

# Warren/Frederick County Report

Volume XX, Issue 19 • Late September, 2025

**Recipe: Simple Pizza Dough**



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**INDICTMENTS**



# Discovering Warren County: The Appaloosa Festival a Front Royal tradition



By Ken Thurman w/Dan Fedoryka  
Warren/Frederick County Report

Despite having been every Labor Day weekend for the last 10 years at Skyland Ranch Resort and attracting thousands of visitors and ardent fans, this grass roots music festival has been seen by less than 20 percent of the local community of Front Royal and Warren County.

They don't know what they are missing.

Every year they take the empty field pictured above and transform it into a lively thriving community with thousands of guests. Appaloosa is a camping festival, and sites are available on the festival website.

This two-day grassroots music fes-

tival is for all generations and covers a wide range of traditional music with a worldwide flair and features musicians from all over the United States and Ireland.

Alex and Dan Fedoryka have created a unique event that is family friendly, entertaining, and educational. They fondly hope to expose the rich musical tradition of the region to all who come. I have covered the festival every year and not only does it not get old (new bands every year) but it just gets better.

Live bands play from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. non-stop with a main stage and a saloon stage. Grammy and future grammy award winners abound with bands like Scythian, Pickin' Thistles (pictured), Ben-David Warner, Low

Water Bridge, Smoke & the Poet, Catfish in the Sky, Driftwood, and from Ireland Screaming Orphans and Jig Jam just to name a few.

What can one say about Scythian (pictured), our own home-grown band that continues to energetically perform like no other band I have ever seen.

I spoke at length with Dan Fedoryka about genesis of and future of this phenomenal event. Dan Fedoryka commented, "When we founded Appaloosa, we really wanted it to be a gift to the community, but little did we realize what a gift the community

would be to us."

Dan's 31/2-year-old daughter Phoebe, says it all when she told dad "Only three more sleeps until Appaloosa."

If Appaloosa wasn't enough, Scythian hosts a multi-band "String Break Cruise" annually to the Caribbean and a November nine day three concert trip to Ireland. Dan told me that they do 65-85 concerts a year and have been named "DC Band of the Year" by The Washington City Paper twice. Their street credit helps them bring bands from all over to the festival.

It's no wonder Phoebe looks forward to Appaloosa with a huge kids' play area with every kind of blow-up you can imagine, to the workshop stage and of course watching her dad and uncle perform. The workshop stage is an innovative way for children of all ages to be introduced to music and dancing on a close-up basis with

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**Warren/Frederick County Report**  
 P.O. Box 500  
 Front Royal, VA 22630  
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Publisher & Editor-in-Chief:  
 Daniel P. McDermott  
 editor@warrencountyreport.com

Advertising Sales Manager:  
 Alison Duvall: (540) 551-2072  
 alisond@warrencountyreport.com

General Counsel: Georgia Rossiter  
 (540) 535-2001

Managing Editor: Carol Ballard  
 crawford0905@gmail.com  
 (540) 551-0644

Contributors:

Kevin Engle:  
 kevinengle456@comcast.net  
 Mark Gunderman:  
 gunderman2001@aol.com  
 Ken Thurman:  
 wizardsrealestate@gmail.com

Copy Editor: Laura Biondi  
 editor@warrencountyreport.com

Billing Coordinator: Pam Cole  
 billing@warrencountyreport.com

Press releases should be emailed to:  
 briefs@warrencountyreport.com

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artists teaching musical instruments and even dancing to the attendees. And sponsored by the non-profit Appaloosa Blue Ridge Arts Foundation, founded by the brothers, to help spark the next generation of dancers and musicians.

Not only have they succeeded in putting Front Royal and Warren County on the map, but they have had an estimated \$1,500,000 financial impact annually on the community and have been recognized by the Virginia Tourism Bureau. I have talked

to people throughout Virginia that know of the festival or have been to it.

Need food or drink? There are over a dozen food, desserts and beverage vendors plus a beer and wine tent. Add a couple of dozen assorted vendors with an assortment of unique gifts and souvenirs plus a merchandise tent with performers' T-shirts and albums and you have a daylong shopping and food/drink bonanza.

Or, spend the day in the VIP tent and relax in comfort right next to the stage. Another unique feature is just

one of many at the festival. The Appaloosa VIP Tent takes your experience to the next level: with a free commemorative tin cup, a daily Happy Hour (4 p.m. – 6 p.m.) which features FREE drinks, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and air-conditioned restrooms, you'll have it made in the Shade!

Sponsors this year included Vibrissa (beer), Rappahannock Cellars (wine), Roof Simple, Lux, Amanda Grace and sponsoring the main and saloon stages were the town of Royal and Warren County. There are a

host of other sponsors, but they can always use more. Most music festivals only last a few years, but I would like to see this tradition continue for years to come but it takes the support of the community, the town and the county, to keep it alive.

Dan indicated that the costs to put on the festival have gone up 40 percent, so they are looking for more grants, donations and sponsors to keep it going.

A 50 percent off Early Bird specials starts in March of next year. For next year's full lineup, videos of last year's event, and all other information, visit [www.appaloosafestival.com](http://www.appaloosafestival.com). So, if you're looking for fun, excitement, live music, and a just plain great time you need to check out the Appaloosa Festival, it's like the new Labor Day tradition.

– [wizardsrealestate@gmail.com](mailto:wizardsrealestate@gmail.com)



### Upcoming events with Dan McDermott

**Sat. Sept 20, 2025 (6-11pm)**  
Karaoke at Edinburg, Va. VFW – Edinburg Ole Time Festival – <https://edinburgoletimefestival.com/>  
**Special Event OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**  
100 Veterans Way, Edinburg, VA 22824

**Mon. Sept 22, 2025 (6-8pm)**  
Musical 5-in-a-Row at Front Royal, Va. Moose\*

**Wed. Sept 24, 2025 (6-9pm)**  
Trivia & Music Bingo at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 20 South St. Front Royal

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Karaoke/Music Bingo at Woodstock, Va. Moose\*

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Musical 5-in-a-Row at Front Royal, Va. Moose\*

**Wed. Oct 8, 2025 (6-9pm)**  
Trivia & Music Bingo at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company

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### WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to friendship.

**NSIIVET**

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

Answer: Invites

### GUESS WHO?

I am an actress born in California on September 27, 2002. I began my acting career at age 8, appearing in episodes of a soap opera and "CSI: New York." Later, I was cast in the comedy series "Richie Rich." My fame grew when I took on the roles of a macabre daughter in a TV series as well as in the sequel to a famous ghost movie.

Answer: Jenna Ortega



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



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# INDICTMENTS

## 2025 August Indictments July Term

### Aaron Daniel Bowman

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about September 19, 2024, in the County of Warren, Aaron Daniel Bowman, 28, of the 1000 block of Western Ln., 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.

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

### Shawn Kendall Murray

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about April 11, 2025, in the County of Warren, Shawn Kendall Murray, 43, of the 200 block of Church St., Front Royal, VA 22630, did unlawfully and feloniously, possess a controlled substance classified in Schedule I or II with intent to manufacture, sell, give, or distribute it. The accused committed the current offense after having been convicted of two or more violations with respect to controlled substances classified in Schedules I or II or of substantially similar offenses in any other jurisdiction which would be felonies if committed in the Commonwealth, and such prior convictions occurred before the date of the offense alleged herein.

### Muriel Elizabeth Mullins

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Muriel Elizabeth Mullins, 37, of the 1300 block of Bowling Green Rd., Front Royal, VA 22630, with TWO counts. COUNTS ONE and TWO: In the County of Warren, Muriel Elizabeth Mullins 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 December 20, 2024.

### David Alberto Riggelman

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about September 18, 2024, in the County of Warren, David Alberto Riggelman, 30, of the 400 block of Happy Creek Rd., Front Royal, VA 22630, did unlawfully and feloniously, commit an assault or an assault and battery against Deputy C. Brown, knowing or having reason to know that such person was a law enforcement officer engaged in the performance of his public duties.

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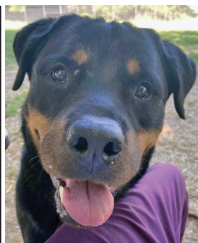


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**Jesse Lee Hall**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about February 28 to April 03, 2025, in the County of Warren, Jesse Lee Hall, 40, of Stafford, VA 22554, did unlaw-

fully and feloniously being a person 18 years of age or older, use a communications system, or other electronic means, for the purpose of soliciting, with lascivious intent, a person the accused knew or had reason to believe was a child less than 15 years of age to knowingly and intentionally expose his sexual or genital parts to a child to whom he was not legally married, or propose that the child expose her sexual or genital parts to the accused. The accused is seven or more years older than the child the accused knew or had reason to believe was a child less

than 15 years of age who was the subject of solicitation. The accused previously has committed one or more related offenses in violation of the Code of Virginia.

**Austin J. Miller**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Austin J. Miller, 34, address unavailable, with TWO counts. COUNT ONE: In the County of Warren, Austin J. Miller 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 unlawfully and feloniously, willfully swear falsely on such occasion concerning any material matter or thing, after lawfully being placed under oath. Date of the offenses was on or about May 21, 2025.

**Preston David Perkins**  
On or about March 29, 2025,

in the County of Warren, Preston David Perkins, 28, of the 100 block of W. Memphis St., Strasburg, VA 22657, did unlawfully and feloniously, drive or operate a motor vehicle while having a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent or more by weight by vol-

**See INDICTMENTS, 6**

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KINDNESS  
LAUGHTER  
LOVE  
LOYALTY  
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SUPPORT  
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.



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**INDICTMENTS, from 5**

ume or 0.08 grams or more per 210 liters of breath; or while under the influence of alcohol; or while under the influence of narcotic drug or other self-administered intoxicant or drug, or a combination of drugs, to a degree which impaired the accused's ability to drive or operate a motor vehicle safely; or while under the combined influence of alcohol and a drug or drugs to a degree which impaired the accused's ability to drive or operate a motor vehicle safely, with the accused

having committed this offense after having committed two prior violations within the ten-year period ending on the date of the current offense. The prior violations and the current offense were not all committed within the five-year period ending on the date of the current offense.

**Marcus Alan Kibler**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about May 5, 2025, in the County of Warren, Marcus Alan Kibler, 34, of the

10000 block of Back Rd., Maurertown, VA 22644, did maliciously throw a stone or other missile at a motor vehicle then occupied by one or more persons, whereby the life of any such person may have been put in peril.

**Gary Dean Hosterman**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about May 26, 2025, in the County of Warren, Gary Dean Hosterman, 36, of the 1900 block of Fairground Rd., Front Royal, VA 22630, did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly, and intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

**Keana Marie Burroughs**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about August 4, 2024, in the County of Warren, Keana Marie Burroughs, 31, of the 100 block of Quann Ln., Chester Gap, VA 22623, did unlawfully and feloniously,

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

**Troy Charles Corman**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Troy Charles Corman, 55, of



**Upcoming events with Dan McDermott**

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- Sat. Oct 11, 2025 (6-10pm) Music Bingo & Karaoke at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 20 South St. Front Royal, VA 22630
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the 300 block of Riverdale Circle, Stephenson, VA 22656, with TWO counts. COUNT ONE: In the County of Warren, Troy Charles Corman did unlawfully and feloniously,

knowingly, and intentionally possess a controlled substance listed, to-wit: Methamphetamine in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act. COUNT TWO: 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 January 21 and February 12, 2025..

**Lisa Michelle Spencer**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Lisa Michelle Spencer, 38, address unavailable, with THREE counts. COUNT ONE: In the County of Warren, Lisa Michelle Spencer did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly, and intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Sched-

ule II of the Drug Control Act. COUNT TWO: did unlawfully and feloniously having received a visible or audible signal from a law-enforcement officer to bring his/her 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. COUNT THREE: did unlawfully and feloniously, being a person having custody of a child under

the age of eighteen years, unlawfully and feloniously, willfully or negligently cause or permit the life of such child to be endangered or the health of such child to be injured, or caused or permitted such child to be tormented, beaten, or cruelly treated. Dates of the offenses were on or about May 16 and June 22, 2025

*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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**kids' corner**

**What's the Difference?**  
 Find the four differences between the two pictures.

**A**



**B**



Answers: Missing clips on table 2. Missing ornament on plant in back 3. Pin cushion on table 4. Extra measuring tape

**THIS DAY IN HISTORY**  
 SEP 23

**1846:** Three astronomers collaborate on the discovery of Neptune.

**1905:** Norway and Sweden sign the Karlstad Treaty, peacefully dissolving the union between the two countries.

**2004:** Hurricane Jeanne strikes Haiti and causes chaos.

**Craft FACT:**

This small spool or cylinder holds thread used in sewing machines.


Answer: Bobbin

**How they say that in...**

**English:** Thread  
**Spanish:** Hilo  
**Italian:** Filo  
**French:** Fil  
**German:** Faden

**Did You Know?**

The first records of sewing indicate people used bone needles and animal parts for thread. Sewing certainly has changed a lot in modern times.



**Get the PICTURE?**



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Needle and thread

1	2	3		4	5	6	7
8			9			10	
11						12	
13				14		15	
16						17	
18					19	20	
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							35
36							37
38							39
40							41
42							43

**CLUES ACROSS**

- Gas usage measurement
- Muslim mystic
- Towards the mouth or oral region
- Monday (Spanish)
- Frame for a coffin
- Rub out
- John \_\_\_, English educator 1467-1519
- Small round particle
- Chilean seaport
- News service
- Pay for dinner
- Glamorous city
- Subway rodent
- "The Raven" author
- Buddhist festival
- Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
- Indigenous person of Thailand
- "The Blonde Bombshell"
- Series-ending episodes
- Bluish greens
- Aquatic mammal
- Unit of measurement
- Eye membranes
- Indian god of dissolution
- People of Scotland
- Leak slowly through
- Rock icon Turner
- Midway between south and southeast

**CLUES DOWN**

- Large hat covering
- "From what is earlier" (Latin)
- Celtic
- Retirement region
- A way to change posture
- Touches
- A small island
- Rubbish
- A citizen of Laos
- A place to dance
- 19th letter of Greek alphabet
- Mild expression of surprise
- 17th letter of Greek alphabet
- Descriptions
- Men's fashion accessory
- Thieves of the sea
- Prohibit
- Card game
- French and Belgian river
- Underling
- Downwind
- Type of medication
- German city
- Animal disease
- Martini ingredients
- Get away from
- Stuffed (French)
- Type of precipitation



# 'Spooktacular Fun Show' promises a night of horse games, costumes, and Halloween fun



Horse lovers are invited to the Warren County Fairgrounds on Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025, for a night of family-friendly competition at the "Spooktacular Fun Show."

Registration opens at 6 p.m. and the show begins at 6:30 p.m. Riders may enter individual classes for \$5 each or pay \$25 to ride all night. Classes are open to riders in four divisions: Juniors (ages 7-13), Seniors (14-19), Adults (20-39),

and "Oldies" (40 and over). All riders under 18 must wear a helmet, and all horses must have a current negative Coggins test.

The evening will kick off with a Costume Class, where riders and horses can decorate themselves and compete for prizes. Additional fun classes will include:

- Egg on a Spoon: Riders balance a plastic egg while riding.
- Musical Frisbees: A horse-

friendly twist on musical chairs.

- Relay Race: The first rider races to a partner, switches riders, and races back to the in-gate for time.
- Bribe Your Horse: Riders dismount and try to coax their horse back to the in-gate.

Between events, participants can enjoy the Dessert Walk, where sweet treats are up for grabs.

The show also features sever-

al timed events for speed and skill:

- Speed Barrel: Riders race around a single barrel.
- Sled Race: Adults pull a sled with a person riding.
- Pairs Pole Bending: Two riders weave through poles together.
- Barrel Racing: Riders complete the classic cloverleaf barrel pattern.

As an added attraction, the fairgrounds will host a Halloween/Fall Trailer Site Decorating Contest for extra festive fun.

Organizers remind everyone that dogs are not allowed due to insurance requirements and that the fairgrounds, volunteers, and event organizers are not responsible for accidents involving riders, horses, or spectators.

Participants are encouraged to bring their horse, a sense of humor, and plenty of Halloween spirit for what promises to be an entertaining evening.

*Edited by Dan McDermott.*



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6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

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# weather forecast

**Friday, September 19, 2025:** Sunny, with a high near 87. Light and variable wind.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy,

with a low around 60. Calm wind. Saturday Mostly sunny, with a high near 79. North wind around 6 mph becoming east in the afternoon.

**Saturday Night:** A slight chance of showers after 2am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60. Calm wind. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

**Sunday:** A slight chance of showers before 8am, then a slight chance of showers after 2pm.

Partly sunny, with a high near 77. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

**Sunday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61.

**Monday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 83.

**Monday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 62.

**Tuesday:** A chance of showers after 2pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 87. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

**Tuesday Night:** A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

**Wednesday:** A chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 83. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

**Wednesday Night:** A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

**Thursday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 79.

Yes, I was at Burrell Park for the beginning of the Tree Stewards 2025 All About Trees class. This is the park where the Tree Stewards planted 20 trees in 2018 to commemorate 20 years of Front Royal being a Tree City USA. And that is the same number of students – 20 – that started class last week.

On Saturday, the All About Trees class began with President Melody Hotek welcoming the students. Then the class coordinator, Emily Huttar, introduced Connor Goolsby, from the Virginia Department of Forestry, who took the 20 students around Burrell Park for a detailed and interesting Tree identification class.

### Basic Tree Identification

1. Note if the leaves are broad and flat (like an oak's) or needle-like (like a pine's).
2. Determine if the leaves are simple (a single leaf blade) or compound (multiple leaflets on one stem).
3. Look for distinctive bark features, such as the peeling nature of



### Ask Stewart

Hi Stewart,

Did I see you at the park next to Samuels Library last Saturday?

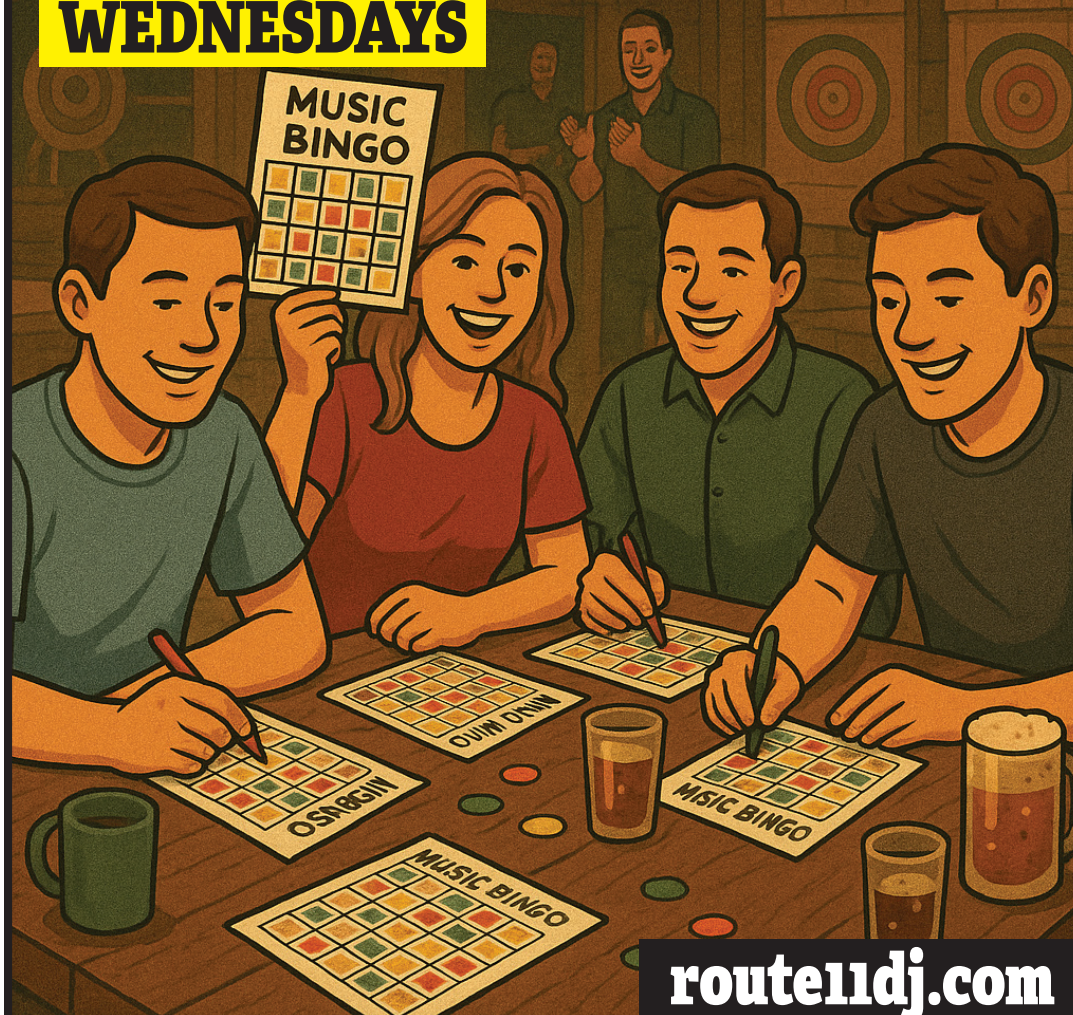
– Pam

See NEWS, 10

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**NEWS, from 9**

birch bark or the diamond pattern of ash bark.

4. Consider the tree's silhouette and how it grows, as this can provide clues.

You can use online tools from organizations like the Arbor Day Foundation, consult physical field guides, or use a plant identification app by taking detailed photos from multiple angles, and observing the key features like leaf shape, leaf arrangement (simple or compound), bark patterns, overall tree shape, and any fruit or flowers present.

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

[www.treesfrontroyal.org](http://www.treesfrontroyal.org)



It's SAMICON time! Join Samuels Public Library on Saturday,

September 20th, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Hike Kidz Foundation, Northwestern Community Services, and Mayor Lori Cockrell have come together for a Suicide Awareness Walk or Ride on Saturday, September 20th, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Warren County Health & Human Services Complex.

Join us for our annual Laurel Ridge Community College 5K Run/Walk, 9 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 20, at our Middletown Campus. Proceeds benefit student educational assistance funds. Register by Sept. 7 for \$30 and receive a T-shirt. Registrations are \$35 after that. Awards given to the top three males and top three females in each age division from 10 and under and 70-plus. Register and learn more at [laurelridge.edu/5K](http://laurelridge.edu/5K).

ClearHorizon Forensics & Counseling Group will host a Suicide Prevention Awareness Training with Dr. Matthew Rosario on Thursday, September 25th, 1-3 p.m.

Mark your calendars for the Inaugural Bentonville Bike Bash on September 27th, 11a.m. – 3 p.m. - a collaboration between Downriver Canoe Company and Shenandoah River State Park.

Save the date for the 10th Annual Phoenix Project Wine Pull on Thursday, October 9th at Shenandoah Valley Golf Club.

You're invited to the Northern Virginia 4-H Education Center's Enchanted Forest Gala on October 25th, 6 -10 p.m. Tickets are available now.

The Warren County Department of Fire and Rescue Services is excited to announce the return of its Citizens Fire Academy (CEA), beginning Wednesday, September 24, 2025. This free, seven-week program is open to adults living or working in Front Royal and Warren County who are interested in gaining an insider's perspective on their local emergency services.

the Month, marking her second recognition this year. Buracker was honored for her versatility in closing both residential and land deals and her ability to navigate complex transactions while building trust with clients.



**Sheriff Crystal Cline graduates from prestigious FBI National Academy**

FRONT ROYAL — Warren County Sheriff Crystal M. Cline has graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, joining an elite group of law enforcement leaders from across the globe.

Cline completed the 10-week program on Sept. 4 as part of the 295th session, which included 254 participants representing 49 states, the District of Columbia, 20 countries, six branches of the U.S. military, and four federal civilian agencies. Fewer than 1% of officers worldwide are selected for the program, which is considered one of the top law enforcement leadership courses in the world.

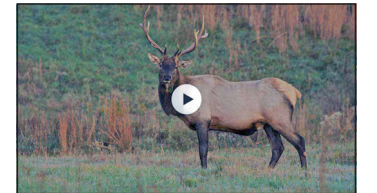
Her graduation is a historic milestone: Cline is the first female law enforcement officer from Warren County to complete the program. She joins five other alumni from the Warren County Sheriff's

Office and Front Royal Police Department, several of whom went on to serve as police chief.

During the program, Cline earned five graduate-level credits from the University of Virginia while studying topics including wellness and fitness, conflict resolution, critical incident leadership, organizational change, psychology of leadership, and managing the law enforcement image.

"This wasn't just a personal milestone for me," Cline said. "It was about learning new strategies and ideas that I can bring back to strengthen our Sheriff's Office, better support our deputies, and build safer communities for Warren County."

The FBI National Academy has graduated more than 56,000 law enforcement professionals since its inception in 1935. Training is conducted at the FBI Academy, where the Bureau also prepares new special agents and intelligence analysts.



**Virginia's Elk Cam goes live for 2025 season**

RICHMOND — Wildlife enthusiasts can once again watch Virginia's elk herd in real time as the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) has launched the 8th season of its popular Virginia Elk Cam.

Streaming through December, the live camera is positioned on reclaimed mine land in Buchanan County, where a restored herd of more than 250 elk now roam. The camera is most active in the early morning, evening, and overnight

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**Martha Buracker named August Agent of the Month**

Weichert Realtors – Blue Ribbon in Front Royal has named Martha Buracker as its August Agent of

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hours, though viewers may see more daytime activity as temperatures cool.

DWR officials say the best time to tune in is during the fall breeding season, when viewers may hear the distinctive bugling calls of bulls.

Elk were once native to Virginia but were wiped out by the late 1800s due to unregulated hunting and habitat loss. Between 2012 and 2014, 75 elk were relocated from eastern Kentucky to Buchanan County, where the population has steadily grown. Other wildlife, including deer, turkeys, black bears, and coyotes, are occasionally spotted on the live stream.

More information about the elk restoration project — and a link to watch the Elk Cam — is available at [dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/elk](http://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/elk)

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### DWR reminds hunters of tree stand safety as season begins

RICHMOND — September is National Tree Stand Safety Awareness Month, and the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) is reminding hunters to follow basic precautions before heading into the woods this fall.

Officials are encouraging hunters to remember the “ABCs” of tree stand safety: Always inspect equipment and practice at ground level; Buckle on a full-body safety harness securely; Connect to the tree before leaving the ground and take your time; and share your Destination with someone before each

hunt.

DWR also recommends inspecting stands before each use, securing them only to healthy trees, and leaving a map and estimated return time on a vehicle dashboard. Hunters should always unload firearms before climbing, use a haul line for gear, and maintain three points of contact from the moment they leave the ground until they return.

Other tips include carrying a whistle, horn, radio, or fully charged cell phone, wearing blaze orange, and avoiding stand use if tired, sick, or taking medications that could impair balance.

During the 2024–2025 season, Virginia recorded 10 tree stand incidents, including one fatality. Of those, nine victims were not using a safety harness, and the single harness user was not attached to the tree at the time of the fall.

“Hunting is a tradition valued by generations of Virginians,” said Virginia Hunter Education and Outreach Team Lead Jimmy Mootz. “Let’s keep those memories safe — wear a safety harness every time you hunt off the ground.”

Information on hunter education courses and tree stand safety is available at [dwr.virginia.gov](http://dwr.virginia.gov).

-----

### Riverton Church Pancake Breakfast Saturday, Sept 20, 2025

Join us at Riverton Church Fellowship Hall, 55 E. Strasburg Rd., from 7:30–10:30 AM for a community breakfast! Enjoy pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, biscuits with sausage gravy, and juice/coffee. All are welcome—offerings will be accepted.

-----

### Box tree moth detected in Frederick County

RICHMOND — The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) has confirmed the detection of the invasive box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*) in Frederick County.

In July, VDACS inspectors also discovered and treated infestations in Clarke and Loudoun counties. Officials say the department will continue surveys to determine how far the pest has spread in northern Virginia.

The box tree moth, native to East Asia, is considered a serious threat to boxwood (*Buxus* species). Its caterpillars can rapidly defoliate plants, leading to severe damage or even plant death. In Europe, where boxwood is widespread, the moth

has caused significant losses.

VDACS is offering treatment for boxwood plants where infestations are confirmed. The agency emphasizes that early detection and rapid response are key to managing invasive pests. Residents are encouraged to monitor their boxwood plants and report suspected damage through VDACS’ Invasive Species Reporting Tool.

Resources for identifying the box tree moth and signs of damage are available at Virginia Cooperative Extension’s publication ENTO-445. Additional information is available at [vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services.shtml](http://vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services.shtml) or by contacting the VDACS Office of Plant Industry Services at 804-786-3515.

-----

### Virginia joins federal lawsuit accusing Ticketmaster, Live Nation of enabling illegal ticket resale

RICHMOND — Attorney General Jason Miyares announced Thursday that Virginia has joined the Federal Trade Commission and seven other states in suing Live Nation Entertainment Inc. and Ticketmaster LLC, accusing the companies of enabling illegal ticket resales that drove up prices for consumers.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court, alleges that Ticketmaster routinely allowed brokers to bypass security measures designed to limit bulk ticket purchases, sometimes using hundreds or even thousands of fake accounts. Those tickets were allegedly resold at significantly higher prices — including on Ticketmaster’s own resale platform — boosting profits for both the brokers and the company.

“Virginians deserve access to tickets at reasonable prices,” Miyares said in a statement. “Ticketmaster should be preventing this conduct, not enabling it by turning a blind eye to brokers’ illegal ticket harvesting and reselling the tickets for even more profit.”

The legal action seeks to enforce the Better Online Ticket Sales (BOTS) Act, a federal law that makes it illegal to circumvent online ticket security systems and to sell tickets obtained through such circumvention. The coalition is asking the court for a permanent injunction to stop the alleged practices and other relief for consumers.

The complaint also highlights Ticketmaster’s “TradeDesk” platform, which allegedly helps large-scale brokers consolidate and manage tickets bought from multiple

accounts, making it easier to resell them at marked-up prices.

Miyares has previously sued Live Nation and Ticketmaster over alleged antitrust violations, accusing them of using their dominant market position to control the live entertainment industry.

Virginia joins the FTC and attorneys general from Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Nebraska, Tennessee, and Utah in the case.

-----

### Warren County seeks applicants for Fork District supervisor seat

WARREN COUNTY — The Warren County Board of Supervisors is accepting applications to fill the vacant Fork District seat for the remainder of the current term, which runs through Dec. 31, 2025.

Applications opened Sept. 17 and will be accepted until Oct. 3. To qualify, applicants must reside in the Fork District and meet all legal eligibility requirements. Interested residents must submit a completed application and supporting documents either online at [warrencountyva.gov/273/Citizen-Appointments](http://warrencountyva.gov/273/Citizen-Appointments) or in person at the County Administrator’s Office.

According to the county’s announcement, the General Registrar will validate each applicant’s eligibility as submissions are received. All eligible applications will then be compiled and distributed to board members for review.

The Board plans to announce the names of all applicants under consideration during its meeting

on Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2025. At that time, the applicants’ resumes and supporting materials will be made available to the public, as required by Virginia Code § 24.2-228.

A special meeting to vote on the interim appointment is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025, at 6 p.m. If the Board does not make an appointment within 45 days of the vacancy, the decision could be made by a judge of the Warren County Circuit Court.

Residents with questions about eligibility or the application process are encouraged to visit the Citizen Appointments page on the county website or contact the County Administrator’s Office for assistance.

-----

### Front Royal man arrested in April armed robbery of Robinson’s Grocery

FRONT ROYAL — A 22-year-old Front Royal man has been arrested in connection with the April armed robbery of Robinson’s Grocery on East 6th Street, police announced Tuesday.

Detectives with the Front Royal Police Department arrested David Aaron Deavers after what officials described as an intensive months-long investigation.

Police said the April 15 incident occurred when a masked man entered the store, demanded money from the cashier, and fired a single shot before fleeing on foot with an undisclosed amount of cash. No

See NEWS, 12

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**NEWS, from 11**

injuries were reported.

Deavers has been charged with six offenses:

- Robbery (Va. Code § 18.2-58)
- Discharging a firearm within or at a building or dwelling (Va. Code § 18.2-279)

Use or display of a firearm in committing a felony (Va. Code § 18.2-53.1)

Reckless handling of firearms (Va. Code § 18.2-56.1)

Brandishing a firearm (Va. Code § 18.2-282.1)

Illegal possession of a firearm following an assault and battery of a family or household member (Va. Code § 18.2-308.1:8)

Police credited the work of detectives and the cooperation of witnesses in leading to the arrest.

Deavers is being held at RSW Regional Jail. A booking photo was released with the announcement.

The investigation remains ongoing, and police have not said whether additional arrests are expected.

**VDOT closes northbound lane of Route 684 in Page County for slope repairs**

PAGE COUNTY — The Virginia Department of Transportation has closed the northbound lane of Route 684 (South Page Valley Road) about three miles north of Route 675 (Bixler's Ferry Road) to

repair a failed slope, officials announced Monday.

Traffic in both directions will share the southbound lane and take turns passing through the work zone using a "stop and proceed when clear" sign. Drivers should expect occasional full lane closures during the day, controlled by flaggers and work crews.

Repairs are expected to take about a month, with work generally scheduled on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., weather permitting.

VDOT urged motorists to use caution, noting that the slope failure is not visible from the road at night.

For real-time updates on traffic and construction, visit [511Virginia.org](http://511Virginia.org) or dial 511.

**Front Royal man charged in online solicitation of minor sting**

FRONT ROYAL — A 38-year-old Front Royal man has been arrested following an undercover operation targeting online solicitation of minors, the Warren County Sheriff's Office announced.

Investigators say Anthony W. Ritenour II initiated contact with an undercover officer posing as a juvenile under 15 and expressed intent to meet for sexual purposes. Detectives arranged a meeting at a designated location, where Ritenour was taken into custody with-

out incident.

He was charged with three counts of use of communications systems to facilitate certain offenses involving children (§ 18.2-374.3) and indecent liberties with a minor (§ 18.2-370).

Following his arrest, Ritenour was transported to RSW Regional Jail and ordered held without bond. His court date is set for Oct. 2, 2025, at 9 a.m. in Warren County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

The operation was part of the Northern Virginia/DC Metro Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, which is coordinated by the Virginia State Police. Authorities are asking anyone with information about child exploitation to contact the Warren County Sheriff's Office at (540) 635-7100.

**Fatal Crash in Warren County**

Virginia State Police is investigating a fatal crash that occurred Wednesday (Sept. 10, 2025), at 5:22 p.m. on Remount Road in Warren County.

A 2003 Honda CR-V was traveling southbound on Remount Road near the intersection with Summit Point Road when it crossed the centerline and struck a 2000 Ford F-350 head-on.

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The driver of the CR-V, Michael C. Kisner, 49, of Chester Gap, Va., died at the scene. Kisner was not wearing a seatbelt.

The driver of the truck, Benito Molina Viveros, 37, of Winchester, Va., as well as a passenger, Darwin F. Aguilar, 35, suffered minor injuries. Both were wearing seatbelts.

The crash remains under investigation.

**Eli Lilly to invest \$5 billion in Goochland manufacturing plant, create 650 jobs**

RICHMOND — Global pharma-

ceutical giant Eli Lilly and Company will invest \$5 billion to build a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility at the West Creek Business Park in Goochland County, Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced Wednesday.

The project will create 650 high-wage jobs and 1,800 construction jobs and more than doubles Lilly's previously announced \$2.1 billion plan for the site. The new plant will be the company's first fully integrated facility dedicated to producing active pharmaceutical ingredients and finished drug products for its bioconjugate platform and monoclonal antibody portfolio, which are primarily used

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to treat cancer.

Youngkin said the investment strengthens America's pharmaceutical supply chain and positions Virginia as a leader in advanced drug manufacturing. The project is supported by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership and the General Assembly's Major Employment and Investment Project Approval Commission, with workforce training provided through the Virginia Talent Accelerator Program.

Construction is expected to begin soon, with hiring to follow as the facility nears completion.

-----

**Warren Coalition's Celebrate Kids Day September 28th**

FRONT ROYAL, VA—Warren Coalition's popular event "Celebrate Kids Day" has grown in attendance every year, and the community has responded! Thanks to generous donations and robust participation from local organizations, this year's event promises to be the biggest (and hopefully the best) yet!

Celebrate Kids Day 2025 will be held from 1 pm to 4 pm on Sunday, September 28th, at the Health & Human Services Complex at 465 W 15th Street. The cost for a bracelet that provides unlimited access to all activities is \$1 per child (no

cost for parents). Participation in one of the Sports or Cake Walks is an additional \$1 per participant.

Celebrate Kids Day broke attendance records again last year, drawing in over 300 children. The popularity of the festival is undoubtedly the fact that it includes all the activities kids love. This year's inflatable rides, sponsored by Giles B. Cook American Legion Post 53 and Northwestern Community Services Board, will feature a moon bounce with slide, an obstacle course, a football target throw, a climbing wall, and racing orbs! There will also be a petting zoo (sponsored by City National Bank), and face painting.

Coalition staff and volunteers will host games with amazing prizes sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Front Royal. Instead of winning small prizes at each game, children will receive tickets and can use those tickets to go "shopping" at the prize tent, where there will be a variety of board games and toys to choose from.

One of the activities the event is known for is the opportunity for children to paint a small pumpkin (included in the price of the bracelet and sponsored by Front Royal Dental Care) while supplies last. In addition, there will be various games and activities provided by organizations from across Warren County, including a large bowling mat from Royal Family Bowling.

More than 20 agencies and businesses have signed up to participate so far! A DJ sponsored by Rotary Club of Northern Shenandoah Valley will be accompanying demonstrations presented by students at Jig 'n' Jive, All Star Legacy, and Mountain View Music.

In addition to the sponsors already mentioned, Wells Fargo Advisor George Karnes, Rotary Club of Warren County, Front Royal/Warren County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #33, and Front Royal Elks Lodge No. 2382 have chipped in funds to help make this event possible, covering non-sponsored costs such as the pony rides, face painting, and promotions.

Refreshments will be available for purchase. Unity Masonic Lodge No. 146 will be grilling the hot dogs and hamburgers.

In conjunction with the event, the Coalition hosts a fundraiser featuring the Pitch Burst, a machine similar to a dunking booth, except that it drops an 11-inch balloon full of water on top of the "volunteer." Community members have been challenged to raise \$500 each to earn the "honor" of

sitting in the Pitch Burst on the 28th. To see who has accepted this challenge, and/or make a gift to ensure that they get to sit in the "cold" seat, visit <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/peer-to-peer/pitch-burst--2025>.

For more information, visit <https://warrencoalition.org/celebrate-kids-day/> or email [wc@warrencoalition.org](mailto:wc@warrencoalition.org).

Warren Coalition, celebrating 30 years of service to Warren County, 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.

-----

**Warren County names Bradley Gotshall as new county administrator**

FRONT ROYAL — The Warren County Board of Supervisors has appointed Bradley N. Gotshall as county administrator, effective Sept. 11, 2025.

Gotshall brings 16 years of public service experience, including his most recent role as township manager for Lower Paxton Township, Pennsylvania's 13th-largest municipality, where he oversaw a \$100

See NEWS, 14



# Toss homemade pizza with ease



Preheat oven to 475 F. Mix flour and salt in a medium mixing bowl. Combine water, yeast and sugar (if using) in a large mixing bowl and let sit for 5 minutes until it is foamy and bubbly. Add the olive oil and the flour-salt mixture to the large bowl with the water-yeast mixture, and stir with a spatula until dough comes together. Turn the dough out onto a floured surface and knead until smooth, about 5 minutes. Add additional flour if needed, one tablespoon at a time.

Return the dough to the bowl, cover with a kitchen towel, and let dough rise for 30 minutes if you have time. If not, simply roll the dough out to 1/4-inch to 1/2-inch thick on a well-floured surface. Form it into one or more rough circles to make your pizza(s). Pierce the dough with a fork multiple times, add your toppings and bake on the bottom rack of the oven for 15 to 20 minutes, until the bottom and edges of the crust are a rich golden brown. Check your pizza often so it doesn't get too brown.

As with all bread recipes, this pizza recipe will turn out best if you weigh your ingredients. Invest in a quality kitchen scale to get the best results.

Topping ideas: Marinara sauce and mozzarella cheese creates a classic pizza, but everyone can get creative with their toppings. A pesto sauce base and grilled chicken can be tasty. Try prosciutto and basil as another option. Meat-lovers' pizzas often contain ground sausage, pepperoni and sometimes ham. Pizza dough also can be used for dessert. Top with a "sauce" of hazelnut spread and sliced strawberries for a delicious treat.

Pizza is one of the most widely enjoyed and consumed comfort foods around the world. Although it is believed to have originated in Italy, pizza can now be found in many countries across the globe. Canadians and Americans consume many pounds of pizza every year, and pizzerias are popular, successful businesses.

Sometimes it can be fun to make pizza at home where everyone gets busy kneading dough and customizing their toppings. Enjoy this "Simple Pizza Dough," courtesy of Janie's Mill artisanal stone-ground flours.

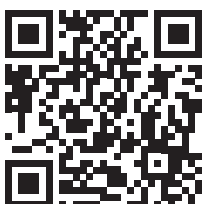
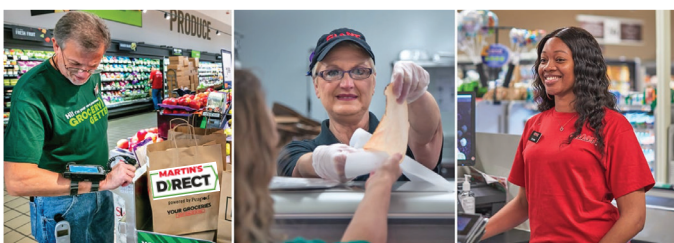
**Simple Pizza Dough**  
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- 375 grams (3 cups) Italian Style Pizza Flour (plus extra)
- 250 ml (1 cup) warm water
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 6 grams instant dry yeast
- 10 grams sugar (optional)
- 6 grams salt

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**NEWS, from 13**

million budget and a population of more than 53,000 residents.

A lifelong public servant, Gotshall began his career at age 18 as an elected councilor for his hometown, serving two terms before moving into municipal management. He holds a bachelor's degree in public policy and a master's degree in public administration from The Pennsylvania State University.

"Brad Gotshall's experience as an elected official and in municipal management, combined with his proven record of leadership, makes him an excellent fit for Warren County," Board of Supervisors Chair Jerome Butler said in a statement.

As county administrator, Gotshall will oversee daily operations, work with the Board of Supervisors to implement policy, manage resources, and ensure efficient delivery of public services.

"I look forward to joining the dedicated professionals of the

Warren County team in furtherance of delivering imperative, cost-effective services," Gotshall said. "The commitment to public service by the staff and Board of Supervisors shone brightly during my interview process and already thus far concluding my first day in office. I'm excited to be part of this engaged community."

**Frederick County Board Chairman Josh Ludwig resigns, cites move out of state**

WINCHESTER — Frederick County Board of Supervisors Chairman Josh Ludwig has resigned, effective Sept. 8, citing a job relocation out of state.

In a letter to fellow board members and county administration, Ludwig reflected on his four years of service and highlighted efforts to control spending, lower tax rates, and fund long-delayed road projects without raising taxes.

"During my time on the Board I never voted for a tax increase, and in fact we were able to lower home and vehicle tax rates to offset the increases in assessed values," Ludwig wrote. He also pointed to a one-time rebate to offset surging car values during the COVID-era production shutdowns and noted that funding has already been set aside for upcoming road projects.

Ludwig's letter included sharp criticism of what he called "wasteful spending," citing \$3 million left in the school budget for a now-abandoned HVAC project, nearly \$1 million granted for school metal detectors despite existing funding, and awarding a local charity four times its original funding request.

He urged the board to resist future tax hikes and warned against proposals to increase supervisor salaries or seek authority to raise local sales taxes. "Every tax avoided means someone in the county can afford to feed their children or pay their rent," Ludwig wrote.

Looking ahead, Ludwig called

for protecting farmland, water, and power resources and advised against welcoming hyperscale data centers, which he argued threaten natural resources.

"This is truly the most beautiful place I have ever lived, and I pray that it stays that way," Ludwig concluded.

**Front Royal man charged with two counts of attempted murder after deputies intervene**

FRONT ROYAL — A 33-year-old Front Royal man was being held without bond after deputies say they thwarted a plan to kill two local residents.

According to the Warren County

Sheriff's Office, deputies stopped a vehicle on Aug. 9 for a welfare check and identified the driver as Michael Dewayne Massie II. During the investigation, Massie allegedly told deputies of his plan to kill two people he knew.

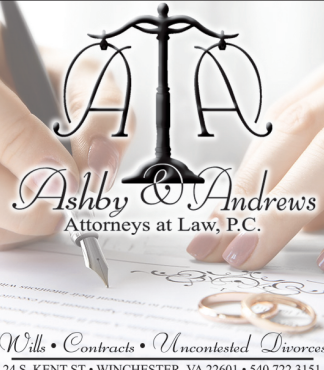
Deputies said they found evidence in the vehicle that corroborated Massie's statements. The intended victims were located, confirmed to be unharmed, and provided safety measures.

Following consultation with the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney, warrants were obtained charging Massie with two counts of attempted murder under Virginia Code § 18.2-26. He was arrested without incident on Sept. 4 and taken to RSW Regional Jail, where he remains in custody.



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Sheriff Crystal Cline said the case demonstrates the office's "zero-tolerance approach to threats of violence" and stressed that the public was not in danger.

The investigation is ongoing.

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**Public comment open on proposed wild turkey, blue catfish regulations**

RICHMOND — Virginia hunters, anglers, and residents have until Oct. 7 to comment on new wildlife regulations that could change turkey bag limits, relax size limits for blue catfish, and streamline portions of state code, the Board of Wildlife Resources announced this week.

The proposals are part of a regulatory package expected to take effect Jan. 1, 2026, with the exception of the wild turkey rule, which would go into effect Feb. 1, 2026.

**Wild turkey changes**

The most significant proposal would limit hunters to taking just one beardless hen (female) turkey per season out of the three wild turkey tags available to each hunter. Officials say the change is designed to protect turkey populations in parts of the state where biologists have expressed concern about declining numbers.

The proposal would also increase the number of turkeys that can be harvested during the fall seasons from two to three.

**Blue catfish changes**

For blue catfish, the board is proposing to eliminate the current one-per-day limit on fish over 32 inches on the York and Rappahan-

nock rivers and on the James River below the freshwater-saltwater demarcation line. Wildlife officials say the tidal rivers hold an overabundance of blue catfish, and loosening harvest rules is part of a population-control strategy.

**Regulatory reform**

In addition to species-specific proposals, the Board is also considering reforms designed to simplify regulatory language and reduce unnecessary burdens for Virginians who interact with the Department of Wildlife Resources.

**How to comment**

The public can review the full proposals and submit comments online at [dwr.virginia.gov/regulations](http://dwr.virginia.gov/regulations) or by mail to:

Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

Attn: Regulatory Coordinator – Board Proposals

P.O. Box 90778

Henrico, VA 23228-0778

Comments will be summarized by DWR staff and presented to the Wildlife and Boat Committee and the full Board during meetings on Oct. 22–23 at DWR headquarters in Henrico.

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**\$65M tin processing facility coming to Henry County, creating 118 jobs**

RICHMOND — Nathan Trotter, North America's leading supplier and recycler of tin products, will invest about \$65 million to build Tin Ridge, a 115,000-square-foot production and processing facility in Henry County, Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced Thursday.

The project will create an estimated 118 jobs and strengthen the domestic supply of tin, a metal designated as critical by the U.S. government for use in electronics, defense systems, and clean energy technologies. The plant will be the first in the nation capable of refining significant volumes of both tin concentrate and scrap tin.

Youngkin said the investment underscores Virginia's role in securing critical supply chains and growing advanced manufacturing jobs in Southern Virginia.

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**Virginia's Office of Vital Records now ranks among top five nationally after overhaul**

RICHMOND — Gov. Glenn Youngkin on Thursday toured the newly relocated Virginia Office of Vital Records (OVR) to highlight what he called a major turnaround in how the state delivers birth, death, marriage, and divorce records.

Once under federal performance review, OVR is now ranked among the top five offices in the nation for service speed and reliability, according to the administration. Birth certificates that once took four to six weeks now arrive in two to three days, and marriage certificate processing times have been cut from 60 days to 25.

Recent upgrades include a secure e-amendment portal that processes most digital requests in one day, a 2024 printing overhaul that shaved a full day off processing time, and full digitization of records dating back to 1960, with paper copies preserved for security. Parents can now receive a baby's birth certificate before leaving the hospital, supported by a modern payment system launched earlier this year.

Youngkin said the improvements reflect his administration's effort to "deliver faster, more efficient, and more compassionate customer care for Virginians."

The new facility includes expanded parking, improved security, and private consultation areas. Most requests can also be handled online or through DMV and local health department offices, though amendments still require direct contact with OVR staff.

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**Frederick County deputies use Project Lifesaver to locate missing 81-year-old man**

FREDERICK COUNTY — An 81-year-old man with dementia

was safely located Saturday evening after Frederick County deputies and search teams used Project Lifesaver tracking equipment to find him in the woods near his home.

Deputies were dispatched around 7 p.m. on Aug. 30 to the Fishel Road area after the man's daughter reported he had not returned from his usual walk and had last been seen around 6:10 p.m. She told deputies her father has dementia and aphasia and had never gone missing before.

Because the man was enrolled in Project Lifesaver, the daughter was able to provide his tracking frequency number. Members of the Frederick County Search and Rescue team joined deputies in using receivers to scan the wooded area behind the residence.

Shortly after 8:25 p.m., deputies and a Virginia State Trooper followed a strong signal south of the home and found the man about half a mile away, tangled in briars and underbrush. He was evaluated by Gore Fire and Rescue EMS personnel and was able to walk back to the residence with assistance.

Deputies said the man had strayed far from the walking path and appeared to have become disoriented.

Project Lifesaver is a public-safety nonprofit founded in Chesapeake, Virginia, in 1999 that provides tracking devices and training to help law enforcement and caregivers locate individuals with cognitive disorders who are prone to wandering. The Frederick County Sheriff's Office currently has 39 clients enrolled in the program and credits it with saving lives by helping first responders locate missing individuals quickly and safely.

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**Virginia's ginseng harvest season began September 1**

RICHMOND — Virginia's ginseng harvest season opens Sept. 1 and runs through Dec. 31, and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) is reminding harvesters to follow state and federal rules

protecting the threatened plant.

American ginseng is a slow-growing, shade-loving perennial found primarily in western and southwestern Virginia. Because of its high value and slow growth, wild ginseng is regulated under state law and international treaty. VDACS oversees harvest and sales in the Commonwealth.

Key regulations for wild ginseng:

Harvest season: Sept. 1–Dec. 31 only. No harvest Jan. 1–Aug. 31.

Plant maturity: Do not harvest plants younger than five years, with fewer than four stem scars on the rhizome, or fewer than three prongs.

Re seeding: Harvesters must plant the seeds from each harvested plant at the harvest site at the time of harvest.

Ginseng collection is prohibited on most public lands, including state and national parks and forests. Where allowed, a permit is required. Collecting any portion of the plant from federal land is prohibited and can result in fines up to \$5,000, up to six months in jail, or both. Violating Virginia's harvest rules is punishable by up to 12 months in jail, up to a \$2,500 fine, or both.

Rules do not apply to wild ginseng harvested on one's own land. Harvesting on private property requires the owner's written permission, which should be carried during harvest. Landowners are encouraged to follow the same size/age and re seeding guidelines to help sustain the species.

Anyone shipping or transporting eight ounces or more of Virginia ginseng in a calendar year must have it certified by VDACS. Buyers or those accepting ginseng to sell must be licensed by VDACS. In 2024, Virginia reported about 882 pounds of wild ginseng harvested, valued at roughly \$450,000. It takes 250–300 roots to make one pound.

More information and application details are available at [vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-ginseng.shtml](http://vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-ginseng.shtml) or by contacting State Apiarist Keith Tignor at 804-786-8938 or [keith.tignor@vdacs.virginia.gov](mailto:keith.tignor@vdacs.virginia.gov).

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