse awareness to the community. The Coalition began under the guidance of Warren Memorial Hospital as an outreach project, but it has since grown and was incorporated in 2001. The office is currently located in the

Warren County Community Center. Their mission is to make Warren County a safe, healthy, and drug free community through many programs and in collaboration with 15+ member agencies.



Shenandoah National Park employee Dale Meyerhoeffer is a recipient of the 2023 Director's Awards for Excellence in Natural Resource Management for his successful establishment of biocontrols to save the park's hemlocks. Tom Reece | NPS

Shenandoah National Park announces recipient of national award for natural resource management

LURAY, VA – Shenandoah National Park is proud to announce Dale Meyerhoeffer as a recipient of the 2023 Director's Awards for Excellence in Natural Resource Management in a ceremony that took place in Washington D.C. on December 11, 2024. Meyerhoeffer, biological technician, was one of six recipients in the National Park Service who were recognized for their efforts in natural resource management.

Dale Meyerhoeffer's efforts to save Shenandoah National Park's remaining eastern hemlock trees preserved an ecologically important resource for the park. After the death of 95 percent of the park's hemlocks from the invasive insect hemlock woolly adelgid, Meyerhoeffer, with help from volunteers and park staff, used insecticide treatments to protect more than 30,000 hemlocks. To reduce the park's reliance on pesticide treatments, Meyerhoeffer worked with researchers from Virginia Tech to procure and release host-specific, predatory beetles

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and flies in hopes of controlling the invasive insect. Meyerhoeffer identified potential release sites, led aspects of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance, and monitored the populations to evaluate success.

"I was honored to receive this award on behalf of many who made it possible," said Meyerhoeffer. "It has truly been a team effort which has resulted in excellent beetle establishment and dispersal in the park."

In 2023, Meyerhoeffer identified excellent beetle survival at several sites, marking a major success towards establishment of the biocontrol insect as a primary tool to save the park's hemlocks.

This program was initiated through the vision and leadership of retired forest health supervisor Rolf Gubler, with monetary support from the Shenandoah National Park Trust.



Fatal Crash Involving a Pedestrian in Madison County

Virginia State Police is investigating a fatal crash involving a pedestrian in Madison County. The crash occurred Friday (Jan. 10), at 5:55 p.m., on Route 230 (Orange Road), a tenth of a mile east of Route 626 (Oneals Road).

A 2014 Ford F-350 was traveling west on Route 230 when it struck a pedestrian who was walking southbound in the roadway. The Ford could not avoid the collision and immediately stopped at the scene.

The pedestrian, Eldon L. Yoder, 73,

of Pratts, Va., died at the scene.

The Ford driver, a 41-year-old male from Culpeper, Va., was not injured in the crash. He was wearing a seatbelt.

The crash remains under investigation.



Samuels Public Library Youth Programming: February, 2025

These are the events being presented by the Youth Services Department at Samuels Public Library during the month of February 2025. More information about Samuels Library and the programs and services available can be found at www.samuelslibrary.net or by calling (540) 635-3153.

Saturday, February 1

2:30 PM - Press Play. For ages 12-18. Join us for an afternoon of playing games on Nintendo Switch. Registration is required.

Monday, February 3

11:00 AM - Music & Movement for Babies & Toddlers. Join our relaxed and joyful time with your little ones as we listen to music while learning some basic movements and multisensory activities designed to delight your baby. Registration is required.

Tuesday, February 4

4:00 PM - Science Scouts. For ages

6-11. Children will investigate a different STEM-related topic bi-weekly. This week's theme is Clouds in a Bottle. Registration is required.

Wednesday & Thursday, February 5 & 6

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

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

Friday, February 7

3:00 PM - Wee Ones in the Garden. For ages 3-5, with a parent. Join the Master Gardeners as they teach about birds in the winter and help you make a birdseed ornament. Registration is required.

4:00 PM - Elementary Green Thumbs. For ages 6-11. Join the Master Gardeners as they teach about birds in the winter and help you make a birdseed ornament. Registration is required.

Saturday, February 8

2:30 PM - Grow a Snowflake. For ages 6-11. Come listen to a "chill" story on snowflakes and then learn how to make your own! Registration is required.

Monday, February 10

11:00 AM - Music & Movement for Babies & Toddlers. Join our relaxed and joyful time with your little ones as we listen to music while learning some basic movements and multisensory activities designed to delight your baby. Registration is required.

Tuesday, February 11

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 Clouds in a Bottle. Registration is required.

Wednesday & Thursday, February 12 & 13

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

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

Monday, February 17

Library is closed for the holiday.

Tuesday, February 18

4:00 PM - Science Scouts. For ages 6-11. Children will investigate a different STEM-related topic bi-weekly. This week's theme is Penny Tension. Registration is required.

Wednesday & Thursday, February 19 & 20

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

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

Registration is required.

Saturday, February 22

2:30PM - Cooking Blizzard. For ages 6-11. Cook up a storm as you create an edible snowball creature and then experiment with mint! Registration is required.

Monday, February 24

11:00 AM - Music & Movement for Babies & Toddlers. Join our relaxed and joyful time with your little ones as we listen to music while learning some basic movements and multisensory activities designed to delight your baby. Registration is required.

Tuesday, February 25

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 Penny Tension. Registration is required.

Wednesday & Thursday, February 26 & 27

10:15AM - Toddler Story Time. Bring your toddler to a potpourri of simple stories, fun songs, and a cute craft on Construction. 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 Construction stories, exciting sing-alongs, finger plays, and a nifty craft! Registration is required.

Saturday, March 1

This is the last day of our Winter Reading Program! Finish that book and come log it to get your prizes!



Metro Forward | Facebook

End of federal remote work welcomed by Virginia, D.C. leaders

By Sarah Roderick-Fitch
The Center Square
Jan 21, 2025

Commuter traffic is about to see an uptick in the Washington, D.C. metro area as President Donald Trump issued an executive order ending remote work for federal employees.

Within hours of being sworn in as the 47th president, Trump issued a short but blunt order directing federal workers to return to the office.

"Heads of all departments and agencies in the executive branch of Government shall, as soon as practicable, take all necessary steps to terminate remote work arrangements and require employees to return to work in-person at their respective duty stations on a full-time basis, provided that the department and agency heads shall make exemptions they deem necessary," according to the executive action.

Ending remote work for the federal workforce will be welcomed by Virginia and district leadership on both sides

of the political aisle, which has urged a return to in-person work.

In December 2023, Gov. Glenn Youngkin wrote to the Biden administration to asking to end remote work to boost public transit ridership, which has taken a major hit since the pandemic.

As previously reported by The Center Square, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority has been bogged with a \$750 million budget shortfall.

"Prior to the pandemic, federal workers contributed over \$100 million in annual fare revenue and 40% of the ridership to WMATA," Youngkin wrote in a letter to Kiran Ahuja, director of the Office of Personnel Management.

"We need to get people back in offices, especially the federal government," Youngkin wrote in a social media post.

Democratic D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser also appealed to President Joe Biden to end remote work.

"We need decisive action by the White House to get most federal workers back to the office," Bowser said during her 2023 inaugural address.

Bowser met with Trump in late December to discuss issues such as ending remote work and what to do with "underutilized federal buildings."

Earlier this month, the mayor issued an order for district employees to cut back on remote work.

According to the Partnership for Public Service, 20% of the federal workforce lives within the D.C. metro area. The district is home to 146,808 federal employees. Virginia has 133,182 and Maryland with 128,223.

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